



Arigatou International
GNRC

Youth for Peace Workshop Report

27-30 January 2009
Geneva, Switzerland

Workshop Fact Sheet	
Title of the workshop	Youth for Peace 2009
Duration	27 – 30 January 2009
Participants	43
Youth 15 - 19	24
Youth Leader	12
Coordinators	7
Facilitators	4 facilitators for the youth group: Andres Guerrero, Nanda Moenandar, David Arond and Maria Lucia Uribe 2 facilitators for the youth leaders: Charlotte Venema and Agneta Ucko.
Languages	English, interpretation in Spanish and French. Some group discussions in Arabic



Objectives of the youth workshop

1. Develop peace building skills
2. Acquire tools and facilitation skills to help strengthen the youth participation in the GNRC.
3. Develop leadership skills to lead the GNRC youth groups
4. Reinforce participants' interfaith learning journey

Objectives of the youth leaders workshop

1. Develop coaching skills
2. Acquire tools and skills to support the young participation in GNRC
3. Reinforce the understanding of young participation and interfaith relations

Why a workshop on peace building and coaching skills?

After the GNRC Third Forum in Hiroshima, Japan, May 2008, the young participants who attended the Forum became active and motivated to strengthen the GNRC youth initiatives in their countries. Inspired by the experience of some of the youth present in Hiroshima, some of the participants expressed willingness to continue working for peace in their countries, initiate concrete activities with other youth and make a difference in their societies.

Immediately after the Forum they started to write to each other, share their experiences and discuss ideas and topics that affect children and youth. Some of the participants moved forward and gathered with other youth in their countries and proposed them to create a youth group with the objective of helping to transform the world. Others continued involved in their regular activities and some others started to write to the office in Geneva asking what exactly they could do to create a GNRC youth group. All of them created concrete activities in their countries to bring about the message of peace and mutual understanding they got in Japan.

Based on this motivation, the Arigatou office in Geneva proposed to arrange a workshop for GNRC young people and youth leaders to equip them with tools to become more active in their countries, empower them with peace building skills and provide coaching skills as a support for the various youth initiatives. This initiative targeted those youth who were in Hiroshima and who were active after the Forum and other youth who are actively involved in the GNRC activities. The Arigatou Foundation in Japan and the GNRC coordinators welcomed this initiative and selected the participants from each region to participate in the workshop. Inputs for the development of the program were requested to UNICEF and Mr. Andrés Guerrero from the UNICEF office in Geneva joined the facilitators' team.

Rational of the workshop

24 youth participants and 11 youth leaders from 12 countries: Azerbaijan, Belgium, Colombia, El Salvador, India, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Spain, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and the United States. During the first three days, the youth had separate sessions, whereas the youth leaders were trained in coaching skills during the first two days. Parallel to the workshop, the GNRC regional coordinators had their regular meeting and on the third day they came together with the youth leaders to discuss issues related to child participation, interfaith dialogue and how to support the youth activities at the GNRC local and regional levels.

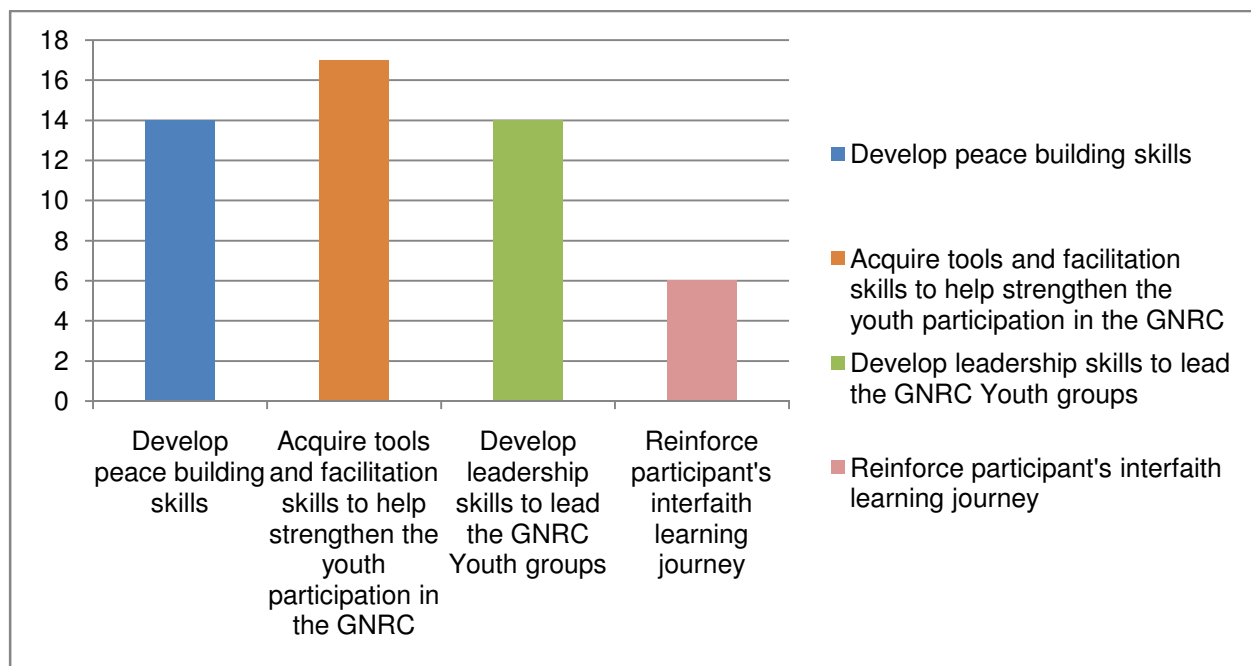
On the fourth day the three groups met to reflect on how to bridge the generational gap and made plans to realize concrete contributions to the GNRC in their regions, working together with youth and adults.

