



The Right Livelihood College

A university and change-makers initiative for disseminating and strengthening wisdom and skills for a positive future

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2009/2010

HUB + INCUBATOR + CATALYST + MULTIPLIER + ACCELERATOR

This 2009/2010 Right Livelihood College Report of Activities gives a brief snapshot into the various activities and programmes undertaken by the global secretariat of the Right Livelihood College (RLC) since its inception. We hope it will provide an insight into some of the major developments at the RLC during this period.

1. LECTURES

1.1 Jakob Von Uexkull, the Founder/Chairman of the Right Livelihood Award Foundation and the World Future Council, gave the following speeches on 8th January 2009: **“The Global Economic Crisis - What Next?”**, and, **“Right Livelihood: Challenges and Opportunities”** at the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and at the Penang Caring Complex respectively.

1.2 The Director of the RLC, **Prof. Anwar Fazal**, gave the following lectures:

(a) Keynote Address- **“Creating a Better World”** at the National Conference of Student Leaders from public universities at the Universiti Utara Malaysia on 28th February 2009.

(b) Keynote Address-**“Knowledge for Sustainable Tomorrow”** at the International Library Conference organized by USM on 16th June 2009.

(c) Keynote Address-**“Consumer Protection- Building Consumer Power”** at the 50th Anniversary National Conference of Consumer International and the Federation of Malaysia Consumers Association on 20th April 2010.

(d) **“Harnessing Universities for Transformational Change- Catalysts, Multipliers, Accelerators”** at the Global Talberg Forum, Sweden on 2nd July 2009.

(e) A keynote address at the **Swami Satyananda Centenary Lecture**, organized by Interfaith Spiritual Fellowship on 10th July 2010. The theme of the address was **“Making a World of Difference: Hearing Each Other, Working Together- A Spiritual Response”**.

(f) **“Doing Peace”**, an address to 1500 students on 31st May 2010 at the Taiping Convent School to launch their school peace project, the first in the country.

(g) **“Fighting Hegemony through Galactic Organizing- Unleashing Incubators, Catalysts, Hubs, Multipliers and Accelerators”** at the Citizens International Roundtable in Penang **“The Multiversity Agenda- Resisting Hegemony”** on 5th August 2010, and

(h) **“Leading New Directions In Action Research- the University-Activist Link”**, seminar presentation at the Global Higher Education Forum (GHEF) on 15th December 2009.

1.3 Lund University, Sweden, hosted the first **Right Livelihood Lecture Series** on 11st December 2009 involving **David Suzuki, Rene Ngongo** and **Anwar Fazal**. The latter also held a special 3 hour interactive workshop with twenty five postgraduate students at Lund.

1.4 Sharan Srinivas, RLC Programme Manager, presented a paper entitled **“The Politics of Communalism: Marginalization of Ethnic Minorities and Women in India's Northeast”** at the **USM KANITA Seminar Series** on 24th June 2010. The presentation was well appreciated and the event also acted as good publicity for the Right Livelihood College.

The Right Livelihood College (RLC) is a global capacity building initiative of the Right Livelihood Award Foundation. It aims to harness and spread the knowledge and experience of Laureates of the Right Livelihood Award, popularly known as the “Alternative Nobel Prize”.

It does this through promotion of education, research, public understanding and practical activities which:

- Contribute to a global ecological balance
- Are aimed at eliminating material and spiritual poverty
- Contribute to lasting peace and justice in the world.

2. FELLOWSHIPS

2.1 The “**Right Livelihood Fellowships**” were announced in 2009. It was envisaged that these fellowships be given to outstanding students and researchers to work with laureates of the Right Livelihood Award to realize the vision and mission of the initiative.

2.2 USM has approved two “Right Livelihood Fellowships” for PhD candidates:

(a) **Ms. Montawadee Krutmechai** of Thailand arrived in Penang in early July 2010. She will be supervised academically by **Prof. Rashidah Shuib**, RLC Steering Committee member and her field supervisor will be Thai RLA laureate **Sulak Sivaraksa**. Her PhD topic is entitled “The Role of Religious Women in Developing Self-Reliant Communities”.

(b) **Ms. Sabrina Taif** of India whose topic will be on Peace, Conflict Resolution and Gender. She will be working with Dekha Ibrahim Abdi (Kenya) and Asha Hagi (Somalia). Her start date is still being determined as she delivered recently.

3. INTERNS

3.1 In 2009/10, three interns/ research assistants were mentored at the RLC. One was from Myanmar and two were from Malaysia. Their work was primarily around global civil society organizations and overseen by the Director.

3.2 A standard internship application form has been prepared. This will be uploaded to the RLC website and potential interns from all around the world will soon have the opportunity to apply.

4. INTERNATIONAL COURSES/SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS

4.1 The RLC organized a workshop entitled “**Making Better World- Small actions, Big changes**”. This workshop, held on 15th February 2009, was attended by 27 representatives from six international civil society organizations based in four countries.

