

## **Major Innovative Projects for Peace presented at the Rio Alliance Forum through The Marketplace of Ideas**

**Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 29 May 2010** -- Saturday morning global heads of state and private sector executives will gather to meet the leaders of the most innovative organizations best positioned to create world peace, as selected by the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC).

The UNAOC will recognize nine extraordinary organizations they have selected from hundreds of applicants from around the world.

“This is an exciting opportunity to connect these incredible grassroots organizations with world leaders to collaborate and help these groups expand their initiatives globally toward peace and common understanding,” said Jean-Christophe Bas, Senior Advisor on Strategic Development & Partnerships of the UNAOC.

Following this introduction, the UNAOC is establishing the World Intercultural Fund for Innovation (WIFI) to foster the growth and sustainability of organizations best positioned to promote peace.

### **About the Marketplace of Ideas Winners:**

**Chapters of World Faith**, Various locations, Youth  
Contact: Frank Fredricks, [frank@worldfaith.org](mailto:frank@worldfaith.org)

A World Faith Chapter is a self-formed and self-governed group of religiously-diverse young people tackling local community service needs. Whether it be teaching children in Delhi or volunteering for Habitat in North Carolina, Chapters apply World Faith’s interfaith community service at local levels, World Faith supports chapters by developing leadership, building partnerships with local organizations, and helping to fund these local projects.

*In order to better serve existing Chapters, as well as scaling up the model by founding new Chapters, World Faith needs leaders, allies, and funders. World Faith is always searching for more social entrepreneurs to found Chapters. Allies are vital to Chapters, whether local organizations partnering in projects, or media outlets illuminating the possibility of positive religious collaboration. Finally, World Faith is in high need of funding to create better support infrastructure for existing Chapters, as well as mobilizing to help new Chapters launch.*

**EMAJ (Euro-Mediterranean Academy for Young Journalists): Making News not Stereotypes**, Middle East / Europe, Youth/Media  
Contact: Pawel Krzysiek, [pawel.krzysiek@gmail.com](mailto:pawel.krzysiek@gmail.com)

*EMAJ is a network of young enthusiasts for fair, sensitive and responsible journalism gathered around an annual highly intensive professional training program. EMAJ eases intercultural*

tensions by reporting from the inside: it creates opportunities for independent professionals to tell their stories from inside action, culture and context – in *EMAJ Magazine*, a unique intercultural web-based media outlet outside the wires of giant news agencies.

*In order to be scaled up and replicated, EMAJ seeks support from donors, professional organizations and media decision-makers to develop its long-term strategic goals: to expand its network, refine its products, build the capacity of its members and achieve sustainability.*

**Forgotten Diaries**, Various locations, Youth/Online Media  
Contact: Anush Hayrapetyan, [an.hayrapetyan@yahoo.com](mailto:an.hayrapetyan@yahoo.com)

Forgotten Diaries is an innovative online initiative that sheds light on the most under-reported conflicts around the world. Forgotten Diaries' unique platform fosters long-term intercultural dialogue between youth in various conflict zones, bridging religious, cultural and ethnic barriers. Forgotten Diaries also empowers youth in conflict zones, through skills training and small grants, to design and implement innovative community development and grass-roots peace-building projects and they recently made a documentary showcasing some of these projects.

*In order to be scaled up and replicated, Forgotten Diaries seeks more publicity. Access to policy makers and media would allow Forgotten Diaries to bring further attention to the transformational role that young people can play in building a sustainable future if empowered.*

**Melantjong Petjinan Soerabaia**, Surabaya (Indonesia), Education/Migration  
Contact: Paulina Mayasari [pitics@gmail.com](mailto:pitics@gmail.com)

*Melantjong Petjinan Soerabaia* is a cultural tour tracing the Chinese heritage trails in the multi-ethnic city of Surabaya. This eye-opening experience enriches people's knowledge about the culture of Indonesian Chinese, breaking down stereotypes and promoting diversity and co-existence. See for yourself a fascinating example of how the phenomena of acculturation can form unique cultures in terms of architecture, food, fashion, and art.

*In order to be scaled up and replicated, Melantjong Petjinan Soerabaia seeks: professional human resources, financial support to make the tour more accessible to the public and to restore heritage object, and consultation on how to make this project sustainable.*

**Three Faiths Forum**  
Contact: Stephen Shashoua [Stephen@threefaithsforum.org.uk](mailto:Stephen@threefaithsforum.org.uk)

The Three Faiths Forum's Mentoring Programmes offer undergraduate students of Muslim, Christian and Jewish backgrounds the opportunity to work with leading professionals and to gain invaluable experience in their respective fields. Trios of students, one from each faith, create projects working towards positive social change while establishing new personal and professional relationships.