This scheme was selected to develop capacity at different levels in the GNRC and to empower the youth to become more active in the planning and implementation of plans and activities.

Development of the youth workshop

✓ Achievement of objectives

Of 23 evaluations received from the youth, 20 replied to the question if the objectives of the workshop were achieved. The participants had the option to select multiple choices. From this number 17 thought the workshop helped them to acquire tools and facilitation skills to help strengthen the youth participation in the GNRC, 14 found that they developed peace building and leadership skills and only 6 thought that they reinforced their interfaith learning journey.



Some participants commented that discussions about faith were hardly touched during the sessions and suggested that this could be included in future workshops.

✓ Program

The duration of the workshop was four days. The first three days were dedicated to peace building and leadership skills. The peace building skills selected were: communication and empathetic listening, peaceful problem solving and reflection. The leadership skills sessions were team work, project management and facilitation skills. The discussions, reflections and sharing time were thought to provide participants with the opportunity to strengthen their interfaith learning.

These sessions were selected according to the preferences expressed by the participants before the workshop through a form sent to them in advance. The form asked questions regarding the type of skills they needed or were interested to develop. Most of the participants

answered: facilitation skills and preparation of sessions, project write up, time management, conflict management and public relations. Therefore the program was adapted to their needs and in tandem with the objective of developing peace building skills. The topics of the sessions were selected taking into consideration their interests but also considering the different ages in the group and keeping a balance between the different choices and available time. The participants were also asked in the form to write their expectations for the workshop. Those were also kept into consideration.

The following is the agenda of the workshop, which shows the peace building skills sessions in orange colour, the leadership skills sessions in dark orange, the reflection sessions in light blue, sharing experiences in green and next steps and plans in dark blue. This helps visualizing the balance kept among the different skills.

	Tuesday 27 January	Wednesday 28 January	Thursday 29 January	Friday 30 January
07:30				
08:00	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
08:30	Transportation to the venue	Transportation to the venue	Transportation to the venue	Transportation to the venue
09:00	Opening	Morning meditation	Morning meditation	Morning meditation
09:15			Recap of the last day	
09:30	Let's break the ice!	Problem-solving and	Learning how to	Getting together with young adults and coordinators
10:00				
10:30	Break	Break	Break	Break
11:00				
11:30	Getting to know myself	Non-violent alternatives	prepare a project	Considerations for interreligious work
12:00				
12:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:00				
13:30				
14:00	Communication and Listening skills	Working together on a peace artwork	Facilitation skills	Planning the youth activities within the GNRC network
14:30				
15:00				
15:30	Break	Break		Break
16:00	Communication and Listening skills		Break	
16:30		Role-modelling	Transportation to the venue	Next steps and follow up
17:00	My Personal Peace Planner			Evaluation
17:15		My Personal Peace Planner		Closing
17:30		Transportation to the youth hostel	Peace builders Sharing experience	Free time
18:00	Transportation to the youth hostel			
18:30				
19:00	Dinner and welcome	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
19:30				
20:00				
20:30			Musical evening Young Artists	
21:00		GNRC youth activities Experience sharing		
21:30				
22:00				

✓ Development of the program

Tuesday 27 January

The workshop started with ice breakers to get to know each other better, get acquainted with one another and build trust in the group.

