The Peace Alliance
Empowering Civic Engagement for a Culture of Peace

PERSPECTIVES FROM AROUND THE WORLD ON THE
SECOND PEOPLE'S SUMMIT FOR DEPARTMENTS OF PEACE
Royal Roads University
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
June 19-22, 2006

and

FIRST WORLD PEACE FORUM
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
June 23-25, 2006

The Venue at
Royal Roads University

Summit Participants

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PREFACE

Sixty men and women from 18 countries, representing diverse cultures, nations, ages, and languages, traveled to Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, for the Second People’s Summit for Ministries and Departments of Peace held June 19-22, 2006. Speaking with one voice they called on countries around the world to establish government structures whose goal is to work hand-in-hand with civil society - reflecting, building, and sustaining a culture of peace. And they formalized their association as the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, in which the Peace Alliance Foundation plays an active role.

Then, at the First World Peace Forum in Vancouver, which followed immediately after the Victoria Summit, the Summit delegation offered a program on “creating national departments of peace.” The program included an international panel of government leaders followed by a series of five related workshops.

Summit attendees included government and civil society delegates from Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, India, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Palestine, the Philippines, Romania, the Solomon Islands, Spain, Uganda, the United Kingdom, and the United States. This report documents the personal reflections and perspectives on the Summit and World Peace Forum of nine of those participants, three of whom also participated on the World Peace Forum panel along with other government leaders from around the world.

The sessions in Victoria opened with indigenous invocations, and each morning began with voices raised in harmony of song. At the end of the week, the delegates left Vancouver and returned to their homes around the world in harmony of purpose.

It is our hope that this report will give the reader a sense of the inevitability of ministries and departments of peace and of government and civil society partnerships for peacebuilding.

Dorothy J. Maver
Executive Director
The Peace Alliance Foundation
August 2006
SUMMIT PERSPECTIVES

1. Fred L. Fakari'i – Solomon Islands (at Summit – Under Secretary, Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace; currently – Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs)

2. Peter Phillips Lukwiya – Uganda (Programme Director, Campus Youth Alliance)


4. Timothy Al Paulus – Liberia (Assistant Minister for Youth Services, Ministry of Youth and Sports)

5. Franklin M. Quijano – Philippines (Government Of Republic of Philippines Panel Chair of Mindanaw Peace Process)

6. Dr. N. Radhakrishnan – India (Chairman, Indian Council of Gandhian Studies)

7. Corina Simon – Romania (Peace Activities Coordinator, Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania)

8. Manish Thapa – Nepal (Coordinator, Nepal Peace Initiative Alliance)

9. Zoughbi Zoughbi – Occupied Palestinian Territories (Director, Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center)
**Fred L. Fakari’i, Solomon Islands**

**Biosketch:** Born in 1956, I hold a Bachelor of Management and Public Administration degree, and have attended numerous international workshops, seminars, and conferences on different aspects of management. I have served in the Public Service of Solomon Islands for 30 years and held numerous senior positions as a government officer in different government ministries, including several years in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and as the CEO of the only National Referral Hospital in Solomon Islands. Through the Summit in Victoria, I was Under Secretary of the Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation, and Peace. Following Victoria, I was promoted to Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

**Reflections on the Summit and World Peace Forum:** The Summit/World Peace Forum has meant a lot to me. As I mentioned in my presentations at both the Summit for Ministries and Departments of Peace and the World Peace Forum, my country may be considered as the first in the world to have a government Ministry of Peace; however, our initial focus was narrow and lacked depth. Attending the Summit/World Peace Forum has given me a new vision of the functions of the Ministry of Peace.

Secondly it helped me to establish new relationships with like-minded peace-building organizations and individuals around the world, people and organizations that I can call on for support and assistance in a lot of areas, including appropriate professional training for peace builders.

This support is vitally important in our quest to ensure the continuity of our current ministry of peace, regardless of which government is in office.

