

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

POSTAL ADDRESS — ADRESSE POSTALE : UNITED NATIONS, NY 10017
CABLE ADDRESS — ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE : UNATIONS NEWYORK

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

26 August 2011

Dear Dr. Mozaffari,

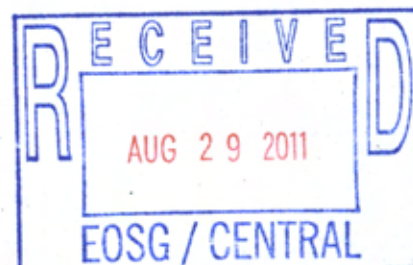
Thank you for your letter of 2 August 2011 to the Secretary-General, in which you invited him to send a video message to the "International Conference on Dialogue among Religions and Cultures in Asia," to be held in Tehran on 11-12 September 2011.

I regret to inform you that the Secretary-General will not be able to meet your request. Please accept, in any case, our best wishes for a successful event.

Yours sincerely,

Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet

Dr. Mohammad Hossein Mozaffari
Director General
Center for Interreligious Dialogue (CID)
Tehran



11-07665 COM/11/001



Request for a message from the SG for the International conference on
Dialogue among Religions and Cultures in Asia, Tehran, 11-12 September
Elizabeth Wanic to: Janice Willington

25/08/2011 09:50 AM

Hi Janice,

Richard indicated to me that he had no response on this.
Would you mind drawing it to Mr. Nambiar's attention?

Thank you!
Liz

No need. I feel
by

Richard Amdur

----- Original Message -----

From: Richard Amdur

Sent: 08/23/2011 05:50 PM EDT

To: Vijay Nambiar; Wonsoo Kim; Nicholas Haysom; Kishore Mandhyan

Cc: Elizabeth Wanic

Subject: Fw: Request for a message from the SG for the International
conference on Dialogue among Religions and Cultures in Asia, Tehran, 11-12
September
colleagues,

given the subject, locale and date of this event, i would be grateful for your guidance. my view,
based on the pros and cons set out below by the alliance of civilizations office, is that we should
decline this request since there is potentially great risk yet little or nothing to be gained. you will
all recall the last dust-up involving the message we provided to the terrorism conference in iran;
to continue associating ourselves in this way could well be seen as weird and provocative.
grateful for your views.

many thanks,
richard

From: Thomas Uthup/NY/UNO
To: Ruxandra Ferascu/NY/UNO@UNHQ
Cc: Elizabeth Wanic/NY/UNO@UNHQ, daanishm@unops.org
Date: 19/08/2011 12:12 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: Request for a message from the SG for the International conference on Dialogue among
Religions and Cultures in Asia, Tehran, 11-12 September

Dear Ruxandra:

Thanks for your request for the Alliance's advice on whether the SG should send a message to
this conference.

Our research indicates that while there may be a couple of good reasons to send a message, there
are more reasons not to send a message.

Requested Date/Time :

8/22/2011 4:54:12 PM

MESSENGER

Envelope

Pick-Up:1

UN Internal Delivery Form



Z900000106688



Pickup From :

Site: UNHQ

Bldg: NYCXNL

Room: NL-03016C

Floor: 03

Sender Info :

Thiri THIRI

DM/EO

Tel: 9173672869

Email: thiri@un.org

Charge Account Info:

DM

special

Deliver To : NYNL001

Site: UNHQ

Bldg: NYCXNL

Room: NL-03016C

Floor: 03

Receiver Info :

WILLINGSTON, Janice/Ms

SG/EOSG

Tel: 2129635933

Email: willingston@un.org

405 EAST 42nd Street

NL

NEW YORK, NY 10017

US

Description:

Weight :

1.0000

Length :

0.000

Width :

0.000

Height:

0.000

Pieces:

Special Instructions:

To print this form:

- 1) Click the 'Print' button.
- 2) Attach the printed Request form to your shipment so that the barcode portion of the page can be read and scanned.

Print

Close

Form (1 of 1)

In summary, the pros of sending a message:

- 1) The Alliance strongly encourages all conferences promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue, and therefore an SG message would be very encouraging.
- 2) Since the center was first established in 1990 in the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, a message might be useful in strengthening UNSG relations with the Iranian government.