On the first day participants reflected on themselves and their personal qualities. Through a *Mandala* circle they drew what makes them happy and how they make others happy, reflecting

on their personal traits and relations with others. The participants had a short reflection in the beginning on how they can impact others and how their actions can create a multiplying effect in their societies and immediate surroundings.



Mandalas made by the youth participants during the workshop

In the afternoon the participants were introduced to specific techniques to better communicate with others. Together they discussed the ground rules of communication for the workshop. They discussed the importance of being respectful of others' opinions and ideas, of being understanding and empathetic. They encouraged participation, positive criticism, respect time and appreciation of everyone's opinions.

The participants also learned the use of I statements when dealing with conflicts, how to describe one's perception and feelings about a situation when in disagreement with others and the importance of self-examination and assessment after a conflict. Most of the youth felt the session helped them to improve their skills and knowledge on how to deal with daily conflicts and found the techniques very practical and applicable to concrete situations.

At the end of the day the participants were given some time to fill out their Personal Peace Planner. This document to be completed individually asked questions about themselves, their goals, their qualities as role models and their behaviours towards others. The participants reflected about their goals and objectives in different areas of their lives and about the importance of having a balanced life as one of the steps to become peace builders.

Wednesday 28 January

The youth also got the opportunity to sharpen their reflecting skills the next day as they were introduced to different meditation techniques. They reflected about the importance of silence and of being mindful.

A meditation session was held during the mornings of the second and third days, which was useful to initiate the day and increase participants' concentration and self-awareness.



In the morning and afternoon of the second day the participants also learned different ways to solve conflicts in peaceful ways and discussed non violent alternatives after watching a part of the Gandhi film. They prepared small role-plays in groups and discussed how to use mediation, negotiation, create win-win situations and creative solutions to conflicts. The youth described conflict situations with neighbours, bullying at school, conflicts at work and family problems. They looked for ways to decrease the level of violence in a conflict or to positively transform a situation.

The discussions brought up the difficulties of dealing with bullying in certain schools and how they can respond to bullying in contradictory situations when their rights are violated and yet it seems to be generally accepted by their peers and the school administration. Participants from Africa shared their experiences in schools in Tanzania and Kenya and proposed the creation of peace clubs to support children who are bullied by their peers. They also discussed the importance of standing for their rights and be assertive and self-confident as important factors in fighting against bullying.

Discussions about respect for elders, empathy with those who have difficulties and how to respond to daily conflicts by being mediators and creating win-win situations were held after performing the role-plays.

On the same day, they worked together on an art project for which they had to make a drawing about peace and then select one that would be drawn in a bigger scale by all. This activity was organized as a way to develop their creative and reflective skills and increase their team work abilities.

Most of the youth found this activity very interesting, relaxing and enriching. They enjoyed making their own drawings, using



water paint, canvas and professional paint brushes while letting their imagination fly and the time pass. At the end they made a wonderful piece of art proposed by one of the participants from India that reminds us of our collective responsibilities and respect for the environment to contribute to peace.

In the evening the participants presented the activities they are involved in the GNRC in their countries. They shared their experiences with other youth, their involvement in the GNRC and their plans. It was a very inspiring session to get to know what is happening in the different GNRC regions, the commonality of their activities and their motivations.

Thursday 29 January



Most of the youth participants found the third day to be the most fruitful as they learned how to run a project and how to facilitate sessions with other youth. During the project session they analyzed a housing project and made decisions for its approval before the City Council. They discussed several issues related to health, transportation, environment, security and education in order to make a proper decision. The participants were introduced to the basic steps to develop youth lead projects. They discussed how to get started, the identification of the problem, its selection, the planning of actions and taking

concrete steps to realize the project. At the end of the session they were given practical tips to raise awareness about specific issues and how to prepare press releases to involve the Media.

On the facilitation skills session they had the opportunity to facilitate a short activity and to reflect about the qualities of a good facilitator. The participants discussed what it means to facilitate, the importance of using interactive methodologies and formulating open questions. During the session they also used the communication and listening skills they learned on the first day and reflected on their own performances. The participants divided in two groups planned and facilitated short sessions about respect for their own groups. Some of them used discussion-based



methodologies, asked the participants to prepare skits or reflect about daily situations. They also prepared ice breakers and interactive games to analyze the specific topic.

