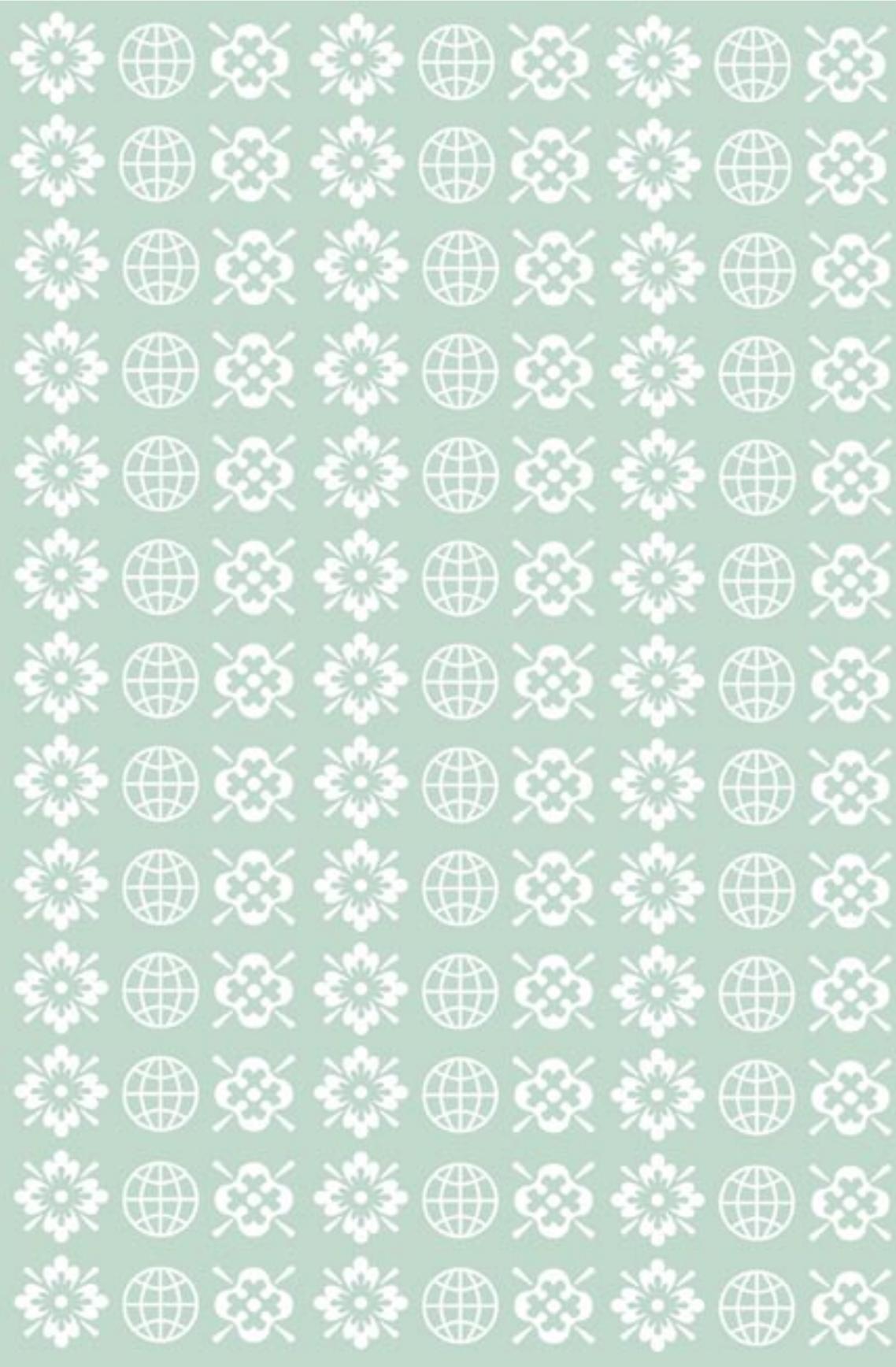


Toronto

2007 WANGO
Awards





Awards Ceremony Program

November 9, 2007

Delta Chelsea Hotel

Toronto, Canada

Master of Ceremonies

Dr. Noel Brown

President, Friends of the United Nations
Chair, WANGO Awards Committee

Awardees

Environment Award

Ecotrópica

Received by: Adalberto Eberhard, Founder and Member of Board

Family & Peace Award

Better Life Programme for the African Rural Woman

Received by: H.E. Dr. Maryam Ibrahim Babangida, Founder

Humanitarian Award

SurfAid International

Received by: Dr. Dave Jenkins, Founding Member and Medical
Director

Entertainment

Awardees

Peace & Security Award

The Center for Conflict Resolution & Reconciliation

Received by: Noah Salameh, Founder and Director

Education, Media & the Arts Award

World Association of Early Childhood Educators (AMEI-WAECE)

Received by: Juan Sánchez Muliterno, President

Universal Peace Award

Chief Oren Lyons

Faithkeeper, Turtle Clan, Onondaga Council of Chiefs



Ecotrópica (Fundação de Apoio à Vida nos Trópicos) is a non-profit, environmental organization in Brazil devoted to conserving natural resources and maintaining the quality of life in tropical ecosystems. Founded in 1989 in Cuiabá, Mata Grosso, Brazil, Fundação Ecotrópica's main mission is to protect the Pantanal. The Pantanal is the world's largest, freshwater, wetland system, located south of the Amazon and extending through millions of hectares of central-western Brazil, eastern Bolivia, and northeastern Paraguay in central South America.

The Pantanal is essentially an immense alluvial plain, situated along the northernmost part of the Paraguay River and its tributaries that becomes extensively flooded during the rainy season. Estimates of its size range from 140,000 square kilometers (54,000 square miles) to 210,000 square kilometers (81,000 square miles), making it larger than many countries – larger than England, Austria, Hungary, and such U.S. states as New York, Florida, and Wisconsin. The Pantanal also is one of the most pristine and biologically rich environments on the planet. It is home to one of the richest animal faunas in the world, perhaps the highest concentration of animals in the New World. It also acts like a giant sponge, providing flood control, and it removes pollutants and sediments. However, despite offering numerous ecological, economic, cultural, recreational, and aesthetic values, the Pantanal faces an uncertain future stemming from a myriad of socioeconomic pressures.

