



Executive Summary

The 2010 World Congress of NGOs utilized a unique online platform in gathering leaders of non-governmental organizations (charities, nonprofits, civil society organizations) from throughout the world, as well as prominent representatives from the governmental and corporate sectors. The flagship event of the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (WANGO), the World Congress was previously convened in such sites as Bangkok, Budapest, Santo Domingo, Washington, D.C., and Toronto. This 2010 program was a web conference, where participants and presenters took advantage of an interactive platform that allowed real-time communication over the vast distances separating the attendees.

Conveyed from June 8-9 on the theme *Enhancing Human Dignity: The Role of NGOs*, this World Congress of NGOs featured prominent authorities from a broad spectrum of fields and locations. Reflecting the remarkable possibilities of this new type of conferencing, attendees were able to hear speakers from the Sudan, Egypt, Switzerland, Philippines, Romania, India and elsewhere -- without either the speakers or the participants having to leave their office or home, and with the ability to chat, share slides and photos, and poll the participants. Attendees from Spain, Canada, Estonia, Ecuador, Nigeria, and elsewhere added to the content of the program, many of whom gathered in groups to hear the presentations.

Presenters

H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Gambari, the Joint Special Representative of UNAMID (Joint Africa Union-United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Darfur), joined the proceedings live from Sudan. Dr. Gambari offered up-to-date information on the difficult situation in that nation and the efforts of UNAMID to bring peace to the area. Dr. Gambari (who previously served as *UN Special Adviser on the International Compact with Iraq and Other Issues* and *UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs*), also



encouraged a partnership with WANGO to help in informing and engaging the NGO community in addressing the Sudan situation.

H.E. Prof. Dr. Abdel Aziz Hegazy, the Former Prime Minister of Egypt and current Chairman of the General Federation of NGOs and Foundations, was interviewed live from his home in Egypt. Conducted by **Dr. J'Lein Liese**, Founder of the Foundation for Global Leadership, the interview addressed such issues as what Dr. Hegazy sees as the current status and future of the NGO sector in Egypt and the Middle East, and what are the principle obstacles to NGO-government cooperation in Egypt. Dr. Hegazy also dealt with an issue close to his heart, the health of, and challenges to, the family in the Middle East.



Georges Roos, Founder of the European Futurists Conference Lucerne, speaking from his office in Switzerland, addressed future trends expected to impact the NGO sector in the next 20 years. **Chris Morris**, Head of the NGO and Civil Society Center for the Asian Development Bank, addressed the issue of ethics and NGOs from his office in the Philippines. In particular, Mr. Morris explored the topic of enhancing accountability and legitimacy within the sector from the angle of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) policies on governance and anti-corruption, and how ADB's procedures affect NGOs working with ADB.



From Romania, the participants were able to hear from **Dr. Aurora Martin**, President of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership for Sustainable Development, while from India they heard from **Asit Ghosh**, Founder and Director of Tuff Trak International. Dr. Martin spoke on the evolving notion of human security and the challenges faced by security actors, while Asit Ghosh addressed a new NGO Paradigm of human empowerment.



One of the highlights of the conference was an interview with **Bill Drayton**. The Founder, Chair, and CEO of Ashoka, Drayton pioneered the now-globally recognized field of social entrepreneurship. Ashoka searches the world for social entrepreneurs—extraordinary individuals with unprecedented ideas for change in their communities—and then supports the individual, idea and institution through all phases of the endeavor. The interview, which was also conducted by Dr. Liese, addressed such interesting concepts as Drayton's view that "we are in the midst of a rare, fundamental structural change in society,"; the steps that Asoka uses to identify social

entrepreneurs that are going to be supported; and how the effectiveness of these social entrepreneurs is measured. Drayton also was queried about the report that a group of social media consultants rated Askoka among the 25 most influential nonprofits “tweeters.” Finally, Mr. Drayton addressed how Asoka managed to grow from having an annual budget of just \$50,000, to where it now has an annual budget of nearly 30 million dollars and works with a network in more than 60 countries.

