

CAUX CONFERENCE FOR BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY IN POLAND

In South East Poland, the Mayor of Rzeszow this month opened a CCBI conference in the beautiful old town hall on the market square. The Bishop was also represented. The conference theme was "The application of business values in the West and the new market economies". This was the first such conference organized in a central European country.

In the course of two and a half days 60 people attended meetings, an average of 30 at each event.

The West was represented by five people from Finland, Switzerland and The Netherlands. Three Ukrainians came from the nearby city of Lviv. Polish participants included employers, representatives of the Solidarity trade union, of the Polish association of Christian entrepreneurs and of the Catholic Church.

Every day a good group of students was present, translating and assisting in other ways, and taking an active part in the conference. Young musicians from the Rzeszow preliminary music school performed wonderfully during intervals.

The conference was also included in the Sunday mass in the Bernardiner church, which was celebrated partly in English as a gesture of appreciation for this international initiative.

During the closing session, several speakers spoke of the special atmosphere of the gatherings. As one Polish businessman said on local TV, the conference had offered a unique experience of openness and respect for people. He would go back to his company and think out how to apply what he had learned – for instance, by relating differently to his employees.

An entrepreneur from nearby Mielec wants to organize a similar conference in his town next year.

A conference report will soon be available.

**Jozef Longzak, Kees Scheijgrond, Piotr Streck,
Wanda Tarnawska, Dorota Wisz**

THE PRACTICAL RESULTS OF TRUST BUILDING

After years of armed conflict, the people of Bougainville are rebuilding the peace. The Bougainville Trust Building Project, developed by MRA and the KB Youth Training Centre in Milne Bay Province, has a team of volunteers on the island. I have just been to see their work.

Since the team arrived in the Bana area in September, they have run 22 workshops and built

33 drum ovens. With their understanding of grass roots education, they have produced a formula for rebuilding and remotivating a devastated society. Comments I picked up indicate that women have refound their dignity and the confidence to entertain visiting VIPs, and to speak forthrightly to them; children are wearing good clothes to school, made by their mothers from patterns given by the team; families are getting a balanced diet, with greater variety of food produced using drum ovens; and the churches are working together in the centres where the team has spent time.

Meanwhile, two Bougainvillians have spent a year at the KB Centre. I met one of them, Joe Madaku. In the ten months since he returned he has enlisted the young men – many of whom were part of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army or the Resistance – in rebuilding houses for war widows, and classrooms for the community school.

Alan Weeks

SRI LANKANS ON PILGRIMAGE FOR PEACE

Sri Lankan journalist Jehan Perera spelt out grass roots initiatives to end the island's ethnic conflict, when he spoke on 'Conflict and Peace – Sri Lankan perspectives' at a recent For A Change Forum in London. Perera, Media Director of Sri Lanka's National Peace Council, a non-governmental organisation, likened initiatives for peace to the shape of a triangle. At the top were the high level negotiations. But these would not work without the support of the mass of the people at the base. The NPC aimed to arouse public opinion in support of peace initiatives between the island's Sinhalese and Tamil communities.

This included understanding the grievances between the communities. Ignorance was no excuse. It was a grievance in itself when one community has to ask of the other community, 'What is your grievance?', he said.

Perera, a Sinhalese, pointed out that while his community is in the majority in Sri Lanka, it feels itself to be historically in the minority compared with the mass of the Tamil population that exists in both Sri Lanka and south India. But as a weekly columnist for The Island newspaper, he was also concerned about press restrictions which meant that the Sinhalese in southern Sri Lanka were too often unaware of Tamil grievances.

Perera was one of an intercommunal group travelling

on a pilgrimage for peace to Britain and Northern Ireland, at the invitation of the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland.

The Rev Duleep de Chickera, an Anglican priest, said that the 'oral tradition' within communities, passed from one generation to the next, could too easily become 'the enemy syndrome'. 'There must be a self-critical correction within every community. Self-criticism is the seed of growth,' he said. 'We need a new way of looking at the past – critical of one's own and appreciative of the other's.' Parishes in Sri Lanka were now being encouraged to 'enter into ecumenical relationships with other faith communities', he said.

Responding from the audience, a person of Sri Lankan origin, told the speakers that while he had been to many conferences on the future of Sri Lanka, 'for the first time there is a spark of hope in me because of the integrity and compassion of your approach. We too easily rehearse the grievances of the past. But blessed are the peacemakers.'