The majority of the participants showed a great ability to facilitate and lead youth activities. Most of them have already experience facilitating youth activities in their countries through the GNRC and felt very comfortable delivering their sessions. They expressed their need to further learn how to formulate questions or properly conclude their sessions. They also suggest having more time to practice their facilitation skills, learn new methodologies and public speaking techniques.

The highlight of the day was the musical evening prepared by the youth themselves. Each country made very interesting performances and involved the audience in dancing and singing. Typical dances and music from Azerbaijan, El Salvador, India, Jordan and Tanzania were performed, allowing the participants to learn about other cultures. The evening also helped bridging the language barriers when some of the participants from Israel, Sri Lanka and Belgium sung together with the Colombian participant a song in Spanish about friendship.



The African participants played the drums and invited the other youth to join them, making the sound and rhythm of the drums a special tool to bring people together. Some guest youth from Geneva were invited to the event to perform rap about mutual understanding among cultures, which was highly appreciated by the participants. The evening was full of creativity, respect and friendship, which contributed to make it a very memorable evening for all.

Friday 30 January

The last day was spent with the other two groups: youth leaders and GNRC coordinators. Together, they reflected on how to bridge the generational gap and made plans to realize concrete contributions to the GNRC in their regions. One of the youth participants from Belgium initiated the discussion by facilitating an activity about power and its use in different contexts and led a reflection about participants' perceptions of power and reactions to it. Some of the participants commented on the misuse of power, the natural need to gain and retain power when is given and how it can be a source for conflicts.

Through a role play activity where youth and adults exchanged roles, they discussed the different types of assumptions given to youth and adults and the challenges working together. They expressed their views about youth-adult work, the need to capitalize on the youth motivation and enthusiasm to do things as well as on the experience of the adults. The youth expressed their interest to learn from the adults but also their frustration when their ideas are

not taken seriously into consideration. One of the participants from Tanzania invited the adults to work with them and not only for them. She emphasized on their motivation to do concrete actions and their capacities to lead activities and projects.

A participant from Kenya also mentioned the need to use mediation when problems between youth and adults occur, emphasizing on the role that youth leaders can play bringing the groups together. One of the youth leaders from Jordan encouraged the youth to participate and be active even if spaces are not created or given to them in their countries. She motivated them to win those participatory spaces by participating and demonstrating their capacities as youth.

A panel about peace building was held in the afternoon, profiling the experiences of the GNRC regional coordinators and the Director of the Arigatou office in Geneva. Each of them shared their experiences when they were children and youth and their involvement in social work. They spoke about their personal experiences and challenges that moved them to work for justice, peace and mutual understanding and respect. Some of the coordinators talked about their upbringing, their childhood, their cultural and religious identity and how those shaped their perceptions and motivations.

This panel was conceived as a way to learn more about the person behind the coordinators role and as an inspiration for the youth to become peace builders and change agents. The participants valued the time spent with the coordinators in the panel.



At the end of the day participants reflected on their individual and collective commitments to promote more youth activities in the GNRC and foster a genuine youth-adult work and cooperation. By using a labyrinth drawn on the floor as a symbol to represent the thrust of the GNRC, each region placed their plans in the middle of the labyrinth and during a moment of silence they walked through it, reflecting on their commitments to achieve those plans and their personal

contributions. The labyrinth contrary to a maze does not have dead ends and gives room for creativity instead of logical thinking. It also represents different paths to achieve a common goal, different walks, contributions and ideas put together individually and collectively.

