

KOREAN MEETING AMIDST FINANCIAL CRISIS

Two former Prime Ministers were among 400 people who packed Seoul's Sejong Cultural Centre for the inauguration of Dr Kang Suk-kyu, as Chairman of MRA Korea. Dr Kang said that Korea's economic problems could be overcome by the practice of MRA and that he planned to gather all those who had worked for MRA before so that they could fully participate. 'Everyone should take part in solving the present Korean crisis,' he said.

Former PM, Dr Lee Young Dug, said that before the crisis there was great confidence in Korea's development and prosperity. 'In fact, our economy was full of foam', he said. There were many factors in the crisis but essentially it was caused by moral problems in the Korean people – materialism leading to greed leading to dishonesty. MRA was the solution to these problems and was the true answer.

Dr Kang and Mrs Moon Sun-ho paid tribute to outgoing Chairman, Mr Chung Choon. Brian Lightowler also spoke on behalf of international MRA.

Kwang-Sun Cha, Secretary MRA, Korea

LOOKING AT GLOBALISATION FROM BRAZIL

The choir of the Pontifical Catholic University sang outstandingly at the opening of this month's 'Meeting of the Americas' in the stately Room Dom Pedro II, in Petrópolis' Quitandinha Palace. During the following five days, the Meeting tackled themes crucial to the life of the continent.

The session on 'Life in the communities – problems, answers and opportunities' featured social activist Sergio Sanchez from Mexico, community leaders Ana Marcondes and Luiz Pereira from Rio; and from Petrópolis Dr Regina Celi, Secretary for Social Work, and Town Councillor Dr Maia.

The theme of business ethics and the challenge of globalisation was tackled by Dr Jones Santos Neves, Erwin Zimmermann, Hector Garcia from Mexico and Dr Decio, President of an emerging Independent Workers Confederation.

The next day Dr Maria Raimunda Azevedo, a Judge working with the Vice-President of the Supreme Court of the State of Rio, led a session on 'The contribution of the legal system'. The panel included lawyers from Minnesota, England and Petrópolis.

That evening 30 young people, descendants of the German settlers invited by Emperor Dom Pedro I to help build Petrópolis, presented traditional German and Austrian dances, managing to include almost all the participants in the intricate choreography.

On the last day a taxi driver and several community leaders were among many who came spontaneously to the platform to speak of their discoveries and their hopes. Mr Sanchez summed the gathering up, describing it as 'a refreshing, inspiring time that has given me an idea of what can be done, with the help of God, in my country and the continent!'

Ernesto Veras, Luis Puig

AN INTERNET INNOVATION

An Indian industrial executive decided at the Asia Pacific Consultation last month to go online once a month to share thoughts from his quiet time with a Sri Lankan peace activist. This triggered others and, before the Consultation was over, a network of trans-national sharing partnerships had been established.

The Consultation brought 34 people to Asia Plateau from 13 countries. By the end of our days together, we had decided to take on wholeheartedly an initiative proposed by Taiwanese friends, to offer people between 20 and 40 years old a year of training and outreach with MRA. Beginning in the year 2000, it will start with three months at Asia Plateau, followed by three months working in an Indian city, then elsewhere in Asia. The initiative will continue for five years.

We also decided that the next Asia Pacific Youth Conference (APYC) will be held at Asia Plateau in January. A special effort will be made to invite youth from Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

Asia Plateau will be the base for a six-week international Effective Living Course, starting on 8 January 1999.

A fund known as the Ma Mi Memorial Fund will be established to help towards the needs and programmes of those working with MRA in Asia.

From January of next year, Asia Plateau's Creative Leadership programmes will be opened to industry in other countries of Asia and the Pacific.

To take things forward, a Facilitation Group has been formed. Those who will serve for the first year are Lauren Tate-Davis (NZ), Rob Wood (Australia), Leena Khatri (Fiji), Rahul Kapadia (India), Kiyoshi Nagano (Japan), David Young (UK) and Grace Liu (Taiwan), who will be Secretary. A representative from outside the region has been included to ensure good links with the global team. Becoming a world team through a renewal and expansion of commitment, and wanting to be connected with other areas, was a feature of this Consultation.

Against the background of economic disaster, we discussed the situation in several areas, particularly Sri Lanka and South Korea.

A key thought that helped us all was:

'I often hesitate to take on things saying that others do it better. Of course many others do it better but then they also get over-burdened. The question is – Will I do my best – and grow through it?'