**Remarks at the World Peace Forum Panel on Creating National Departments of Peace, Vancouver, Canada, June 25, 2006:**

For the sake of those who do not know where Solomon Islands is on the world map, Solomon Islands is a group of islands in the South Pacific Ocean, east of Papua New Guinea, north-east of Sydney, Australia. The country is surrounded by 1.2 million square kilometers of water and has a land mass of 29,000 square kilometers, which is made up of 999 islands.

Now I will turn to what I intend to tell this morning, and I promise that I will not take up too much of your time. Secondly, I do not intend to bore you with what we have been doing as a ministry; rather I will briefly inform you about how we were able to create a ministry for peace in Solomon Islands and highlight for you the potential threats to our very existence as a ministry.
Unlike many of your countries, we did not have any difficulty in establishing a ministry for peace. Seven years ago we had three years of ethnic conflict in our country, Solomon Islands. When we finally brought these warring parties together, an agreement was signed between them that required implementation by a legal body or institution - thus, the Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation, and Peace was established.

It never dawned on us that we were the first country in the world to create such a ministry, nor did we ever realize that there has been a worldwide yearning for ministries or departments of peace in every country.

Initially, as earlier alluded to, our focus was very narrow. Our Ministry of Peace was established with a specific mandate, and that was to implement the agreement that brought about the cessation of the ethnic tension between the conflicting parties at the time, and to provide crisis management of the situation that prevailed immediately after the cessation of violence.

Like many of your countries, the government ministry portfolio distribution in Solomon Islands is such that certain issues that may be considered peace issues have already been allocated as portfolios of other sectoral government ministries. Thus, in Solomon Islands, issues concerning women and youth are functions that fall under the Ministry of Home Affairs, while environmental issues on the other hand are functions of the Ministry of Forestry, Environment, and Conservation. It is evident that this may pose the single major constraint to many who wish to have a set up similar to ours.

While we may be celebrating our success in attaining ministerial status, this could pose the biggest threat to our survival as a ministry, as I am counting on your global support to ensure that we remain a ministry.

Last week’s Peace Summit in Victoria, BC, and the last two days I have been here with you in Vancouver, BC, at the First World Peace Forum, has enabled me to establish so many important connections with many of you and your organizations, which I consider to be very vital to our course in ensuring our survival as a Ministry of Peace.

I am confident we can do it and I wish to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support. The journey may be tough and long, but the harder the battle the sweeter will be our victory.
**PETER PHILLIPS LUKWiya, UGANDA**

**Biosketch:** Born in a family of eight children, in Kitgum District, Northern Uganda, and nurtured in that conflict- and violence-pronounced part of Uganda, I witnessed and felt all sorts of physical, emotional, and psychological impacts of war on mankind, directly and indirectly. Having lost my grandfather, father and a brother, and my entire village being wiped out, to the armed violence that raged through Northern Uganda for two decades, I did not have a normal peaceful lifestyle like many young people in other relatively peaceful parts of the world. The trauma and psychological disturbance, however, gave me the motivation and encouragement to stand up and “think peace, speak Peace and embrace peace”.

In 2000, I entered the university (in Mbarara SW Uganda) and right away joined the UNESCO Club of the university. Later as president of the club, I showed the need for the active involvement and participation of young people in bringing everlasting peace by instilling a culture of peace and a philosophy of nonviolence in the minds and way of life of the people of Northern Uganda. I then mobilized other students and took them to northern Uganda. We engaged ourselves basically in implementation of the UN manifesto 2000 for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence with the support of the National Commission for UNESCO. We organized peace sports and games for schools, formed six peace Clubs, and organized dialogue sessions with the communities and one cultural event.

Since then, I have worked with the Campus Youth Alliance and several NGOs as a volunteer. I got excited when I heard before the first Summit last year in London about the global movement to create departments/ministries for peace. I shared this idea with my MP and Minister in the Uganda Government then showed a clear rationale for establishing a Ministry for Peace in Uganda, based on its history of conflict and violence since its independence in 1962. In October 2005, I launched a Ministry for Peace Uganda advocacy group and later represented this group during the Second Summit in June 2006 in Victoria, Canada. I therefore believe that peace is not a dream but a goal, provided the international community is sincere in its desire to create and maintain peace. Peace is a reality that can be attained.