4.2 The RLC organized a workshop entitled “**Transformational Leadership in Civil Society Organizations**”. This workshop, held on 7th January 2010, was attended by 20 participants from seven international and local organizations and was co-organized with Gill Emslie of Findhorn College based at the Findhorn Eco-village.

4.3 The RLC, in collaboration with Biju Negi, a leading Indian social activist, organized “**The Non Violence Initiative**”, held at the Gandhiji Ashram, Penang on 18th April 2010. The meeting was attended by 21 participants from various civil society organizations.

4.4 A decision has been taken in principle to have four different international workshops over the course of 2011. First announcements of these workshops have been prepared and are planned to be distributed in the Bonn RLA conference. These are:

- (a) Environmental Justice-with **Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) - RLA 1988'**
- (b) Migrant Worker's Rights-with **Irene Fernandez- RLA 2005'**
- (c) Organising Global Civil Society-with **Anwar Fazal- RLA 1982** and **International Baby Food Action Network-RLA 1998'**
- (d) Public Health-with **Zafrullah Choudhury-RLA 1992'**

4.5 The RLC is actively involved with the planning and conceptualizing of the **30th Anniversary Conference of the Right Livelihood Award** to be held from 14th-19th September 2010 in Bonn, Germany. Some key developments:

(a) Sharan Srinivas, RLC Programme Manager, travelled to Bonn in June to attend a preparatory meeting aimed to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each of the many different co-organizers of the conference. An agreement on roles and responsibilities was subsequently reached and signed by all relevant stakeholders.

(b) The RLC Penang Global Secretariat agreed to take responsibility for the *RLC@Bonn* project vis a vis managing the conference documentation and the senior scientists programme. It will work with the Center for Development Research (ZEF) at the University of Bonn.

(c) Anwar Fazal will be the keynote speaker at the **Youth Future Project** conference.

(d) The RLC will be making a 15 minute presentation at the opening of the main Bonn conference.

(e) The RLC is also planning an exhibition at the site of the conference and will be making available the conference bag to all participants.

4.6 The RLC is playing a key role in the discussions for the hosting of the global conference of the **World Futures Studies Federation (WFSF)** in December 2011. The Vice Chancellor of USM has given approval for this conference to be held in conjunction with the **Global Higher Education Forum (GHEF)** to be hosted by USM in December 2011. The RLC developed a synergistic model whereby both conferences could be held together as one event and this model has been approved by the board of the WFSF. The themes, modalities and logistics of the conference are being worked out.

5. UPSCALING, NETWORKING AND BUILDING LINKAGES

5.1 USM and the RLC are jointly upscaling activities to other campuses in the world. In 2009, a **Memorandum of Understanding** was signed with **Lund University** in Sweden, making it the second RLC campus.

5.2 Sharan Srinivas travelled to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 5th-11st June 2010 to negotiate and discuss a partnership with **Addis Ababa University**. After several productive discussions with Dr. Hirut Woldemariam, the Vice President for External Affairs, Partnerships and International Relations, Sharan signed a Memorandum Of Understanding on behalf of the Right Livelihood Award Foundation with the President of the university. Addis Ababa University is thus now officially the **first African campus** of the RLC.

5.3 The Dean of the prestigious **Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations** at **Seton Hall University**, in the United States, has expressed keen interest to partner with the RLC. Whilst at Addis Ababa, **Sharan Srinivas** met with Dean John Menzies and Assistant Dean for External Affairs Elizabeth Bakes. Very productive preliminary discussions with them were held regarding a possible partnership.

5.4 Since the Addis meeting, Sharan's follow up discussions with the Whitehead School over email has been very positive. In late July, Elizabeth Bakes wrote that Seton Hall is eager to begin RLC programs, stating that the Whitehead School would be happy to **host speakers** and **provide interns** for RLA laureates. It is hoped that this partnership will be taken forward in the coming year.

5.5 Discussions are underway for cooperative activities with the **Center for Development Research (ZEF)** at the University of Bonn, the **Indian Institute of**

Administrative Services, as well as possible partners in Latin America, including the **Avina Foundation**.

6. BOOKS

6.1 Two **publications**, one on the 2009 laureates' speeches and another on all the laureates are progressing.

6.2 RLC Programme Manager **Sharan Srinivas** is to work with distinguished Right Livelihood Award laureate **Pat Mooney** to write and publish the conference book "**RLA '30: CHANGING COURSE, RECLAIMING OUR FUTURE**", documenting the experiences, speeches and debates of the **30th Anniversary of the Right Livelihood Award** conference to be held in Bonn, Germany from Sept 14th - 19th. It has been decided that the conference book will be written and laid out in Penang, and published in Sweden as an official **LUCSUS** publication. It is hoped that the book will be completed in time for a launch on the sidelines of the Right Livelihood Award ceremony at Stockholm in December 2010. Further, the RLC will also submit the completed manuscript to the Universiti Sains Malaysia press to publish a **Malaysian edition** of the book.

