



Ethics Education

Annual Report 2017-2018

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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

To see a World in a Grain of Sand And a Heaven in a Wild Flower, Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand And Eternity in an hour.

—From the poem *To See A World* by William Blake

Dear friends,

As the 2017 fiscal year comes to an end for Arigatou International, I want to acknowledge the powerful experiences that we were engaged in during this year that have allowed us see beyond our boundaries and recognize in the small actions and contributions of our many partners the power of transformation. Engagements and collaborations that have given a name and a face to many children have allowed us to see through their experiences what life is like for millions around the world.

Every engagement and opportunity during this year to positively touch the lives of children has been a blessing; either through working with facilitators, institutions, or directly with children and youth, or engaging in advocacy efforts to promote the well-being of children. This year we have zoomed in and out to see what we have achieved, where we are now, and where we want to go.

In 2017 we initiated a new strategic plan to further develop Arigatou International – Geneva into an International Knowledge Hub on Ethics Education for Children, expanding our work focused on the Learning to Live Together programme toward fostering ethics education for children throughout their lifetimes and providing more effective opportunities to mainstream ethics education for children to contribute to building peaceful and inclusive societies, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This year we saw the strengthening of our collaboration with several institutions, including faith-based organizations, UN agencies, governments and academia, as well as the development of ethics education communities of practices, in Ecuador, Macedonia, Tanzania and Uruguay, and the continued development of sustainable implementations and of new projects in Bhutan, Chile, Comoros, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, India, Kenya, Mauritius, Panama and Romania.

An important milestone for Arigatou International in 2017 was the successful Fifth Forum of the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) held in Panama, which brought together more than 500 participants to affirm the urgent need for faith actors to come together to contribute to end violence against children. Arigatou International – Geneva was actively involved in the preparations of the Forum, particularly with coordinating the children's participation and

contributing to the theme of nurturing spirituality in child upbringing. As part of the follow up, we have made ending violence against children one of our specific priorities and focusing our efforts to work more closely with religious communities.

The year 2018 marks the 10th Anniversary of Learning to Live Together – *An Intercultural and Interfaith Programme for Ethics Education*, our flagship program for the last 10 years. The Programme has allowed us to work closely with more than 150 organizations around the world in more than 30 countries and reach more than 400,000 children and youth through many partnerships. It has also helped building sustainable and unique collaborative efforts for the well-being of children and contributed to the growth of the GNRC, serving as a unique tool for fostering interfaith and intercultural learning and collaboration, and a culture of peace.

As 2018 began, we launched the Global Awards to Commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Learning to Live Together Programme, aiming to recognize the many contributions of children, youth, facilitators, trainers and organizations to the implementation of ethics education programs around the world. As part of the expansion of the Ethics Education Initiative, this year we also conceptualized and prepared for the launch of a new International Consortium on Strengthening Families to Nurture Values and Spirituality in Early Childhood for the Prevention of Violence Against Children. The consortium is a platform where experts working on early childhood, violence against children, education and peace building, representing faith-based organizations, civil society, international organizations, religious communities and academia, come together to share ideas and expertise, and build on each others' experiences to improve the quality of early childhood by emphasizing the role of religious communities.

As many overwhelming challenges continue to impact children around the world — poverty, armed conflict, the rise of violent extremism and radicalization, populism, displacement, bullying, and sexual exploitation, among others — I believe that every effort we make to transform the life of even one child can allow us to create a ripple effect in the lives of others; can strengthen our belief that new realities are possible; and can prove once again that every child carries with him/her the Divine, and therefore a promise of transformation.

In peace,



Maria Lucia Uribe
Director Arigatou International – Geneva



Maria Lucia Uribe
Director, Arigatou International Geneva

YEAR AT A GLANCE



ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE OF ETHICS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN



DIALOGUE AND ACTION WITH FAITH LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

As a contribution to fulfilling the commitments made during the Fifth Forum of the Global Network of Religions (GNRC) held in Panama in 2017, Arigatou International – Geneva is conceptualizing an international program that aims to mobilize religious communities to support families in fostering values and nurture spirituality in child upbringing.

Three roundtable discussions with religious leaders and civil society organizations were held in Panama, Sri Lanka and Brazil on the topic of “Strengthening Families to Nurture Values and Spirituality in Early Childhood,”

gathering more than 200 participants and bringing together representatives from African traditional religions, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism and Islam.

The panel discussions aimed to identify the environmental and societal factors that hinder or foster the ability and potential of families and religious communities to nurture spirituality and ethical values in early childhood; discuss the role of and ways religious communities can help nurture spirituality in early childhood as well as support families and caregivers in this task; and reflect on how ethics education and spirituality in early childhood help to foster inclusive identities that can prevent extremism and violence.

“A different view of human nature, one that is more optimistic about the nature of the child, one that emphasizes the inherent goodness of human beings, will lead, hopefully, to different child-rearing practices that don’t depend on fear or pain to nurture and to raise a child.”

—Dr. Anantanand Rambachand

Panama City, Panama – 11 May 2017

A panel discussion was held during the GNRC 5th Forum, engaging religious leaders and scholars with early childhood experts to discuss the impact of violence on early childhood and examine theological reflections on the topic.

The panel discussion aimed to reflect on the role of ethics education to nurture spirituality in early childhood through family engagement. By engaging caregivers in building safe, healthy, affectionate and respectful environments, and by tapping resources from religious traditions, children can be equipped to develop their spirituality, strengthen their identities, and thrive with others in plural societies.

From the discussions emerged reflections on the role of religious leaders in challenging norms and traditions that justify violence against children in the family context, and on the impact of the environment and upbringing of children on their brain development and interactions with others later in life.

Moderators

Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe

Director, Arigatou International – Geneva

Dr. Kezevino Aram

Director, Shanti Ashram, India
Chair of Interfaith Council on Ethics Education for Children, Arigatou International

Panelists

Dr. Melanie Swan

Global Advisor on Early Childhood Development, Plan International

Imam Dr. Rashied Omar

Research Scholar of Islamic Studies and Peacebuilding
Member of the Interfaith Council on Ethics Education for Children, Arigatou International

Dr. Anantanand Rambachan

Professor of Religion, Philosophy and Asian Studies at Saint Olaf College, Minnesota, USA
Member of Prayer and Action Council, Arigatou International

Prof. Enrique Palmeyro

Global Director, Scholas Occurrentes



Colombo, Sri Lanka – 23 August 2017

This roundtable discussion brought together religious leaders representing the four major religions in Sri Lanka, as well as experts on child development and child rights. The roundtable was organized in collaboration with the Sarvodaya Movement, Walpola Rahula Institute, and the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children.

The panelists noted that the normalization of violence as a form of punishment is widespread across the country. They reflected on the role of families as guarantors of the rights of the child, and how religious leaders are well positioned to support families and caregivers to adopt parenting practices that are conducive to the healthy development of the child, not only physically, but also emotionally and spiritually.

The multidimensional approach of the interventions revolved around the importance of nurturing spirituality in children at an early age in order to contribute to their inclusive identity formation and the prevention of violence.



Prof. Savitri Goonesekere

Moderator

Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe

Director, Arigatou International – Geneva

Panelists

Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne

Secretary General, Sarvodaya

Rt. Rev. Duleep Kamil De Chikera

Former Bishop, Anglican Church

Ash Sheikh S. H. M. Faleel

Head, Academic Programs and Senior Lecturer, Jamiah Naleemiah – Institution for Islamic Higher Studies

Prof. Savitri Goonesekere

Board Member, Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children

Most Ven. Dhammajiva Maha Thero

Founder and Spiritual Leader, Sati Pasala Foundation

Mr. Tim Sutton

Country Representative, UNICEF

Dr. Hiranthi Wijemanne

Advisor on Child Protection, Former Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

“Respect and dignity for the child is probably the Christian proposition on how to deal with violence against children.”

