

fimarc

PRESENCE D'ÉGLISE DANS LE MONDE RURAL



VOICE OF

THE RURAL WORLD

à la dimension du monde

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A l'issue d'une audience, SS. le Pape Paul VI s'entretient avec quelques membres du Bureau de la F.I.M.A.R.C.

février, pour réfléchir en chrétiens aux problèmes du développement, ils font un effort essentiel pour leurs frères et pour l'Église. Quand des groupes de foyers africains se retrouvent à Ouagadougou ou ailleurs, ils se retrouvent eux aussi à l'œuvre et de même en Europe, les Espagnols et les Français, les Belges, les Néerlandais, se confrontent, se découvrent, s'enrichissent, ils se situent également à la hauteur de leur temps.

Mais c'est l'avenir des hommes et de l'Église. C'est bien ce qui fait la grandeur de notre tâche. Celle surtout de la F.I.M.A.R.C.

Cet éditorial est traduit en page 2. This editorial is translated in page 2nd. Dieser Leitartikel ist auf der zweiten Seite übersetzt. Este editorial está traducido en la página 2.

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It highlights the rural world's life and activities of
the member movements belonging or not to the Federation

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World Assembly 2010 - Atyra (Paraguay)

Dear Readers,

Greetings from International secretariat

FIMARC World Assembly as well as the celebration of 50 years of our existence will take place in Volkersberg, Germany. As part of our preparation, the main topic of this edition of the VMR is on the theme of our World Assembly "At this time of global crisis, opening the paths of an alternative development; Democracy, autonomy and dignity for all". We are living in extraordinary, even unprecedented times. Perhaps, never before in recorded history has there been such a convergence of crises and forces that threaten the future of both humanity and the planet. The global economic and climate crises is further compounded by the prospects of a worldwide food crisis and the spectrum of mass hunger and starvation.

To overcome the current global and systemic crises that now engulf the planet, we must collectively call for the building of a new economic order - one that puts the satisfaction of basic human needs and the implementation of all social, economic, cultural, political and human rights at the centre of its

program priorities - and one that is based on models of production and consumption that respect the natural resource limits of the planet, an equitable distribution of these resources among people, and the use of clean, safe and renewable energy resources. As a major first step towards a new economic order, the current development model should be replaced by an alternative development model - one that is just, sustainable and participatory. In order to resolve the financial, climate, and food crises of our times, governments must have the policy space and flexibility needed to regulate and - in many instances re-regulate - their economies to serve the common good of their peoples and the environment. More than at any other moment in living memory, the time has come for civil society associations and mass social movements to unite in a common cause to confront global crises of our times, to replace the corporate-driven global economy, and start building a sustainable economic future together.

The future of a family based sustainable agriculture in today is in danger as current global multiple crises deteriorate the life in Rural and Agricultural sectors but we believe that family farmers and rural people can work alternatives to build up and improve the situation of agriculture and rural areas. Our models of agriculture have a key role to play in designing sustainable paths (agro-ecology, diversification, shorter supply chains, community-supported agriculture). We are committed to forging new pathways to the future we want – a future where the common good of all takes precedence over the interests of a tiny elite; where the needs and rights of all people are realized; where the environment is not sacrificed to benefit only the few. We are convinced “Another rural world is possible!!”

The global conference, Field Visits, Dialogue forums etc will deeply reflect on the various alternatives and solutions to tackle the challenges of the current crises. The main article will give you more details about the major priority topics that will be discussed during our meeting in Germany.

Enjoy your reading

*George Dixon Fernandez
Secretary General*



WORLD ASSEMBLY 2014

FIMARC 50th ANNIVERSARY

In may 2014, the FIMARC will celebrate its 50 years of existence with all its affiliated movements, associated organizations and contact organizations all around the world. This event will take place at Volkersberg in the diocese of Würzburg in Germany. 50 years is the age of maturity, probably time to look at the past to see the accomplished steps but mostly to project oneself into the future.

The Executive Committee of FIMARC which met in April 2013, in consultation with the member movements has opted for the following theme:

"At these times of global crises opening the paths of an alternative development ; Democracy, autonomy and dignity for all."

Since the world meeting of Paraguay, where we had put the focus on decrease, our intuition of the need to change lifestyle, to consume less energy, less meat, less water,... was confirmed over the years and over the crisis. We have broadly developed those topics in the VMR editions that have published these past 4 years. We saw the need for this decrease in fields as diverse as energy, food, water, models of production... But despite all efforts, much remains to be done. The recent report of the IPCC, does confirm the previous one which already got alarm bells ringing when the need to drastically reduce our consumption, to try to stop their harmful effects on climate change.

