

Trust across the world's divides? Dignity for all?

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES 2007

5 July–19 August 2007

A series of international conferences

The organizing teams have pleasure in presenting the 2007 Conference season in Caux and would like to thank all participants around the world in advance for their contributions, ideas and active participation.

You will find the dates and themes of the various conferences on the next page. Programmes for each of these are in preparation and can be ordered from the Conference Secretariat.

These and other updates, such as the names of speakers, will be available on the web at www.caux.ch



Millions struggle for survival. Others want to protect their own wealth and interests. The challenges of the environment and global warming, the rising tide of greed and the explosive impact of humiliation all threaten our common future. Hunger, homelessness and ill health undermine the well-being of peoples. Globalization and the market need ethical values to meet these challenges.

All struggles are connected. Humans share in suffering. Every human life is precious, unique, of infinite value and justice and human dignity are indivisible. As regions struggle with the challenges of living with different cultures and languages, there is a growing need to work for an alliance of civilizations.

Never before have there been so many efforts to dialogue with 'the other'. Though they can offer no simple answers in this violent, complex and interdependent world, these efforts do help us to draw inspiration from each other. *Initiatives of Change* continues to encourage building trust across the world's divides, person by person, group by group and year by year. The alternative to conflict is a thorough review of personal and collective motivations, learning to live and work with one another in equity and dignity. Then trust can be reborn as others discover through our actions that we are trustworthy.

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Initiatives of Change
Mountain House/PO Box 36
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www.caux.ch

Thursday
5 July (16.45)
to Wednesday
11 July (noon)

Servant Community – Values, Responsibility and Leadership

Family, clubs, associations, church, town, country – in the modern world each of us belongs to a number of communities. Why do we establish community? What are the calling and values of communities? You are invited to take part in a journey to explore how individuals can grow in a community and how this community can become a catalyst for positive change in the world. Participants will examine the questions of leadership in communities as well as their attitudes to ‘the other’, to those that do not belong to their own communities. Together we can discover the challenges of democracy in our communities and societies.

Friday
13 July (16.45)
to Wednesday
18 July (noon)

Building Trust and Integrity in the Global Economy

Building pathways to a secure world: the 2006 conference saw business people, farmers, media professionals, and members of the global economy building initiatives to move business beyond the ‘bottom line’ approach. TIGE 2007 will strengthen these initiatives by consolidating the important role of value-driven leadership in mapping pathways to a securer economy and world. Participants at the start of their professional lives are particularly welcome and given the opportunity to engage with decision-makers in the global economy.

Friday
20 July (16.45)
to Tuesday
24 July (noon)

A Grassroots Dialogue of Civilizations

Migration in recent decades has transformed cities and neighbourhoods in Europe and elsewhere. The inner cities have become a focus for social problems and tensions between diverse groups. The conference is an opportunity for honest dialogues. Practical steps towards bridging differences and building understanding in order to work for inclusive societies will be worked on.

Thursday
26 July (16.45)
to Thursday
2 August (noon)

Openness and Trust across Generations

Modern means of communication bring people and cultures closer together. Yet in our closest relationships, in families and neighbourhoods, it often leads to the opposite: the gap between the worlds of the different generations grows.

During this week in Caux we will use the opportunity to listen to each other, to share and discover more of what we have in common across differences of age, colour, religion and life experience. We also want to study how we can convey what we learn in Caux to our communities and cities when we return home.

Saturday
4 August (16.45)
to Saturday
11 August (noon)

Tools for Change

In our diverse and complex world, anyone working for constructive change needs a strong spiritual foundation, a growing base of knowledge, and practical skills. *Tools for Change* offers participants an opportunity to examine the core tools of *Initiatives of Change* and their relationship to peacemaking and community building in all sectors of society.

A multicultural faculty of trainers, practitioners and thinkers offers specialized workshops in areas such as conflict transformation and trauma healing, dialogue, organizational development, communications, team building and spiritual practices. Participants will be required to fill out the special *Tools for Change* registration and pay a conference administration fee. This can be paid on arrival in Caux. Please visit www.toolsforchange.iofc.org for additional information.

Monday
13 August (16.45)
to Sunday
19 August (noon)

Can Integrity, Respect and Trust lead to Dignity for all?

This *Agenda for Reconciliation* conference will deal with challenges to human security, in particular the key issue of humiliation, described as the ‘atom bomb of the 21st Century’. The conference will give the opportunity to learn from one another, gaining a deeper understanding and appreciation of the causes of insecurity and hopelessness. It will look into attitudes, beliefs and cultures as a way of understanding one’s own mindset as well as that of others. It will explore where and how to restore best practice, thus offering practical help to potential initiators of positive change from many backgrounds.

