

Report of India WCPA work during December 2014 and January 2015

Glen T. Martin

Dear Members of the Executive Council,

Please find here my report to you regarding my visit to India, December 10, 2014 to January 12, 2015. As I wrote earlier, I want for us to begin having meetings and formulating annual plans for WCPA. I will be writing to you about this soon. Also, if we are doing work on behalf of the Earth Constitution, we should be reporting this to one another. If we receive no reports from you, we can only assume you are not doing anything on behalf of the Earth Constitution. Another option is to keep in touch with me at World Headquarters about your work and I can report this to the rest of us, as I have done in the past, for example, in our work with Celina Garcia on the Earth Constitution project and World Court projects developing for Latin America.

For more than a month, I was traveling in India on behalf of the Earth Constitution and the future of humanity. This year, my wife, Phyllis Turk, who is Treasurer of WCPA and the Institute on World Problems (IOWP) joined me for two of these weeks. My new WCPA business card, of which I distributed hundreds of copies in India, is named "The World Parliament" and has four of our websites listed as well as the WCPA logo (designed by Peter Graves-Goodman) on both sides. Its purpose is to promote our work by getting people to access our websites. The email on the card is wcpaorg@gmail.com. The websites are www.worldparliament-gov.org, www.earth-constitution.org, www.earthfederation.info, and www.radford.edu/gmartin. Our www.worldproblems.net site was not yet operational when I designed and ordered this card.

WCPA officers, leaders, and friends organized events and opportunities for me to promote the Earth Constitution in Lucknow, Delhi, Chennai, Pondicherry, Bangalore, and Hyderabad. I also visited Trivandrum in Kerala State in the hopes of meeting up with an important contact made in Lucknow (see below).

In Lucknow, I participated in the International Conference of Chief Justices of the World sponsored by Dr. Jagdish Gandhi, who, as you know, is a Vice-President of WCPA and a supporter of the Earth Constitution. My wife arrived on December 16 in Lucknow. We were also hosted while there by Dr. Preeti Shankar, Vice-President of WCPA and Assistant Director for Asia, who was very helpful and generous in enabling our work. I met as well with Dr. Dauji Gupta, Vice-President of WCPA and our longest continuous officer going back to the 1980s, former Mayor of Lucknow and Member of the U.P. Legislative Assembly. He worked with me to draft a letter to the Honorable Governor of West Bengal (whom he knows personally) inviting him to inaugurate the 14th session of the Provisional World Parliament in Kolkata, December 27, 2015.

Sessions of the Parliament have at least two central goals. The first is the inaugural ceremonies opened by very prominent people and visible to the media who should then report that the people of Earth are developing the World Parliament. The second is the work of legislative review and debate that takes place subsequent to the inaugural ceremonies, which should be comprised of delegates who have signed the Earth Constitution—from many countries and parts of India coming together to do this legislative work.

In the case of the 13th session of the Parliament held in Lucknow in December 2013, we failed in both these goals. We did not inaugurate the Parliament before a large audience with prominent people attracting media attention, and we did not begin promoting the parliament sufficiently ahead of time to attract a significant legislative body of delegates. This coming year needs to be different. **Please begin promoting the Parliament NOW for next December.** This is very important.

This year again, Dr. Gandhi provided me an opportunity to speak at a plenary session of the Chief Justices Conference along with Mark Oettinger from the World Service Authority who is working to develop a new international court of human rights, and two others who were not themselves justices. The main value of the Conference for our work, however, was some very good contacts I made with justices from several countries. Professor Ananthanarayanan from Chennai was there along with Mr. Anandakumar, also from WCPA Chennai. Justice T.N.Vallinayakam from Tamil Nadu, a long-time supporter of WCPA, was also present at the Chief Justices' Conference and joined the Collegium of World Judges.

After the Conference, we were still in Lucknow when the terrible bombing took place in Pakistan in a school serving the children of military officers in the Pakistan Army. This was in response to the devastation that the Pakistani military is wreaking on the children of the people living in northwest Pakistan. Dr. Gandhi called a press conference the following day in which he invited me to participate. Along with some very articulate young people from CMS, he and I spoke to the press about the global problem of terrorism and the need for democratic world government to address this problem effectively. I spoke about the vicious cycle of violence and the mirror image that private terrorism displays with state terrorism.