But only decrease, cannot solve all the problems. Furthermore, we have often heard you also react quite negatively to this concept by raising the question where it should be still possible to decrease in some countries, when the challenge for some families were about how to get food for the day to day and to face the basic needs. In the exchanges between movements of different countries, in the alternatives we know, by visiting one or another country during exposure programs it became more and more clear that it was necessary to go beyond decrease, to continue the efforts for genuine alternatives to establish a system that will allow all to live in dignity, autonomy and democracy.

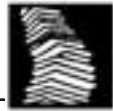
This is thus this central theme which will be the object of all our reflections during the world meeting of 2014 and that we'll assume over the 4 years following this meeting.

Global multiple crises and new paths of alternative development.

The financial meltdown has triggered a global economic crisis with spiraling unemployment and poverty. This, in turn, is occurring in the midst of a global climate crisis that is heating the planet with unimaginable consequences including food crisis and the spectrum of mass hunger and starvation. What's more, this triple crisis may soon be exacerbated by an emerging energy crisis as worldwide demand for oil outstrips supply, coupled with a deepening social crisis as corresponding asymmetries between class, gender and race intensify. Furthermore, the inability of governments to cope with these multiple crises will undoubtedly generate increasing political unrest..More recently, it has become increasingly evident that this system of global economic governance --- based on the neo-liberal model of extreme deregulation and privatization coupled with the granting of new powers to corporations and the rolling back social and environmental rights ---has not only failed. It is also a root cause of the global crises at hand.

Food & Social Crisis

Export-oriented agricultural production in developing countries is intensifying rather than alleviating a looming worldwide food and hunger crisis. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, world hunger rates reached at largest increase ever in 2009, to the point where one out of every six people on the planet faces starvation and malnourishment. Under WTO trade rules, large agribusiness operations subsidized by the big industrial powers are allowed to dump commodities into overseas markets, in the name of providing food for the global supermarket. Moreover, with trade rules designed to increase trade volume rather than promote food security, and with many developing countries under enormous pressure to earn hard currency in order to service their debts to global financial institutions, crops produced from the best agricultural lands in developing countries are exported mainly to rich industrialized countries. At the same time, peasants in the global South are driven off their land, swelling the ranks of the unemployed in cities, instead of producing food for their own people.



World Assembly 2002 - Cotonou (Benin)

SUB THEMATICS

The general theme that has been set remains quite wide. This is our utopia, our vision for the future. But we will have to decline and pass it to the roping of the concrete issues of life of men, women and children living all around the world, situations which are sometimes really difficult.

The right to food and the rights of peasants

The priority for FIMARC, as well as for more and more movements and associations of civil society remains the right to food. This fundamental right, despite the strong progress announced by the FAO, is still too often flouted. Mechanisms were put in place, regulations, proposed amendments to the many treaties that already exist, are the subject of numerous meetings and actually we can notice some progress. The challenge in the coming years will be to lead but above all to ensure that these measures are binding and that they are implemented.

Similarly, work is underway for many years, initially at the initiative of the CETIM and in collaboration with Via Campesina, on the rights of the peasants. Our working group on human rights is also part of these reflections that have made the point on

various types of violation of the rights of peasants, on the current recognition of these rights in the context of international law and on the preparation of a Charter of human rights, which has to be submitted at the United Nations.

It is a long and exciting task: numerous meetings, presentations, progress and trial are still to predict but the site is launched and is to be monitoring closely.

Relocalisation of the local and regional economy

Very often in the recent years, we have denounced the empire of multinationals, the negative effects on the local life of the peasants and farmers, on the destruction of the environment... And as a corollary, we have stressed more than once the need to relocate the economy to make it more human. Economy as such is not bad and it is without doubt to be regulated ... but not at the international level where producers are forced to obey the laws of the market and have nothing more to say in regard to production conditions and in the choice of their productions.

Alternatives exist. Consumer buying groups, local currencies, relocation facilities exist in some municipalities and in some countries. There also the field is open and we will be present with all our movements to broaden it, to make sure to remove a maximum of intermediaries, to provide access to local and regional markets so that the producers are closer to the demands of consumers and so they can find quality food, by agreeing to pay a fair price for these products.

The links between the rural and the urban - solidarity and cooperation

One of the perverse effects of globalization is the rural exodus it entails, forcing whole families to migrate to the cities looking for better living conditions. Since 2006, the urban population grew beyond 50% and in some countries, including in the South, urban population exceeds 75%. We have noticed during some trips that a large number of people who live in the city has been forced to leave their homeland and these city dwellers are unhappy being away from their lands and cannot find employment or living conditions they hoped to find. The other part of this urban population, although it has not experienced this forced exodus, cannot always find quality products, healthy food for their families.

