32nd Annual Meeting of The International Institute for Advanced Studies in Systems Research and Cybernetics (IIAS) & <InterSymp 2012>
24th International Conference on Systems Research, Informatics and Cybernetics (Baden-Baden, Germany, from July 30th to August 3rd 2012)

CALL FOR PAPERS

2nd Symposium on
The Art of Relational Living in the Communication Age

Organized by:

Prof. George Lasker, Conference Chairman and President, IIAS, CA
Prof. Ayten Aydin, Former UN/FAO Senior Advisor, IIAS, Italy
Prof. Kensei Hiwaki, Tokyo International University, Saitama, IIAS, Japan
Prof. William Graham, University of Toronto, IIAS, CA
Prof. Frank Hassard, Independent scholar, IIAS, UK
Prof. Tadeja Jere-Lazanski, Dean of University of Primorska, IIAS, Slovenia

Joint Chairs: Ayten Aydin & George Lasker Moderator: Frank Hassard

PREFACE

Humanity has reached a critical time in its evolution. The combined forces of globalization – political, economic, technological and material – have seriously depleted bio- and cultural diversity as well as undermined environmental stability. This has brought us to a point of being seriously conscious of the need for collective remedial measures in sustaining the future of Humanity, necessitating a renewal of harmonious relational living based on a healthy interface with environment. Consequently, today humanity needs to collectively ponder on the significance of life, on its profound meaning and complexity so as to anticipate and pre-empt her future viability in order to secure the right path for a flourishing human evolution.

A detailed review of the various contributions to ARL I forms the basis of the current ‘follow-up’ symposium (ARL II) scheduled to take place at Intersymp 2012 based on the following core themes:

NATURE: as the main relational ground within which human beings are to establish meaningful and fulfilling relations through connecting and communicating with nature by invisible means; a capacity which exists in each human being as a part of their interpenetrated body, mind and soul as one whole.
**ART**: as another powerful communication tool in terms of its aesthetics substance which enriches the personal, psychological and spiritual dimensions of human life. The intrinsic values associated with art are largely the echoes of Nature and/or the human inner voice/reminiscence from specific cultures – all embedded within Nature and beyond – which touches human existence in such ways that support and enhance the substantive content of human relational living by turning human life into a meaningful art-work.

**CULTURE**: as the diverse, meaning-conferring, life-enhancing, enduring foundation of collective human existence. Culture – i.e. to *cultivate* – is the ground from which society-specific and universal values emerge and grow, determining our quality of life both in terms of relationships among human beings and with respect to the human v. environmental interface. Art and Culture are co-related, interdependent and self-perpetuating. Together they enhance and enrich our personal and mutual lives and are an essential source of all affective communication.

**COMMUNICATION**: as the main bridging tool and a vital component of the above triad which determines the viability of well-being as a complex system. In the ARL sense it is understood as the soft-intangible aspect of human existence capable of conferring meaning among individuals and within and between communities, where many forms of humanistic symbols may act as important messengers that have the capacity to nurture diverse parties through affectionate communication.

Accordingly, **NATURE-ART-CULTURE-COMMUNICATION** provides the systemic ground for harmonious living within the whole life supporting system and thus forms the common theme within which this symposium – The Art of Relational Living in the Communication Age II – is situated.

Accordingly, topics for elaboration may include – but are not limited to – the following:

**COMMON PREMISE**

During the 2011 sessions on the ARL-C Panel/symposium a systemic tour into the need for and the concept of the Relational Living was made with an ample ground searching, within the invisible and intangible Aura of love-beauty-goodness-sharing and similar virtues having a commuting ability for interpenetrating and bonding thus leading to human well-being over well-having. In reflecting on a common premise for the follow-up face the same ground is hoped to provide a common springing board for all interested participants. Underlying query in effectively dealing with this challenge is how to launch a process on a reliable relational ground leading to human happiness. It is more so now than any other times with the unprecedented size of the world population and its unbalanced distribution with an ever-increasing greed of people for well-having, rather than well-being. Also the top-down functioning political systems and bottom blinding strategies as well as, at times purposefully, distorted education systems adversely affecting exercising the peoples’ birth-rights as justice and liberty are responsible factors. The good and life-given values which flourish and enliven healthy human relations from small communities up to the whole world, leading and sustaining a Culture of Peace,
friendly co-living and human happiness as the main purpose in life and the ultimate purpose of this symposium on the Art of Relational Living. We should remember that human beings in their natural environment always retained and augmented their natural ability for relating to nature, art, culture, through various communication means, in the physical, aesthetic and spiritual forms.