—Rt. Rev. Duleep Kamil De Chikera

Curitiba, Brazil – 07 March 2018

Under the slogan “Peace begins at home,” a roundtable discussion was co-organized by Arigatou International – Geneva and Pastoral da Criança Internacional. It took place in Curitiba, Brazil, with the participation of 60 people, including religious leaders, civil society, and journalists from the national media.

Participants shared experiences, engaged in dialogue, broadened their understanding of the importance of nurturing spirituality in early childhood, and identified concrete ways to work with religious leaders and communities to take a more active role supporting families in this endeavor. They also discussed joint actions they could take to prevent violence in early childhood.

The roundtable discussion created the space and opportunity for religious leaders, community leaders, and practitioners to explore, reflect upon and broaden their understanding of the importance and contribution of ethics education to preventing violence and fostering children’s full development. It also offered the opportunity



From left to right, Sister Inês Ribeiro, Ms. Vera Leal, and Pai Alexandre Silveira

to reflect on how violence affects children’s development at a physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual level; and how religious leaders and communities can influence and act in a joint commitment to prevent violence in the family context and challenge religious teachings and social and cultural norms used to justify violence.

“God cannot be manipulated to our convenience to justify violent attitudes.”

—Sister Inês Ribeiro

Moderator

Pai Alexandre Silveira

Religious Leader from the African Traditional Religions and GNRC Coordinator in Brazil

Panelists

Dr. Elizabeth Tunes

Psychologist, Child Development Specialist, Teacher and Researcher from Centro Universitário de Brasília

Sister Inês Ribeiro

President of Conferência dos Religiosos do Brasil

Ms. Vera Leal

Program Officer, Arigatou International – Geneva

Dr. Nelson Arns Neumann

International Coordinator, Pastoral da Criança

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS TO FOSTER ETHICS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Ethics Education in Early Childhood

Arigatou International – Geneva developed a comprehensive proposal for the creation of an International Consortium on Strengthening Families to Nurture Values and Spirituality in Children based on recommendations from the Interfaith Council on Ethics Education for Children and as a follow-up on the commitments made by GNRC 5th Forum participants in Panama.

Fifteen organizations, including civil society and faith-based organizations, multilateral organizations, academia, and individual experts and religious leaders have confirmed their participation. The first official meeting of the Consortium will take place in Geneva in July 2018.

The Consortium aims to foster collaboration, share good practices, and develop evidence-based, innovative approaches in religious communities that help to end violence in early childhood, while challenging the social and cultural norms that condone it and helping to equip families to nurture values and spirituality in children.



Objectives

1. Awareness raising

To raise awareness and provide information, among and with religious communities and leaders, on the impact of violence on early childhood, as well as the importance and successful ways of supporting families in fostering ethical values and nurturing spirituality in children, as a violence prevention mechanism.

2. Evidence base

To expand the knowledge base and research on the topic of ethical values and spirituality in the development of children's identities and in the creation of nurturing and caring environments as a contribution to ending violence in early childhood. The research will look into the role of religious communities as well as the effectiveness of interventions to challenge cultural and social norms that condone violence in early childhood.

3. Advocacy

To contribute to challenging and transforming cultural and social norms and attitudes that condone violence in early childhood by strengthening norms and values that support non-violent, respectful, nurturing, positive and gender-equitable relationships and environments, focusing on the early years. The Consortium aims to contribute to the achievement of the transformation envisioned by the Sustainable Development Goals. The Consortium will work with global actors and local religious communities for advocacy purposes.

4. Holistic approaches

To prompt concrete actions and practices in religious communities and faith-based organizations to support families in nurturing ethical values and spirituality in children, accompanied/integrated

with programs that focus on holistic approaches to the well-being of children, paying attention to children's physical, personal, social, emotional and spiritual well-being. Since poverty, violence, and conflicts often are the underlying cause harming the development and well-being of children, the Consortium will not only work on interventions that directly address the spiritual development of the child, but also seek to prompt interventions that can challenge structures or systems that undermine the development of the child.

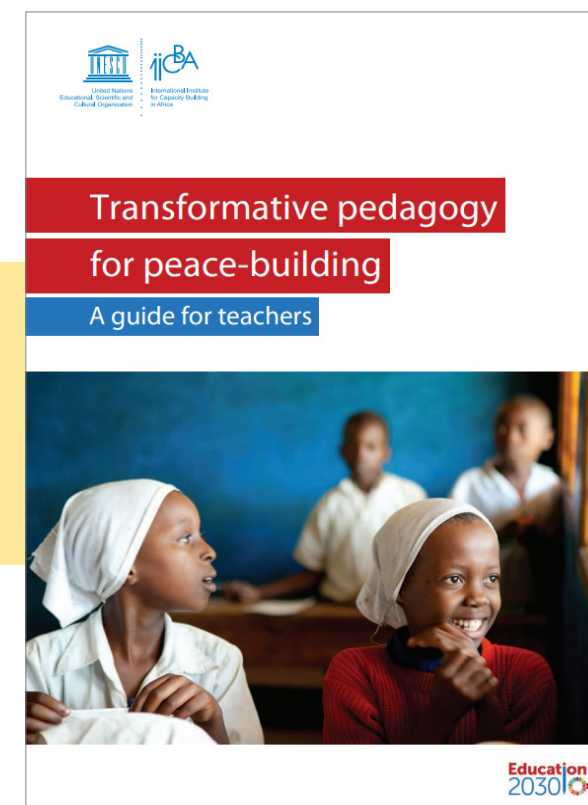
Ethics Education and Peacebuilding for Youth

Arigatou International – Geneva collaborated with the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA) to lead the development of a Teacher's Guide on Transformative Pedagogy for Peace-Building, as well as to carry out a Train the Trainers workshop to be cascaded to 8,000 teachers from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, South Sudan, Somalia, and Uganda. The guide was developed in the framework of the Teacher Training and Development for Peace-Building in the Horn of Africa and Surrounding Countries Project, which is supported by the Government of Japan.

The new resource, titled *Transformative Pedagogy for Peace-Building: A Guide for Teachers*, offers useful tools for conflict analysis, activities to engage learners in peace-building competencies, and innovative assessment tools. Arigatou International – Geneva provided expertise on how ethics education supports peacebuilding and engages learners using transformative pedagogies. The guide also contains a section on the participation of children and youth.

"Education is the key to changing minds and empowering the young people to be agents of peace and responsible citizens. The project is about investing in the youth of the participating countries by offering them alternatives to the pull of intolerance and violent extremism, offering them tools to be builders of peace, consciously constructing a positive world for their generation and the generations to come."

—His Excellency Dr. Shiferaw Teklemariam,
Federal Minister of Education of Ethiopia



LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER PROGRAMME: TRAINING AND IMPLEMENTATION

498 FACILITATORS
FROM 144 INSTITUTIONS IN 10 COUNTRIES
WERE TRAINED IN USING THE LEARNING
TO LIVE TOGETHER PROGRAMME

Since its launch in 2008, the Learning to Live Together Programme has reached more than 411,000 children in more than 30 countries. More than 3,000 facilitators have been trained in the use of the Programme, and 51 of them have taken the next training step to become Certified Learning to Live Together Trainers.

Training

Arigatou International – Geneva helped conduct and provided technical support for seven Facilitator Training Workshops held in Bhutan, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, India, Macedonia, Tanzania, and Uruguay.

Another 15 Facilitator Training Workshops were organized and conducted by Certified Learning to Live Together Trainers in Romania and Indonesia, and four Introductory Workshops were held together with the UNESCO – International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA) in Ethiopia and

Uganda, and with Globethics and the Catholic University of Eastern Africa in Kenya, as well as with GNRC – Mauritius.