How are we going to work on this issue during these 4 years? Which solidarities are we going to implement between these urban/rural people who live in the countryside? What cooperation shall we develop between all these people? Here, it will also will be question of proximity, consumer groups markets, offers to city dwellers to go back to rural areas to (re) learn to know and to appreciate it.



Models of production and consumption - agricultural ecology

Alternatives exist, projects grow, but it is sometimes difficult to not let 'pervert' these by the system. The fact is that these alternatives are often primarily economic - it is a good thing but as soon as they grow, they tend to return to the system and lose often their souls and their initial objective.

Agro-ecology which is a cultural system is also a way of life. We have extensively developed it in a previous VMR and what seems to us particularly interesting in this system is that it combines a range of concept that we have worked in recent years in the FIMARC. Agro-ecology places the man at the centre of development and is respectful of the environment, combines the social, economic and human aspects. This will undoubtedly be a concept that we will continue to work, to develop, to test... to make it grow and propose it as a model of development, one which we aspire, based on democracy, autonomy, and dignity for all.

But still...

The some sub-thematic that we propose above will of course be to endorse at the world meeting. We believe that they are in the continuity of our work of the last years in the struggle for the right to live in dignity for all. It will also be question of good governance, sustainable environment, protection of ecosystems. We hope and expect that member movements and associations of FIMARC, will respond to these proposals so that the action plan which will be defined during the world meeting be the plan of action of all.



World Assembly 2010 - Atyra (Paraguay)

THE WORLD MEETING

This world meeting will be special as it will celebrate the 50 years of life of FIMARC. As the movements and member organizations of FIMARC have already been informed, it will take place in Germany, at the diocese of Würzburg from May 15th-31st 2014. The complete program of the world meeting will be sent very soon by the Secretary-General but we already want to point a few key moments that will punctuate this meeting.

The exposure program

It is a habit in FIMARC to begin a world meeting with a time of exposure on the field, to discover a region, to meet the people who live there, to learn about the difficulties they face and the alternatives that they put in place to respond.

In May 2014, it is mainly our friends of the KLB movement of Germany which will host exposure groups but CMR France and ACRF Belgium movements will also accommodate one or another group, being close neighbors of Germany.

The seminar

One of the main moments of the meeting, the seminar will contribute to bring elements for the debates on the proposed theme, on some sub-thematic to determine the action plan for the next four years. It will also be the moment for the regional coordination to implement a regional action plan. For this, regional coordination will be invited to meet many times to plan meetings or seminars, visits and exchanges between movements...



World Assembly 2006 - Daejeon (South Korea)

The General Assembly

For this unavoidable and indispensable institutional part, you will receive shortly more information from the international secretariat. During this world meeting, we should renew mandates, dare to take responsibility both at international level and within the coordination. The call is already launched via this VMR...

And, of course, there will be also discussion about finance, practical aspects of everyday life of the FIMARC. This is certainly not the most rewarding part but for 50 years FIMARC lives and will continue to live. Thanks to you all for the efforts of each and every one.

50 Years of FIMARC

50 years, the age of maturity, time to celebrate, time to think about the future. It's all that will be discussed during the celebration of the anniversary of our federation. We are fortunate to still have some witnesses from the different eras of the FIMARC. During the celebration, we'll have the chance to live a retrospective of these years, the evolution of the federation... and also to see what are the challenges for the future, how the FIMARC is still source of hope, force proposal...

Catholic Forum in Germany

At the end of the world meeting, the delegates will participate in a FORUM of Catholic organizations which will take place at Regensburg from 28th to the 31st May 2014. This will be an opportunity to introduce ourselves to meet other organizations, to exchange on topics which we share.

And in conclusion...

Our resources are limited and we will not be able to ensure a strong presence of all countries, of 2 or 3 delegates by movement. We therefore rely on the participation of all movements to ensure at least that one delegate will be present through the FIMARC member country. We are also counting on the solidarity of our more affluent movements to ensure the participation of more people.

But even if you are not physically present, we know that we can count on your participation via the preparatory work. Very soon, with the other documents already mentioned above, you will receive these famous PW (preparatory work) that we ask you to work in movements, in groups.