Through Ecotrópica, 60,000 hectares of the Pantanal, bordering Pantanal National Park (Parque Nacional do Pantanal Matogrossense) have been made into Private Reserves (Reservas Particulares do Patrimônio Natural) – one of the important complexes of private protection on the planet, where many species of animals, including some endangered species, call home. Ninety-eight percent of the Brazilian portion of the Pantanal is privately owned making such protection vital. Ecotrópica also has completed an inventory of biodiversity in the Serra do Amolar, works to help local people to survive, is developing "gentle" ecotourism, and is dealing with agricultural, educational, sanitary, and financial issues.

In taking the decision to present Ecotrópica with the 2007 Environment Award, the WANGO Awards Committee and the WANGO International Council were impressed with the pioneering effort of Ecotrópica to protect the Pantanal, an area that remains pristine but is facing increasing threats to its future. Ecotrópica is the leading conservation organization in this region, striving daily to assure that the Pantanal does not go the way of decline as seen in the precipitous decline in so many other wetland systems in the recent years. Through recognizing such effort, WANGO hopes to bring greater international awareness to both the Pantanal and the exceptional work of Ecotrópica.





BETTER LIFE PROGRAMME FOR THE AFRICAN RURAL WOMAN

The Better Life Programme for the African Rural Woman (BLPAW) was established in 1987 to enhance the status of women in rural areas of Nigeria. Originally christened the Better Life Programme for the Rural Woman (BLP), it was rechristened with its current name to reflect its expanded mission to include all African women, not just Nigerian women. It now has foreign chapters in several African nations, as well as in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, and Spain. It was founded by H. E. Dr. Maryam Ibrahim Babangida, former first lady of Nigeria and the 1991 African Prize Laureate.

The BLPAW is a non-governmental organization committed to help African rural women by harnessing resources that touch on every aspect of their lives, including health, harmful traditional practices, socio-political advancement, economic empowerment, education, legal rights, and family issues. It has been extraordinarily successful in advancing its goals.

