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# 2016 Global Peace Conference

## to be held in Freetown - as IPRA 50th Birthday confab ends in Istanbul

By *Senthan Selvarajah*

The 26th biennial conference of the International Peace Research Association (IPRA) is billed to take place in Freetown, Sierra Leone in November 2016, marking the second time Africa has hosted the conference since the founding of IPRA in 1964.

This was announced following the re-election of the two IPRA Secretaries-general, Dr Ibrahim Seaga Shaw and Dr Nesrin Kenar, who co-ordinated the 25th IPRA conference in Turkey, at the organisation's administrative meeting on August 14 during the 25th IPRA conference in Istanbul to serve a second term of two years.

IPRA celebrated its 50th anniversary and the First World War Centenary in style as part of its 25th biennial General Conference



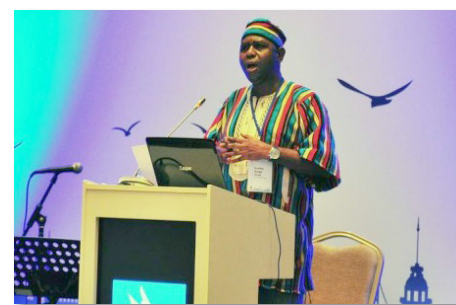
IPRA co-Secretary General Dr Nesrin Kenar

on "Uniting For Peace: Building Sustainable Peace Through Universal Values" hosted by Sakarya University at the prestigious Bomonti Hilton Hotel in Istanbul, Turkey, between August 11-15 2014.

The conference brought together about 550 peace researchers and few others interested in peace research from 94 countries across all the continents with about 600 papers presented in 146 sessions. A very colourful Turkish cultural music and dance performance by the State Conservatory staff members of Sakarya University kick-started the proceedings of the conference.

In her opening and welcome address, IPRA co-Secretary General Dr Nesrin Kenar, Assistant Professor of International Relations at the Sakarya University in Turkey, told participants that this conference "is not just business as usual -- organizing plenary sessions, giving academic peace research papers, and holding administrative meetings. It is also about reflecting on all our achievements and challenges as an organization in the past 50 years, and what lessons we have learned during this period and how we intend to use them to build a better IPRA in the future."

In his opening remarks, Sierra Leonean-born IPRA co-Secretary General Dr Ibrahim Seaga Shaw, Senior Lecturer in Media and Politics at the Northumbria University in the UK, expanded the discussion on the sustainable peace—universal values nexus to Lisa Schirch's concept of justpeace, which is a hybrid of human rights and peace. He argued that justpeace goes beyond efforts to reduce direct violence: "Justpeacebuilding efforts prioritise the proper transformation of principles and



IPRA co-Secretary General Dr Ibrahim Seaga Shaw

values over a long period of time through an organised system of distributive justice where resources and decision-making are shared".

In his warm welcome address, the Rector of Sakarya University, Professor Dr Muzaffer Elmas

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## IPRA Co-Sec. Gen speaks at House of Lords Peace Colloquium

“To achieve and build peace you need to examine and overhaul the structures that create and sustain conflicts”, IPRA Co-Secretary General Dr Ibrahim Seaga Shaw told participants of a colloquium at the House of Lords on March 16 2015 hosted by Baroness Hussien-ECE-OBE and organised by The Tavistock Institute for Human Relations.

Speaking on the topic of the colloquium : ‘The Dynamics of Peace’ Dr Shaw noted that efforts to resolve global conflicts such as Syria and Israel-Palestine have often focused on the more dramatic symptoms while ignoring the less dramatic undercurrents informing these conflicts; he also expressed concern over the role of the global media in these problematic policy interventions.

The co-director of the Tavistock Institute, Dr Mannie Sher spoke on the importance of working with both the dynamics of peace and the dynamics of hatred in international relations. He used



From Left to Right : Dr Sher, Dr Shaw, Dr Brissett

a psychoanalytic frame of reference to describe dynamics that all workers in international relations need to understand.

He argued that relying solely on a positivist approach - "we must have peace" - that ignores an understanding of the underlying human tendencies toward destructiveness will end in futile rounds of

negotiations, with parties to conflict undermining the efforts of their peace workers. Speakers included Paul Schulte, Senior Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Defence Studies at Kings College London and Siobhan Riordan of the Tim Parry Jonathan Ball Foundation for Peace. The colloquium was moderated by Tavistock Institute co-director Dr Leslie Brissett.

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noted that crises can happen at any time-in anywhere in the World. He emphasised that education is important in combating poverty and promoting peace and human rights.

Professor Elmas wrapped up his speech by emphasising how Sakarya University supports peaceful resolution of conflicts and practice of non-violence through education, dialogue and cooperation.



Professor Johann Galtung

In another welcome speech, member of the Turkish Constitutional Court Prof. Dr. Engin Yıldırım spoke extensively about the principles and instruments within the international Human Rights Charter

of the United Nations that provide legal safeguards against violence.