My wife and I went next to Delhi via Agra and the Taj Mahal. In Delhi we were generously hosted by Mr. Amit Paul, President of the Delhi Chapter of WCPA and an active promoter of our work in that city. I will write a letter of invitation to the Parliament to heads of the embassies in Delhi and Amit Paul will deliver it in person. Amit also put us in contact with several prominent social activists and intellectuals, including Professor Darvesh Gopal, Director of Social Sciences at Indira Gandhi National Open University. I was invited to give a talk to a group of faculty from Indira Gandhi University which was very well received. Dr. Gopal invited me to reside as a guest on their spacious campus any time I wished and to lecture to their students and faculty about the Earth Constitution. Our work now has important contacts at this prominent national university. Amit Paul (with the help of Sudesh Sharma (see below)) will be promoting the 14th session of the PWP in Delhi—as I said, to embassies of various countries as well as to others. I left \$300 with him to help cover photocopying, etc. for this effort.

From Delhi we flew to Chennai to be received by WCPA Director for Asia, Professor Ananthanarayanan. A number of members from WCPA Chennai met us at the airport with wreaths and flowers in a wonderful reception ceremony. The following day Professor Ananthanarayanan arranged, through Sri Ramanuja Mission Trust, a car and driver to take Phyllis, himself, and me to Pondicherry. We met with officers from World Union, headed by Prakesh Patel, and among whom were a couple of younger members who wanted to reactivate a flagging World Union. I said they could work with a growing WCPA and together support the Earth Constitution. Krishnaraj was there from Mumbai. He is the person who I had met several years ago on a previous visit to Pondicherry. At this meeting, he offered us free land (many acres) near Mumbai for WCPA building and usage.

(Note: as I wrote in an earlier report, this is not the first time: we have been offered a free office in Mexico City, a free office in Tripoli, Libya, a free office in Delhi, India (just last year), and a future office in Kolkata.. Since the WCPA financial crisis of 2003, we have never had the resources to staff any of these offices, let alone build something. In Chennai, S.A.R.P.V.Chaturvedi (head of Sri Ramanuja Mission Trust) told me he was creating an Institute for Harmony that I (and WCPA) should run. As with Krishnaraj, I thanked him for his generosity and let it pass. When you have few resources you miss opportunities on a regular basis. For years (since we lost Phillip Isely's funding support) we have been missing major opportunities and no one on the Executive Council but me and one or two others seems to care very much.)

We spent one night in Pondicherry and returned to Chennai the next day, visiting Auroville on the way, along with some new friends from Pondicherry. The following day, I was invited to cut the ribbon opening the new extension office of WCPA, which is part of the suite of offices occupied by "Chennai Turns Pink" (an organization concerned to fight breast cancer) run by Mr. Anandakumar, who is also an artist and long-term WCPA officer there. The main WCPA Chennai Office, staffed by Prof. Ananthanarayanan, is now complemented by this second office, staffed by people working for "Chennai Turns Pink." I am hoping these offices bear fruit in the form of many new members for WCPA and a large delegation to the Parliament from Chennai.

The next day we were treated to a sumptuous lunch (and use of Wi-Fi) at the Courtyard Marriott in central Chennai, courtesy of S.A.R.P.V. Chaturvedi and Sri Ramanuja Mission Trust, and then we were taken to the office of the Vice-Provost of Commonwealth Science and Technology Academy for Research (CSTAR). There were 3 other faculty members with the Vice-Provost and we joined in the conversation about global issues. Soon Chaturvedi ("Swami-ji") arrived and all debate stopped in the face of his amazing intellect, which overwhelmed us all. He spoke about these global issues and the need for a **positive** vision of the future and then we all had tea (and the inevitable photo sessions) and met some more people

from the Sri Ramanuja Mission. I believe that Swami-ji Chaturvedi recognizes the significance of the Earth Constitution with regard to its function as a concrete, positive vision for the future of the Earth, and that is why he wishes to work closely with us. We alone have a really concrete, positive vision for the future. This is what we must promote until the Constitution becomes a household word for all humanity.

The next day Prof. Ananathanarayanan took us to the airport from where we flew to Trivandrum in Kerala State. It turned out to be impossible to meet Justice Alexander Thomas of the High Court of Kerala, but he and I spoke on the phone, and I mailed a copy of the *Constitution for the Federation of Earth* to him from a post office there. For two days Phyllis and I experienced some of the wonders of the area, which has a rich history. Then we flew to Bangalore (now Bangaluru) and were received by E.P. Menon and graciously accompanied to the Janadhana Hotel, hosted by him. The following day we purchased my bus ticket back to Chennai on January 2. (Phyllis flew back to the states on that day, seen off by our friend Menon.)