A Training Guide was also developed, making the most of input from several of our Certified Trainers. The Training Guide will support the trainers as they design, deliver and monitor their workshops to ensure quality and sustainability. A training package with materials and support resources is being developed and will complement the guide by providing additional technical support to our trainers.

Twenty two teachers participated in a Diploma on Learning to Live Together developed by Centro Bartolomé de las Casas and GNRC – El Salvador, in collaboration with the Salvadorian Lutheran University, and with the technical support of Arigatou International – Geneva.

Advanced Training

A Regional Advanced Training Workshop was held in El Salvador, reaching 31 participants from five countries.

Arigatou International Geneva also organized and conducted two online courses on additional knowledge on designing and implementing ethics education programs for a total of 48 participants. One of them was the first online course on the Ethics Education Approach to be held in Spanish. These courses are part of the Advanced Certificate for Facilitators of the Learning to Live Together Programme.

Two webinars for trainers on “Partnership Engagement and Resource Mobilization”

and on “Proposal Writing,” were held to support them in their efforts to scale up their projects. In addition, as part of the development of the Trainers’ Community of Practice, a peer-to-peer learning opportunity on Adult Learning was developed and led by one of the trainers.

Trainers

Nineteen new trainers had the opportunity to help conduct webinars and online courses, as well as Introductory, Facilitator Training, and Advanced Training workshops, providing them with solid opportunities to continue developing their knowledge and skills.

Introductory Workshop in India, Facilitator Training Workshops in Tanzania and Macedonia, and Regional Advanced Training Workshop in El Salvador.



6,668 CHILDREN

IN 15 COUNTRIES BENEFITED FROM PROGRAMS BASED ON THE LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER PROGRAMME

Implementation

Children and youth benefited from programs based on the Learning to Live Together Programme thanks to our implementing partners in Bhutan, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Macedonia, Panama, Romania, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uruguay.

Furthermore, 261,074 children and youth were reached by implementing partners in Dominican Republic, India, Indonesia, Romania, and South Africa through summer camps, campaigns, workshops, and educational programs that integrated the educational approach of the Learning to Live Together Programme.

Arigatou International – Geneva provided technical support for the implementation of the Programme to partners in Bhutan, Chile, Macedonia, Mauritius, and Tanzania.



Top: Ms. Clara Mduma, Certified Trainer of the Learning to Live Together Programme, running an implementation with youth from the Peace Clubs in Tanzania. Bottom: Children from El Salvador, participating in a session of the Learning to Live Together Programme carried out in the framework of the Bridging the Gap project.

ADAPTATION OF THE LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER MANUAL FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

Arigatou International – Geneva is in the process of adapting the Learning to Live Together manual for use with primary school children. In the year under review, the office has been mapping the current applications of the manual for these ages, using an original framework for data collection and comparative analysis.

During the next year, a Working Group of experts on middle-years development who have knowledge of the Learning to Live Together Programme will be formed to advise on the adaptation process and conduct pilot implementations that will take place in several locations with the support of GNRC members.

ONLINE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE – THE KIOSK

In the year under review, Arigatou International – Geneva worked together with web developers on the design and functionalities of “The Kiosk: The Ethics Education Online Community of Practice,” which is designed to support the facilitators and trainers of the Learning to Live Together Programme.

The Kiosk was conceptualized as an online space for facilitators and trainers to share, learn and connect with each other, holding all the tools and resources needed to conduct a Learning to Live Together training workshop or implementation, a venue for further developing the skills and knowledge required to better customize and implement

the program. It is also designed to help users find support, work collaboratively, and explore and exchange ideas while networking and interacting with other practitioners committed to children and ethics education around the world.

The Kiosk was populated with relevant information, resources, and activities for members, including articles and videos developed together with Trainers, and launched on 30 November 2017.

ENHANCING CHILDREN AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION TO FOSTER INCLUSION, MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, AND RESPECT AND SOCIAL COHESION



PARTICIPATORY SPACES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Working with children and youth as partners in building peaceful societies by offering them opportunities to interact, giving them platforms to be heard, and amplifying their voices is one of the priorities of Arigatou International – Geneva.

During the year under review, Arigatou International – Geneva has engaged in new efforts to create innovative and participatory spaces for children and young people to connect with one another, learn to live together and foster global citizenship.

Participation of Children and Youth at the GNRC 5th Forum

Sixty-four children and youth from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America gathered in Panama City to learn from one another and prepare for active participation in the discussions, working groups and plenary sessions of the GNRC 5th Forum. Arigatou International – Geneva planned, organized and operated this Pre-Meeting, supporting the consultations among children that were held before the Forum in several countries as well as the children's follow-up activities after the Forum.



Visit to Movimiento Nueva Generación, a community-based organization that carries out activities for vulnerable children and youth in an area severely affected by gang violence.

"We do not need to talk the same language or have the same culture to raise our voices and work together."

—GNRC 5th Forum child participant

The aim of the Pre-Meeting was to provide a friendly space for children to get to know each other, learn from each other's experiences and become acquainted with the topics to be discussed at the Forum.

During the three days, children experienced participatory methodologies and activities based on the Learning to Live Together Programme. They had the opportunity to express their views on matters that affect them and their communities; explore the topics to be discussed at the Forum, and elaborate their own recommendations, which they presented a few days later at the Forum.

The children came from 21 different countries: Argentina, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Nepal, Nicaragua, Panama, Romania, Tanzania, and Uganda.

"I have learned how we can all contribute to ending violence against children since we all have and can have a voice."

—GNRC 5th Forum child participant

They were aged 14 to 17, represented diverse cultural and religious traditions, and were actively involved in the GNRC in their home countries. Five of them were sent by two GNRC 5th Forum partner organizations, Plan International and World Vision.

The participation of children during the GNRC 5th Forum was highly appreciated by everyone in attendance. At the end of the Forum, the children shared a statement declaring how they would like to participate in campaigns to prevent violence against children, educate and create awareness among their peers, and contribute to the creation of safe spaces for information, dialogue, and experience-sharing in virtual and non-virtual settings.



Children at the GNRC 5th Forum in Panama, together with Rev. Keishi Miyamoto and the facilitators.

The Youth Zone – An Online Community for Children

With the aim of connecting and empowering all children involved in Arigatou International's initiatives and as a way to give continuity to children's active and meaningful participation after the GNRC 5th Forum in Panama, Arigatou International – Geneva developed a strategy and action plan to foster children's active participation in the Arigatou Online Community and to help the adults working locally with children and youth through the GNRC and other venues to support children's participation.

A private group for children within the Arigatou Online Community was launched in September 2017. This protected area, named The Youth Zone, was developed together with a Child Protection Policy to ensure a safe space where children's identities would be protected. All children who participated in the GNRC 5th Forum were invited to register and participate in discussions about the local actions they are engaged in to end violence against children, and invited to share photos, videos and stories about their activities in this online space. Periodically, children also receive a newsletter by email with the latest information from the online group.

With the objective of supporting the adults that are working locally with children, and seeking to contribute to dialogue and ongoing learning on how to ensure child protection and participation in various contexts, a group for child-accompanying adults was also created within the Arigatou Online Community. Building on this group, two webinars (in English and Spanish) were held in April 2018 to introduce the online community to these adults and invite them

to join and encourage the children they are working with to participate. Then, another webinar was organized to introduce the online community not only to the children that participated in the GNRC 5th Forum but to all the children engaged with Arigatou International's initiatives.

Intergenerational Dialogues to Reflect on Global Citizenship and Support Child Participation

Young people today have the capacity to help shape the world and to create new narratives of mutual understanding and respect. Adults have an ethical obligation to make children's voices heard and create spaces for them to become voices for inclusion, empathy, and solidarity.

Two Intergenerational Dialogues were organized by Arigatou International – Geneva together with local partners in El Salvador and India. These meetings provided venues for adults and children to learn from one another, reflect on global citizenship, and identify ways to empower children for stronger participation in society.