**Reflections on the Summit and World Peace Forum:** I am excited by the prospect of departments of peace/ministries for peace in countries around the world and hope that our enthusiasm is contagious. I felt empowered and energized by the interactions with all the participants and knowledge of the efforts being taken by all the countries who participated in the summit for the campaigns for departments/ministries for Peace, in particular in the USA, Canada, UK, and Australia. The challenges shown from those countries with currently active campaigns are indeed similar to those of other countries, like
Uganda, with emerging campaigns. This gave me the inspiration and motivation to develop strategies for conducting Uganda’s campaign for a Ministry for Peace. The World Peace Forum further highlighted the need and call for world peace.

I honor the abilities of such social movements to galvanize the people and believe that, indeed, “One alone cannot build peace, together a great deal can be achieved”.

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**Kaloy Manlupig, Philippines**

**Biosketch:** I am a full-time rural development worker and peace-builder, actively involved in promoting equity, development, and peace through community-based development work, and through coalition-building and advocacy for political parity, economic development, and peace for Mindanao. I have been a professional development worker for the past 25 years, including 20 years setting up and managing various nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations, and five (5) years as a government official setting up and managing Mindanao field offices of the Presidential Management Staff, Office of the President, and as a Regional Director of the Department of Agrarian Reform. I have also provided consultancy services to various international agencies like the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Bank, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), DANChurchAID, ANIAD, and others.

In my NGO and government career, I have gained considerable experience, expertise, and recognition in rural development, particularly in sustainable integrated area development, agrarian reform, developing technologies for democratic participation in local governance, peace-building and networking, and Mindanao development advocacy work. Most of all, I am a Peace-Building who has been given the privilege of being the Independent Mediator and Head of the Independent Secretariat in the GRP – RPM-M Peace Process.

**Reflections on the Summit and World Peace Forum:** The Summit and the WPF has given me a real chance to experience the connectedness of what we are doing in faraway Mindanaw to the rest of the world. Meeting peacebuilders from all-over the world has inspired me to work with greater commitment and dedication towards the attainment of peace in my troubled island. The Summit exposed me for the first time to a new dimension of peacebuilding. Before the Summit, I gave very little thought about the strategic importance of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) and how to help strengthen it. I now offer my and Balay Mindanaw’s full support to the decision to hold the first Summit of Governments with departments/ministries/offices in the Philippines in February 2007. We will now closely work with the Steering Committee of the Global Alliance and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines in preparing for that Summit.
TIMOTHY AL PAULUS, LIBERIA

Biosketch: Tim Paulus is assistant minister for youth in the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the government of Liberia. He has recently been granted a full scholarship from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana to pursue a Masters of Arts in Peace and Conflict Transformation with specific focus on youth development, to begin in August 2006. This a 2-year program with 6 months of field experience in any country outside the United States, which Tim is planning to spend in Uganda.

Remarks at the World Peace Forum Panel on Creating National Departments of Peace, Vancouver, Canada, June 25, 2006:

I bring you greetings from the youth of Liberia, the Minister of Youth and Sports, Cllr. Jamesetta Howard, and the President of Liberia, Her Excellency Madame Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and the entire government and people of Liberia, especially the youth of Liberia. I am overwhelmed to be present at this very important global gathering.

We are all united in our conviction that violent conflicts in most parts of the world, especially in Africa are not only an economic crisis but also a human, legal, political and social crisis. They are crises of unprecedented and unacceptable proportions manifested not only in the declines in economic indicators and trends but tragically and glaringly in the suffering, hardship and impoverishment of the vast majority of the population, especially the young people.

Let me affirm that nations cannot be built and will not achieve stability and peace without the popular support and full participation of its youth population. The youth are often used as physical perpetrators of violence. Those who initiate violence because of political or other reasons, use the youth as instruments of violence. Economic conditions cannot improve without the full, effective, and positive contribution of the youth of any community, because they are the reservoir for a country's human resource capacity.