From 4 PM to 7:30 PM on New Year's Eve, E. P. Menon had arranged a meeting with about 15 people: journalists, social activists, professors, and political leaders. It was called "World Constitution for Peace and Survival of Humanity," December 31st, organized at the Janadhana Hotel. After the discussions he also provided dinner for the group. The talk and subsequent discussion appeared quite successful to me and we made some important contacts. Of course, I gave them all the invitation to the Parliament in December 2015 and personally invited all of them to attend as delegates. Several said they intended to come to Kolkata for the Parliament.

Throughout his long career as a Gandhian Social Activist and Thinker, Menon has served as an enabler of people, especially young people, to come together in the spirit of reason and dialogue to deal creatively with the immense problems faced by humanity. One of his many projects has been to assemble a group of people under the age of 30 (50% of whom are women) in the town of Kanya Kumari at the famous rock that forms the southern-most tip of India (where three oceans meet and the two coasts of India merge together). It is a place for planetary thought and geographical significance. Menon has connections all over India that can recruit thoughtful and socially concerned young people from every state in India and bring them together, expenses paid, to this place. In early January 2016 (following the Parliament), he invited me to join him with this group under the theme: "The Human Family: where is it going, and where should it be going?" He has seen many young people become empowered and transformed through these enabling revolutionary seminars.

On January 2, I took a bus back to Chennai where Professor Ananathanarayanan kindly met me at the huge bus station. On January 3rd we had the "Grand Global Peace Meet" with scholars and peace thinkers from a number of places (Argentina, San Diego, CA, Minneapolis, MN, Amsterdam, Geneva) as well as local peace thinkers and activists. This was billed as a co-venture of Sri Ramanuja Mission Trust and WCPA and included a number of interesting presentations from knowledgeable people. Besides myself, Professor Ananthanarayanan spoke two or three times in the day-long events and Justice Vallinayakam (a long time WCPA supporter and member of the Collegium of World Judges who regularly comes for the Chief-Justice conferences in Lucknow). Prof. S.A.R.P.V. Chaturvedi ("Swami-ji"), founder of Sri Ramanuja Mission Trust, gave inspired and very insightful and brilliant talks in both the morning and afternoon sessions. There were several long-time WCPA members in the audience which was made up largely of young people from the college where the event took place, clearly brought there by their teachers.

There were some complaints among the international guests that we did not know what we were doing from one moment to the next, or one day to the next, that we were provided with no master program or plan, and that there were constant apparent changes of plans or interruptions to what we were scheduled to do. However, Swami Chaturvedi informed me on my last day in India that the agreement with the Chennai branch of the WCPA was that he would fund the meet in these three cities, and would invite the international speakers, but WCPA would organize the program. With all the capable WCPA people who live in Chennai, this could have been done well. As it was, it seems that no one from WCPA there really understood this or acted on this, and everything was left up to the Sri Ramanuja Mission Trust people. I am obviously not happy about this apparent WCPA failure to live up to its role as co-sponsor of the Grand Global Peace Meet.

One positive result of the meet in Chennai was the offer by Ms. Sudesh Sharma, a remarkable woman staying at the SRMT ashram. She is a retired administrator for the Indian Railway system, and also as a division leader of Scouts of India. She wants to help with the Parliament and offered to bring as many young people as we need to staff all the many infrastructure tasks that such a large gathering requires. She also offered us to stay at her place when in Delhi. I will be putting her in touch with Dr. Chattopadhyay in Kolkata and I am quite sure the events for the big conference and World Parliament next December will be very well organized.

Mr. Lakshmi Narasimhan, a WCPA member for the past ten years, videotaped some of the talks. He planned to meet with me to complete a video made from the day's events that can be posted on Facebook, U-Tube, etc. On Sunday, January 4, we held an opening ceremony for the new WCPA Office located at the Sri Ramanuja Mission Trust headquarters in Chennai. About 5 pm the message was transmitted to me that we were all to go to Bangalore and should go home and pack for 4 days. The Mission bus (holding about 16 people) took the 4 internationals and Dr. Swaminadhan and his wife from the Trust and a driver and co-pilot (not speaking English) and came to my guest house at the University of Madras (where I had gone with Prof. A. to pack for four days, leaving half my luggage in the room for when I returned), and then we went through Chennai traffic to the apartment where the 3 internationals were staying, and then through immense traffic jams in Chennai toward the countryside on our way to Bangalore.