Adults and youth participating in an activity at the Intergenerational Dialogue carried out in El Salvador.

Interreligious Youth Camp

In collaboration with United Religions Initiative (URI) in Europe, a summer camp is being co-organized in the Netherlands to take place in July 2018; bringing together youth aged 15 to 18 from Bulgaria and the Netherlands. Arigatou International – Geneva will help develop the program and content of the camp using the Learning to Live Together Programme. During the four-day camp, the youth will learn how to build bridges across cultural and religious boundaries, and appreciate diversity. Learning from the youth camp, a methodological approach is being explored for application in other contexts for intercultural and interreligious work with children and young people.

SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Creating safe spaces where the voices of children and youth can be amplified is one key to helping them develop and thrive as actors who help to transform their societies. This is why Arigatou International – Geneva supports implementing partners in fostering meaningful spaces and opportunities for children and youth to speak up and speak out.

- 21 GNRC representatives from 18 countries participated in 2 webinars to learn about the Arigatou Online Community, discuss the participation of children and youth, and to be encouraged to invite the children they work with to the online platform.
- As part of the support to implementing partners, online courses and technical advice were provided on how best to enhance the participation of children and

youth in and through the implementation of the Learning to Live Together Programme.

- As one of the Global Awards to Commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Learning to Live Together Programme, an award was launched for Children and Youth-Led projects.

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS



NEW PARTNERSHIPS TO ADVANCE ETHICS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

Collaboration and partnership are essential to the advancement of ethics education and children's rights and to make a real and meaningful impact in children's lives.

Arigatou International – Geneva has initiated strategic alliances with a wide community of actors, including international organizations, faith-based organizations, governments, civil society, and the private sector to advance the Ethics Education for Children approach. The following are some of the new partnerships formed during the year under review.

Integrating Ethics in Higher Education

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Globethics.net and Arigatou International – Geneva to further ethics and ethics education.

Under the MoU, Arigatou International – Geneva facilitated a workshop on ethics education for 100 professionals from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa and several other higher education institutions in Kenya during a conference jointly organized by Globethics.net and the Catholic University of Eastern Africa on the topic of "Integrating Ethics in Higher Education."

Support for Violence Prevention and Peaceful Coexistence in Latin America

- Panama**
 Arigatou International – Geneva contributed to the development of the ENFOCA manual, a tool created by the Ministry of Social Affairs in Panama and its office of Safe Social Development. The Ethics Education Framework and its pedagogical approach are central to the development of ENFOCA, which aims to support training on character development as a social intervention strategy to foster youth leadership and peaceful coexistence.
- Dominican Republic**
 Arigatou International – Geneva, in collaboration with Catholic Relief Services and Progresando con Solidaridad (PROSOLI), organized a Facilitator Training Workshop for 34 participants coming from each of the 31 provinces of Dominican Republic.

PROSOLI is a comprehensive development program from the Vice-Presidency of the Dominican Republic to help eradicate poverty by empowering vulnerable families through education, economic support, and capacity building.



The ENFOCA manual

Social workers and educators from PROSOLI were trained to equip volunteers to implement a tailored program based on Learning to Live Together during the PROSOLI summer camps and to multiply it with 200,000 children and youth, in a way which would ensure quality, sustainability, and proper customization.

STRONGER COLLABORATION FOR LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER PROGRAMME

Following up on the Train the Trainers workshop held in April 2017, Arigatou International – Geneva has been offering technical support to the new trainers designing and offering training programs within their institutions. The following describes the collaborations that have been initiated with the organizations with which the trainers are involved.

World Vision and the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO

A Teacher Training workshop on Peace Education using the Learning to Live Together approach and methodologies was held in Baringo County, Kenya in collaboration with World Vision Kenya and the UNESCO National Commission for Kenya.

During the workshop, teachers from 20 schools were trained to provide psychosocial support to displaced persons and learners, as well as to build the capacities of community leaders, education officials, county government officials, religious leaders and teachers in intercultural dialogue, peaceful co-existence and conflict resolution.

United Religions Initiative (URI) – Europe

Ms. Lejla Hasandedic, supported by Mr. Suchith Abeyewickreme, introduced Ethics Education for Children and the Learning to Live Together Programme to more than 140 people in Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina, at the United Religions Initiative (URI) Global Council and Regional Meetings and carried out two workshops for people working with youth and children.

After this collaboration, a partnership was initiated through URI's country groups in Bulgaria and the Netherlands for the development of a youth camp for interreligious and intercultural dialogue among young Europeans, aged 15 to 18.

As Arigatou International – Geneva moves forward with increasing its visibility at the international level and implementing collaborations to scale up the reach of the ethics education initiative, the need for financial resources will increase. For this reason, Arigatou International – Geneva is working to strengthen its financial sustainability by pursuing additional sources of grant funding for its work.

Our improved and diversified strategies for resource mobilization included providing technical support to partners in the implementation of projects, active outreach to the corporate sector to raise financial resources for implementing our programs, and applying for awards and grant funding from governments and multilateral organizations. Several promising applications are in the pipeline.



IMPROVING THE IMPACT OF COMMUNICATION, ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS RAISING



INCREASED AWARENESS ABOUT ARIGATOU INTERNATIONAL AND ETHICS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

Promoting Ethics Education for Children as a key and unique approach to ensuring children's full and sound development is pivotal in the work of Arigatou International – Geneva. By promoting the critical need for interfaith and intercultural learning and collaboration, we have been able to foster quality education and a culture of peace.

Arigatou International – Geneva makes it a priority to maintain a close relationship with facilitators and trainers of the Learning to Live Together Programme, as well as reaching

out to civil society organizations, educators, partners, and other stakeholders. Our communications strategy also aims to connect with new audiences in order to raise awareness about the role that ethics education plays in quality education and peacebuilding.

This year, Arigatou International – Geneva has improved substantially the quality of its communications by establishing a strategic approach to promotion and follow up of activities, events, and campaigns, and by developing attractive, inspiring and cohesive materials, reports and campaigns. We have improved the way we communicate our achievements, as well as those of partners and collaborators.



Online Presence

The Ethics Education Newsletter was issued four times in both English and Spanish, providing updates from the field, news from the initiative, and opinion pieces, reaching 70% more subscribers than in the previous year. The Ethics Education for Children website is frequently updated to capture the diverse activities and projects of Arigatou International – Geneva, reaching more than 9,500 unique users this year.

The @ArigatouGeneva Twitter account reached 38% more users than in the previous year, and the number of subscribers to our YouTube Channel grew by 189%. More than 25 videos were created and shared on our channel to promote activities or projects, share abstracts from events and workshops, encourage and guide people on how to participate in activities, webinars and the online community, promote global actions, support online courses, etc. The Ethics Education for Children Facebook Page is reaching a wider audience by maintaining a constant stream of news, announcements, and religious commemorations to promote interreligious learning.

Ten communication campaigns were produced to promote activities such as roundtables, events, online courses, and celebrations. One of the most significant was the “10 years of Learning to Live Together.”

Celebrating the 10 Years of the Learning to Live Together Programme

As we commemorate in 2018 the 10th Anniversary of the Learning to Live Together Programme, Arigatou International – Geneva aims to recognize the great contributions of children, facilitators, trainers, and organizations to Learning to Live Together and to celebrate the many achievements, and collaborations built during the last ten years.

The 10-year milestone has provided a unique opportunity to look back and reconnect with those who have been involved in the past, as well as to attract new collaborators, partners and donors while raising awareness about ethics education.

Four different Global Awards have been created to acknowledge outstanding efforts by children, facilitators, trainers, and organizations. In addition, we have organized celebratory events in various locations, and

have invited all stakeholders to organize local Celebratory Meetups.