By 1992, the Better Life Programme had launched 9,114 cooperatives societies, 1,435 cottage industries, 1,748 new farms and gardens, 135 fish and livestock farms, and 1,094 women's centers. By 1993, it has established 495 shops and markets, 195 social welfare programs, and 420 multipurpose women educational centers. Under the leadership of Dr. Babangida, Nigerian women were empowered to improve their lives through programs in adult education, primary health, agriculture, trade, crafts and food processing. Agriculture became the core basis for strengthening women's access to and ownership of land. Dr. Babangida championed women's issues vigorously, conscious of the fact that if the situation of women improved, that of the family and, by extension, the nation will also improve.

Today, BLPAW is active in improving the lives of women in many nations. It provides easier access to financial opportunities for micro-entrepreneurship programs, educates women on the better avenues for marketing products, and encourages local fabrication of simple tools and instruments to reduce labor intensiveness and improve productivity. It has set up scholarship programs for indigent female students, promotes adult literacy programs, and trains thousands of women in education centers. It advocates free childcare education, helps to provide safe drinking water, and is working with governments and NGOs to reduce child mortality. BLPAW is undertaking educational and immunization campaigns and behavioral change programs to prevent malaria, HIV/AIDS, and other diseases, while also working against prostitution, human trafficking, and abuse. In terms of the environment, BLPAW promotes alternative sources of energy to conserve African forests, addresses issues of sanitation, combats environmental hazards and pollution, plants trees to prevent desert encroachment, and advances environmental awareness. Furthermore, this

international NGO is continuing to build networks, providing information technology, and working toward conflict prevention and resolution.

Advancing gender equality and women economic empowerment is central to the attainment of its objectives. As noted by BLP AW, "In a continent where the woman has to compete with a gender that is economically and educationally more opportuned, where the woman in most cases is disadvantaged and often times considered irrelevant politically, our programs have been aimed at improving the economic base of the woman and enhancing her educational status, thereby reducing her poverty level, and by extension, that of her community and the continent at large."

In taking the decision to present the Better Life Programme for the African Rural Woman with the 2006 Family & Peace Award, the WANGO Awards Committee and the WANGO International Council were most impressed by BLP AW's significant, multi-disciplinary accomplishments in enhancing the status of women throughout Africa and in promoting unity and cooperation among African women. BLP AW has made significant improvement in the lives and well-being of women and in so doing has made substantial improvements in their families and society in general. Such activities have advanced peace at all levels — individual, family, society, nation, and world. WANGO is delighted to recognize such efforts and bring greater worldwide awareness of the extraordinary achievements and service of the Better Life Programme for the African Rural Woman.

Humanitarian Award 2007



SurfAid International was founded by surfers on holiday that visited the Mentawai Islands off the western coast of Sumatra in Indonesia and found dreadful misery, poverty, and death beyond the palm-fringed shores of their so-called surf paradise. The ravages of malaria and other preventable diseases and inequality of lifestyles moved them by compassion to start SurfAid. Registering as a non-profit organization in New Zealand in January 2000 and later expanding offices to Australia, the United States, and Indonesia, SurfAid works to improve the health of the Mentawai people and to encourage and coordinate the support of the global surfing community.

SurfAid embodies the positive values inherent in surfing, namely individualism, courage, dynamism, and adaptability, and seeks to harness these attributes in implementing projects with measurable results. A grassroots organization, which rec-

ognizes that its strength lies in the strong participation of its members, SurfAid also is committed to research and evidence-based planning. Research conducted includes survey work, study of malaria-carrying mosquitoes in the Mentawais, and testing of malaria parasite levels in current and future target villages.

Through the efforts of SurfAid, malaria initially was reduced by 75% in two villages, and the Malaria Control Project then was expanded to numerous other vil-lages. Phase one in SurfAid’s Malaria Free Mentawai Program ended with over 14,000 mosquito nets distributed and 37,000 beneficiaries reached. Other projects include the Childhood Health Project, which is now in 27 villages, and delivered about 6,000 immunizations in one year alone, as well as healthcare for pregnant women, childhood monitoring and nutrition, and health worker training. SurfAid also has a Medical Supplies Project, donating various health equipment and supplies. The latest milestone is the establishment of Care Groups in each of 53 beneficiary communities as part of the SurfAid Community Based Health Programs. The Care Group model empowers women to educate their communities on how to treat and nourish their families, which would result in preventing childhood mortality and consequently lead to a better life for the family

In response to two powerful earthquakes that struck the region of the Mentawai Islands September 12 and 13, 2007, SurfAid International immediately mobilized. It has visited and assessed more than 100 Mentawai villages and launched eight relief boats delivering food, shelter, medical attention, fuel, and building sup-plies to some of the 30,000 displaced residents.

