

ARC

ALLIANCE OF RELIGIONS AND CONSERVATION

launched in 1995 by HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh KG KT

ARC Newsletter July 2011

Greetings from ARC

All of us at ARC are delighted to announce that Sir Miles Hunt-Davis has accepted ARC's invitation to become our international president. Sir Miles was a Brigadier in the Gurkhas, British Commander in Nepal and later spent 19 years as Prince Philip's private secretary. I spent a morning with him a few weeks ago, hearing more about his life and work, as well as his understanding of the connections between religions and conservation. The full interview can now be seen on ARC's website, both as a web page and also as a pdf. It includes insights into Prince Philip's dedication to conservation, and what it was like to travel the world with him, as well as Sir Miles' own thoughts about the work of ARC over the past two decades. <http://www.arcworld.org/news.asp?pageID=469>

We also think that many of you will be interested in watching a programme created by the BBC to celebrate the 90th birthday this month of Prince Philip, who was ARC's founder in 1986 when he decided that WWF really needed to take the religions seriously as conservation partners. *The Duke at 90* includes interviews with ARC's director, Martin Palmer, about his long working career with Prince Philip. It also has some rare footage from ARC's launch at Windsor Castle in 1995 and the Assisi event in 1986, when religious leaders from five faiths came together. They discussed how



each of them felt that, through their faith, they had responsibility to protect and respect the environment. And from this small seed ARC (and thus so much of the long term work of religions on conservation programmes) began. The whole BBC programme can now be watched in two parts on Youtube, with links from our website: <http://www.arcworld.org/news.asp?pageID=466>

I'll leave you with two quotations: one from Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, and the other from the Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh:

"Receive the world that God has given. Go for a walk. Get wet. Dig the earth."
(Archbishop Rowan Williams, from the Forward to *Sharing God's Planet*, Church House Publishing, 2005, £5.99)

"People usually consider walking on water or in thin air a miracle. But I think the real miracle is not to walk either on water or in thin air, but to walk on earth. Every day we are engaged in a miracle which we don't even recognize: a blue sky, white clouds, green leaves, the black, curious eyes of a child--our own two eyes. All is a miracle." Thich Nhat Hanh, Miracle of Mindfulness

Best wishes

The ARC team