A fuller report is available on request from Grace Liu at: MRA, 11F-4, No. 5, Sec 2, Tun Hua S. Road, Taipei, Taiwan ROC. Fax: + 886 2 2705 2827

Suresh Khatri

UGANDANS IN RWANDA

In the second half of November a group of us from Uganda visited Rwanda. We felt it was our duty to share our

experiences of spiritual and moral change so that our Rwandan neighbours could benefit from the abundant love and guidance of God. During our week in Kigali we visited schools, offices, homes and the University. 100 people, including government officials, army personnel, retired ambassadors and businessmen came to our final meeting in one of Kigali's biggest hotels. We returned to Uganda determined to work with Rwanda friends to help our sister countries create a united Africa.

Margaret Sajjabi, Dorothy Tingu, Tom Gididu

DISHA IN HINDI

The second edition of Disha, the full-colour magazine edited by Bhanu Kale for Indians involved in MRA, was published last month. The 16-page magazine contains news of William Porter's visit to India and his encounters with senior media professionals; reports of a wide range of conferences at Asia Plateau; thoughtful articles from a variety of sources; letters from many readers. Those who wish to receive the magazine should write to Bhanu at Asia Plateau, Panchgani, 412805. There is no formal subscription; it is hoped to make the magazine viable through contributions, which can be made to Friends of Moral Re-Armament (India). Now a Hindi version of the magazine is in preparation, edited by Chandreshwar Khan, an engineer from Jamshedpur.

CEC BECOMES CKC

The Clean Election Campaign played a significant part in the recent Kenyan elections. The 600,000 leaflets went all over the country, and their impact has been clear not just from the thousands of signed pledges we have received, but also in the new determination of people for clean politics. We have heard from several communities, inspired by the campaign, who asked people of known integrity to stand; and these people won by large majorities. Thousands of Kenyans slept in counting halls to guard the ballot boxes.

What next? We have been urged to continue the campaign in the name of Clean Kenya Campaign. We are establishing this at present, and are planning a national conference in May in Nairobi.

Joseph Karanja

SAKH' ISIMILO IN SOUTH AFRICA

As a result of wide consultation with Education officials and many others, we have decided that the MRA schools programme will expand this year, under the name Sakh' Isimilo, which means, 'We are building morality and respect'. The programme aims to restore the culture of teaching and learning on a moral and spiritual level; and to build a new partnership between students, teachers, parents and the community. It will begin with a day workshop this month in Soweto, and there will also be a weekend camp for Soweto schools.

From MRA newsletter, South Africa

JAMAICA – A GENTLE REMINDER

We thought it might be a good idea to remind readers that each of us in our different countries and regions has been asked to give thought as to who should represent us at the

Jamaica consultation (April 23-30). We have also been urged to send in any thoughts we have about the consultation themes – by e-mail if possible, but otherwise by whatever means is available. Both names and thoughts should go to the preparation committee at the MRA Washington office.

The Editors

CAUX FOUNDATION COUNCIL LOOKS AHEAD

On February 7-8, the Council of the Caux Foundation had the first of its three meetings of the year in Lucerne, Switzerland. We were grateful that the new younger members who have recently joined us could all be present, and for the excellent spirit of enthusiasm and hard work that prevailed throughout the weekend. Meeting in a retreat house gave us the opportunity not only for the formal meeting of the Council, but ample time for our three working groups (on Buildings; Finance/Fundraising; and Membership and Workings of the Council) to meet and report. We had time over meals and in an evening of prayer and song in the chapel to share fellowship as well as work. (Our next meeting will be May 8-10.)

1997 ended with the accounts just in the black, for which we thank God. This was due to a good year for SHMS (the hotel school), despite the fact that our conferences had again a lower number of bednights. At the same time, the difficult financial situation in several countries of Asia is having its impact upon the number of students from those countries at the SHMS in Caux at the start of 1998. So as we looked ahead to this year and voted in the budget for 1998, we were very aware that we must all pray and work hard to bring the right people and funds to the conferences this summer. The experience of healing and reconciliation that MRA has to offer the world has never been more needed, and the conferences at Caux offer a unique opportunity for people to see that demonstrated, and to find their own experience of transformation. Preparations for this summer in Caux are gathering speed and we look forward to meeting you there.

Marcel Grandy for the Council

A NEW PHASE?