In taking the decision to present SurfAid International with its 2007 Humanitarian Award, the Awards Committee and the WANGO International Council were impressed with the compassion and successful effort of SurfAid to address the dire health situation of the Mentawai people, with their high childhood mortality, the ravages of malaria, poor education, and poverty. SurfAid’s unique cutting edge solutions to alleviate the human suffering in the Mentawai Islands, and now Nias Island, promoting community-based solutions and tapping into the inherent values in the surfing community—individualism, courage, dynamism, and adaptability—is an example of humanitarian service that deserves widespread recognition. WANGO is delighted to recognize such efforts and bring greater worldwide awareness of the extraordinary accomplishments of SurfAid International.





CENTER FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND RECONCILIATION

The Center for Conflict Resolution & Reconciliation (CCRR) is a Palestinian non-governmental organization committed to an alternative approach to conflict transformation. Cherishing the values of peace, reconciliation, forgiveness, respect, and hope, CCRR's mission is to contribute to a prospering, non-violent Palestine by empowering marginalized groups to participate in the decision-making process that affect their everyday lives.

Founded by Noah Salameh in 1999, and registered with the Palestinian National Authority in 2000, CCRR has been working to strengthen democracy, human rights, and justice, considering these fundamental components for lasting peace. The Center strives to turn the culture of violence into a culture of non-violence, believing reconciliation to be a long-term goal. All members campaign for peace and justice both within the Palestinian community and among the people of the region.

CCRR's projects take place among two main tracks. The first track concentrates on Palestinian society, aiming to increase mutual respect, encourage diverse and critical thinking, acceptance of the other, and forgiveness as well as to decrease internal stresses. On the second track, CCRR works on various regional and international levels with individuals and organizations who subscribe to CCRR's mission statement. This second tract includes analysis and discussion of the conflict in the region, searches for methods to address violence, and creates just solutions. CCRR's projects are implemented by Palestinian trainers and facilitators who are professionally and culturally qualified.

CCRR's Peace Education Project provides young Palestinians the skills and methods necessary for dealing with differences, disagreements, and conflicts in general, and particularly focuses on conflicts between students and teachers. In 2006/2007, this program took place in 30 schools throughout the West Bank, training both teachers and students in negotiation, communication, and listening skills.

CCRR's Youth Project has a core youth group of Palestinian teenagers, boys, and girls who meet at least once a week and are involved in different CCRR programs. The Media in Conflict Program, run jointly by CCRR and the Israeli organization Neve Shalom/Wahat Al-Salam's School for Peace, seeks to study how journalists deal with conflict, how the media affects the political conflict, and how the conflict affects journalists. Other projects include one on School Violence and a Young Politicians program, the later of which has been implemented at 10 Palestinian universities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, providing training for student leaders in leadership, communication, and how to deal with conflicts.

In taking the decision to present the Center for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation with its 2007 Peace & Security Award, the Awards Committee and the International Council particularly were impressed with CCRR's pioneering, non-governmental approach towards peace and conflict resolution in a region where purely political and military efforts to establish peace have failed. CCRR's various projects—peace education, youth project, media program, school violence, young politicians program, and programs for women—are fundamentally important projects for the future of Palestine and ultimately world peace. We are delighted to recognize and bring greater worldwide attention to CCRR's accomplishments in empowering marginalized groups in Palestinian society and its efforts to turn a culture of violence into a culture of non-violence.

Education, Media & Arts Award 2007



The World Association of Early Childhood Educators (Asociación Mundial de Educadores Infantiles) is a non-governmental organization at the service of the education of young children. The Association works to make it possible for every child younger than six years of age to exercise his or her right to an early educational service to fully develop capabilities, and moral and social responsibility according to article 7 of the United Nations Declaration on Children's Rights. The Association provides support for teachers in their role as early childhood educators.