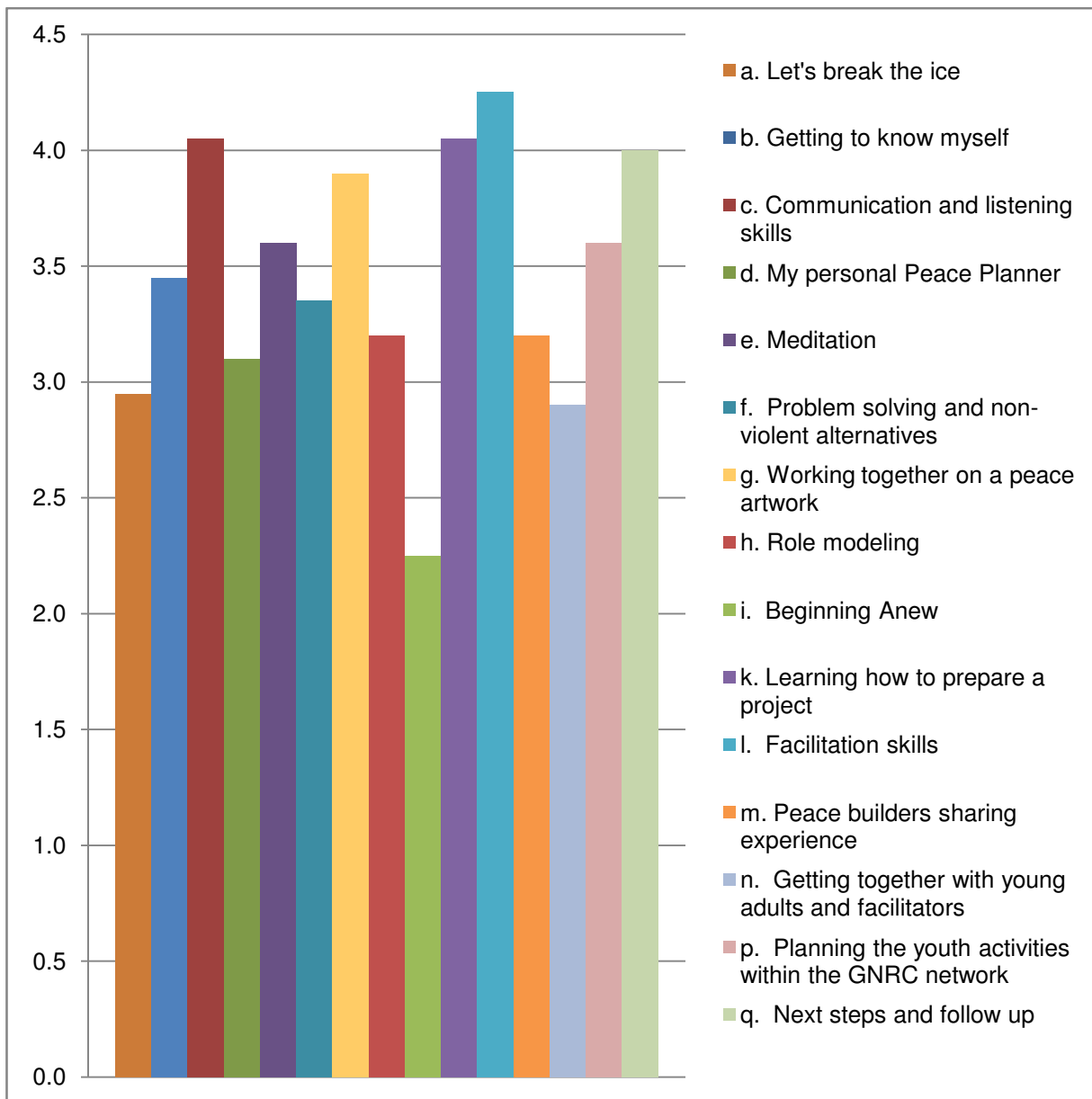
After walking in the labyrinth, the participants met in regions and discussed concrete plans and activities to be carried out when they return to their countries. The day was concluded with the presentations of their plans and the commitment to share what they are doing through [Campus](#), GNRC/Arigatou Facebook [group](#) and [page](#), emails and interactive media.

The graphic below describes which sessions the youth participants found most useful. The vertical axis shows the rating given to the sessions from 1 to 5, 1 being poor and 5 excellent. The horizontal axis shows the sessions identified by different colours. The participants found

the facilitation skills session most useful followed by how to run a project and communication and listening skills. Other sessions like Next Steps and Working Together on a Peace Art Work were also ranked highly.

Their responses are a reflection of their expectations to learn concrete techniques, practical tools and gain skills to lead their youth activities back home. The results also show the participants' appreciation for the sessions about themselves and meditation.

Some sessions like My Personal Peace Planner and Role Modelling were cut half time, which is partly reflected in the rating given to them. A few participants suggested that the session on getting together with adults could have been improved. Some others commented that they liked the panel with the GNRC coordinators although it was tiring.