Michael Smith

THE NORWEGIANS 'SEEKING VALUES'

The Economist of London writes about Norway's newly created Values Commission, headlining its story 'Seeking Values'. 'Norway's Prime Minister, a priest and an ardent soccer fan, wants to be remembered by history for prompting his people to think about their values, not just for passing laws,' it writes. 'So what is the best way to help them ponder the contrast between the riches that gush out of Norway's still abundant oil and gas fields, and the disintegration of values of morals? A "Values Commission", of course.'

The Swiss daily, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, headlines its article on the subject: 'Norwegians morally rearmed.'

The Government has picked Commission members from most walks of life, including trade unions, sporting personalities, the Church, immigrants, the universities and industry. They include Kebba Secka, a Gambian who is general secretary of Norway's Islamic Council. He has been to Caux twice.

There are many views on what can or ought to be achieved. Few think it possible to draw one solid conclusion. Many think it is good to have discussion and dialogue, making the nation conscious that riches and advanced technology do not advance character, solidarity and care for our neighbours.

The Prime Minister's first name is Kjell. The man in the street calls the Commission 'Kjell's Angels'.

Einar Engebretsen

AN EXPERIENCE VALID FOR ALL AFRICA

Next month people from many parts of Africa will attend a conference, 'New Men, New Nations, A New World' in Kenya. The invitation reads:

This is everyone's chance to play their part in creating a God-led unity in Africa. It will pioneer a path which all nations will want to tread. Tribes are not a problem. They become the diverse riches of the nation when we unselfishly care for one another.

Potholes on our roads will be mended by men and women whose own potholes of corruption and laziness have been mended. This is a practical proposition for all those who want a new Kenya and a new world. All this cannot be done on the cheap. There is a price to pay. But the reward is immense. It is an experience valid for all Africa.

FINDING A ROLE AT ODAWARA CONFERENCE

Over the June 6-7 weekend the twenty-first of MRA Japan's annual conferences will take place at Odawara. The invitation says: 'Each of us was born to play our own role and contribute to society. There are people who have discovered their own roles and been active in many different fields, trying to bring change to society. There may be many others who are still seeking their particular role. At the Odawara conference, people from various sectors will share their own experiences in order to find the role they can play to realise a better society. For others it may be a time to deepen their convictions.'

We look forward to seeing as many as possible at Odawara!

Kiyoshi Nagano

CAUX KITCHENS

This year eight of us from seven countries met in the USA to plan the menus and food preparation for the conferences at Caux this summer. We have chosen delicious menus and have looked at the special needs of each session. There was also time to build friendship, strengthen teamwork and look at the future. We believe that the kitchen must continue to be at the heart of all that happens and should reflect a quality of care for people that is the spirit of Caux. At the same time we are clear that we must find new ways.

Ideas began to emerge to divide responsibilities so that heading a shift is not such a daunting task, and new people can more easily take responsibility. We are working with the Caux Foundation to see how to replace some equipment and make the kitchen more user-friendly. Over the next few years Ulrike has said she is willing to develop a plan to train catering college students from different parts of the world who might welcome the chance of an internship at a Swiss conference centre. Ideas of how and where we might recruit such interns would be welcome. We would like to begin with two this summer.

For this year we still greatly need people willing to take responsibility in the main kitchen, the vegetarian

and diet kitchens. At no point do we have more than two head cooks confirmed. If you want to volunteer or think of others, please be in touch with Alison Wetterfors in Sweden at fax +46-23-22-691 or E-mail: fh.wetterfors@Falun.mail.telia.com

We look forward to a summer of miracles!

Margarit Kung, Catherine Koechlin, Frieda Thaler, Ulrike Keller, Alison Wetterfors, Judith Henderson, Susan Corcoran, Cricket White

SEE IT FOR YOURSELF

It didn't cost as much as Titanic and it's not quite the same visual quality. But you could own your own copy!

It's a 28 minute video edit of a schools venture visit to an Oxford Sixth Form. It gives a good picture of how we do an interactive session with about 60 students. If you wish, I can also add on to the same tape a 20 minute edit of this month's Global Club described by Laura and the excellent 25 minute talk given there by Mona Marzouk. I am happy to provide and send these free but if it is convenient for you to contribute towards the £6 duplication costs, gifts will be gratefully received. My address is: 15 Lewis Walk, Newbury, Berks, RG146TB, UK. e-mail: <hmgrace@aol.com>

Howard Grace

BOOKS FOR CAUX SESSIONS

The Caux book shop, as a service to the organizers of the sessions during this summer's conferences, would like to stock books that relate to the themes of the sessions. We have wondered whether some sessions might produce lists for participants of 'suggested further reading and documentation'. We look forward to receiving your suggestions of titles, (in different languages), and any reactions to this idea from session organizers (at the Geneva MRA office).