GUIDANCE FOR SELECTING TOPICS FOR PAPERS

Within the common premise highlighted above, the following areas may be of interest to participants, mainly on what to do in a systemic manner to remove or alleviate the destructive aspects of presently dominant conflictual way of relating with others and the environment. Here lies the art of relational living.

Topics for elaboration within the context of this symposium might include:

**Reform and existing good models of education and learning systems** - where the complex living systems approach sets the stage and both interdisciplinary and inter-generational learning are given prominence, with emphasis on self-directed learning and raising self and collaborative consciousness, sense of justice and responsibility; with the intimate help of the aesthetic value of art such as, music, dance, poetics and ethics as the common foundation of all cultures and belief systems.

**Studies and examples in human society and community life** - for example, by learning from past nomadic societies; the rise and fall of civilizations, in particular their binding and dissolving factors; by decoding the information hidden within the historical heritages, which safeguard a sense of meaning in life in a variety of ways such as, events and celebrations, artistic activities, parodies, satires, rituals, mythology, tales, festivities and other forms of intangible heritages – all of which provides valuable messages for human relational living enriched by diverse cultural values leading to human happiness and respect for Nature;

**Examples of locations which facilitate and promote human relations and bonding** - such as, agorae, parks, baths and other kinds of public spaces where interactions and interpenetrations of ideas and feelings occur and also different forms of non-verbal/linguistic communication such as, hugging, smiling, soft speaking, humor and laughter takes place and where the role of aura to tap love, amity, trust, goodness and grace in living finds a fertile field to freely function;

**Review of formal and informal facilities which provide additional support for both physical and psychological growth** - including museums, galleries, art-exhibitions and any such places where people – *of all ages and backgrounds* – can realize their personal potential by improving their understanding of themselves, their environment and the communities in which they live and beyond;
Understanding the potential of soft technologies for improving the functioning of the brain, in particular balancing the functioning of its left and right hemispheres as well as by re-activating or unblocking as needed, brain’s memory archive- neocortex and triggering human instincts by complementary energetic means, such as among others extra existence functioning within the world of purely energetic manifestations on top of physical, biological and chemical manifestations;

Understanding and improving communication – by, for example, exploring the history of human interactions throughout the course of evolution so as to anticipate a new overarching communication system conducive to harmonious relational living. This might also explore the relationship between the languages of diverse cultures and that which is common to all such as, signs, ciphers, metaphors, allegories, analogical-abductive languages, caricature as a universal language, symbols imbued with significance and semantic content, as well as satire, fictions and stories that subtly pass true messages in a disguised mode and the concept of Symviability coined by the late IIAS fellow Gary Boyd in collaboration with Prof. Viladimir Zeman to mean 'ecolo-co-cultural symbiosis' which describes a long term commitment to living together harmoniously and with due consideration for all life forms.

Critical review of varying political systems and methods of peoples’ participation - offering innovative and/or anticipatory ways inspired from past experiences; offering new ideas and working examples on community-based politics and well-functioning participatory democracy.

-Other topics closely related to and supporting advancements in the process of the overall purpose of the symposium: attaining harmonious living on Earth and human happiness.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:
Prospective participants should send abstracts of not more than 250 words to the symposium- panel organizers by e-mail attachment in Word format as soon as possible, but not later than 1st March 2012. Contact details as follows:

-Prof. George Lasker, Conference Chairman and President, IIAS, CA  
E-mail: lasker@uwindsor.ca

-Prof. Ayten Ayden, Former UN/FAO Senior Advisor, IIAS Italy  
E-mail: a.aydin@alice.it

-Prof. Kensei Hiwaki, Tokyo International University, Saitama, Japan 
E-mail: aip72480@pop27.odn.ne.jp

-Prof. William Graham, University of Toronto, IIAS, CA  
E-mail: wc.graham@shaw.ca

-Prof. Tadeja Jere-Lazanski, University of Primorska  
E-mail: tadeja.lazanski@turistica.si

-Prof. Frank Hassard, Independent scholar, IIAS UK  
E-mail: f.hassard@tiscali.co.uk
KEY DATES:

Abstract due: 1\textsuperscript{st} March 2012;
Notification of acceptance: will be sent to you by 15\textsuperscript{th} of March 2012;
Final paper due: 1\textsuperscript{st} May 2012

Your final photo-ready paper by e-mail attachment must reach the conference organizers and Mr. Andreas Tinsz (Chief Administrative Officer, e-mail: office@iias.info) not later than 1\textsuperscript{st} of May 2012 (the due date for publication of the symposium papers).

The Paper Submission Guidelines, the Copyright Transfer Form and the Conference Registration Form are available at the IIAS website: http://www.iias.edu Please feel free to circulate this information to colleagues and associates, as appropriate.