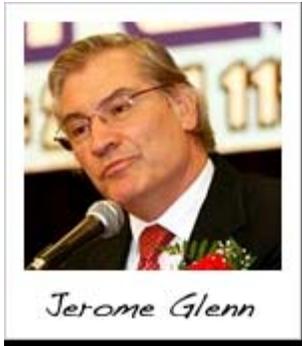
Katya Andresen and **David Nour** teamed to present on the theme of “Social Networking”. Ms. Andresen is *Vice President of Marketing for Network for Good*, the world’s largest provider of online donation services to nonprofits. **David Nour** is a social networking strategist and one of the foremost thought leaders on the quantifiable value of business relationships. Their session dealt with one of the major phenomena of new millennium: the explosive growth of online social networking sites. NGOs are increasingly embracing social networks, such as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, LinkedIn, and MySpace, in order to, among other things, promote awareness, recruit followers, and raise money. Andresen and Nour’s session provided an overview of social networking sites and their effectiveness for NGOs.



Another highly acclaimed session was that by **Staci Pierson**. Ms. Pierson is *Senior Manager of Special Events for the Rainforest Alliance*. In this capacity, Ms. Pierson manages the details of all special events, including the organization’s largest annual fundraising gala that raises close to \$1 million, smaller fundraising events, and cultivation events for high end donors, institutional supporters and close friends of the organization. She dealt with the unique fundraising program of special events as a means to raise money and friends, and strengthen the image of the nonprofit. She discussed different types of special events, key elements for choosing and conducting a special event, budgeting, recruiting volunteers, and other aspects for successful event management.

Martina E. Vandenberg gave a riveting presentation on human trafficking, with stunning information and remarkable insights. A partner at Jenner & Block, Ms. Vandenberg is a recognized authority on the trafficking of women and dedicated to ending this form of modern-day slavery and organized criminal activity, which involves both commercial sex trafficking and forced labor trafficking.





Jerome Glenn

Jerome Clayton Glenn is a renowned authority in futures research. He is *Executive Director* of the American Council for the United Nations University and *Director* of the Millennium Project -- the latter a global network and futures research think tank of over 500 futurists, scholars, business planners, and policy makers from 50 countries, who work for international organizations, governments, corporations, NGOs, and universities. Mr. Glenn provided insights into the topic of “Envisioning the Future: NGOs and the World in 20 Years,” offering rich and stimulating content for the conference participants.

Jeffrey Hurwit is *Founder* of the law firm *Hurwit & Associates*, which provides comprehensive legal counsel exclusively to tax-exempt organizations, foundations and charitable donors. His presentation on “Nonprofit Law: Legal and Governance Issues for NGOs Worldwide,” particularly focused on the governance issues that face nonprofits in any part of the world, including insights into “Friends” organizations that foreign NGOs may establish in the United States. His explanation on the legal role of governing boards as “stewards” of the organization’s mission and funds was especially useful for nonprofit leaders worldwide.



Jeffrey Hurwit



Holly Ross

One of the world’s leading experts on nonprofit technology is **Holly Ross**, who serves as *Executive Director* of The Nonprofit Technology Network (NTEN) and as *Editor* of *Managing Technology to Meet Your Mission: A Strategic Guide for Nonprofit Leaders*. The conference greatly benefitted from her presentation on “New Technologies to Support Your NGO’s Mission.” Complete with interesting and thought-providing slides and utilizing polls to gage the attendees experience with new technologies, Ms. Ross provided useful insights on how NGOs can work more effectively and efficiently in the current technology environment, including safeguards with which NGOs also must be concerned.

Long-time WANGO friend Dr. Michael Gershowitz is one of the most effective grant writers in the United States. Founder of Gershowtiz Grant & Evaluation Services, he focused his talk at this online conference on writing the budget section for successful grant proposals.



Michael Gershowitz



Tamiko Leverette, who serves as President of Nonprofit Dreams, a consulting company assisting nonprofits with training and development, grant writing, and organization development, offered participants a very interesting presentation on “Why Would a For-Profit Business Partner with Your Nonprofit?” A key issue for NGOs, her powerpoint presentation garnered a lot of interest and praise.

