

FRAMING CO-EXISTENCE IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

# *‘The Copenhagen Lab of co-existence’*

The Copenhagen Lab of Co-existence is a joint arrangement organized by the Co-existence of Civilizations Initiative and its partners, Nordic Council, the Asia-Europe Foundation and Strategic Foresight Group.

## **MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE COPENHAGEN LAB**

- To have an open and frank debate on the global co-existence agenda – which five main challenges has to be dealt with now?
- To establish a vision for future co-existence – what are the solutions at hand?
- Prepare the ground for an international Co-existence Think Tank.
- Launch the co-existence expedition.

# PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER 5, 2006

09.30 – 10.00 Registration and coffee

10.00 – 12.30 Welcoming Address

Welcome to Denmark and the Copenhagen Lab of Co-existence by its initiator, **Mr. Erik Rasmussen**, Monday Morning

Opening speech (by video) by **HRH Prince Hassan**, Jordan – Patron of the Global Think tank of Co-existence

The Importance of the Global Co-existence Agenda by **Deputy Director Shamil Idriss**, The UN Alliance of Civilizations (by video)

Keynote speech by **Mr. Sundeep Waslekar**, Strategic Foresight Group  
Present an overview of challenges in West-Islam relations from a neutral perspective and identify five key issues, which would have an impact on relations between civilizations in the 21st century.

Introduction to the programme by **Project manager Marianna Lubanski**  
Presentation of the results of the activities leading up to the Lab – Presentation of the Batons: Academia, Culture, Media, Civil Society, and Business – how to handle future cultural conflicts?  
Youth Baton: 100 ideas from the next generation – how to promote co-existence? Presented by the youth.  
Objective and Success criteria of Copenhagen Lab

Moderator: **Kim Bildsøe Lassen**, Danish Broadcasting

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch break and networking  
'Youth' representatives present their work in the hall

## WOKSHOP SESSIONS: 'CO-EXISTENCE LAB'

14.00 – 14.30 Promoting Common Values – A German-Malaysian Interfaith Education Project  
Presentation by **Peter Schier**, Konrad Adenauer Foundation

14.30 – 15.00 Plenary session – Inspiration  
  
Presentation of an Analytical Framework – first steps towards a common analytical language of Co-existence?

15.00 – 17.00 Group work

In the following three workshops participants cooperate in cross-national and cross-sector groups to produce the following output:

- Presentation round in smaller groups
- Short presentations by the thematic moderators
- Brainstorming on main challenges within the subject
- Elaboration of list of challenges inspired by the mutual analytical framework and experience and knowledge of participants
- Sum up.

All groups are supported by co-writer team of Analysts from Monday Morning.

### WORKING GROUP 1:

#### **PRINCIPLES OF SECULARITY AND RELIGION**

Insofar as we try to explain cultural conflicts in religious and secular terms, what should we then be aware of and what might we hope to achieve? What knowledge do we have, what knowledge do we need, and which prejudices and presuppositions could we do without? Is it Islam, Christianity, religion as such, secular ideas or a combination of some or all of these that is causing all the problems? Or should we rather see them, as some has proposed, as possible solutions to some (or maybe even all) of the problems facing our modernized and global world? First and foremost how can we through a sharing and discussion of our knowledge of religion and secularism, and everything in between, contribute to more peaceful solutions of cultural disagreements in order to co-exist?

**Moderators: Professor Mark Tamthai and PhD, Senior Researcher Garbi Schmidt**

### WORKING GROUP 2:

#### **THE IMPACT OF POWER STRUCTURES ON OPTIONS FOR DIALOGUE**

With the fall of the Berlin Wall in 89' our view of the world changed dramatically and new balances of power arose out of the rubbles. But what were they and have they stayed the same since then? For instance what significance should we ascribe to the rise of the BRICS-countries and do we need to see the world in a new perspective? Some say that the world today is characterized by a global governance-problem experienced as a power-vacuum, but is this true? Others again tend to explain cultural conflicts either as a consequence of the challenges and pressures facing the modern nation-state or the economic dispositions of multinational corporations operating in a unregulated global environment. In short we might ask: From a power perspective what is the picture of our world today? And with this perspective in mind what are the social, political and economic conditions for and hindrances of enhanced Co-existence? And finally, how might we learn to handle and cope with them?

**Moderators: Lawyer and High Commissioner Nuri Albala and Ass. Professor Carl Petersen**

### WORKING GROUP 3:

#### **LANGUAGE OF CO-EXISTENCE**

One of the greatest challenges to Co-existence is communication and how we understand one another. Does it make a difference what words we use to describe our world and each other and if it does, who can be said to have the responsibility for making sure that we use the proper terms? Is it the media? The politicians? Their spin-doctors? Or might it even be we as individuals? Further to that how do we in fact define and speak of ourselves? In contrast or in relation to other people, their cultures, languages and worlds? And might we, in spite of all our conceptual differences, be able to create a common, open and tolerant language of Co-existence in order to qualify and improve the intercultural debates in and between our societies?

**Moderators: Professor Grahame F.Thompson and Editor Kim Bildsøe Lassen**

17.00 – 17.30	Short break, soft drinks
17.30 – 18.00	Cultural Co-existence Artistic Event 'Images of the Middle East'
18.30 – 21.00	Dinner

## PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER 6, 2006

- 08.30 – 09.00    Arrival and coffee
- 09.00 – 12.00    **The quest for co-existence**  
Objective of the day: Five main challenges identified, prioritized and action plans elaborated
- Moderators from first days' workshops present list of challenges identified
- Voting process  
Participants prioritize the proposals and the five main issues are selected.
- GROUP WORK  
Elaboration of action plans for the five selected issues.
- 12.00 – 13.00    Lunch & networking
- 13.00 – 15.00    Launching of the Co-existence Expedition  
Presentation of the results of the Copenhagen Lab: the five main issues selected and the proposed action plans.  
Official hand-over of the baton and launching of the Co-existence Expedition to partner representative **Mr. Inge Lønning** from the Nordic Council  
Summing up and future perspectives by **Amb. J. Ørstrøm Møller**  
Official Closing
- 15.00 – 15.30    Press conference
- 15.00 – 16.00    Drinks and networking
- 18.00             Dinner for International Guest