The FIMARC is nothing itself but only the representation of all your voices... Make your voices loud ! Participate and contribute so that we can answer exactly your questions and aspirations.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 50 ANS *FELIZ AÑO NUEVO*



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1964-2014



News from coordination



MEETING WITH NGOs – Philipp BISWAS (RRF Pakistan) : Role of NGOs in Development in Bangladesh in Relation to Millennium Development Goals

A meeting took place on 21 August 2013 with the Director General of NGO Affairs Bureau and leading NGOs' representatives for preparation of NGOs in the divisional levels gathering and National level NGOs convention to be held in October in Dhaka. Accordingly on 2 September 2013 Khulna divisional meeting took place at the auditorium of the divisional Commissioner in Khulna where nearly 400 representatives from NGOs and Government officials took part. The purpose of the meeting was to revisit the achievements derived in relation to the millennium development goals during this period. A key note was presented by Md. Azadul Kabir Arjoo, the Executive Director of Jagorani Chakra Foundation(JCF) where he mentioned that 96 NGOs in Khulna Division have been playing a vital role assisting government in different development fields to achieving millennium development goals such as in Educa-

tion, Health, Microfinance, Agriculture, Gender Equity and Empowerment, Good Governance, Sustainable development, Environment sectors. Around 10.32 million people are directly benefited from the activities of NGOs.

As a speaker Mr. Philip Biswas, Executive Director of Rural Reconstruction Foundation in his address mentioned that in development sector NGOs have made a greater contributions especially in education, healthcare, microcredit and food security as a safety net for the poor and vulnerable people of different segments. He also requested the authority to recognise the contributions of the NGOs and extend helping hands where needed.

The Director General of NGO Affairs Bureau and high level government officials highly appreciated the contributions of NGOs in assisting the government in achieving the millennium development goals. A request has been put to the Director General of NGO Affairs Bureau in the meeting to arrange a National Level Convention at the Capital city and invite the Prime Minister of the country to be present as the Chief Guest and the DG agreed upon.

FOOD SOVEREIGN CAMPAIGN RAJASTHAN – Rony JOSEPH (INAG India)

The Mahila Sangam did a survey with the help of the INAG Rajasthan to identify traditional farmers in their areas. After identifying the farmers they try to organise visits to these farms and organise small sessions within the farm.



These sessions help others to understand how the Traditional farmer runs his or her farm. And this farmer to farmer exchanges widen the opportunity to mingle farmers themselves and exchange their ideas, techniques and knowledge.

In this context they decided to collect the traditional seeds and promote these seeds as a part of the Food Sovereignty Campaign. Once in a year they conduct the seed demonstration and exchange mela in their respective areas.

IPC for Food Sovereignty -General Meeting

The IPC is an autonomous, self-managed global network of more than 45 people's movements and NGOs involved with at least 800 organizations throughout the world. The IPC serves as a mechanism for information and training on issues regarding food sovereignty. IPC General Meeting will take place in Brazil from 25-28 November 2013 and FIMARC will participate in this meeting.

The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2):

An inter-governmental meeting on nutrition jointly organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), in cooperation with the High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis (HLTF), IFAD, IFPRI, UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank, WFP and the WTO, will be held at FAO Headquarters, in Rome, 19-21 November 2014.

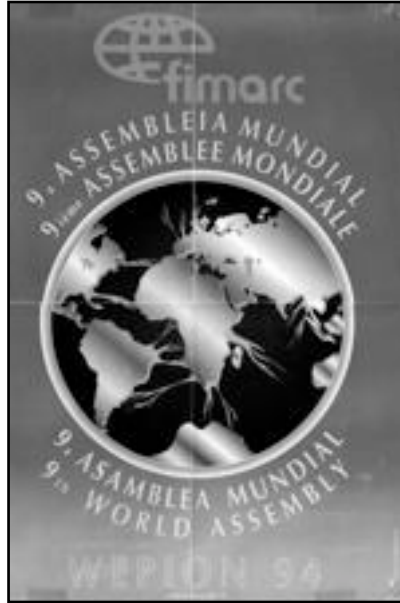
It will be a high-level ministerial conference which will propose a flexible

policy framework to address today's major nutrition challenges and identify priorities for enhanced international cooperation on nutrition. FIMARC will engage in this program to bring the aspect of right to nutrition and right to food of the rural populations

FIMARC Express great Solidarity to the people affected in Philippines with Typhoon Haiyan

Typhoon Haiyan killed an estimated 10,000 people and displaced more than 600,000 in Philippines on 10th November 2013. Some survivors had no food, water or medicine. The United Nations began an appeal for about £200million in aid to help people hit by the huge typhoon.

FIMARC express our solidarity and concern to all the people affected in this horrible disaster and request all the nations to help the people in Philippines to recover from the loss and damages. FIMARC member organisations should support in whatever way they can. Will send you more informations from our member organisation in Philippines once we receive the updates from the country. FIMARC also strongly demand all the countries to stop immediately their activities that cause such climate disasters in various parts of the world. It is the poor who pay for it and not the rich



World Assembly 1994 - Wépion (Belgium)



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