6.3 The RLC arranged to have Pat Mooney's "**BANG-What Next?**" book printed and mailed from Penang to all RLA laureates in preparation for the Bonn conference.

7. FILMS

A discussion has been held with the USM School of Mass Communication to launch a series of student projects on films on RLA laureates in Malaysia.

8. DAYS OF ACTION

Two useful meetings have been held with student groups in USM to collaborate with the RLC to hold special events on selected **UN 'Days of Action'** in the coming year to publicize the work of the RLA Laureates.

Work with us to make a better world by fostering projects of hope, walking the talk, supporting solutions and realising the impossible!

9. STAFFING

9.1 In accordance with the RLC MoU with the Universiti Sains Malaysia, a Programme Manager was provided for the RLC. **Sharan Srinivas** brings postgraduate experience in international affairs as well as work experience with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) in New Delhi, India. Sharan commenced work on 1st March, 2010.

9.2 The **current team** at the RLC Secretariat consists of

Prof. Anwar Fazal, Director

Mr. Sharan Srinivas, Programme Manager

Dr. Hermann J. Tillmann, Advisor/Fellow

Dr. Maria Salas, Advisor/Fellow

Mr. Raja Fariz, Research Assistant/Intern

Ms. Satnam Kaur, Research Assistant/Intern

10. RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS

10.1 Anwar Fazal was honoured with the first ever **Lifetime Achievement Award** by Consumers International (CI) and the Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations at the 50th Anniversary of CI for being 'The most influential person in the international consumer movement.'

10.2 Anwar Fazal was appointed the independent chairperson of **ThinkCity**, a Malaysian government foundation to manage a RM 20 million fund for the UNESCO Heritage Area of George Town, Penang.

10.3 Anwar Fazal was appointed to serve on the **Yayasan Sejathara** (Right Living Foundation) which is a platform for all the government linked companies in Malaysia to serve the poor and handicapped in Malaysia.

11. OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

11.1 USMCares-The RLC has initiated a unique programme called **USMCares** to link civil society and USM in capacity building for community service. This project has been approved in principle for launch in 2011.

11.2 Website- The development of the college's own website is in an advanced stage, with the hope to launch it in September 2010.

11.3 Trust Fund- The set up of a Right Livelihood College Trust Fund has been approved by the USM authorization with an initial grant of US\$10,000. A further US\$10,000 is expected this year.

11.4 VIPP- The RLC also worked on upscaling a novel participatory planning tool, **Visualisation in Participatory Programmes (VIPP)** at the Universiti Sains Malaysia and the setting up of a global hub for promoting such training. Two world leaders in the training, Dr. Hermann J. Tillmann from Germany and Dr. Maria Salas from Peru are working with the RLC as Advisors to further this project and associated activities relating to food sovereignty and indigenous rights.



Founded in 1969 in Penang, Malaysia, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) offers 800 courses at undergraduate and postgraduate levels to approximately 20,000 students. The university has currently 24 schools conducting academic programmes and more than 20 centres of excellence specialising in research activities. In 2008, USM was chosen as Malaysia's APEX University - Accelerated Programme for Excellence. As the chosen Apex University, USM will be accelerated for excellence and nurtured for world class standing amongst the world's universities. USM also has its commitment to "Transforming Higher Education for a Sustainable Tomorrow". The Right Livelihood College (RLC)'s global secretariat is hosted by the University Sains Malaysia's Centre for Policy Research and International Studies (CenPRIS). CenPRIS is a research hub, serving as the focus of USM's efforts in consultancy services, research and graduate supervision related to public policy and international studies. For more information, visit www.usm.my/cenpris



Lund University, located in Lund, Sweden was founded in 1666. Today it is an international centre for research and education that has approximately 46,000 students. Lund is consistently ranked among the top 100 universities in the world and is the top university in Sweden in the most recent Times Higher Education ranking. In 2009, the Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS) became the RLC's first European partner campus. LUCSUS is a platform for education, research and cooperation inside and outside academia on questions related to sustainable development. The education consists primarily of our international master's program, LUMES (Lund University Masters Programme in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science). The focus on research and education in Sustainability Science spans global, regional and local issues, events and relationships. For more information, visit <http://www.miclu.lu.se/index.aspx>



In 1950, Emperor Haile Selassie I declared the foundation of the University College of Addis Ababa. It was renamed Haile Selassie I University in 1962 and then Addis Ababa University in 1975. At the time there were only 33 students enrolled compared to the current number of more than 400,000 students. Starting from only one diploma and certificate granting department, namely Biology, the University today comprises more than 25 faculties. In 2010, Addis Ababa University became the RLC's first partner campus in Africa.

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