The imminent completion of arrangements to move to a new and exciting MRA centre in London seems to me another tangible sign of God's promise that He has a wholly new phase in store for us. As we quest for renewal in our world work, and with the approaching Jamaica consultation as a step in this process, I see this new phase not only as a development but also qualitatively different, appropriate to a changed world. It will also be utterly true to the essence of what God gave the world through Frank Buchman. But I don't believe that we will slip into this phase by redoubling our efforts, sharpening up a little here and there.

God means to give us a quantum shift, a deep individual and collective change, a spiritual rebirth, as well as a renewed sense of vision for the future.

Renewal involves letting go. In order to accept the gift of a new phase, what will each of us be ready to let go? For me there have been resentments and hurts from the past to relinquish, as well as my love of comfort and approval. The up-side of this letting go is that trust is built, and bigger aims can be taken on with responsibility and confidence.

It seems to be a spiritual law that the fullness of God's plan is not revealed until blockages are removed. Unresolved relationships, for instance, generate cynicism, and cynicism dissolves the power of all fresh vision before it can take hold.

How can we more fully become a fellowship of people who help each other go deeper in our givenness to God?

Have we too much become people who are each 'for their own thing'? How can we become people who are ready if needed to sacrifice 'their own thing' to 'our thing' as revealed to us together by God? This will not happen through cajoling, or exercising human authority – but only as a fruit of deeper spiritual renewal and a rebirth of trust between individuals.

These are issues I see as central to the Jamaica consultation. Individual and collective renewal may not only be a prerequisite for finding the new phase, but may in fact be the essence of that phase. We need not greater effort, but greater receptivity. God is surely wanting to give some mighty gifts and blessings which will deepen, sharpen and unite. Are we ready to receive them?

Edward Peters

CCBI IN POLAND

'Application of business values in the West and the new market economies' is the theme of an industry conference, which will take place, April 3-5, in Rzeszow, South-East Poland.

The initiative has come from Polish participants in last year's CCBI. They took the idea home from Caux, won support from their Mayor and Bishop, and are now going ahead with the organisation. Co-organisers are the foundation for cooperation between East European nations, 'Zblizenie', and the Institute for European studies in Rzeszow.

The conference will address issues such as:

- Competition and transparency – fair play and the need for information in a competitive world
- Responsibility and cooperation
- Work and human dignity - employment and the relationship between management and labour
- Profit, for what?

The invitation and the conference should be of interest to companies involved in Central and Eastern Europe and with an antenna for moral and ethical issues, whether they are familiar with MRA or not.

Invitations are available in Rzeszow (ask Wanda Tamawska, fax: +48 17 8522745) and The Hague (ask Kees Scheijgrond, fax +31 70 3617209, E-mail: 106676.3650@compuserve.com).

Jozef Lonczak, Kees Scheijgrond, Piotr Strek, Wanda Tamawska and Dorota Wisz

DIALOGUE OF DISCOVERY

The preparation of the 'Dialogue of Discovery' (Caux 1998 - July 31 to August 7) is on the road. The three of us met in Paris last month for a time of sharing, trust building and hard thinking. We came out with a text presenting the aims and themes, and a letter which we have sent to about 50 people. We meet next in Britain, 20-23 March. We feel the need to enlarge our core team. Any offer of help,

especially from young parents, will be welcome.

More information is available from Peter and/or Frédéric at Changer_inter@compuserve.com

Peter Jones, Douglas Paine, Frédéric Chavanne

CAUX 1998 MRA MEDIA MEETING

Last summer at Caux we discussed Moral Re-Armament publishing, and Caux Edition offered to serve as a reference point for our publishing. Since then, talks with many friends at the 1997 Frankfurt Book Fair showed clearly the importance of the ideas we developed then (for example the possibilities of book advertising through the Web).

So we have decided to hold a further meeting in Caux on Moral Re-Armament media. We suggest Sunday and Monday, July 19-20, immediately after the CCBI and the ICF. That would give us two full days of meetings, perhaps meeting in plenary for part of the time, but with three working groups:

1. Book publishing: projects and plans, an ideas bank, the Frankfurt Book Fair 1998.
2. MRA publications ('internal' and 'external'): improving communication, the possibility of moving towards an electronic 'news agency', exchanging 'mission statements' expressing what each publication sets out to do.
3. Coordinating and improving MRA's presence on the World Wide Web.