Therefore, I maintain that at the heart of every peace initiative must lie the ultimate and overriding goal of a youth-centered approach. To achieve these objectives will require that peace initiatives focus primarily on the youth population. The design and development of youth programs and activity must be prioritized.

In the case of Liberia, the neglect of the youth population has yielded a negative result, which we are forced to reckon with as a nation. Sixty-two percent of Liberia’s national population are young people between the ages of 15 to 28 years. Close to 50% were active participants in the 14 years of brutal war.
We believe that, in the absence of appropriate and well-designed peace building and conflict management programs -- which should target the youth in order to transform their orientation, since indeed they have been used over the years as agents of destruction -- all development initiatives by government and her international partners will prove fruitless.

I can assure you that the government of Liberia will support all efforts to establish a department or ministry of Peace in our country, especially after such a devastating civil war, which claimed the lives of over 400,000 persons, mainly women and children. Now, my motivation to do peace work is that PEACE IS POSSIBLE. Peace in the Liberian context is not just the silence of the GUN. I don’t know your definition of peace in your context, but for us peace is the fight for poverty reduction: access to basic public utility services (like electricity, water, etc.), access to education, a good health delivery system, availability of food, etc.

The department or ministry of peace is very essential in the maintenance of peace and will serve as a national conflict management system or approach. It will serve as an early warning system to alert government of conflicts which have the potential to degenerate into violence. Surely, a ministry or department of peace is needed in our governance system because it will also promote good governance, peace, and stability. One major challenge will be the neutrality and funding of this important institution.

As I conclude, let me reaffirm our support for this great vision. May God bless the work of our hands.
FRANKLIN M. QUIJANO, PHILIPPINES

Biosketch: I was born in 1955 of working class parents in Dansalan, now Marawi City, grew up in Lanao, and speak fluently Maranao, Ilonggo, Chavacano, and Cebuano. During the violent conflicts in the 1970s between the Christians and Muslims in Mindanao, I supported my father in our town’s peace dialogue between the protagonists. Later, with a bachelor’s degree in economics, I taught economics at San Carlos University in Cebu and studied for and passed the bar exam to become an attorney. I was elected to the Iligan city council in 1988 and then as mayor 1998. Gaining national recognition in that position, I became Chairman of the Mindanao-wide Anti-poverty Eradication Committee; Chairman of the Regional Development Council of Region 12; and concurrently the Executive Vice President of the Confederation of Provincial Governors, City Mayors and Municipal Mayors League Presidents of Mindanao, and the Executive Vice President of the League of Cities of the Philippines. In 2002, I was named Most Outstanding City Mayor of the Philippines.

I currently serve as Chair of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines panel engaged in a peace process with the Revolutionary Workers’ Party of Mindanao and have also been appointed by the government to also work with a peace process with the rebels in the Visayas. I recently attended a training program in peacebuilding at the Romanian Peace Institute.

Reflections on the Summit and World Peace Forum: The experience was fulfilling and rewarding, and I was encouraged to learn of the many efforts and attempts to build bridges of understanding among communities, nations, and peoples. One very important learning was the methodology of Nonviolent Communication, from which I realized that much is manifested about of the culture of violence, which we have inherited, in the way we express ourselves. Though we are still working on the process of building a culture of peace and life, it is important to be conscious about the way we communicate. It is also important to make a map of the conflict in our communities, among countries and people, perhaps even to make a conflict map for the world. That way, a world government will be guided on how to resolve conflicts and prevent violence from occurring.

Finally, it is elating to observe that the consciousness of peace is getting into most societies of the world. It becomes imperative that peacemaking and peacebuilding be institutionalized. The call for the creation of Departments and Ministries for Peace is timely.
Remarks at the World Peace Forum Panel on Creating National Departments of Peace, Vancouver, Canada, June 25, 2006:

Miss Marianne Williamson, The Honorable Congressman Dennis Kucinich, the Right Honorable Dr. Arthur Chesterfield-Evans, Mr. Fred Fakari‘i, Mr. Timothy Al Paulus, Hideaki Nakagawa San, Mr. Paul van Tongeren, Friends, Citizens of the World,

Peace Unto You.