A special webpage, available in English and Spanish, was built to hold all the resources and information related to the 10-year celebration. It includes a photo-montage to commemorate the 10 years, as well as the basis, criteria, and an online form to apply for the Global Awards, together with a map to search and share Celebratory Meetups.

The hashtag #LTLT10years is being used to mark all the activities related to the anniversary on social media. The campaign was branded with the creation of a new logo available in Spanish and English, a banner, and a set of promotional materials for social media.

ADVOCACY WORK IN GENEVA

Geneva is home to the European headquarters of the United Nations and the most active city in the world in multilateral diplomacy, and particularly for human rights advocacy. It hosts 30 international organizations, 250 international non-governmental organizations, and the permanent missions of 172 countries.

Located in the heart of international Geneva, the Arigatou International office here has

collaborated with a number of international, non-governmental, and civil society organizations in advocacy with United Nations agencies and Human Rights mechanisms, as well as with the Permanent Missions, for the prevention of violence against children, the right to quality education, the right to children's participation, and the promotion of education that fosters learning to live together in formal and non-formal education curricula.

Throughout the year, Arigatou International – Geneva:

- Raised its visibility through active engagement in child rights advocacy, meetings with several partners and through involvement in Child Rights Connect activities;
- Continued to co-convene the NGO Working Group on Children and Violence of Child Rights Connect, bringing together more than 12 child rights organizations and advocating for ending violence against children within the Human Rights mechanisms, as well as with the Office of the Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children and the Office of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children;
- Co-convened the NGO Working Group on Children in Armed Conflict through January 2018; supporting advocacy in Geneva and involvement with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children in Armed Conflict;
- Participated in periodical meetings at Child Rights Connect as co-convenor of two working groups, as well as part of the Children's Participation Task Team of the Annual Day of General Discussion to be held in September 2018.

Enhancing Children and Youth Participation to Prevent Exclusion, Hatred and Violence

Arigatou International – Geneva co-organized a side event during the 35th Session of the Human Rights Council, titled “Learning to Live Together: Enhancing Children and Youth Participation to Prevent Exclusion, Hatred and Violence,” in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Morocco and the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations, UNICEF, the Kofi Annan Foundation, and the Geneva Graduate Institute.

This side event brought together representatives from UN permanent missions, civil society, and technical experts, aiming to share concrete policies, strategies, and programs to foster children and young people’s participation and global citizenship within their families and religious and local communities. In particular, the event zoomed in on the role of children and youth in the prevention of the spread of ideologies that promote exclusion, hatred, and violence and in promoting the protection of human rights within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Panelists discussed cost-effective strategies that engage governments, families, faith groups and local communities to foster education that prevents exclusion, hatred, and violence through a child rights-based approach, and they explored how best to utilize the Human Rights mechanisms to support monitoring and accountability of processes.

Moderator

Dr. Mohammad-Mahmoud Ould Mohamedou

Professor of International History,
The Graduate Institute – Geneva

Panelists

Mr. Hassane Boukili

Deputy Permanent Representative,
Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the UN in Geneva

Dr. Jannie Lilja

Human Rights and OHCHR First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Sweden to the UN in Geneva

Ms. Marilena Viviani

Director, UNICEF Geneva Liaison Office

Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe

Director, Arigatou International – Geneva

Mr. Declan O’Brien

Project Coordinator, Kofi Annan Foundation



Ending Violence in Early Childhood: The Role of Religious Communities

A side event to the 37th Human Rights Council session, titled “Ending Violence in Early Childhood: The Role of Religious Communities,” was organized together with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children, the World Council of Churches, World Vision, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization, and co-sponsored by the Delegation of the European Union, the Permanent Missions of the Kingdom of Morocco, Mexico, Slovenia and Uruguay to the United Nations in Geneva.

Around 65 participants, including representatives of the Permanent Missions in Geneva and civil society organizations, engaged in reflections about the impact of violence on early childhood and the urgent need to address its causes; looking at how religious communities could help challenging social and cultural norms that justify violence in child bringing.

The panelists shared good practices as well as practical examples of collaboration with faith-based organizations in different parts of the world. The need to increase investment and ensure the inclusion of religious communities and faith-based actors in programs and in collaborations with government actors were also discussed. Participants emphasized the need to continue prioritizing legislation to ban corporal punishment and to provide interventions that holistically consider early childhood development.

Moderator

Ms. Frédérique Seidel

Special Advisor on Child Rights, World Council of Churches

Panelists

Ms. Marta Santos Pais

Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence Against Children

H.E. Archbishop Job of Telmessos

Permanent Representative, Ecumenical Patriarchate Permanent Delegation to the World Council of Churches

Dr. Etienne Krug

Director Management of Non-communicable Diseases, Disability, Violence and Injury Prevention, World Health Organization

Ms. Neelam Fida

Global Child Protection & Inclusion Advisor, Islamic Relief Worldwide

Mr. Aaron Greenberg

Regional Child Protection Advisor, UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe

Director, Arigatou International – Geneva

“Engaging faith leaders and communities is critical in dismantling myths of religious and cultural misinterpretations that support abuse and violence against boys, girls, and women.”

—Ms. Neelam Fida, Islamic Relief Worldwide



Empowering Children to Safeguard and Promote their Right to Be Protected from All Forms of Violence

Arigatou International – Geneva was represented by Ms. María Lucía Uribe at a roundtable discussion on Empowering Children to Safeguard and Promote their Right to Be Protected from All Forms of Violence, on 21 November 2017.

This event was co-organized by World Vision International and the Save the Children Geneva Office, and sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Canada, Chile, Ireland, Mexico and Sweden, in collaboration with the Working Group on Children and Violence of Child Rights Connect, Arigatou International, the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, Defence for Children International, Terre des Hommes, and Plan International.

Children from Albania and Chile, participating in World Vision's Programs, shared their experiences and launched a book showcasing the voices of young people and their solutions for ending violence against children. Ms. Uribe spoke about the participation of children during the GNRC 5th Forum and the follow-up activities being done with children and youth for the prevention of violence.

"Laws need to be made on the basis of encouraging positive parenting where a child can be nurtured rather than punished, on guidance rather than imposition and on recognition of a child as a person with dignity."

—Mr. Olaph Terribile, Ambassador Extraordinary, and Plenipotentiary of the Permanent Mission of Malta.

INCREASING VISIBILITY THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children Meeting Geneva, April 2017

Arigatou International – Geneva participated in the international meeting, "Strengthening Civil Society Organizations' Collaboration in the Context of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children," to review actions to date, plan for the next period, and agree on ways forward.

GNRC 5th Forum Panama, May 2017

Arigatou International – Geneva coordinated the GNRC 5th Forum Children's Pre-meeting and facilitated children's participation at the Forum, and also organized a panel discussion at the Forum on the topic of "Nurturing Spirituality in Child Upbringing and the Role of Religious Communities."

Association for Local Democracy (ALDA) Meeting Toruń, May 2017

Dr. Gelly Aroni, Certified Learning to Live Together Trainer, represented Arigatou International – Geneva at the ALDA meeting, "LADDER Tool Fair: Exchange of Practices and Tools about Global Citizenship & the SDGs." Dr. Aroni spoke about Global Citizenship approaches and presented her work with Learning to Live Together and the Learning to Play Together adaptation in Greece to representatives of local democracy agencies from across the European Union.

Oxford Symposium in Comparative and International Education (OXSCIE 2017) Oxford, June 2017

Organized in partnership with Oxford University, Aga Khan Foundation, and the Global Centre for Pluralism, OXSCIE 2017 focused on re-examining the mission of education and the meaning of learning in an uncertain world. Arigatou International – Geneva was represented by Mr. Andres Guerrero, advisor to the Ethics Education Initiative, who presented on "Is Education to Learn to Live Together a Choice or an Ethical Demand?" He addressed the pressing need to ensure that education systems include values-based education in their curricula to foster intercultural and interfaith learning in a world where extremist ideologies and fear of the other are on the rise.