In his keynote speech, Professor of Peace Studies, Johann Galtung said: “We have come of age, at 50; and I am the only surviving founder from 1964 in London, capital of a foggy island in the North Sea. Now we meet in the sunny capital of another empire; bridging three continents. One cloned itself all over; the other was more an Islamic umma, a community of togetherness-and-sharing, with millet islands of tolerance. And now: the superb IPRA program.”

Turkey, the host country of the conference, is geographically located at the centre of Afro-Eurasia where both opportunities and risks interact profoundly. Turkey is committed to preventive diplomacy and the resolution of conflicts through peaceful means. Turkey also intends to host a center in Istanbul which can be used by the UN for its mediation-related activities. Following their re-election in Istanbul, IPRA co-Secretaries-general Dr Ibrahim Seaga Shaw and Dr Nesrin Kenar made commitments to work together to continue the restructuring of IPRA and organise the next



Professor Dr Muzaffer Elmas

IPRA conference in November 2016 in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The IPRA conference in Freetown will be jointly hosted by Northumbria university in the UK, Fourah Bay College-University of Sierra Leone, and Sakarya University in Turkey.

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## All set for AFPREA 2015 Conference in Abuja on April 13 – 15, 2015 - By Matt Mayer

From 13-15 April 2015, the Africa Peace Research and Education Association (AFPREA) is holding its inaugural conference in the Parliament building of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Abuja, Nigeria. Bringing together close to 300 delegates from several dozen countries throughout the African continent and the world, the conference focuses on “the quest for peace and security in Africa: socio-cultural, economic, political and legal considerations.”

As the leading African affiliate of the International Peace Research Association (IPRA), the AFPREA gathering marks several milestones in peace movement history: it is the first major IPRA event to be held in West Africa, the second major IPRA conference to be held on the African continent, and the first major international event to be held in Nigeria since the recent, peaceful election process – the first in modern Nigerian history – with transition in presidential power from one political party to its opposition.

“Trans-national, national, regional and international, and grassroots organizations, institutions, and associations, are striving,” asserted the AFPREA Call to Conference, “to enact a

positive peace process in order to resolve pending conflicts wherever they exist...Politicians, academics, civil society and ordinary citizens alike ought to work towards restating and implementing peaceful solutions to different conflicts.” To meet this goal, AFPREA partnered with many organizations to make the April 2015 conference an unparalleled success.

In addition to close collaboration with the leadership

of ECOWAS, conference co-sponsors included the Africa Development Bank, the Niger Delta Development Commission, the United Nations Development Program and UNICEF, the African Union Peace and Security Council, the Nigerian National Broadcasting Commission, and the grassroots-based Pan African Nonviolence and Peace-building Network.

Coordinated out of the Abuja-based Office of the Special Advisor to the President on the Niger Delta, the conference as a true representation of peace studies and practitioner efforts from the ground up – including governmental leaders, top university scholars, economic and social policy-makers, and community-based activists. “It will be a true meeting of the minds, with

great potential for future endeavors,” noted IPRA Secretary-General Dr. Ibrahim Seaga Shaw. Shaw himself is an historic figure in international peace politics, as the first African to lead a major global peace association.

A senior lecturer in media and politics at Northumbria University in Britain, Dr. Shaw has championed the effort to bring IPRA’s next major conference in 2016 to his native Sierra Leone. “This region of the world has so much to reflect upon regarding conflict and the building which comes in post-conflict scenarios,” Shaw commented. “While we have been afflicted with terrible war and disease – much of it worsened or caused by external factors outside of the people’s control – we have maintained a strength and unity which is a foundation for lasting peace with justice. The world has much to learn from African peace-makers and researchers.”

AFPREA 2015 is organized into nine thematic plenary convocations, interspersed with small, breakout sessions with academic papers presented in each. These workshops are grouped into ongoing, functioning commissions, and include focus on nonviolence; media and communication; women and conflict prevention; youth education, and



AFPREA Team

peace; religion and peace; regional integration and equitable resource control; and the economic, political and legal connections of conflict and peace.

“Each of these Commissions will function as ongoing spaces for further discussion, research, and action within IPRA and AFPREA,” noted Abuja Conference Chair Margaret Abazie-Humphrey. “Though this conference will be an important space for review of our work and studies, and for networking, it is not a one-shot event. The conference organizing team – including scholars from Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Algeria, Sierra Leone, Britain, and the USA – are committed to ongoing collaboration for sharing of best practices and building lasting peace with justice.”



## IPRA Foundation announces its New Grant Recipients

Femke Avtalyon-Bakker, of the Netherlands, was granted this award in January 2015 for her project titled “Liberal norms and support for war in comparative cross-regime perspective: evaluating the presence and influence of liberal norms.”

Ilke Dagli of Cyprus was granted this award in January, 2015, for her research project, titled “Securitisation of Ethnic Communities in Conflict Environments and its Implications for Peace-Building: The Case of Cyprus.”

Dr. Seema Shekhawat, of India, was granted this award in January 2015 for her project titled “Peace Process in Kashmir: Where are Women?.”

Leander Heldring, of the Netherlands, was granted this award in January 2015 for his research project, titled “State Capacity and Individual Preferences: Evidence from Rwanda.”