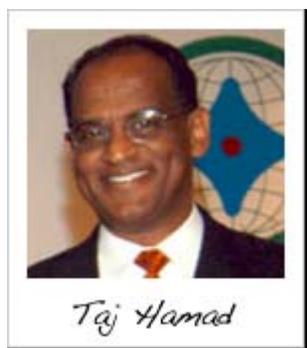
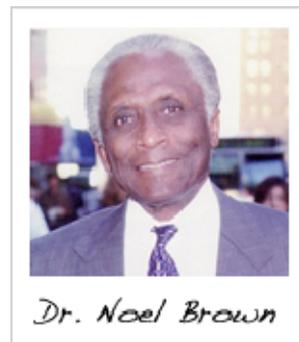
Dr. Richard G. Wilkins and **Maggie Gallagher**, world renowned for their defense of the traditional family, teamed for a most timely presentation on the issue of “NGOs and Healing the Family.” Earlier in the conference, WANGO Secretary General Taj Hamad had announced WANGO’s own effort in this area, the unveiling of a *Code of Ethics of the Family*. In this session, Dr. Wilkins, who is Managing Director of the Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development (Qatar) and Ms. Gallagher, who is President of the Institute for Marriage and Public Policy, provided a detailed, informative, and insightful presentation on the very basics of the family issue and the challenges to the family in the 21st Century. It was one of the most well-attended and thought-provoking sessions at the World Congress.



In a similar light to the preceding presentation, **Dr. Richard A. Panzer** explored issues relative to protecting the world’s youth. Dr. Panzer is Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Relationship Intelligence and presented a paper on “The War on Intimacy.” He explored disturbing trends in modern approaches to sex education and AIDS prevention, while providing a positive vision for engaging youth idealism for lasting love relationships. He noted that urgently needed is an honest reexamination of the content of sex education and even the language we use to describe sexual intimacy, which affect not just how we approach the most intimate and deeply personal aspects of our lives, but also sabotages the physical, social and emotional health of millions around the world, both now and possibly for generations to come.

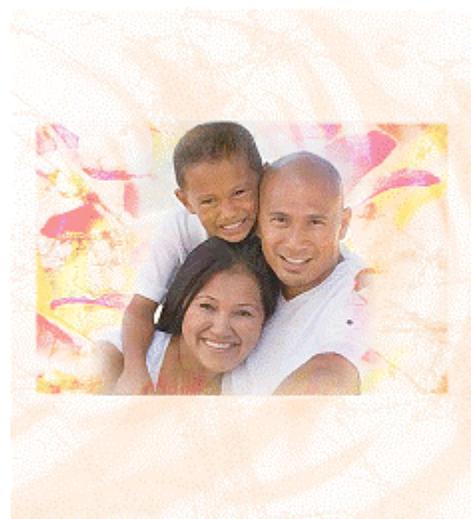
Presentations of WANGO Officers

Dr. Noel Brown, President of Friends of the United Nations and Vice Chair of WANGO's International Council, offered a special pre-conference greeting. In this greeting, available to participants and non-participants of the conference, Dr. Brown traced the importance of the NGO sector, its unique advantages, and its shortcomings. He went on to discuss why WANGO was created, its unique role as an international, general purpose infrastructure organization for NGOs, and its accomplishments. Dr. Brown also helped to familiarize the listeners with the tools and options available with the online format being employed for this particular World Congress of NGOs.



Taj Hamad, Secretary General of WANGO, presented the live Welcoming Remarks for the Congress. He noted that 2010 is the 10th anniversary of the founding of WANGO and traced WANGO's achievements during its ten years in existence.

Mr. Hamad also reported to the WANGO membership and gathered attendees a new accomplishment: the development of the **Code of Ethics of the Family**. Mr. Hamad noted that it was first publicly unveiled on May 17, 2010 at an event held at the UN Headquarters in New York for the International Day of Families. Completed after a year of work by an international committee, this code of ethics and standards of good conduct of the family



systematically identifies some of the key universal standards and ethical practices

recognized by harmonious families and is designed to be broadly applicable to families worldwide. The inspiration for development of this code came from H.E. Dr. Abdelaziz Hegazy, noted earlier as one of the speakers at this Congress, who expressed his dream for such a code in a private meeting in Cairo with Taj Hamad.

Information on this code can be found at <http://www.wango.org/COEOF/launch.htm>.

General Assembly (Membership Meeting)

Taj Hamad and **Dr. Frederick A. Swarts** (Assistant Secretary General for Administration and Finance) conducted the official Membership Meeting for the Association. This session began with the official Secretary General's Report on the past year. A largely pictorial presentation, Mr. Hamad traced WANGO activities in Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Philippines, India, Turkey, People's Republic of China, and elsewhere. In Beijing, Mr. Hamad spoke in the Great Hall of the People, and in Egypt, WANGO presented at the 3rd NGO Forum, where a draft Code of Ethics and Conduct for Egyptian NGOs was unveiled based on WANGO's Code of Ethics and Conduct for NGOs.