International Association for Intercultural Education Conference (IAIE) Angers, June 2017

This conference focused on the theme "Education Theory and Practice in Challenging Times," and was hosted by the University Catholique de l'Ouest. Arigatou International – Geneva, represented by Ms. Eleonora Mura, participated in the panel on Religious Diversity and Extremism with a presentation on "The Ethics Education Framework: A Transformative Pedagogy to Build Peaceful and Inclusive Societies."



IAIE Conference in Angers, France.

Globethics Consortium Meeting

Geneva, June 2017

Arigatou International – Geneva was invited to participate in the Consortium meeting to launch the Globethics Initiative for Ethics in Higher Education.

The Consortium aims to strengthen the ethical reputation of higher education, promote professional ethical awareness and provide support to teachers, support students with tools and resources, integrate ethical reflection and action in research, and raise awareness of policymakers on the need to integrate values-based policies in education and in research.

UNESCO Conference on Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Education

Nairobi, July 2017

Arigatou International – Geneva participated in a regional workshop organized by the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, titled “Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Global Citizenship Education (GCED): Transforming and Sustaining Our World Through Learning,” with educators from Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius,



Mr. Suchith Abeyewickreme at the UNESCO Conference on Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Education in Nairobi, Kenya.

Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Arigatou International – Geneva, represented by Mr. Suchith Abeyewickreme, presented the Ethics Education Framework and Approach and experiences of implementation in the region.

Towards an Inclusive Peace Forum

Geneva, July 2017

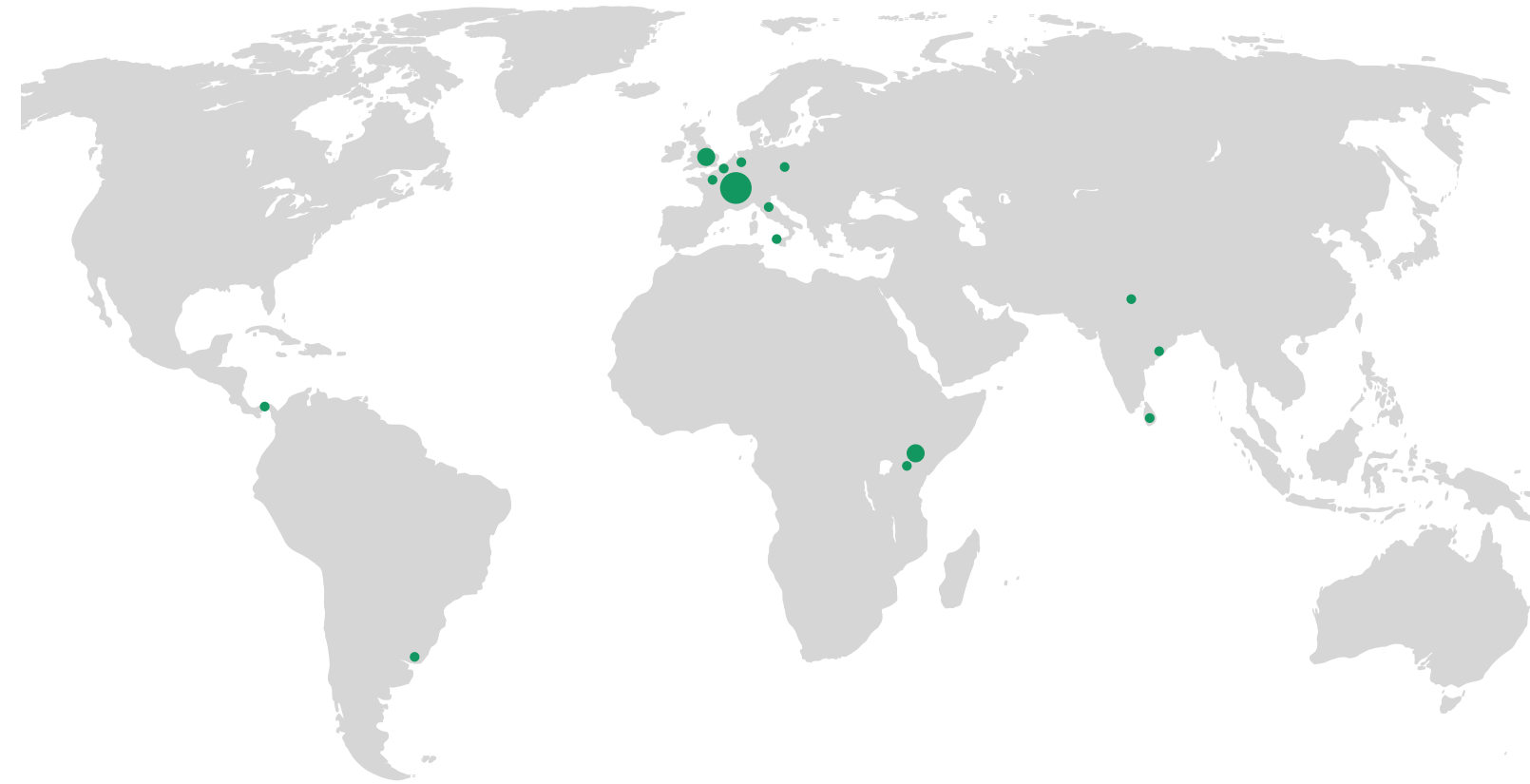
Arigatou International – Geneva was invited to join Caux Initiatives of Change in the “Forum Towards an Inclusive Peace – Tackling Different Forms of Violent Extremism,” that took place from 23 to 26 July.

Arigatou International – Geneva contributed by offering a session on the ethics perspective aimed at exposing some of the root causes of violent extremism. The event sought to equip participants to include local communities in the process of building peace. The session helped participants engage in a narrative analysis, as well as to generate reflections that provided the basis for discussions on community-based indicators.

Building Cohesive Societies in Multicultural Contexts

Delhi, August 2017

This roundtable discussion was organized by Shanti Ashram, in collaboration with Arigatou International – Geneva, Gandhi Darshan, and the Focolare Movement, on the topic of “Building Cohesive Societies in Multicultural Contexts — The Role of Children and Youth for the Prevention of Violence.” Panelists reflected on the need to foster education that promotes learning to live together, the role of informal education through implicit teaching, and teachers as role models in schools.



Interreligious Dialogue on Violence against Children in the Family Context

Montevideo, September 2017
This interreligious dialogue, organized by Arigatou International’s Prayer and Action for Children initiative, preceded a Facilitator Training Workshop on the Learning to Live Together. The event sought to promote reflection on the state of violence against children in Uruguay, as well as the role of religious communities and the importance of nurturing spirituality in children to help build resilience. It provided information about child protection systems in the country, and shared faith-based and government initiatives.

Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe, Director, Arigatou International – Geneva, participated as a panelist and spoke about the importance of nurturing spirituality in children for the prevention of violence.

Regional Youth Forum on Peacebuilding

Sagana, November 2017
The GNRC, together with Arigatou International’s End Child Poverty initiative, held a forum titled “Youth in Action: Building Positive Inter and Intra-Group Relations,” bringing together about 40 youth and youth workers from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Somalia, and Ethiopia. Arigatou International – Geneva was invited to collaborate by offering a session presenting the Ethics Education Framework. Two Learning to Live Together trainers from Kenya also contributed with a session as part of the workshops and discussions on preventing violent extremism, using the Ethics Education Approach, participatory methodologies, and ethical reflections.

Partnership for Religion and Development (PaRD) Annual Meeting Wilton Park, November 2017

The meeting, organized in cooperation with PaRD Member DFID/UKAid, brought together more than 70 participants including governments, United Nations agencies, multilateral organizations, and faith-based organizations to discuss the current work, priorities, and ways forward.