Andrew Stallybrass

DIALOGUE OF DISCOVERY

Caux, July 31 to August 7

The Dialogue of Discovery session offers a chance for those who are searching to step back from their busy lives – to look in and reach out. We hope and believe that through this dialogue between the generations we will all discover something of benefit to ourselves, our families and the world. This adventure will explore:

- Building a spirit of community
- Learning a quality of listening
- Exploring the process of change
- Taking responsibility
- Finding the inner resources

These issues will be addressed in a spirit of using practical experience and making decisions rather than through intellectual debates and theorising. People of all ages are welcome and there will be a programme for children.

Frédéric Chavanne, Peter Jones, Douglas Paine

HEALING THE PAST – FORGING THE FUTURE

A group of Poles and Germans has come together to plan a conference at the new international conference centre in Krzyzowa (Poland), where a well-known resistance group against the Nazi regime met during WW II. We want to continue the process of reconciliation between our nations; and look at the future of Europe and our part in it. The conference will take place from October 1-4. Its themes will be: 1. Reconciliation – how a heavy burden can become a positive force. 2. Globalisation and market economy – chance and challenge. 3. Values for Europe – maintaining the good, creating the new.

An interesting variety of speakers will introduce these subjects, and then there will be discussion groups. We hope that this conference will be particularly attractive for students and younger people – and not just to Germans and Poles!

Everyone is welcome. For further information and invitations please contact: Marta Dabrowska, e-mail: martad@Vela.filg.ujedu.pl Klaus Türck, e-mail: Tuerck-lner@t-online.de Thomas Bräckle, e-mail: 113303.1153@compuserve.com

Marta Dabrowska, Czeslaw Porebski, Klaus Türck, Thomas Bräckle

CAUX WINTER SESSION PREPARATION

The first preparation session for the next winter session at Caux will take place on May 22 and 23, at Caux. Mostly people from Switzerland and the Netherlands will be there but it would be great to have others as well.

In particular younger people are invited to join the preparation team as we would like them to get the opportunity to express their expectations and wishes about the programme of the session.

If there are people who would like to be part of the preparation team but for whom these dates in May are already taken by other engagements such as the Hagenau-Caux-summer-preparation, do not worry! There will be another winter session preparation time during the autumn, for which you are equally welcome to join us.

If you are interested, or have any questions, please contact Jean-Denis Borel: rue de la Blancherie 5, CH - 1022 Chavannes-Renens; E-mail: Jean-Denis.Borel@etu.unil.ch

Geert-Willem Overdijkink Jean-Denis Borel

CAUX WEB PAGE UPDATE

Supplements to the conference programmes have just been added to the existing main programme on the Caux web page (<www.caux.ch>). The online application form is also now functional. And finally, an online version of Changer-international is now in the French MRA pages.

The Caux-web-team

FACTS ON FAXES, PHONES AND ADDRESSES

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Richmond MRA office: MRARIC@aol.com
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Calendar of Events

APR '98	<u>Rzeszow Poland</u>	CCBI conference: 'The application of business values in the West and the new market economies'	Apr	3 - 5
APR '98	<u>Jamaica West Indies</u>	Global Consultation	Apr	23 - 30
MAY '98	<u>Novosibirsk Russia</u>	14th FFF Visiting Course	May	2 - 12
MAY '98	<u>Parubice Czech Republic</u>	International Communications Forum	May	8 - 12
MAY '98	<u>Haquenau France</u>	Planning meeting for Caux '98	May	20 - 25
MAY '98	<u>Kenya</u>	'New men, new nations, a new world' - All-Africa conference	May	20 - 25
JUN '98	<u>Odawara Japan</u>	National MRA conference: 'Seeking a really meaningful life - how should we live and what role should we play?'	Jun	6 - 7
JUN '98	<u>Moldova</u>	15th FFF Visiting Course	Jun	25 - July 5
JUL '98	<u>Melbourne Australia</u>	'Life Matters' course for young adults	Jul	3 - 12
JUL '98	<u>Caux Switzerland</u>	Caux summer conference - 'Changing the ways of the world'	Jul	11 - Aug 23
SEP '98	<u>Tirley Garth UK</u>	FFF International Course (prospectus available)	Sep	3 - 22

The deadline for the next Bulletin is Friday, May 15, 1998

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