Early childhood, considered as the stage of development from birth until six or seven years of age, is considered the most significant period in the formation of the individual. It is then that the foundations of the physical attributes and the psychological formation of the personality are set, to be consolidated and improved in the following stages of development. It has been stated that at birth, the child is no more than a "candidate to the human race" (H. Pierson); through education, the child can gain the means to join the human race. Thus early education, whether called early childhood education, preschool, or initial education, is an extraordinarily important undertaking.

The World Association of Early Childhood Educators (AMEI-WAECE) was born as the result of meetings among professionals in the field from different countries during the First International Conference on Early Childhood Education held in 1991 in Vitoria, Spain. The early childhood professionals that met there came to the conclusion that, although there were already several international organizations with education or underprivileged children as their main objective, there were no organizations that effectively supported the classroom teacher in her daily work and that there was a clear need for this support.

For fifteen years, WAECE has provided the members of WAECE with as much information and training as possible on the trends and latest research work in the field of early education, and has helped the educators that work every day with young children, providing them with reports and materials that make such work easier for them. The Association forges contacts among educators from around the world, and conducts international conferences for educators to share their knowledge with others.

A main focus of the WAECE is in the education of values and peace education. There is a saying that “Men have learnt how to fly like birds, have learnt to swim in the depths of the sea like fish, but have not learnt the noble art of living like brothers.” Thus, peace education is an integral learning component in the lives of young children, a transfer of values that remains in the long run and extends during all of their lives. WAECE, through its establishment of a Permanent Chair for Peace Education strives to educate from childhood in the noble art of living like brothers. It has produced a 751-page “Activities for Children” book that offers teachers classroom learning activities for over 40 values, such as self-control, love for team efforts and work, patience, honesty, sensitivity, creativity, responsibility, truthfulness, filial love, love for nature, generosity, compassion, obedience, and gratitude. WAECE sponsors the World Conference on Early Childhood Education for Peace.

In taking the decision to present WAECE/AMEI with its 2007 Education, Media, and the Arts Award, the Awards Committee and WANGO International particularly were impressed with the sincere and selfless dedication of the organization to the important task of educating young children in terms of values--values that can guide them throughout their lives. Through WAECE's exceptional accomplishments, they are paving the way to a world of peace and well-being for all.





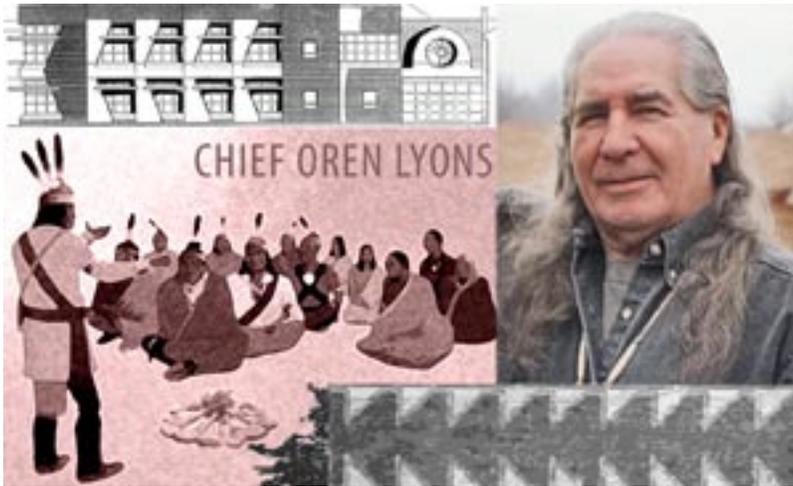
Faithkeeper, Turtle Clan, Onondaga Council of Chiefs

Chief Oren R. Lyons is a traditional Faithkeeper of the Turtle Clan, and a Member of the Onondaga Nation Council of Chiefs of the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy, or the Haudenosaunee ("People of the Long House"). He is Professor of American Studies at the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he directs the Native American Studies Program.

