

Greetings from ARC!

- A Year After Windsor
- A New DVD Teacher's Pack
- ARC discount for Tigers and Daoism at Asia House London on November 13<sup>th</sup>
- Faith in Food launched this week in Louisville, USA

A year ago this week, and everyone at ARC seemed to be in a state of both exhaustion and elation. We were in the middle of the biggest event in ARC's history - an extraordinary celebration called *Many Heavens, One Earth* at Windsor Castle, put together as part of ARC's partnership with UNDP.

The 200 or so readers of this newsletter who attended will remember that it involved 31 traditions within nine major faiths worldwide launching long-term plans for environmental action. These faith commitments were made in the presence of HRH Prince Philip, and HE Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, who both attended Windsor, enjoyed a vegetarian banquet in the Castle (the first that Windsor Castle had ever hosted) and we heard later that both had found it an inspiring occasion.

A further 18 commitments were made by secular groups to work with the faiths on the environment, while other faiths, including the Mongolian Buddhists, started the journey of creating their own long-term commitments. It also boosted our Religious Forestry and Water Schools programmes as well as marking the birth of two other project areas: Faith in Food and the Green Pilgrim City Network were both brought into being at Windsor.

I was working with two colleagues on the communications, and I remember that moment when I realised that the phone had not stopped ringing with requests for interviews, quotes and information from hundreds of journalists around the world. So many TV and radio interviews were going on that at one point we found ourselves locked out of our press room to allow the World Service to do an interview with a senior Muslim leader while I sat on a table in the corridor outside, answering that ringing phone. We probably needed six people, not three.

I also remember the real sense of energy and ideas as I joined different working groups – the ones I dropped in on were talking about pilgrim cities going green, about water issues in religious-run schools, about how faiths absolutely needed to improve their policies on ethical food – and I am scarcely surprised that each of those little gatherings looks has resulted in a major new scheme (so far there is a new website for the Water Schools Project, appropriately named [www.waterschools.org](http://www.waterschools.org) with two more to follow in the next months).

The meeting (held just before the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen in December 2009, which was more beset by problems) has had so many wonderful new activities and ideas growing

out from it, that we have been busy this past few weeks compiling a 29 page report on some of the things that have been happening. You can read it by linking from our website, at <http://tinyurl.com/2uerr6b>. It is one of the most important documents we have ever produced, as it shows how an area of engagement that was seen by so many as marginal is in fact one of the best hopes that this planet has for being populated by people who care for it and look after it.

None of it could have been achieved without the generous funding of the Norwegian Government, the World Bank, British Council, MOA and others, as well as the support and help of Olav Kjørven and his UNDP colleagues. All our thanks.

### WINDSOR WEBSITES etc

Our dedicated [Windsor](#) website, containing hundreds of photos, hours of audio including an hour long BBC Radio programme on the event, some video and biographies, and even the details of that first all-vegan banquet ever held at the Castle is still up on the internet at [www.windsor2009.org](http://www.windsor2009.org) And there's a whole range of little videos on <http://tinyurl.com/36zm4ma>

### A NEW DVD TEACHER'S PACK

We have made part of the film footage from Windsor into a DVD Teacher's Pack on Environment and Religion (funded by the Ashden Trust), launched last month, which is already getting some wonderful feedback from teachers. <http://www.arcworld.org/news.asp?pageID=411> If you are, or know, a religious studies teacher with interest in Keystage 3 level teaching, then there are a few free copies left, so please send a request to my colleague Pippa Moss at [arcworld@arcworld.org](mailto:arcworld@arcworld.org)

### TIGERS AND DAOISM AT ASIA HOUSE

In this Chinese Year of the Tiger, Asia House in London is holding a fantastic exhibition of "The Tiger in Asian Art", running until just after the Year of the Rabbit starts in February. Next Saturday, November 13th, ARC's Martin Palmer will be one of five speakers in what sounds like a fascinating study day about Tigers and Religion including Tiger and Magic in SouthEast Asian Culture, and The Tiger in Indian Myth and Imagination. And the good news is that if you quote "ARC" when you book, you get £10 off the published price of £35 for the day. [www.asiahouse.org](http://www.asiahouse.org) or call +44 (0) 20 7307 5454

### LAUNCH OF FAITH IN FOOD

I remember once being on a panel giving a talk at Edinburgh about faiths, poverty and protecting the environment. One person in the audience stood up and said they followed the food-purchasing principles of LOAF – that it should be as Local, Organic, Animal-friendly and Fairtrade as possible. And then somebody else stood up and said that LOFTY fitted their lifestyle better: Local, Organic, Free-range, Traded fairly, and Yummy. When ARC created its ethical policy

(<http://www.arcworld.org/about.asp?pageID=3>) we remembered that latter, LOFTY, acronym. And that emphasis on both ethics and deliciousness is at the heart of our new Faith in Food initiative being launched by colleagues this week in New York and Louisville, Kentucky – before regional launches in Africa (Nairobi, November), Asia (New Delhi, January) and Europe (London, March). The first press release is at <http://www.arcworld.org/news.asp?pageID=423> and soon there'll be a full website.

#### QUOTE FROM THE FAITHS

"When one's food is pure, one's being becomes pure" – Chāndogya Upanisad 7.26.2

Best wishes to all

Victoria Finlay, Communications, ARC  
01225 758004

PS Do let your friends know about this newsletter. Or if you'd like to stop receiving it, please send an email to Pippa on [arcworld@arcworld.org](mailto:arcworld@arcworld.org)