*In order to be scaled up and replicated, Undergraduate ParliaMentors needs: funding to support more participants across the UK and internationally, and to develop other streams of the mentoring model; publicity to expose the students further, and to demonstrate the effective work between faith communities to wider society; and connections with leaders around the world to be involved and replicate these programmes.*

**Akili Dada**, Kenya, Women/Education

Contact: Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg, Ph.D, [wanjiru@akilidada.com](mailto:wanjiru@akilidada.com)

*Akili Dada* is nurturing the next generation of African women leaders by investing in education, mentoring, and leadership training for brilliant, hard working, young women from impoverished families. Currently working in Kenya, our highly successful model extends beyond scholarships by connecting scholars to a diverse network of peers and high level professional African women who serve as mentors. Our leadership training program facilitates scholars' growth into agents of change beginning with action in their home communities. Recognizing that poor women are underrepresented and underserved by policy-making process across Africa, *Akili Dada* is inspiring and empowering our brilliant young women scholars to become the kinds of leaders the continent so desperately needs.

*In order to be scaled up and replicated, Akili Dada needs strategic partners to help with capacity building and infrastructure development as we share our successful model with social entrepreneurs other countries and plan to build an elite women's leadership academy to serving the continent starting with the Eastern Africa region.*

**Peace Camp**, Barcelona, Youth/Education

Contact: Raimon Ramis, [rramis@fundacioforum.org](mailto:rramis@fundacioforum.org)

The *Peace Camp* is an annual fun-filled and educational gathering of a hundred 13-14 year-olds from cities all around the world, organized by Universal Forum of Cultures Foundation.

Through debate, discovery, experience, reflection and fun, the Peace Campers not only learn about intercultural dialogue, social integration, citizen participation and sustainability, but also form lasting relationships with other teenagers from different cultures.

*In order to be scaled up and replicated, the Peace Camp needs institutional recognition to get support for post-Peace Camp projects at the local level; and financial support to extend the camp to other cities and to introduce better technologies to improve the results of the camp.*

**Peaceworks**, Gujarat/Kashmir (India), Arts/Education

Contact: Meena Megha Malhotra, [feedback@seagullindia.com](mailto:feedback@seagullindia.com)

*Peaceworks* is an initiative that grew out of the despair over the Gujarat carnage of 2000. Addressing the need to foster a spirit of peaceful co-existence, mutual respect across differences, and equality, *Peaceworks* supports youth to make positive change through the arts.

This initiative illustrates that it is in the realm of attitudes and values where long-term difference can be achieved.

*In order to be scaled up and replicated, Peaceworks needs funding to continue their work and go to regions where conflict is a reality for youth.*

**RandomKid: The Power of Anyone**, Seattle/Various global locations, Youth  
Contact: Anne Royse Ginther, [anne@randomkid.org](mailto:anne@randomkid.org)

A non-profit co-founded by *New York Times* op-ed pick for President (USA) in 2044, 15 year-old Talia Leman, and *USA Today's* Pied Piper of youth-led initiatives, Anne Ginther. *RandomKid* empowers youth to work across boundaries of culture, race, creed, economic circumstance, ability and geography to solve real problems in the world – together. With a 300%-1000% return on whatever is invested in them, 12 million *RandomKid* youth from 20 countries have brought aid on four continents—building schools, placing wells, providing medical care, and ultimately fostering peace.

*In order to spread the peace, RandomKid is offering their website technology to be replicated around the world, and adapted to all languages for all cultures.*

**Traveling Peace Academy**, Asia, Religion/Education  
Contact: [rmurphy@uri.org](mailto:rmurphy@uri.org)

URI's (United Religions Initiative) Traveling Peace Academy builds the capacity of local leaders in conflict zones to create sustainable peace in their communities. Its methods include: training grassroots leaders in transformational conflict prevention, resolution and reconciliation; fostering cross-religious and cross-cultural cooperation for peace and community development; and building multi-stakeholder partnerships that include religious, civil society, governmental and business groups.

*After a successful launch in India and the Philippines in 2009, the Traveling Peace Academy needs funding to scale up and bring this critical training to grassroots leaders in conflict zones throughout URI's global network.*

---

The UNAOC mobilizes concerted action toward reaffirming a paradigm of mutual respect among peoples of different cultural and religious backgrounds. It aims to bridge the world's divides and to build trust and understanding across cultures and communities worldwide. Established in 2005 as a UN initiative, the Alliance emerged out of a conviction that, in order to achieve sustainable peace, long-standing divisions between cultures need to be addressed.