Katherine Layton, of the U.S.A., was granted this award in July, 2012 for her project titled “Chechens.”

Professor W. Timothy Austin, of the U.S.A., was granted this award in November, 2012 for his project titled “Peacekeeping Models in a Terror-Prone Land: The Case of Northwestern Mindanao in the Southern Philippines.” A report of his research project follows.

Dr. Maysa Siag, of Palestine., was granted this award in August, 2013 for her project titled “The Social Representations of the Self and Homeland shared by Palestinian Adolescents Born in Diaspora and Living in Refugee Camps.”

Dr. Saba Bebawi, of Australia, was granted this award in September, 2013 for her project titled “Democracy Building in Post Conflict Regions: Investigative Journalism Training Post ‘Arab Spring’.”



# Chahar Institute's work on peace and conflict resolution - By Xi Lia

The Charhar Institute was established by Dr. Han Fangming in Shangyi County, He-bei Province, in October 2009. It is a non-governmental think tank focusing on diplomacy and international relations. The institute became an Associate Member of the International Peace Research Association in 2014 after going through the formal registration process.

In 2014, the Charhar Institute has done a lot of work on peace and conflict resolution which can be summarized as the following: Professor Liu Cheng from Nanjing University became a senior fellow of the institute on March, who has done his best to popularize peace studies in China. It was with his help that the institute held the seminar themed "War, Conflict and Non-violence resolution", over 50 scholars from India, Japan, Germany and China participated in the conference. And in April, Professor Johan Galtung accepted the invitation of being member of the International Advisory Board of Charhar.

In August, the NARPI Summer Training Course on peace was held in Nanjing organized by the Charhar Institute and Nanjing University. Over 50 students took part in the training from all walks of life from 7 countries. We also held the annual Charhar Peace Dialogue, the theme of 2014 was Olympic and Peace, the coming conference will be held in Korea on May.

The president of Chahar Insitute, Dr. Han Fangming, took part in the World Peace Day 2014. He has done everything he could to safeguard world peace theoretically and practically. Dr. Han Fangming is a devout Buddhists and well-known pacifist. He has been committed to peace education and in-



ternational conflict reconciliation practice for a long term. Now he is member of China Committee on Religion and Peace, vice chairman of China Foundation for Peace and Development, honorary chairman of Korea Buddhism Culture Exchange Association.

Dr. Han is a well-known scholar on international relations, Southeast Asian studies and an expert on public policy evaluations. He writes frequently for some major international newspapers and magazines like the Singapore-based Lianhe Zaobao(Union Morning Paper), Asia Weekly of Hong Kong. He is a man of great influences among international media. The main publications include Chinese and Malaysia's Modernization Process (Business Edition), Introduction to Public Diplomacy (Chinese version was published by Peking University press, the Korean version by Dongguk University).

## CLAIP Conference from 26 to 28 October 2015 Guatemala

Latina America Peace Research Association (CLAIP) with the endorsement by the International Peace Research Association (IPRA) is delighted to announce their next conference which will be held in Guatemala City, Guatemala on October 26-28 2015.

Conference theme: "Latin America seeking the path towards a Sustainable Peace. Tools and Contributions". The deadline for application is May 1st 2015.

For any clarification or details contact: Maria Eugenia Villarreal - Director ECPAT/Guatemala, 11 Avenida 10-67 zona 2, Guatemala City, Guatemala Email: vilareal.maria@gmail.com

## APPRA 2015 Conference in Kathmandu, Nepal on October 9-11, 2015

Asia-Pacific Peace Research Association (AP-PRA) with the endorsement by the International Peace Research Association (IPRA) is holding its next conference in Kathmandu, Nepal on October 9-11, 2015.

The theme for this conference is 'Pathways towards Just Peace: Reinventing security, justice and democracy in Asia-Pacific'. The submission of abstracts is now open. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is 30 April 2015.

For any clarification or details contact: Dr. Pradeep Dhakal, Co-Secretary General, APPRA, Director, Chetanalaya Institute for Humanity, Peace and Spirituality, PO Box 11992, Kathmandu, Nepal. Email: drpradeepdhakal@gmail.com, Tel: 00977-9851010968.

## 9th EUPRA Conference, September 2-4 2015 in Tromso, Norway

9th EuPRA Conference on "The Framing of Europe: Peace Perspectives on Europe's Future" will be held in at the University of Tromsø, the Arctic University of Norway, between 2-4 September 2015.

For any clarification or details contact:

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 Matthew Bolton, Fran Petersen,  
 Dr Matt Meyer.

Please contact us if you require further information relating to this newsletter.  
 Your comments and feedback are also greatly appreciated.

Secretaries General – IPRA: Email - [secretary-general@iprapeace.org](mailto:secretary-general@iprapeace.org)

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Members and associate members who have news about their peace research, publications and project activities are welcome to submit them for the next Issue due out in June. Deadline for the submission of news items for this next issue is June 5 2015. (Please send to [secretary-general@iprapeace.org](mailto:secretary-general@iprapeace.org)).