The cons

- 1) This center is not to be confused with the Institute of Interreligious Dialogue (an NGO) of **Seyyed Mohammad Ali Abtahi**, former Vice President of Iran and a close associate of former President Khatami; Mr. Abtahi is currently imprisoned.
- 2) This conference does not have any United Nations linkages, particularly with UNESCO or the UN Alliance of Civilizations
- 3) The center appears to have a heavy concentration on dialogue mainly with the Holy See and other Christian denominations, but less so with Jews, Zoroastrians, and Baha'i, who are significant religious minorities in Iran.
- 4) The conferences do not seem to lead to concrete actions (as preferred by the Alliance), but rather somewhat abstract theological discussions.
- 5) Previous reports of the SG on the Human Rights Situation in Iran ((latest: A/65/370) point to the continuing concern about the persecution of the Baha'i and other minorities by the government and it may be considered inappropriate for the SG to send a statement to this center that is linked to the government of Iran.

Do let us know if you would still need a statement which we would be happy to provide.

Best regards,

Thomas

-----Ruxandra Ferascu/NY/UNO wrote: -----

To: Thomas Uthup/NY/UNO@UNHQ

From: Ruxandra Ferascu/NY/UNO

Date: 08/12/2011 01:47PM

Cc: Elizabeth Wanic/NY/UNO@UNHQ, daanishm@unops.org

Subject: Fw: Request for a message from the SG for the International conference on Dialogue among Religions and Cultures in Asia, Tehran, 11-12 September

Request actually attached.

(See attached file: 11-07665_09-Aug-2011_14h20min.pdf)

----- Forwarded by Ruxandra Ferascu/NY/UNO on 12/08/2011 01:46 PM -----

From: Ruxandra Ferascu/NY/UNO

To: Thomas Uthup/NY/UNO@UNHQ

Cc: Elizabeth Wanic/NY/UNO@UNHQ, daanishm@unops.org

Date: 12/08/2011 01:45 PM

Subject: Request for a message from the SG for the International conference on Dialogue among Religions and Cultures in Asia, Tehran, 11-12 September

Requested Date/Time :

UN Internal Delivery Form

8/22/2011 2:17:41 PM

MESSENGER

Documents

Pick-Up:1



Z900000106542

**Pickup From :**

Site: UNHQ

Bldg: NYCXMD

Room: M-06032E

Floor: 06

Sender Info :

Marianne MORAN

OCHA/OUSG

Tel: 2129634674

Email: moranm@un.org

Charge Account Info:

OCHA

Special

Deliver To : NYNL001

Site: UNHQ

Bldg: NYCXNL

Room: NL-03018

Floor: 03

Receiver Info :

NAMBIAR, Vijay K/Mr

SG/EOSG

Tel: 2129638922

Email: nambiarv@un.org

405 EAST 42nd Street NL
NEW YORK, NY 10017
US**Description:****Weight :**

1.0000

Length :

0.000

Width :

0.000

Height:

0.000

Pieces:

1

Special Instructions:

To print this form:

- 1) Click the 'Print' button.
- 2) Attach the printed Request form to your shipment so that the barcode portion of the page can be read and scanned.

Print

Close

Form (1 of 1)

Dear Mr. Uthup,

We have received the attached request from the Center for Interreligious Dialogue for a video message for a conference on dialogue among religions and cultures in Asia to take place in Tehran on 11 - 12 September. The SG will not be able to record a video message but we would welcome your advice on whether you feel the Secretary-General should send a written message to this conference.

Please bear in mind that our policy is to agree to contributions in the name of the Secretary-General only when there is a very good reason -- not only when it does no harm, and not only because we may have provided one in the past.

We would be grateful for your reply by 25 August. If you agree that a message would be appropriate, we would be grateful to receive a draft (comprising a maximum of 400 words) by 29 August.

Thank you.