Our people have authorized me to commit even more to the strengthening of the Departments of Peace.

The President of the Republic of the Philippines - President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Secretary Jess Dureza of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process are delighted to have learned that the Philippines is one of the first in the establishment of a Department of Peace.

Twenty years ago, as we overthrew the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, we established The National Unification Commission. The establishment of the Department of Peace in our country was not just handed down but was really a hard earned victory.

Of course, to sustain the gains, of bringing into mainstream, those who were alienated by the People Power Revolution, we had to improve, and we called our department the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process.

Right now, we are handling six formal peace processes: three are brokered and are held outside of our country, namely, in Norway, Malaysia, and Indonesia. The three others are locally brokered.

We have with us this morning one of the mediators, from the NGO that has gladly lent their expertise and even their willingness to learn more. His name is Kaloy Manlupig of Balay Mindanaw.

While we say, we are managing six (6) peace processes; there are other things which we need to address because what we are addressing are violent conflicts. Sometimes, in the area where we are, there are also clan wars. Thus, we need to do some more things to map out the conflicts.

This is one important thing that we have learned. Unless we map out the conflict of a certain place, of our island - Mindanao or of our country - we will not be able to turn the correct key for resolving them.

Perhaps it’s high time for the United States or the world to start learning to identify the players and the causes for all the conflicts; and turn the key to solving all these conflicts.
Well, our second constitution was copied from the US constitution. Perhaps it's high time for the US to copy our department of peace.

Indeed we have our gains, but we also have our shortcomings.

While we need to have the impetus to solve the issues of peace, the concerns and issues are really tremendous. We have to address the issue of corruption, of inequity, of injustice and underdevelopment.

And we found out that one very clear proof that there is corruption is when our land, even though it is scarce, is not being used for anything and remain idle.

And so, in the peace process that we are trying to manage, both the rebel panel and government panel have agreed not just to talk peace but also walk peace. What we do is, we go to the communities together: the government panel and the rebel panel. And ask the people to have the inventory of the resources that they have, which they can use to help develop their communities.

Of course, we also need to inventory the problems and prioritize them. We found out, to our great dismay, that the problems were not as great as we thought they were. The sad thing is that the solution is just not there yet. Our people where there are rebels do not have water to drink, roads, schools, electricity, etc.

All these things mean that, if we can all unite as a people, as friends, perhaps we can resolve the issues of peace. The extra hose, that we have at home, could then be brought to the areas where there is no water, so that our people will have a taste of what potable water is.

And so, we are so excited to share our experience, and we are also excited to learn as well from the experience of others - from Solomon Islands and the other countries. And we are happy to learn that there are other countries that may be able to establish a department of peace: perhaps, Costa Rica, Ghana, Nepal or Liberia, or Iraq.

I am happy to tell you that, with the clearance from President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and my Secretary, Secretary Jesus Dureza, we are gladly offering to host the First Department of Peace Summit sometime in February 2007, in joint cooperation with the conveners, steering committee, and sponsors of this Global Alliance.

God Bless.
**Dr. N. Radhakrishnan, India**

**Biosketch:** Dr. Radhakrishnan is an educator, administrator, founder of several educational institutions, author of over fifty books, journalist, trainer of youth in nonviolence, theatre expert, actor, human rights activist, and researcher of folk arts. He is Founder and Chair of Missionaries of Nonviolence Foundation, India, and Chairman of Indian Council of Gandhian Studies, New Delhi. He is also Ambassador to Soka University of America in Los Angeles, and Hon. Professor Emeritus at the Jain Viswabharathy University, Rajasthan. Some of the organizations he has founded include the National Centre for Development Education at Adoor; Gandhi Media Centre; GR Centre for Nonviolence and Shantisena; Ikeda Centre for Value Creation; and Institute of Applied Management, Madurai. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including, in 2001, the Gandhi-King-Ikedah Community Builders Award.

