

A Brief Report from Nainital, India by Patricia Murphy

On July 3rd 2009 a number of delegates from many countries registered for and attended the opening session of the 11th Provisional World Parliament meeting in Concert with the 12th International Conference of International Philosophers for Peace in the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Nainital, India. The next few days were packed with presentations and deliberations of proposed Legislation, Acts, Amendments and Bills which were finally approved or tabled for further study and consideration. Some of the subjects covered included The Prohibition of Human Trafficking, Specifications of Depleted Uranium, International Integration, Dismantling Procedures, Non-Violent Civil Disobedience, and an Intelligence Agency Prohibition Act. Dr. Santi Nath Chattopadhyay of Kolkata, a long time friend and member of both IPPNO and WPA, was appointed as Vice President of the World Parliament Association.

After a very fruitful three days of Legislation activity the group enjoyed a closing session and turned our attention to the paper presentations from delegates. These included papers from Bangladesh, India, Croatia, the US, Macedonia, Malaysia, South Africa, Nepal, Slovenia and Thailand. We were educated on many aspects of World Government and peace issues, with scholarly papers such as, “The Earth as a Female Diety”, “One Universal Human Society”, and “The Global Peace Index”. Dr. Preeti Shankar read a letter from Mr. Jagdish Gandhi of City Montessori School, Lucknow expressing support for our work and inviting a future conference in Lucknow. We enjoyed a special paper presentation from Retired Chief Justice of India, A.P. Misra and from Puan Sri Datin Seri N. Sarawathy Devi, Parliamentarian of the International Federation of Women Lawyers. She presented an extensive report of Human Trafficking. As described and called for in Article 4 of the Bill for an Act entitled, “On Human Trafficking”, a Standing Parliamentary Commission on Trafficking was formed, and includes delegates from South Africa, Mauritius, Malaysia and US. IPPNO acknowledged the 25th Year of its founding, and we awarded several Certificates of Special Peace Making Status to a number of our colleagues working in Chennai, India. Dr. Veenu Pant accepted a position on the International Advisory Board of IPPNO.

After July 8th, our hosts at the Ashram from Delhi encouraged our visit to another Ashram and Service site in the mountains where we spent a lovely lunch and afternoon seeing their vocational training services and walking among the many mountain paths. Many delegates enjoyed additional treks from Nainital to the higher peaks of the beautiful Himalayas, and excursions to other parts of India before returning to their various homes.