Dr. Swarts presented proposed resolutions for amendment of the WANGO Bylaws. The Bylaws Resolutions were approved by 100% of the voting members gathered for the Membership Meeting.



Closing Session

Dr. Thomas G. Walsh, a member of WANGO's International Council (the membership-elected, governing body of the Association) and President of the Universal Peace Federation (a main supporter of WANGO) offered remarks at the Closing Session. Dr. Walsh, who had just completed an African Day program hosted by the African Union and the United Nations African Ambassadors' Spouses Group (UNAASG), in partnership with the Universal Peace Federation and attended by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, addressed the desire to create an Interreligious Council at the United Nations. Such a council would provide civil society and religious groups an important role next to governments in the United Nations systems.



Taj Hamad's closing remarks looked forward to WANGO's future activities. He noted that WANGO joins the International Herald Tribune and The New York Forum as co-sponsors of the Cecelia Attias Foundation for Women program "Dialogue for Action." (See the ad at www.wango.org/upload/DialogueForAction.pdf). Cecelia Attias (former First Lady of France) and her husband Richard Attias are involved in two major events that month. The Dialogue for Action event will be on June 24, two days after the start of the high high-profile [New York Forum](#) being done by Richard Attias, which will gather top CEOs, financial and governmental leaders in a type of World Economic Forum event.

Mr. Hamad also announced the on-going partnership with Turak, a large NGO in Turkey. It will work closely with Prime Minister of Turkey in organizing a second big conference related to Senior Citizens and Eminent people.

In addition, WANGO is partnering with the African Union and the United Nations in plans to organize a conference about the role of NGOs in Darfur. Furthermore, WANGO is working on signing a Memorandum of Understanding with an Association representing over 26,000 Egyptian NGOs.

Summary

The technology used for this conference was cutting edge, offering a highly interactive online platform for maximizing attendee participation. It allowed a high degree of real-time communication among the participants and between the participants and the speakers. One could chat with the other participants and the presenters, raise one's hand to ask questions, ask presenters to elaborate on points they raise, share professional contact information, take polls, and so forth.

However, it was WANGO's first foray into doing a major international conference solely in a virtual environment and there were a number of glitches experienced. When the connection between the WANGO headquarters and the Internet platform broke down, Taj Hamad had to give his pictorial presentation for the Membership Meeting via the telephone, not being able to see the powerpoint that had been downloaded earlier. Some attendees found it difficult to join the proceedings and a few of the presenters likewise experienced difficulties. Most notable was the inability of Dr. Diana J. Muir to make her presentation. Dr. Muir is Founder of the Hawking Institute and Foundation, a non-profit educational entity whose mission is to provide free, K-16 education to 3rd world countries via the Internet, in a handicapped accessible format, with state of the art technology.

However, most glitches were temporary and the feasibility of this technology to allow presenters, participants, and exhibitors to gather from around the world, without the need for visas, airline flights, and hotel accommodations makes it a medium that may play a role in future WANGO events.

Special gratitude goes to Learning Times for providing this web conferencing and to the capable work of its staff.

Individuals such as John Walber (CEO of Learning Times);

Michael Morneau (who was online day and night working with the Congress and for many days prior working on the website and technology); and Susan Manning (Co-author of Online Education for Dummies and Co-host of the Learning Times Green Room); among others, helped in overseeing the program, coordinating the virtual meeting rooms, training the speakers, and in general troubleshooting the program.



Gratitude to Sponsors



WANGO is grateful for the sponsorship of Serenic Navigator 2009. Certified for Microsoft Dynamics NAV 2009, Serenic Navigator is the leading integrated financial management software solution for NGOs and nonprofits across the globe. Serenic Navigator gives international NGOs the power of multiple currencies, languages and financial analysis capabilities. The Serenic Software extended product suite is a comprehensive financial and operational solution that provides rich business-line functionality, including grant management, fundraising and investment management. It is specifically designed to meet your accounting, human resources, procurement and revenue management needs.



WANGO also is grateful for the sponsorship of the Universal Peace Federation, both in logistics and financial support. The Universal Peace Federation (UPF) is a global network of individuals and organizations dedicated to building a world of peace in which everyone can live in freedom, harmony, cooperation, and prosperity. Peace is not simply the absence of war or a term that applies only to the relationships among nations. Peace is an essential quality that should characterize all relationships. UPF is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.