Ruxandra

Ruxandra Ferascu
Communications and Speechwriting Unit
Executive Office of the Secretary-General
United Nations
Tel. 212 963 4092
Fax. 212 963 5965
E-mail: ferascu@un.org

[attachment "11-07665_09-Aug-2011_14h20min.pdf" removed by Thomas Uthup/NY/UNO]

Requested Date/Time :

8/23/2011 9:31:19 AM

MESSENGER

Envelope

Pick-Up:1

UN Internal Delivery Form



Z900000106793



Pickup From :

Site: UNHQ

Bldg: NYC1DC

Room: DC1-0530

Floor: 05

Sender Info :

Kiyotaka AKASAKA

DPI/OUSG

Tel: 2129632912

Email: akasaka@un.org

Charge Account Info:

DPI

specials

Deliver To : NYNL001

Site: UNHQ

Bldg:NYCXNL

Room: NL-03018

Floor: 03

Receiver Info :

NAMBIAR, Vijay K/Mr

SG/EOSG

Tel: 2129638922

Email: nambiarv@un.org

405 EAST 42nd Street NL
NEW YORK, NY 10017
US

Description:

Weight :

1.0000

Length :

0.000

Width :

0.000

Height:

0.000

Pieces:

Special Instructions:

To print this form:

- 1) Click the 'Print' button.
- 2) Attach the printed Request form to your shipment so that the barcode portion of the page can be read and scanned.

Form (1 of 1)



Center for Interreligious Dialogue
Organization of Culture and Islamic Relations

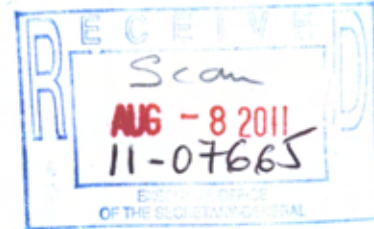
ACTION
COPY

Action:
cc.

RCRM ✓
VN
Rr Schewer
44C

No. 64/3758

Date: August 2, 2011



Excellency,

I have the honor to inform you that, pursuant to paragraph 16 of the resolution on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia, adopted in the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) Plenary session in Damascus in November 2010, the Center for Interreligious Dialogue (CID) of the Organization of Culture and Islamic Relations of the IR Iran in association with the APA is planning to organize "the International Conference on Dialogue among Religious and Cultures in Asia". The Conference is scheduled to be held in Tehran on 11-12 Sep. 2011.

I would like to request Your Excellency to support our efforts by sharing your views on the subject with the participants through a recorded video message. Alternatively, your representative could deliver your written message to the Conference.

Attached please find the main concept of the Conference as well as the themes and sub-themes to be discussed in the course of this two-day event for your information.

Looking forward to a positive response from Your Excellency, please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Dr. Mohammad Hossein Mozaffari
Director General,
Center for Interreligious Dialogue (CID)

His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nation
United Nations Organization, New York, USA

COM/11/001

International Conference on Dialogue among Religions and Cultures in Asia

September 11-12, 2011
Tehran-Islamic Republic of Iran

Concept of the Conference

Asia is the birthplace different religions, cultures and philosophical schools of thought all of which play a major role in constituting social bonds among many societies and nations. Most scholars and thinkers are of the opinion that the existing diverse cultures of this region can pave the path for closer cooperation and harmony among Asian nations. The shared values of Asia's rich diverse ethnic, religious and cultural communities such as mutual respect, non-violence and love for peace and justice, call on scholars and thinkers to make greater effort towards the enhancement of integration and harmony among Asian cultures and civilizations.

Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity is essential for maintaining peace, justice and a civilized way of life on our planet. The common heritage of diversified cultures of Asia necessitates dialogue between cultures and religions; which in turn will strengthen the values shared by the peoples of Asia and enhance cooperation, peace and friendship while diminishing the risk of discrimination, violence and war.

To achieve this objective, the Center for Interreligious Dialogue (CID) of the Organization of Culture and Islamic Relations proposed to the Sub-Committee on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity held in Phnom Penh on 5 July 2010, to host an International Conference on "Dialogue among Religions and Cultures in Asia" jointly with the Islamic Parliament of Iran. The Conference will be participated by members of parliaments, religious scholars and thinkers from Asian countries who share their views and thoughts for promoting understanding and harmony. The proposal was endorsed in article 16 of the resolution on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia which states:

"We welcome the proposal contained in secretary-general's report about the decision of the Islamic parliament of Iran and the Iranian center for inter-religious dialogue (CID) to jointly host an "international conference on dialogue among religions and culture in Asia" in 2011 and request the hosts to provide timely and detailed information on substantive and organizational arrangements for the conference to member parliaments through the secretary-general so as to ensure wide participation from across Asia."