The bus bounced at every bump and was very uncomfortable at both slow and fast speeds. Once in the country we raced through the night with the occupants bouncing from the bad highways. Finally, with a phone call to Swami-ji and 220 km left to go to Bangalore, we stopped for the night. We got off the highway and drove (and drove) to a Golden Temple Guest House. By now it was 12:30 or 1 AM and we were all exhausted. But the guest house was very nice and the next morning visiting the Golden Temple was quite amazing. A large temple plated entirely with 24 carat gold: difficult to comprehend from a Western point of view. As a part of our guided tour, we performed puja near the temple.

At the temple guest house, they gave the internationals double rooms and I roomed with Dr. Richard Clugston from Minnesota, who is very informed about the shift-network and all the alternative work being done for transformation, as he works with the Thomas Berry group and the UN Environmental group for spirituality and sustainability. He is concerned with the input of global civil society into the transformative process at the UN. He was also involved in the writing of the Earth Charter. It turns out that he is a morning jogger also so we went for a jog early in the morning, and then packed up and visited the nearby Golden Temple. The result is that we did not get to Bangalore until late Monday night.

In Bangalore we stayed, again with our roommates, in a private apartment, apparently owned or controlled by the Bangalore Civil Defense organization, a huge government organization, working with the Police Department, to train people for natural or human-made emergencies. They were our hosts for the next two days. The first day we met with a former high member of the Indian government who now ran a gigantic trust (The National Foundation for Communal Harmony) doing all sorts of educational and development work in India. Our Civil Defense hosts showed us their headquarters and much about their work, provided transportation, and hospitality for us for our entire stay in Bangalore. Dr. P.R.S. Chetan, a commanding officer of the Civil Defense, promised that many members of the CD from Bangalore will join WCPA.

The second day we again held the Grand Global Peace Meet, and Heinrik Hol from Amsterdam, Dr. Richard Clugston, Andres Esquivel from Argentina, and myself were joined by Dr. Cyril Richie from Geneva, Dr. Alexander Chumakov from Russia, Dr. Igor Kondrishin from Russia, and Dr. Thomas Daffern from the UK, all of them important figures in the global peace movement and all staying in the apartments maintained by the Civil Defense organization. The third day we met more dignitaries and visited the Gandhi Bhavan and met with its Director, who himself was a freedom fighter and spent 6 months in jail when he was a young man for publishing a radical underground newsletter.

E.P. Menon joined us for the Grand Peace Meet and reconnected with Chumakov and Daffern whom he had met years before. Chumakov and Daffern have been, like myself, members of International Philosophers for Peace (IPPNO) (of which I am President) and we decided to revitalize the organization: Chumakov coordinating Russia, Daffern coordinating Europe, and myself North America. Alexander Chumakov also invited me to place an article about globalization in relation

to WCPA in his widely read *Age of Globalization* journal and Richard Clugston invited me to submit a chapter on Spirituality and the Earth Constitution for this forthcoming book on spirituality and social transformation. After the Kolkata Parliament in December, you will recall, there will be an IPPNO Conference, a perfect opportunity to revitalize IPPNO.

The next morning the international guests were all provided with tickets to fly to Hyderabad, to be greeted at the airport by SRMT people from that city. Our accommodations included single rooms in the Pearl Regency Hotel, a very nice place, with internet, restaurant, laundry service, etc. On Friday we held the Grand Global Peace Meet, and to my surprise, upon arriving at the venue of the meet there was Ambassador Barry Gusi and Dr. Evelyn Gusi as guests of the meet. It was a grand event because of their presence. Apparently they will be awarding Swami-ji the GUSI Peace Prize International this coming November. Igor Kondrishin and myself are 2013 Laureates of the GUSI Peace Prize International.

All talks at these events were video recorded and will be used to promote peace and the peace and sustainability movement in India and worldwide, portions placed on U-Tube, etc. We are also to send our talks in written form so that a volume can be compiled from these Peace Meet events. The Peace Meet took all day Friday. On Saturday we met with a high government official of Andhra Pradesh, urging him to emphasize civic education and peace education within the increasingly pragmatic and technically oriented curricula of higher education in that region. He personally deplored the loss of these things in the current trends for merely technical forms of education. We also toured the impressive museum in Hyderabad, along with Ambassador and Dr. (Mrs.) Gusi. They have been featured on the covers of several magazines and informed me that they will soon be coming out on the cover of Vogue. They are prominent peace ambassadors and celebrities. I agreed to help identify prominent people to be nominated for next year's peace prize.