The meetings last summer strengthened our international network. We benefited greatly from ICF participants who stayed on to meet with us, and we hope to include several again from this circle.

All those interested are invited to participate and/or send us their suggestions.

Charles Piguet and Andrew Stallybrass

KEEPING UP WITH THE 'TIMES'

For those who want to keep in touch with the progress of the plans launched at last year's Consultation in Melbourne, aimed at the training and development of people within MRA, a third issue of The McFug Times (Melbourne Consultation Follow-up Group) is now available from Edward Peters and colleagues in Oxford.

BOARDS' REPRESENTATIVES TO MEET AGAIN

After the successful meeting of MRA Boards representatives in Caux last August (reports available from Philippe Lasserre in Paris), it was suggested that it would be useful to repeat the experience.

So it will take place on Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22, just before the 'special week' (July 23-30), at the same time as the Caux Round Table, so that those who want to attend the 'Caux Conference for Business and Industry' can stay for another two days if they wish to attend. There will be two or three meetings during these two days, and up to two members of each MRA Board can attend. We might look at the following questions:

- An exploration of the possible creation of an international MRA Body.
- Getting to know our different legal and other set-ups, ways of operating, needs.

- How can different MRA Boards learn from each other and collaborate better?

- Finances.

- Relationships with governments.

All those interested can contact me in Paris (PHLasserre@compuserve.com) with suggestions of themes and possible invitees. Last year, 17 of the 40 MRA bodies in the world were represented. Could we have more this year? A letter will go to all identified MRA Boards and, later, a proposed agenda. Can you discuss among yourselves who should represent your legal body. Do not hesitate to be in touch if you think you might not be on our list.

Philippe Lasserre

CO-WORKERS OPPORTUNITY

Last December I moved to Oxford where, amongst my responsibilities, I share the co-ordination of the Co-workers'

programme with Edward Peters. It is a privilege to be working with the five co-workers from Australia, Brazil, India, Japan and USA, whose enthusiasm has been very encouraging. It won't be easy to let them go after their year, which ends as they depart from Caux in August. We have, however, already received three new applications for next year, starting in September '98. More places are available for co-workers in different parts of Britain. A new leaflet about the UK Co-workers' programme has gone to all MRA centres worldwide and is available on request.

Christine Karrer

FACTS ON FAXES, PHONES AND ADDRESSES

France: Correction to the MRA World Address List: the MRA Office no longer has its own e-mail address, so please delete the old address, 100745.1622@compuserve.com

Brazil: visit MRA Brazil at <http://homepage.usr.com/e/elveras>

Calendar of Events

FEB '98	<u>Finland</u>	FFF seminar in Finland for students from St Petersburg, Russia	Feb	1 - 7
FEB '98	<u>Armagh Melbourne</u>	Effective Living training course	Feb	1 - Apr 4
FEB '98	<u>Petroplis Brazil</u>	'Encuentro de las Americas'	Feb	4 - 8
MAR '98	<u>Strasbourg France</u>	Preparation meeting for 'Agenda for Reconciliation' session at Caux	Mar	6 - 8
APR '98	<u>Jamaica West Indies</u>	Global Consultation	Apr	23 - 30
APR '98	<u>Rzeszow Poland</u>	CCBI conference: 'The application of business values in the West and the new market economies'	Apr	3 - 5
MAY '98	<u>Parubice Czech Republic</u>	International Communications Forum	May	8 - 12
MAY '98	<u>France</u>	Planning meeting for Caux '98	TBA	
MAY '98	<u>Kenya</u>	All-Africa conference	May	20 - 25
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 Sunday, March 15, 1997

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Those named below have been asked to distribute this in their area: Asia: South - C Iratu; Malaysia - Santa Maria; Philippines - Calma; Japan, Rest - Nagano; Australia - A Lancaster; Pacific - Annette Porteous; Africa: East - Patel; South - Euvrard; Zimbabwe - Sibare; Nigeria, Rest - Agbih; N. America: Canada - Weeks; USA - Ruffin; Latin America: Brazil, Rest - Puig; Caribbean - Fiona Edwards; Europe: France - Lasserre; Germany - Bräckle; Denmark - Jørgensen; Finland - Koponen; Norway - Eskeland; Sweden - Söderlund; Switzerland - Mottu; UK - C Evans; Austria - Vock; Netherlands, Belgium - J de Pous; Rest of Europe - E Peters; Middle East: - Christodoulides