In all, he has worked to foster harmony and amity in several parts of the world by interpreting creatively the Gandhian vision of education for social change and the need to restructure education, taking into account the fast changing international scenario, including efforts to weave art, culture and constructive work in the education system.

**Reflections on the Summit and World Peace Forum:** The Summit at Victoria was an unforgettable event for me since it was refreshingly different from the kinds of conferences and training programs I have had the privilege of organizing or attending during the last 35 years in India and different parts of the world.

In India, our efforts for the establishment of a full-fledged ministry for peace began in 1969, during Gandhi’s Birth Centennial. My meeting in Washington in 2001 with Congressman Dennis Kucinich convinced me to continue our efforts with added courage and conviction. On my return to India, we made the DoP a major focus of activities of the Indian Council of Gandhian Studies, New Delhi. I brought these developments to the notice of the former President of India, Dr. K.R. Narayanan, and Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and both of them were very favorably disposed to the idea of a separate ministry or department for peace in the Government of India. I later discussed the DoP with former Prime Minister Sri I.K. Gujral and a few members of Parliament, who were also sympathetic to the DoP cause. As yet, however, no such ministry or department has been established in the Indian government.

It was in the backdrop of these developments that the Victoria Summit came up, which not only fired my commitment but also convinced me that the DoP is not a dream but a
CORINA SIMON, ROMANIA

Biosketch: I was born in 1983, in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, and in June 2005 graduated with a degree from the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science at the Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca. I then joined the Peace Action, Training, and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIR) with the intent of developing myself professionally and at the same time to be actively involved in my community. The work in the International Peace and Development Training Centre at PATRIR brought me in contact with people from all over the world working for peace in their countries and internationally. Since November 2005, I have been the International Secretary of the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace. My interests include developing capacity in peace and conflict studies, civil society, the UN system and other mechanisms and infrastructure for peace, and Romania's continuing process of establishing policy for Official Development Assistance. My medium-term plan is to continue the work with the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace while preparing for a Master's Degree in Peace and Conflict Studies and also to better understand and apply Nonviolent Communication as a means of achieving enriching relationships and to further knowledge of it in the Romanian context and internationally.

Reflections on the Summit and World Peace Forum: The work with the members of the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace has meant a complete 180 degrees life change for me both personally and professionally. The multicultural, international environment exposed me to new ideas, new life-styles, and new challenges. The varied backgrounds of the members enriched the process of the network's development even greater. It has been a privilege to be involved in this work from the very start of it and to see it grow. At the Summit, I could finally put faces behind the virtual communications that I had been having with the members. The personal connections that we developed those days in Canada contribute to the sustainability of my work. We have built relationships based on mutual trust and common views and goals in the path towards establishing Ministries and Departments of Peace worldwide. The actual process of the Summit days brought meaning and more information, also very different experiences from the broad range of individuals present there. It has enabled me to identify better with the vision of the movement and be sensitive to the different needs of the members and their country campaigns. The environment created at the Summit and the World Peace Forum remains with me as I am back in Romania, and it is a perpetual source of energy, strength, and meaning.
movement with infinite potentials to become truly global. The summit was organized by a very dedicated team of peace activists and trainers who knew their job well. What attracted me most at the summit was the liberal, democratic, and friendly atmosphere that characterized all the proceedings. It was learning and sharing of experiences in a relaxed atmosphere. Nobody was trying to teach anything. This made all the difference.