The Resolution was eventually adopted in the APA Plenary in Damascus in November 2010 and in order to implement the decision taken by the APA, the CID in consultation with the APA Secretariat decided that the first round of this conference be held in Tehran on 11-12 Sep. 2011.

Main Themes of the Conference

- Common Cultural Concepts and Asian Convergence
- Cultural Ties and Bonds among Asian Nations
- Social Ties and Bonds among Asian Nations
- Globalization and Civilizational Convergence in Asia

Sub-Themes of the Conference

Common Cultural Concepts and Asian Convergence

1. Peace: A Common Discourse among Eastern Religions and Schools of Thought.
2. Tolerance, Affection and Non-Violence in Eastern Cultural and Religious Thoughts
3. The Concept of Justice in Eastern Cultures and Religions of Asia
4. Modern Common Cultural Concepts in Today's World
5. Spirituality and Mysticism in Asian Philosophies
6. Ethical Values and their Importance in Eastern Societies
7. The Response of Asian Cultures towards Western Cultures
8. The Role of Pioneer Asian Cultures in the Contemporary Regional of Global Developments
9. The Role of Spirituality and Ethics in Social Integrity in Asian Societies

Cultural Ties and Bonds among Asian Nations

1. Cultural Symbols of the East Such as the Silk Road and their Role in Asian Ties and Bonds
2. The Role of Regional Cultural Arrangements in Asian Convergence.
3. Interreligious Dialogue and Asian Convergence
4. The Concept of Justice in Eastern Cultures and Religions of Asia
5. The Concept of Compassion and Non-Violence from the Viewpoint of Asian Religions and Schools of Thought
6. Cultural Developments and the Vulnerability of the Cultures of Asian Nations
7. Inter-Cultural Dialogue: A Means for Impacting or Being Impacted
8. The Strengths and Weaknesses of Eastern Cultures in their Interaction with Western Cultures
9. The Cultural Awakening in the East
10. Cultural Relations of the East Religion and Culture

Social Ties and Bonds among Asian Nations

1. The Diverse Eastern Communities and Common Cultural Values
2. The Role of Education in Social Convergence in Asia
3. The Role of Eastern Religion in Strengthening Convergence in Asia
4. Social Diversity and the Mechanisms of Ensuring Human Rights
5. Social Diversity and Indigenous Means of Preserving and Protecting Environment
6. The Role of Interreligious Dialogue in Peaceful Co-existence in Asia
7. Family Values in Asia
8. Common Cultural Identity of Asian Youths
9. Religions and Global Peace

Globalization and Civilizational Convergence in Asia

1. Asian Civilizations the Birthplace of World Civilization
2. The Reciprocal Impact of Asian Civilizations and their Role in Promoting Convergence
3. Interreligious Dialogue and Globalization in Asia
4. The Role of Common Cultural Heritages in Civilizational Ties between Asian Nations
5. Asian Civilizations in the Age of Globalization
6. Eastern Experience of Globalization
7. Global Elements of Asian Civilizations
8. The Shock of Globalization and the Response of Asian Nation
9. Mesopotamia a Bridge between Eastern and Western Civilizations

Curriculum Vitae

First Name:

Last Name:

Date of Birth:

Place of birth:

Nationality:

Email Address:

Telephone:

Qualifications:

Positions:

Publications:

○ **Articles:**

○ **Books:**



Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations

622 Third Ave New York, NY 10017 www.Iran-UN.org Tel:+1(212)687-2020 Fax:+1(212)867-7086 E-mail:PR-Iran@un.int

AUG - 8 2011

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

No. 711

8 August 2011

Excellency,

I have the honour to enclose herewith, the letter of H.E. Dr. Mohammad Hossein Mozaffari Director General, Center for Interreligious Dialogue (CID), Organization of Culture and Islamic Relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to the **"International Conference on Dialogue among Religious and Cultures in Asia"** to be held in Tehran from 11 - 12 September 2011.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Eshagh Al Habib
Ambassador
Charge d'Affaires, a.i.

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary General
United Nations, New York