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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:



PROJECT UPDATES



Conciliation

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"What Is In a Name?" From IIMHC to ICfC

"What is in a name?" With this issue of the Newsletter we are proud to inform you of our new name and acronym. While it reflects little change in our commitments, methods, scope of activities and determination, it does reflect something of a mature and growing organization that is moving to scale and that no longer needs to respond to assumed and actual questioners: "Why another organization?"

For quite a while we have been saying in jest that even for people in the memory business a name such as the International Institute for Mediation and Historical Conciliation is a bit difficult to remember and an acronym as un-euphonious as IIMHC is no timesaver in evoking the spirit of an organization. Our Board ran contests; we consulted with name change gurus. To no avail. As simple as was the message that we must "simplify" our name, that was, in fact, not so simple.

Some are disappointed that our most important contribution of using history and memory in peacemaking is understated in the new title. Others will point out that using a preposition in



ISRAEL

Yaad Miaar: Dialogue Breeds Dialogue

Three years ago, most inhabitants of the Israeli Jewish village of Yaad and Israeli Arabs - descendants of a nearby ruined village of Miaar in Galilee could not imagine they would sit together behind the same table.

Yet they did, for many months. Their success story inspired others in both communities and in the Spring of 2007, we convened the second round of Yaad-Miaar dialogue with a new group of people from both communities.

[More>](#)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Open Society Institute - the Southeast Asia Initiative supports ICfC History and Social Justice Outreach Project in Cambodia with \$30,000
- Read ICfC Fellow Nir Eisikovits' article *Is it always necessary to reconcile?* published recently in the International Herald Tribune and Boston Globe
- Listen to a broadcast on the generation of young Cambodians' difficulty to deal with their past, featuring our Cambodia colleague Vichhra Muoyly

an acronym, ICfC, even if, in its small letter status, it does distinguish us from some organizations, particularly in the Hague, is bad table manners or worse. We, of all people, do not belittle the power of symbols. There is something to a name. Rivers of blood were shed in the Middle Ages in the debate on nominalism and realism. Our name is neither. It is the evocation of a capacity to bring together the various stakeholders in making and sustaining that peace, who include those injured and those who are accused of injuring, the peacemakers who can get them to sit down at the same table and talk about the past as a means to shaping a new vision for the future, and the people, like all of us, who support work of those peacemakers. As that work becomes more successful, we hope that you will have all the less difficulty remembering our name.

We are sharing this newsletter with you in the wake of one of the most important involvements of the ICfC. After nearly a year of planning, the Center spent part of this past summer in Amsterdam consulting for its Mayor and senior staff on how to stop and prevent the radicalization of Muslims. We convened a Network of officials for this purpose from some of the cities of Europe that have endured the worst problems of terrorism and militancy. This work, already has received attention far beyond anything that we could expect and we are delighted to be planning its continuity while we formulate the policy implications of our consultation and get them to the hands of those who can implement them. More about all of this to come. May the next period be very productive for all of us.

As always

Hillel.

Toward Social Cohesion in Western European Cities

Western European countries have not been spared of complex and messy conflicts rooted in people's identities. As they struggle with the integration of their large immigrant (and largely Muslim) communities, they are discovering the need for inventing more inclusive policies, for approaches that address and include identity, history, and religion. The ICfC partnered with the Amsterdam City Hall to help municipal experts reach these goals.

[More>](#)

Workshops and trainings in 2007

Read about the ICfC workshops conducted in India, U.S.A. (Columbia University), and Cambodia in 2007.

EVENTS

- Muslim Identities, Western Identities: New Approaches and New Leaders for Conciliation

October 22nd at the J.F.Kennedy School of Governments - open to public (RSVP)

October 23rd in New York City - by invitation only

CAMBODIA: Projects and staff expansion

Year 2007 brought many exciting changes and developments to our programs in Cambodia. The ICfC established a permanent office in Phnom Penh with three full time staff members and the team has jumped into activities, events and

ARTICLES BY THE FELLOWS

Pining for Remembrance by Vuth Kim



The Khmer Rouge took control of Cambodia on April 17th, 1975 when Khmer people were celebrating the New Year. Within 3 years under the Khmer Rouge control, people were evacuated from the cities to the countryside, tortured, forced to overwork,

and did not have enough to eat. About 1.7 million died from disease, starvation, or execution. It is now 32 years since 1975. However, many people say the Khmer New Year will forever be linked to the Khmer Rouge.

[More>](#)

Read About our upcoming workshops

Mediating History, Making Peace: Henry Everett Workshop in Conflict Resolution, October 19-21 2007, Boston

This workshop is now full. Please check back for upcoming trainings

workshops. Our efforts were recognized by the OSI Southeast Asia Initiative, which supported our project History and Social Justice Outreach with \$30,000. ICfC is also preparing Ethnic and Identity Conflict Resolution project for next year.

[More>](#)



European experts of social cohesion Youssif Meah from Birmingham and Hilde Daems from Madrid talk with the Mayor of Amsterdam Job Cohen and ICfC President Hillel Levine

FEATURED PROFILES

ICfC Program Coordinators in Phnom Penh

Vichhra Muoyly



Is it always necessary to reconcile?

By Nir Eisikovits

"RECONCILIATION," like "terrorism," is becoming one of those words that is easy to use but hard to explain. The US troop surge in Iraq, we are told, was meant to buy the local government time to "achieve national reconciliation." Administration officials cite progress on "political reconciliation" as a key factor in deciding when to start sending American soldiers home. Accordingly, President Bush, in his most recent speech, insisted that while "local reconciliation is taking place" the Iraqi government must show more "determination" in spreading it throughout the country.

[More >](#)

Vichhra MUOYLY holds a law degree from the Royal University of Law and Economics in Cambodia. She worked for a year and a half as a research assistant for the Open Society Justice Initiative. Her research was to find out how much people in remote Cambodia know about the Khmer Rouge Tribunal and tried to find the strategies for the successful outreach. She spent a year training people from rural communities about law with a local NGO *The Khmer Institute of Democracy*, and participated in the production and distribution of a documentary film called "Seeing Proof". The film discusses the young generation of Cambodians who have difficulty in believing or understanding their parents' stories from the Khmer Rouge time. Vichhra has joined our Center in March 2007 as a facilitator. She hopes she can get to comprehend her own family history, her own country's history and helps other young Cambodians to understand theirs, through working with ICfC as a member of Cambodia's new generation.

Listen to NPR On the Media broadcast "[You Must Rembmer This!](#)" that features some of Vichhra's work.

Vuth Kim



Kim Vuth holds two degrees, one in Human Resource Management, and the other in English Literature. He is a graduate of a 9-month leadership training program called Action for Life, organized by Initiatives of Change International. He taught English for the public school for two years. He is the initiator of Initiatives of Change Association-Cambodia, where he served as president for 4 years. One project that he ran at his association was the Cambodia-Vietnam Dialogue. Vuth has attended local and overseas trainings related to peace building. He

hopes to take a Masters course in Peace Studies at the end of this year in Applied Conflict Transformation. Vuth joined ICfC in March 2007. Vuth believes that through his work with the ICfC he will be able play the role of a peace builder for his country and beyond.

We'd like to hear what you think. [Email us](#) with your thoughts.

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