Undergirding these encounters will be the conviction that integrity can rebuild trust across many divides, and that dignity is the birthright of every human being.



The conference centre and its accomodation

Looking out over Lake Geneva from an altitude of 1000 meters, the Caux centre can accommodate up to 450 people. Formerly the Caux-Palace Hotel, it became an international meeting place in 1946, thanks to the generous contributions in time, talent and money of many volunteers.

Most bedrooms have a bathroom or shower and two beds, so participants may be asked to share rooms. Please indicate if you particularly require a single room.

The rooms can be reached directly by phone; there is no radio and TV. There is an internet-room available for a small fee and some public parts of the building are equipped with W-LAN.



Conference in community

A special characteristic of the Caux conferences is the communal life of the assembly.

- ◆ Participants are invited to join communities of between twelve and twenty people in which topics can be discussed in an atmosphere of confidence and mutual respect.
- ◆ These groups also take part in the running of the house (dining-room service, vegetable preparation, cooking, housekeeping, etc.). This offers everyone a chance to serve, as well as to learn from one another.
- ◆ The conference schedule also allows time for quiet reflection.
- ◆ The programme includes meetings, seminars, lectures and cultural evenings, with simultaneous translation. There are also opportunities for outdoor exercise.
- ◆ Families are welcome, and there will be a children's programme for ages 3–12 during conference hours.
- ◆ Everyone is requested to be sensitive to the presence of people from different cultures and generations, and to respect the house rules.



Travel

Caux is 1 1/2 hours by car or train from Geneva and 25 minutes from Montreux. Direct trains run from Geneva Airport to Montreux every half hour. For exact departure times and connections to Caux see www.rail.ch. Caux is at 1000 meters, so it can be quite chilly; you may want to bring some warmer clothes.

Your contribution to the cost of your stay

The figures given below cover full board, participation in plenary sessions, seminars, group discussions, simultaneous translation and various cultural events.

Per person per day	CHF 92.– / € 61.–
For children up to 5 years	the cost of stay is free
For children from 5–15 years	CHF 46.– / € 31.–
For young people from 16 to 23 years and students	CHF 55.– / € 36.–

With CHF 132.– / € 86.– per day you contribute to the maintenance of the centre.

Any higher donation will contribute to the stay of students, families, unemployed and of those from countries with weak currencies.

All conference participants contribute towards their stay.

Please indicate on the application form what your contribution will be. Please also write the name of the person or the organization sponsoring the rest of your stay, should you be unable to cover the total cost personally.

Please make your payment before arrival or in the first 24 hours of your stay.

Payments can be made with Eurocard, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or in Swiss Francs, Euros, US\$, UK£ as well as Traveler's or Bank cheques.

May we thank you in advance for your open-handed contribution, aware that Caux is only possible thanks to the generosity of many.

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Initiatives of Change

Initiatives of Change is an international network open to people of all cultures, nationalities, religions and beliefs, who work towards change, locally and globally, by starting with change in their own lives.

Aims

Current initiatives are aimed at:

- ◆ Healing the wounds of history where cultures and civilizations meet;
- ◆ Strengthening the moral and spiritual foundations of democracy;
- ◆ Encouraging care and responsibility in family life and personal relationships;
- ◆ Bringing hope in cities and communities;
- ◆ Tackling the root causes of poverty and corruption;
- ◆ Strengthening moral commitment in economic life;
- ◆ Forging networks among people from different faiths and cultures.

Affirmations

Initiatives of Change affirms that:

- ◆ in this era of globalization, an individual can be a powerful agent for positive change in society;
- ◆ in a society that is quick to assign blame, honest conversations and readiness to accept our own responsibility can unite people for action across barriers that have historically divided them;
- ◆ in this age of overabundant information yet appalling human need, listening in silence – to the inner voice, for some, for others, to their conscience or for God's leading – is an essential source of inner freedom, discernment and direction;
- ◆ in this climate of moral relativism, unchanging values of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love offer a practical framework of principles by which to measure our individual and collective behavior;
- ◆ in this time when cycles of hatred and resentment are perpetuated, acknowledgement of past wrongs, restoration and forgiveness are means by which the human spirit is liberated and the wounds of history are healed.

History

Initiatives of Change grew out of the *Oxford Group* which started among university students in the late 1920s. In 1938, as nations rearmed for war, its originator, Frank Buchman, called for a 'moral and spiritual rearmament' to work towards a 'hate-free, fear-free, greed-free world'. At the end of the war, under the name *Moral Re-Armament* (MRA), a programme of moral and spiritual reconstruction helped to reconcile former enemies. Today *Initiatives of Change* is a network of people of goodwill and from different faiths engaged in the ever-needed process of 'remaking the world'.