Oren Lyons was raised in the traditional lifeways of the Iroquois on the Seneca and Onondaga reservations in northern New York State. After serving in the Army, he graduated from the Syracuse University College of Fine Arts. He then pursued a career in commercial art in New York City, becoming the Art and Planning Director of Norcross Greeting Cards with 200 artists under his supervision. He has exhibited his own paintings widely and is noted as an American Indian artist.

Since his return to Onondaga, Chief Lyons has been a leading advocate for American Indian causes. He is recognized not only in the United States and Canada but internationally as an eloquent and respected spokesperson on behalf of Native Peoples. He is internationally renowned as an environmental and human rights advocate, and sought for his expertise on American Indian traditions, Indian law and history, and interfaith dialogue. For over fifteen years, he has taken part in the meetings of Indigenous Peoples held in Geneva under the auspices of the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations, and helped to establish the Working Group on Indigenous Populations in 1982. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders on Human Survival, and is a principal figure in the Traditional Circle of Indian Elders, an annual council of traditional grass-roots leadership of the major Indian nations of North America.

Chief Lyons was a negotiator between the governments of Canada, Quebec, and New York State and the Mohawk Indians in the crisis at Oka during the summer of 1990, and led a delegation of seventeen American Indian leaders which met with President Bush in Washington on April 16, 1991. Chief Lyons was the subject of a one-hour television documentary produced and hosted by Bill Moyers, which was broadcast on PBS. In 1992, he organized a delegation of the Iroquois Confederacy to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. Chief Lyons is co-editor (with John Mohawk) of *Exiled in the Land of The Free*, a major study of American Indians and democracy.



A lifelong lacrosse player, Oren Lyons was an All-American in this sport, which was invented by the Iroquois; the Syracuse University team had an undefeated season during his graduating year. (NFL Hall of Fame running back Jim Brown was a teammate and fellow All-American on the Syracuse lacrosse team.) He is currently Honorary Chairman of the Iroquois National Lacrosse Team. In 1993, he was elected to the Lacrosse National Hall of Fame.

Chief Oren Lyon has been a lifelong advocate for peace. He notes: "That's what the Haudenosaunee leadership is about. We are not actually chiefs. Chief is an English word. We are hoyaneh, which means the peacemakers. We keep the peace. That's what the leadership is about. That's our work, that's our job. To keep the peace and promote peace." He further notes: "When the Peacemaker set us up a thousand years ago, he said to the leadership, among many other instructions, When you sit in your council for the welfare of the people, think not of yourself or of your family or of your generation. He said, Make your decision on behalf of the seventh generation coming. That was the instruction of a thousand years ago. It's good instruction for leadership. And when the Council of Chiefs at Onondaga meets, we actually do try to see seven generations ahead."

Chief Lyons is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Ellis Island Congressional Medal of Honor; the National Audubon Award; the Earth Day International Award of the United Nations; the Elder and Wiser Award from the Rosa Parks Institute for Human Rights; as well as an Honorary Doctor of Law from Syracuse University.



2002

WANGO Peace & Security Award

Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress

WANGO Education Award

African American Islamic Institute

WANGO Environment Award

Inuit Circumpolar Conference (Canada)

WANGO Human Rights Award

Bahrain Women's Society

WANGO Family & Peace Award

Institute for Responsible Fatherhood and Family Revitalization

WANGO Interreligious Cooperation Award

Bishop William E. Swing & United Religions Initiative

WANGO Universal Peace Award

Prof. Dr. Federico Mayor Zaragoza

2003

WANGO Peace & Security Award 2003

Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP)

WANGO Environment Award

Green Belt Movement (GBM)

WANGO Human Rights Award

Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)