Dr. Swaminadhan (a member of our Grand Global Peace Meet, a Trustee of the Sri Ramanuja Mission Trust, and former member of the Planning Board for India), as mentioned earlier, was with us in all three cities. He provided several of us with a draft of a resolution for the Peace Meet. I took the marked up copies returned by three people and combined them into a one-page draft resolution, to be signed by all these people, including Swami-ji. On Saturday night we all had dinner at Swami-ji's Hyderabad residence. Our hosts made 14 copies of the revised resolution and we discussed wording, etc., for some time before we all signed it. It will be distributed to the media. A copy of the Resolution is attached.

Sunday morning some of us had private interviews with Swami-ji. Richard Clugston and I were the first, we met at 6 AM in the Lobby of our hotel and were taken to Swami's residence for meeting with him. In his meeting with me, he reaffirmed his financial support for our work and said that we should design an action-plan for 2015, including 5 or 6 major events, with a budget for each, and he will fund them. He promised to have many members signing up for WCPA in India and to get me recognized as a guest of the Indian state in future trips to India. He has many contacts with the authorities and is educating them to pay special attention to the voices of peace leaders like myself. He urged us to make a place on our websites for people to become members directly on-line, and to provide Identity Cards for members. He will provide us with the vastly increased membership, we must provide the means for them to register and compile an e-list to keep them informed and involved. And he requested to be placed as a Special Advisor to WCPA, to which I readily agreed.

Then, midday on Sunday, January 11, there was a press conference at the Press Club on Hyderabad with 7 or 8 press persons from different media present and a video camera recording all our 5 minute presentations to the press. All of us presented in about 5 minutes, including Ambassador and Dr. Gusi, and a copy of the Resolution was passed out, along with the brochure for the December session of the World Parliament.

There was to be lunch provided after the Press Conference, but Richard and I insisted of returning to the hotel to do work, organize and pack our things, etc. While in my room I received a visit from the Executive Secretary of PROBE, a press organization linking thousands of Indian journalists, who had been at the Press Conference. He said that he was particularly impressed with my presentation at the Press Conference and offered his support for our work and for promoting the Parliament session in Kolkata next December. He also invited me to submit articles that would be widely printed in India and to open the door for me to meet with high government officials like the President of India, whom we might invite to inaugurate the Parliament in December. He also would see that the Inauguration of the Parliament was

very widely covered in the press. I gave him my last copy of *Anatomy of a Sustainable World* that includes the Earth Constitution as an Appendix.

I requested a car at 5 pm to take me to the airport. About half an hour before that time my missing two suitcases arrived from Chennai where I had left them the previous week thinking we would be returning there. I integrated the 3 bags and began the long journey back to Virginia.

Positive results and expected results of this WCPA month-long work in India:

1. Ample funding for WCPA projects throughout 2015.
2. We made or renewed contacts with important peace leaders from a variety of significant organizations.
3. Many people will be coming to the Parliament in Kolkata from a number of Indian cities.
4. Ample free helping staff for the Parliament from the Scouts of India.
5. Very wide publicity for the Parliament, before, during, and after.
6. Possible very prominent personalities at the Inaugural Session of the Parliament.
7. Pending access of WCPA to high government officials in India, including the President and possibly the Prime Minister (Modi).
8. Expanded presence for WCPA in the electronic media.
9. Increased exposure for our work in the scholarly media.
10. Some Indians and Russians interested in attending the Building the New World Conference in Radford, May 28-31, 2015 (www.btnw.org) (where the Earth Constitution will be introduced to perhaps 500 participants).
11. Widely increased membership for WCPA from India.
12. An important contact with a high court judge from Kerala, who is very interested in the Earth Constitution, and who may help with our World Court project, and contacts with a number of other justices from different countries who expressed interest in our work.
13. Access to a number of universities for getting out our message and for receiving the Earth Constitution, including Indira Gandhi Open University in Delhi (perhaps the major public university of India).

Negative result of this WCPA work:

GTM returning home exhausted.

Thank-you all for your dedication to a transformed world of justice, peace, and sustainability under the Earth Constitution. Let's together make 2015 the year of triumph for the Earth Constitution!

Yours faithfully,
Glen T. Martin, President