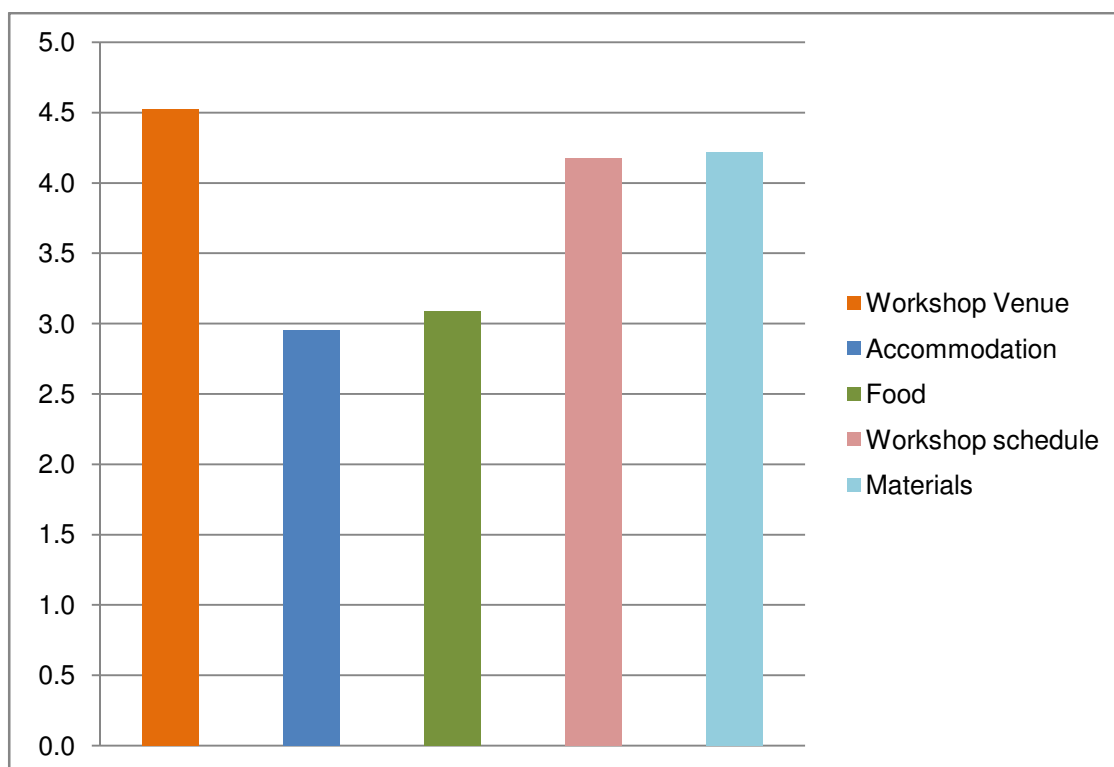
✓ Methodologies used

The methodologies used during the workshop were based on the ones suggested in the Manual Learning to Live Together: An Intercultural and Interfaith Programme for Ethics Education developed by the Arigatou Foundation in close cooperation with UNESCO and UNICEF. The activities were based on participatory techniques such as cooperative games, case studies, group discussions, role-playing, problem solving and introspective methodologies such as drawing, meditation, individual reflection and personal sharing.

The facilitators chose a combination of methodologies in order to adapt to the different ages of the participants and their experience.

✓ Logistics

The following table shows young participants' evaluation of the logistics including workshop venue, accommodation, food, workshop schedule and materials. The participants rated the logistics on a scale 1 to 5, being 1 poor and 5 excellent. The horizontal axis shows the different categories and the vertical one the rating. Most of the participants highly appreciated the workshop venue. The accommodation and food were rated average. Few participants expressed that some of the meals did not take into consideration international needs and some others said that the accommodation could have been better. In terms of the workshop schedule some youth commented that they would have liked to have less sessions or more time to spend in each activity and a few expressed that some sessions could have taken place in a different venue. Regarding the materials some commented that they would have liked to receive more handouts.



Development of the workshop for youth leaders

The youth leaders began their workshop with getting to know each other and setting the ground rules for a good working atmosphere. The expectations of the workshop were listed by means of picking two postcards as metaphors of who and what you are now as coach of youth and where you want to be as coach in six months to one year from now.

The youth leaders were introduced to what GNRC and Arigatou International would require of a coach? Goals and tasks were jointly explored and discussed. It was followed by discussion and reflection on the concept of coaching. As definition of a coach the words empowerment, facilitation and giving support were key concepts.



The intent of the Learning log was introduced as being essential to the pedagogy of the Learning to Live Together. It is important to write down reflections oneself so as to understand the importance of the Learning Log.

The afternoon session began with an exercise: “silent discussion”, where flip pages with different words were hanging on each wall. The words were influence / availability / trust /

support / flexibility. Each of the youth leaders wrote down their own thoughts and associations with each word on the pages. Afterwards people asked each other questions for clarification and there was a fruitful group discussion.

