



**Second Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations
Istanbul, Turkey, 6-7 April, 2009
Working Session 5
Dialogue Café
Monday, 6 April, 15:00- 16:30
Organized jointly by the AoC and CISCO**

Background Information

Cafés have long served as breeding grounds for great debate and grand designs. Now, through the power of Telepresence and the reach of the Human Network, Dialogue Café will link together a diverse group of citizens from around the world, exponentially expanding our ability to problem-solve and innovate as a global community.

The Dialogue Café initiative is designed to connect individuals from the academic, business and global community, in order to stimulate ideas that address problems or solve issues within our society, such as youth literacy or job skills for the 21st century. To support this objective, Cisco and a consortium of initial partners have aligned with the United Nations' Alliance of Civilization, whose mission is to explore the roots of polarization between societies and cultures today, and to recommend a practical plan of action to address this issue.

The Café proof of concept is starting with pilot cafes in New York, London, Istanbul and potentially Dubai. A micro-NGO is being established to facilitate partnerships in each location with Cisco, a local university and community groups as appropriate. Community members will be encouraged to come together and collaborate on projects related to the three pillars of sustainable development: *People, Planet* and the *Prosperity*.

The interrelationship of these pillars will not only be evident in the design of each Café experience, but will also naturally be the basis for all projects that are initiated within the community. As a guideline, these terms will be defined as follows:

- *People*: Refers to the impact that a project has on the individuals and communities that are directly and indirectly involved and/or affected.
- *Planet*: Refers to the sustainable environmental effect that is a result of the project as well as the environmental footprint of the café within the community.
- *Prosperity*: Refers to the measurement of the short and long term economic benefits enjoyed by the community and/or society.

Over time, Dialogue Café will align with a range of international organizations (e.g., European Union, World Bank, micro-finance lenders) in order to innovate and develop solutions such as broaden healthcare availability, drive urban development, encourage cross-cultural conversation, and support community initiatives all through greater connectedness amongst people from all walks of life.

This global collective of ordinary citizens, will explore common interests across divides, and will be encouraged to use technology and the intellectual resources around them to address local and global issues.

In the long term, a database of information and repository of conversations will be available through the Café and online, providing a tool for anyone to access the power of a global network. Because we're stronger together than we could ever be apart, these enhanced cafés can become crucibles for progress; sparking broader interaction and in turn igniting true examples of the Human Network Effect.

Organization of the working session

The format of this working session will follow an interactive "interview" style thus avoiding pre-prepared speeches.

The session will open with a presentation of the project, focusing on its different components and the way it has been developed (20 minutes). The moderator will then ask the panelists to answer questions in a maximum of 3 minutes each, taking turns to ensure that each panelist can answer a certain number of questions. Panelists will be encouraged to engage into 2 minutes debates after questions for which they hold different points of view. A total of 5 or 6 questions will be asked and will pertain to the rationale and impact of the project; successful methods to ensure a cultural diversity design of the project; how to implement an innovative model of governance for it; recurrent needs and challenges; lessons learned and success stories. This "interview" portion of the working session will last approximately 30 minutes.

Once the “interview” portion of the working session has been completed, we will turn to Q and As from the audience for the remaining 35 minutes. The moderator will ensure that each panelist responds to at least one question from the audience.

Objectives of the Working Session

The initiative will be formally launched at the Alliance of Civilization’s Forum in Istanbul in April 2009. This launch aims to help develop the network by gaining input from attendees, add two more cities, and establish criteria for future selection of a wider range of cities and locations as well as other groups of interest. Then presence at the World Expo Shanghai in 2010 will aim to enlarge the network to municipalities and community centers.