The World Peace Forum at Vancouver, where the proceedings of the Victoria Summit were discussed and released to the International Community, was also an event of great significance. Both the events appeared to me complementary and could be described, without any hesitation, to be two major events to promote peace since the advent of the 21st Century.
MANISH THAPA, NEPAL

Biosketch: Manish holds a bachelor’s degree in Development Studies from Kathmandu University and master’s degree from Austria’s European University Center for Peace Studies. Until he was awarded an Austrian Development Cooperation Fellowship, to complete a master’s degree focusing on peace and conflict studies, Manish was the Assistant Coordinator of The Nepal Peace Initiatives Project of The Carter Center, which aims, in the wake of the Maoist insurgency and the government crackdown, to help resolve the conflict. Early in his career, Manish started Stuff Monthly, one of the first English language magazines in Nepal, and built up 20,000 subscribers. Since then, Manish has been deeply involved in encouraging a free, independent media in Nepal — a country where journalists face kidnapping and imprisonment — both as a Country Coordinator for the Mezzanine Youth Writing Peace Project and as a board member of the Nepali chapter of the Vienna-based International Press Institute. He recently founded the Nepal Peace Initiative Alliance, which is lobbying for the institutionalization of Departments/Ministries of Peace within government departments. Additionally, Manish is working with various International and National NGOs on several peacemaking and peacebuilding activities in Nepal. He is also actively working on establishing a South Asian Peace Center in Kathmandu, which will offer peacebuilding and conflict transformation trainings and academic programs. He was recently selected as Sauvé Scholars at McGill University, where he will conduct research on peacebuilding and conflict transformation issues in South Asia. He will also deliver lectures on Maoist insurgency issues of Nepal and his initiatives of lobbying for Department of Peace in Nepal. In 10 years time, Manish hopes to be a leading peace researcher and practitioner, with special skills in peacemaking, peacebuilding, and conflict transformation.

Reflections on the Summit and World Peace Forum: The People’s Summit for Ministries and Departments of Peace was one of the memorable moments in my life. It not only provided me with an opportunity to meet people from all corners of the world but also provided me with a tool and network to work together with diverse people for the cause of peace.

Coming from a developing country, I was able to meet people from both developed and developing countries to share our experiences in lobbying for Ministries/Departments of Peace. For example, I had never heard that Philippines and Solomon Islands already have a Departments of Peace. It was an added
benefit for all of us to hear what challenges a country’s Department of Peace can face from these two countries experience. So I was able to hear a lot of first-hand experience regarding the prospects for and challenges of establishing the Department of Peace.

Apart from this, it also gave a boost in my career prospect, as I was able to establish a network with the people working in the field of peacebuilding and conflict transformation, which I am opting for my career in future. So this summit provided me with an opportunity to take part in the training on peacebuilding and conflict transformation and to form a network with other professionals working in this field. So, overall, this summit was the best experience for me and my organization, the Nepal Peace Initiative Alliance, and for our peace initiative in Nepal.
ZOUGHBI ZOUGHBI, PALESTINE

Biosketch: I am the Director and Founder of the Wi’am Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center in Bethlehem, Palestine. I have worked in the fields of conflict transformation and peacebuilding in the Palestinian community for over 25 years. I actively participate in peace initiatives with locals and the international community, and in my work as an educator, trainer, peace activist, lecturer, facilitator, and mediator I speak from a unique and faithful perspective.

Reflections on the Summit and World Peace Forum: The Summit and World Peace Forum had a great impact on me. They enhanced my experience, knowledge, and commitment. I have learned a lot – We are not alone... Peace is a global effort... Every one is doing his/her portion and his/her best. I believe the pursuit of justice and peace is to walk the road less traveled and also requires multi-track diplomacy. This was clear in the Summit. Of course, I am not the same – my batteries have been recharged and my spirit has been uplifted. This summit has given me more determination and deepened my perseverance in this transformational journey of life.

Poem Zoughbi Wrote at the Summit and Read at Its Close:

Dialogue of the Heart

All agree and work for a certain degree to stop the war!
Stop the war and bloody conflict no more!
Say it loud and be proud:
Ministry / Department of peace is what we want to see!
All of you/us islands of humanity in your Sea!
Islands of hopes! Islands of tears are the key!
Key for networking and interconnectedness to issue a decree!

Let us make it clear:
Department of peace is not a naive thing!
Whether you are a citizen, an activist, a professor, a prince or a king!
All invited to Peace and Justice calling!
To bring by reconciliation and a vivacious melody to sing!