The next session introduced 3 basic coaching skills: empathy / asking questions / giving and receiving feedback. The session focused first on empathy, the ability to step into someone else’s shoes, followed by a session on the theories of asking questions. On the second day participants learned about giving feedback.



In the final session the group worked in pairs, interviewing each other. They used the following leading questions:

- What is your goal in coaching youth?
- What are qualities you can apply in coaching?
- What aspects of coaching do you wish to develop / strengthen?

The results of the interviews were shared during the following day. The first day ended with a creative evaluation. All participants gave personal impressions, in drawings and symbols on a flip page. Time was then given for writing personal reflections in their Learning Logs.

Day two commenced with a recap of the first day, using the evaluation on day one, with a sharing session around the question: What stays with you from yesterday? It continued with an exercise: "Copy cat", which allowed people to tune in on the walk and movement of other persons and thus sharpen their skills in empathy.



The next session focused on the importance of self-understanding and tuning in on others. A model on behavioural styles (DISC) was explained and then discussed in depth. It gave insight to own behaviour and helped to become more understanding of others and their ways of behaviour.

The afternoon session started with the opportunity to ask questions about the organization and reflect on the role of the coach vis-à-vis the coordinators and the youth. It moved on to focus on the importance of support: "Coaching the coach": Who is coaching / supporting you? The coordinators, family, friends, colleague coaches, a mentor and the Geneva team were mentioned.

The next session focused on feedback. There was theory and discussion, including the cultural aspect. The group first explored giving critical feedback through role play.

Positive feedback was saved for the last: the whole group ended with giving and receiving compliments to and from each other.

The day ended with an evaluation of the workshop and time for writing reflections in their Learning logs.

Main learning of the participants

Most of the young participants found the session on how to run a project very useful and clear. The concise guidelines given to them can be used for the creation of youth groups, the initiation of youth activities and the development of concrete plans in their countries. They also enjoyed the facilitation skills session, which allowed them to be facilitators for a while, reflect about their strengths and weakness managing groups and about the qualities of a good facilitator.

The youth showed great appreciation for the meditation sessions that allowed them to learn techniques to calm down and to listen to their inner selves. They also expressed the importance of the communication skills session and the concrete techniques learned to be used in daily situations.

The youth leaders expressed their satisfaction with the two-day training on coaching skills. They learned the most about themselves, different behavioural styles, how to coach the youth in their countries adapting to different personalities, cultures and religions. They also appreciated the feedback session.

Plans and Commitments (Include eight GNRC regions and countries from each region present)

South Asia (India and Sri Lanka)

- Creation of 30 peace groups in the region by the end of 2009
The peace groups will work under the Third Forum themes: poverty reduction, environment protection and violence elimination.

Europe (Belgium and Spain)

- Youth participation in national committees
- Capacity building activities on the Learning to Live Together Manual and Coaching
- Collaboration with other regions and countries
- Conferences in schools and universities to attract more young people
- Create youth groups that can have weekend activities
- Youth projects in each country
- Continuation of the collaboration between youth and adults
- One young person responsible for communication in each country (internet, Facebook, blogs)

Latin America and the Caribbean (Colombia and El Salvador)

- Creation of a Latin-American Youth Network as follows
 - ✓ Creating a section called The Word of Children on the GNRC website www.gnrc.lac under the topic "Participation and Protagonism" In this section there will be a compilation of interviews to children.
 - ✓ Creating of a Facebook group called "GNRC Jóvenes LAC" and invite other youth who have participated in the different GNRC meetings in Latin America.
 - ✓ Developing a regional workshop in Latin America following the same type of training that took place in Geneva with coordinators, youth leaders and youth
 - ✓ Creating a link on the website to the Facebook group
 - ✓ Uploading more videos on the Website

Israel

- Continue working on the existing GNRC group
- Create a new GNRC group- bring more people

- Learn about a specific subject and then develop practical activities
- Promote and develop the Massa-Massar Journey
- Recruit new children for the journey

Central Asia and Caucasus (Azerbaijan)

- Create a knowledge pack that includes poems, stories, existing information about cultural heritage, child rights info, etc and make it available in a child-friendly material
- Use the GNRC Third Forum themes for their meetings
- Develop more contacts for the GNRC in the region
- Create a GNRC Youth Group in the future
- One of the participants will create a Peace Club in her school

Africa (Kenya and Tanzania)