Lutheran World Federation Working Group on Interfaith Learning Meeting Geneva, December 2017

Arigatou International – Geneva was invited by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) to present the Learning to Live Together Ethics Education Framework during a meeting of the LWF Working Group on Interfaith Learning.

Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Ethics in Education: Building Together an Ethical Environment for Educators Geneva, December 2017

Arigatou International – Geneva participated in the Multi-Stakeholder Forum, organized around two-panel discussions with the goal of supporting educators, educational institutions, civil society actors and policy makers in creating together an ethical learning environment for students. The aim of the forum was to contribute to the implementation of the UNESCO 2030 Framework for Action and Sustainable Development Goal 4, ensuring inclusive and quality education for all and promoting lifelong learning as the foundation to improving lives and sustainable development.

TECH 2017

Visakhapatnam, Dec 2017

Arigatou International – Geneva participated in TECH 2017, which focused on digital pedagogies for building peaceful and sustainable societies through

21st-century skills, schools, and policies. The conference was attended by over 1,700 participants from more than 75 countries and witnessed highly engaging deliberations on the future of education, particularly on innovative teaching methods using technology.

Georg Arnhold Symposium Florence, October 2017

Experts from 12 countries gathered at the annual Georg Arnhold Symposium to explore methods for supporting and empowering educators working in situations of highly escalated conflict, widespread violence and of transition from war to peace, and to contribute to sustainable peace. Arigatou International – Geneva presented on Ethics Education for Children and the Learning to Live Together Programme as effective tools for nurturing ethical values in children in contexts of armed conflict and violence.

Global Mindfulness Summit Colombo, February 2018

The summit, organized by the Sati Pasala Foundation with the cooperation of governmental, non-governmental and corporate-sector institutions, brought together speakers and panelists from around the world for three days of influential discussions regarding

mindfulness. Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe, Director, Arigatou International – Geneva, presented about the importance of nurturing spirituality in young children for the prevention of violence.

Learning to Live Together Symposium Colombo, February 2018

As an opportunity to mark the 10th anniversary of the Learning to Live Together Programme, Arigatou International – Geneva organized a symposium with the support of local stakeholders on Learning to Live Together in Sri Lanka.

The main panel, composed of Ven. Galkande Dhammananda, Walpola Rahula Institute; Rt. Rev. Duleep de Chickera, Former Anglican Bishop of Colombo; Mr. S. Muralitharan, Ministry of Education, and Dr. Sunil Wijesiriwardena, Education and Conflict Transformation Expert, reflected on the challenges and opportunities to further Learning to Live Together in Sri Lanka through the education system.

Workshop for Children in the Framework of the Citizenship Program of Scholas Occurrentes Palermo, February 2018

Arigatou International – Geneva was invited to attend a workshop for children organized by Scholas Occurrences in Palermo, Italy to learn more about the Citizenship Program that they have been conducting with and for children all around the world. The purpose of Arigatou International's participation was to become familiar with their work as part of the collaboration to develop a youth summer camp in 2019.

UNESCO Expert Consultation Meeting on Global Citizenship Education Paris, March 2018

Arigatou International – Geneva was invited to be part of an Expert Consultation Meeting on Global Citizenship Education for a culture of lawfulness. The meeting was organized by UNESCO and the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime, within the framework of UNESCO's ongoing program on Global Citizenship Education. This meeting aimed to provide inputs to the development of guidance materials that seek to strengthen the capacities of education systems — and in particular of policy-makers, educators, and teachers — to plan and undertake education activities that promote the rule of law.

Integrating Ethics in Higher Education Nairobi, March 2018

Arigatou International – Geneva facilitated a workshop on Ethics Education for 100 professionals from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa and several other higher education institutions in Kenya. The workshop was part of a conference jointly organized by Globethics.net and the Catholic University of Eastern Africa on Integrating Ethics in Higher Education.

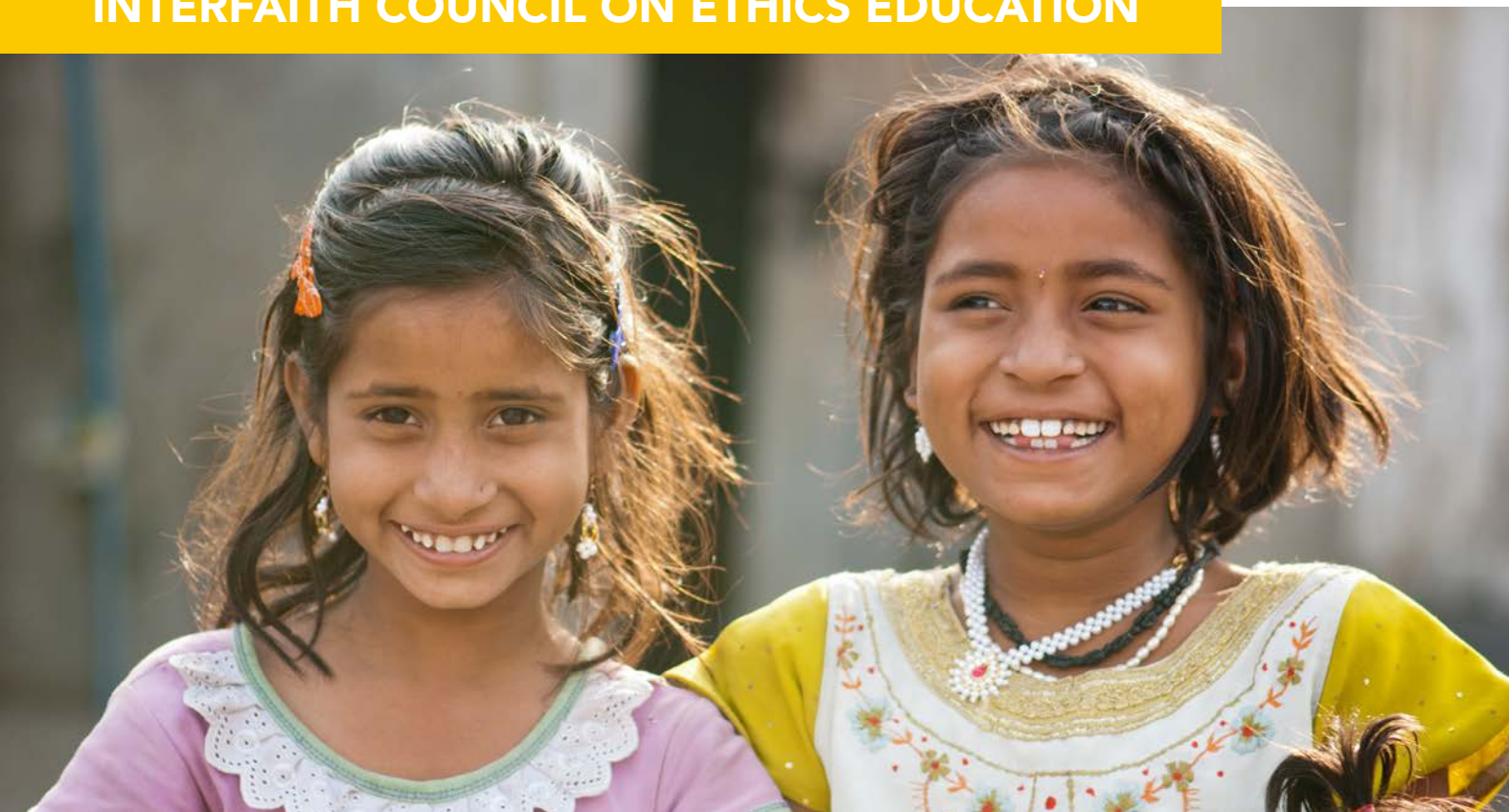
PaRD Steering Group Meeting Frankfurt, January 2018

Arigatou International – Geneva serves on the interim Steering Group of the Partnership for Religion and Development (PaRD). The members met in Frankfurt to provide recommendations and design a new working structure for the Partnership, as well as decide on next steps for the preparation of its annual meeting to be held in Geneva in June 2018.



Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe taking part in a panel discussion at the Global Mindfulness Summit in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

INTERFAITH COUNCIL ON ETHICS EDUCATION



As in previous years, the Interfaith Council on Ethics Education for Children held its annual meeting to help strategize and provide recommendations for the next period. In 2017, the meeting took place from 10 to 14 August in Coimbatore, India, and was hosted by Shanti Ashram, a long-time partner of Arigatou International.

At the meeting, the members of the Interfaith Council had the opportunity to review the achievements of and challenges faced by Arigatou International – Geneva during the previous year, to reflect on a variety of topics regarding the Ethics Education for Children Programme, and to exchange views on the strategic plan for the next three years.

The meeting was preceded by a roundtable discussion titled, “Building Cohesive Societies in Multicultural Contexts — The Role of

Children and Youth for the Prevention of Violence,” organized in New Delhi by Shanti Ashram in collaboration with Arigatou International – Geneva, the Focolare Movement, and Gandhi Darshan.

The roundtable offered a unique space to reflect on opportunities and challenges within education systems for building cohesive societies, as well as to put forward recommendations about fostering the role and participation of children in building cohesive societies from the perspective of education in formal and non-formal settings.

Members of the Interfaith Council also had the opportunity to participate in the Coimbatore Peace Festival organized by Shanti Ashram. Over 1,500 children from diverse communities in Coimbatore came together on this occasion to stand together

for peace. Later, Interfaith Council members met local practitioners to exchange ideas about transformative pedagogies and supporting families in fostering ethical values and spirituality in early childhood.

On 13 August, Shanti Ashram held a dialogue with young people and members of the Interfaith Council on Ethics Education for Children on the topic of global citizenship. Around 20 youth from Tamil Nadu gathered to share their views on what global citizenship means for them and how they can respond to the challenges it poses. This intergenerational dialogue was an important opportunity for children and adults to reflect together, to share what it means to be a global citizen in a world that has become increasingly more interdependent and yet a world where exclusion, racism, segregation, and extremism are on the rise.

The 2017 meeting was the final meeting of the Interfaith Council on Ethics Education for Children. We give special thanks to our Interfaith Council members for their valuable work and advice, and for their unwavering commitment over the last five years to advancing the mission of Ethics Education for Children.

In the picture, the members of the Interfaith Council on Ethics Education together with the Directors of the Arigatou International Geneva offices, and Arigatou International Geneva staff members. From left to right, standing: Dr. Rashid Omar, Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali, Ms. Leila Omar, Ms. Rebeca Rios-Kohn, Rev. Fred Nyabera, Ms. Vera Leal, Ms. Eleonora Mura, and Ms. Masue Suzuki. Sitting, Dr. Hans Ucko, Ms. Agneta Ucko, Dr. Heidi Hadsell, Dr. Kezevino Aram, Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe, and Dr. Angelos Vallianatos (absent: Dr. Ilham Nasser)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



The support and contributions of our collaborators, partners, and funders are critical to our ability to accomplish our mission of fostering values and ethics education for children worldwide. This year's achievements were made possible thanks to many individuals and organizations who have supported our work in one way or another.

We sincerely thank our partners and collaborators: Aga Khan Foundation, Association Solmentis, Centro Bartolome de las Casas, Dominican Republic Vice-President's Office, Globethics, Gurises Unidos in Uruguay, Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO, Kenya National Commission for UNESCO, Ministry of Social Affairs Panama — Office for Safe Social Development, Pastoral da Crianca International, Sarvodaya

Movement in Sri Lanka, Scholas Occurrentes, Shanti Ashram in India, UNESCO Headquarters, UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building, UNIDOS Uruguay, United Religions Initiative, the World Council of Churches, and World Vision.

Special thanks for collaboration also go to organizations and individuals who are members of the GNRC in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, India, Macedonia, Mauritius, Panama, Romania, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Uruguay.

Once again we extend our gratitude to the members of the Interfaith Council for Ethics Education for Children for their continuous support and highly valued advice: Dr.

Kezevino Aram, Dr. Ilham Nasser, Dr. Rashied Omar, Ms. Agneta Ucko, Rev. Dr. Hans Ucko, and Dr. Angelos Vallianatos.

Special thanks go to all of our international trainers, who have helped us multiply and deliver our training programs around the world. We especially thank Ms. Rana Abdul Lafit, Ms. Siham Antoum, Mr. Richard Apeh, Dr. Gelly Aroni, Ms. Kaviya Balaguruswamy, Ms. Monica Bernal, Ms. Andrea Flores, Mr. Vijayaragavan Gopal, Ms. Mary Kangethe, Ms. Lejla Hasandedic, Ms. Nageeba Hassan, Ms. Hang Loung Hom, Ms. Prabha Karthik, Mr. Fendra Kusnuryadi, Mr. Marco Laguatasi, Mr. Larry Madrigal, Ms. Clara Mduma, Mr. Charles Mwaniki, Ms. Laura Molnar, Ms. Isis Navarro, Mr. Marcelo Neira, Ms. Jane Nyaga, Mr. Dabee Rajendrakumar, Ms. Pavithra Rajagopalan, Ms. Mercedes Roman, Mr. Akim Said, Ms. Saydoon Nisa Sayed, Ms. Olga Lucia Sierra, Ms. Andreea Vasile, Ms. Anne Waichinga, Ms. Namgay Wangmo, Ms. Wati Wardani, and Ms. Ana Znidarec Cuckovic.

We are fortunate to count on a large pool of highly skilled, passionate facilitators who implement the Learning to Live Together Programme at the local level. Our sincere appreciation goes to you, for believing in our work, and to all the children and youth who have participated in activities based on the Programme, for your trust and commitment, and for inspiring us to continue our work, furthering values-based education for children.

We thank the consultants that supported our many activities in different parts of the world: Mr. Suchith Abeyewickreme, Mr. Peter Billings, Prof. Alicia Cabezudo, Dr. Celina Del Felice, Mr. Andrés Guerrero, Ms. Sandra Yopez, and Zuno Studios, as well as our interns Ms.

Aynura Babayeva, Mr. Henry Noering, Ms. Katie Sommers, and Ms. Maria Vorobyeva who contributed to our work with great motivation and commitment.

Finally, we convey our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to our colleagues at the Arigatou International offices in Tokyo, Nairobi, and New York for their collaboration, and offer a special thanksgiving for all the members of Myochikai in Japan for their wholehearted support.

ABOUT US



ARIGATOU INTERNATIONAL – GENEVA

The office of Arigatou International – Geneva manages Arigatou International’s Ethics Education for Children initiative, which promotes ethics and values for children and young people within the framework of the child’s right to education as stated in the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child. It utilizes an innovative approach to interfaith and intercultural learning to offer values-based, quality education programs for children and young people.

We envision a world where children are equipped to make ethical decisions, to nurture their spirituality and to contribute to transform their communities together, based on values that promote respect for their own and others’ cultures and beliefs.

Arigatou International – Geneva also serves as a United Nations liaison office, representing the organization in international affairs and working with other Child Rights organizations in Geneva.

OUR MISSION

We bring together people from different religions, cultural backgrounds, and world regions, as well as organizations working with children and young people to foster cooperation on the profound issues that affect children and youth today. Our Ethics Education for Children initiative promotes intercultural and interreligious dialogue, understanding and respect that empower children and youth to play a major role in creating a world of greater justice, peace, and dignity.



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**“May every day find every
one of us continually
embraced in growing peace”**

—Rev. Keishi Miyamoto, President of Arigatou
International, September 21, 2015

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