Write it, compose it, sing it
From generation to generation!
It might be hard, yet rewarding work, enriched by your recreation!
Initiate new milieu; start your agape habitation!
Don’t you think this is the best ever celebration!

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Please
Refrain from saying I am just drop in the ocean!
Life is a matter of choices and affirmation of a notion!
Make a notion for life and change through spirituality action and devotion!
Risk it, move it! Do not be obsessed with caution!

Some might say give Peace and chance:
Well said; our duty and responsibility to enhance!
Personally, I am not satisfied with just a glance.
Let us go deeper to make Peace and Justice dance!
To dance with healing in pathways and alleys to advance.

Watch out …when you are hooked
You’re not the same!
It is neither a trip nor a game!
It is rather a process with an address and name!
Transformational journey without any frame.

Kidding me!
There is no royal road to peace.
Royal Roads University is a piece….
Piece or a brick to build D/M of peace …..
Are you ready to give us a chamber of your heart to lease?

Indeed: Ministry of peace is like the function of heart:
Pumping in and pumping out.
Prejudice, xenophobia, belligerence need to ship out
Pluralism, Exclusivity embracing; all to be brought about!

Dear folks:
The question is not anymore to be or not to be!
Ministry of peace is the hive and you are the Queen Bee!

Interact, activate, and find your mate;
In beauty and harmony pollinate!
Flowers, fruits, and honey you paint and create!

Bless you and go forth up to your mountain.
Seek out the everlasting fountain.
Quench out thirst for justice;
meet our quest for healing
and achieve our dreams on all of our walks of life
Is not the function of the bee hive…

I come from a theology that says, better to ask for forgiveness than for permission.
I have to make a confession:
I fall in love with each and every one of you.
You are in the hottest summer day my dew.
Your love has not any limits or a due.
We are not a lot… a vanguard …more than a few.
Communiqué from the  
Second People’s Summit for  
Ministries and Departments of Peace  
Victoria, BC, Canada – June 19-22, 2006

The Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace gathered at Royal Roads University, Victoria, Canada, to advance the establishment of ministries and departments of peace in governments worldwide. Government and civil society delegates from Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, India, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Palestine, Philippines, Romania, Solomon Islands, Spain, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States united to develop an effective global and national architecture for peace.

In plenary sessions and working groups, Summit participants established the foundations for local, national, regional, and international campaigns that will work towards conflict resolution and peacebuilding. “The role of governments in this initiative is crucial, in partnership with civil society,” said Franklin Quijano from the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process in the Philippines. Fred Fakari’i, undersecretary in the Department of Reconciliation, Unity, and Peace in the Solomon Islands, noted that “Together we have the capacity to build the architecture that will make peacebuilding effective.”

The Global Alliance calls upon governments of the world and civil society organisations everywhere to:

- Develop necessary resources and infrastructure for resolving conflicts effectively by peaceful means
- Establish, train and develop civil peace services and the human resources and capacities for peacebuilding and conflict transformation
- Incorporate conflict resolution and peacebuilding into school curricula from primary schools through university
- Actively engage youth, women, and all communities to participate as equals in peacebuilding, to ensure participation and representation of all
- Support and encourage coordinated efforts to gather lessons learned and best practices from peacebuilding experiences around the world.

The Global Alliance is committed to partnership and cooperation with governments, organisations, and institutions nationally and internationally working for the achievement of these goals and the promotion of peace by peaceful means. Governments such as those in the Philippines and Solomon Islands who have already established secretariats and departments for peacebuilding, conflict transformation, and reconciliation are pioneers and examples to the world.

“Collectively, the youth at the Summit call for a global youth cooperative network of the diverse local movements towards establishing departments and ministries of peace. We are excited to be able to offer a ‘fresh’ perspective for peace,” said Tara Yip-Bannicq, Youth Delegate to the Summit.

“Everyone assembled here,” said Dr. Saul Arbess, Summit host and Canadian Working Group delegate, “is determined to provide the energy, skills and momentum to realise these goals, working in concert and in harmony with peaceworkers worldwide.”

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