WANGO Universal Peace Award

H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

2004

WANGO Civil Society Development Award

Star Kampuchea

WANGO Family & Peace Award

United Families International

WANGO Environment Award

Buccoo Reef Trust

WANGO Peace, Security & Reconciliation Award

PeaceWorks Foundation

WANGO Humanitarian Award

Small Kindness

WANGO Universal Peace Award

H.E. Kenneth Kaunda

2005

WANGO Education Award

Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana

WANGO Humanitarian Award

Ladies Charitable Society

WANGO Society & Health Award

Hogar Crea Dominicano

WANGO Peace & Security Award

Roots of Peace

WANGO Century of Service to Humanity and Society Award

Rotary International

2006

Environment Award

Altai Foundation

Family & Peace Award

Better Life Programme for the African Rural Woman

Human Rights Award

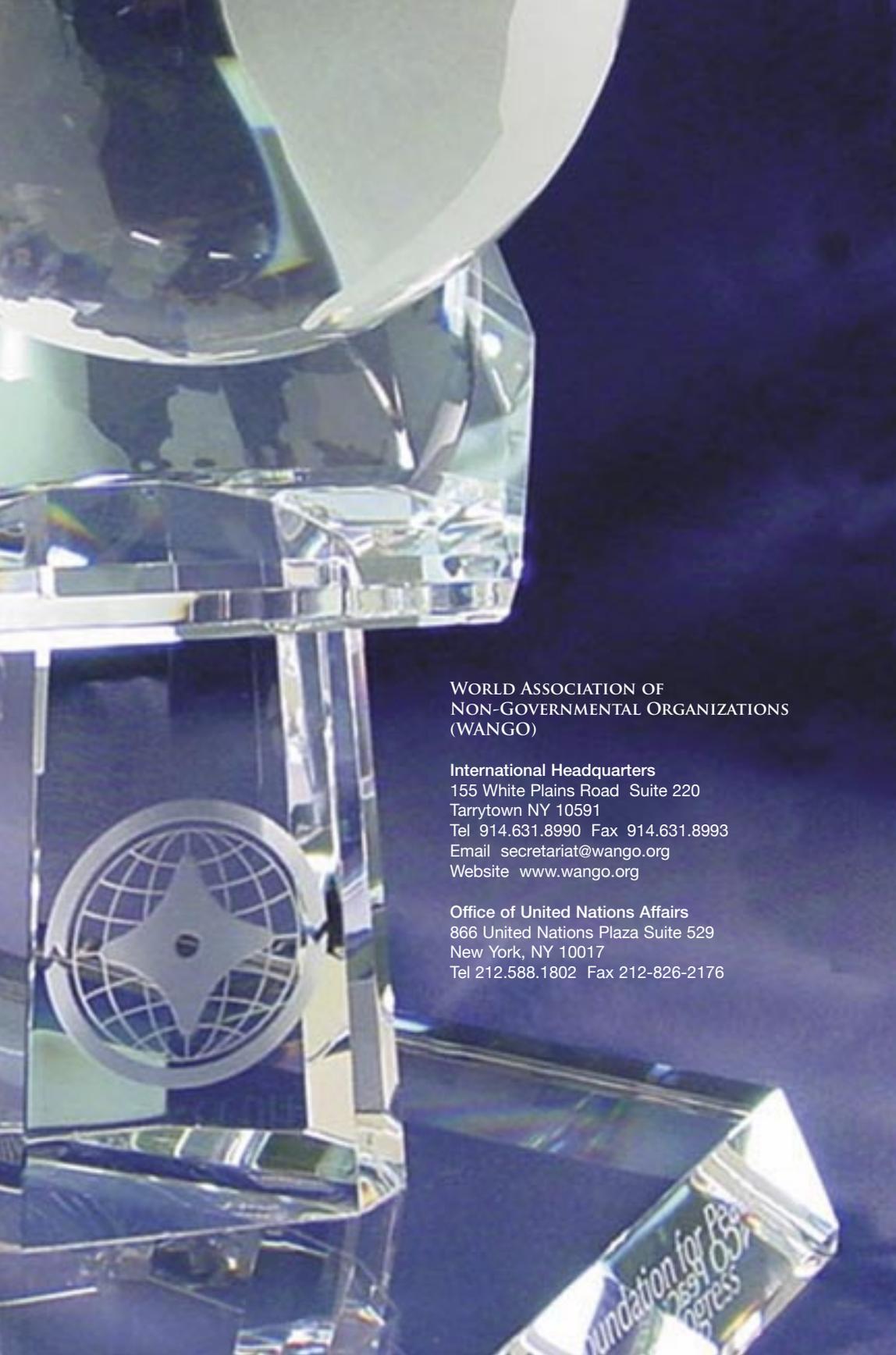
Free the Children

Education Award

South Society for Special Education

Civil Society Development Award

Ashoka



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