- Create more Peace Clubs in other countries such as: Congo, South Africa, Mauritius, Uganda, Senegal and Lesotho
- Provide education on environmental conservation. E.g Development of a program for collecting garbage in Kenya and Tanzania
- Work with Media – TV and radio programs in order to reach remote areas
- Propose a regional meeting for Africa to review activities
- Development of a Peace Caravan

Arab States (Jordan)

- Focus our efforts on the Youth Net Members in the Region and train them to become Coaches. This will be done as follows:
 - ✓ Development of a two-year program on the national level in every country
 - ✓ Have a workshop on capacity building and coaching skills and a follow up meeting the year after.
 - ✓ One workshop on coaching skills and capacity building on a regional level every year to share the experiences of the Youth Net Members in different countries and develop regional priorities and plans.
 - ✓ Develop a workshop to follow up on the Third Forum and preparatory meetings for the Fourth Forum.

North America (United States)

- Create multiple youth groups
- Develop community service programs- Contact religious groups
- Learn from other interfaith groups in Boston
- Communicate with existing GNRC groups
- Create space for young people – Define the role of the coach and the contact person
- Have a consistent meeting point and a virtual space on Facebook

Recommendations

Various young participants recommended the inclusion of more discussions about religion, politics, HIV/AIDS, drugs, issues facing their societies and social conflicts. The older youth would like to be included in the future in workshops with youth their age since some of them would prefer having more challenging conversations.

Many youth would have liked to include discussions about current conflicts and discussions on how to solve them. They would like in the future to receive more training on leadership and facilitation skills.

Various participants would have preferred to have less sessions or more time for the activities and they also suggested having some outdoor sessions during the workshop.

The Arab speaking participants suggested Arabic translation in future workshops.

The youth leaders would have liked having more time for the training, outdoor activities related to the topic and presentations about the different religions. Some suggested to include sessions on conflict resolution for the youth leaders and a training workshop on coaching skills in the future for GNRC coordinators.

In terms of content one of the youth leaders suggested to deepen the sessions on feedback including how to receive it from the youth.

Conclusions

The workshop was highly appreciated by the participants and it was a good opportunity to strengthen the GNRC and the relations between the youth, youth leaders and coordinators. The objectives of the workshop were achieved in more than an 80% and it ended with positive feedback, a lot of motivation and interest to work together as GNRC.

The program of the youth group faced some challenges bringing together a diverse age group (15 – 19 years) where opinions, perspectives and expectations were varied. The sessions were designed with different methodologies to cover the diversity of the group in terms of age, GNRC involvement and cultural backgrounds, however, a subdivision of the group would have better helped meeting their expectations.

The setting of the workshop was welcomed by the participants and even discussed as a model for the GNRC regions at their national and regional workshops. This will allow the GNRC to move towards a more genuine partnership between youth and adults and to increase the youth participation at different levels. A longer interaction between youth, youth leaders and coordinators during the workshop was suggested by some of the participants, which underlines the need to work closely together between youth and adults.

Concrete plans were developed and shared which poses a concrete responsibility from each participant, coordinator and staff member. This responsibility calls for personal accountability to the commitments made and for a clear and continuous follow up. The Arigatou office in Geneva is committed to continue supporting the youth leaders and youth in their endeavour to

strengthen their activities and involvement in the GNRC. Complementary learning modules will be developed online for the youth in order to provide them with materials and resources that can be used in their youth groups and peace clubs. Those resources will be uploaded on Campus <http://campus.ethicseducationforchildren.org/> and forums and discussions about topics of interest will be created for youth and youth leaders.

The GNRC and Arigatou WebPages will be updated continuously to share the regional developments to keep the network connected.

It is appropriate to conclude this report by expressing highest appreciation and gratitude to Rev. Keishi Miyamoto and the Arigatou Foundation for the swift and positive approval of the request to exceptionally organize a Youth for Peace Workshop in response to the motivation and interest that unexpectedly generated from the young participants of the GNRC Third Forum, to engage in more youth activities.

The concept of bringing together youth, youth leaders and GNRC Coordinators to the same place at the same time for individual as well as joint workshops and meetings proved to be a dynamic and creative encounter. It provided space for an intergenerational revival of GNRC in concretely exploring together how the vision and mission of GNRC can be enhanced by actively involving children and youth in concrete peace building efforts.

Sincere and warm thanks go to all participants, facilitators, interpreters and volunteers. Your active participation and contribution to the success of the workshops makes it an important step in the journey ahead towards peace, respect and understanding.

The Arigatou Geneva Team