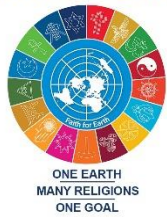


FAITH FOR EARTH



Faith for Earth Updates February 22, 2020



2020 is a super year for Biodiversity where dozens of important conferences and conventions will be held to commemorate the end of UN Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the beginning of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. However, it is only our collective efforts and actions that will make these conventions meaningful and fruitful.

The Africa Nazarene University and Faith for Earth Inaugurate the Biblical Botanical Garden

As part of its activities for the Creation Care Green Week, The Africa Nazarene University launched a week long activities included cleaning campaigns, seminars, election of Miss and Mr. Environment Africa, planting trees and holding creation care prayers. Faith for Earth was invited to inaugurate the Biblical Garden at the University and engage with University staff and students in discussions around climate change and food security. Do you know that in the new and old testaments as well as in the Quran, around 190 plant species were mentioned! This year's World Environment Day theme is Biodiversity. Are you geared up to plant some trees? Do you have resources linking biodiversity to religions? If so, please send to me for compilation for the WED 2020.

Young Champion of the Earth Call is OPEN

For the 4th year running, UNEP is calling on 18-30-year-old innovators to submit their creative solutions to the world's most pressing environmental challenges. Representing every global region, seven applicants with the most promising solutions will be recognized as Young Champions of the Earth – the world's preeminent environmental honor for young people. Each winner will receive seed funding, mentorship and participation in a high-level UN meeting and global publicity. Molly Burhans, a young Faith Leader, won one of the prizes in 2019. Molly founded GoodLands, an FBO, and is currently working on projects worth more than 6 million USD. Do you know of a young faith leader who should be nominated? If so, please send your nomination on this link by 10 April 2020.

UN Secretary General, Mr. Antonio Guterres' Remarks on Interfaith Tolerance

The United Nations Secretary-General visited the Gurdwara Katarpur Saheb in northern Pakistan on Tuesday 18 February 2020. António Guterres also went to the Kartarpur Corridor, the visa-free crossing which allows Sikhs to travel between nearby holy sites on each side of the India-Pakistan border. He later joined other religious leaders at the Lahore Badshahi mosque. On the third and last day of his travel to Pakistan, the UN chief said he had been moved by the show of religious unity he had witnessed in Pakistan This

is the best symbol that we can give, for a world in peace, he concluded. [Read his remarks here.](#)

United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites

In the context of the annual [World Interfaith Harmony Week](#) established by UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/65/5, introduced by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and unanimously adopted in 2010, United Nations Alliance OF Civilizations (UNAOC), in partnership with the Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations, [organized an event](#) to contribute to the implementation of the UN Plan of Action to safeguard religious sites and that will feed into the global communications campaign recommended by the Plan. The UN Plan of Action also recommends that 2020 World Interfaith Harmony Week be dedicated to the protection of religious sites and stresses the importance of interfaith dialogue, which can translate into enhanced respect for religious sites of different faiths and the recognition of their universality as symbols of our shared humanity, history, social fabric and traditions.

Interfaith Rainforest Initiative Launched in Indonesia

From 30-31 January 2020, over 250 religious leaders gathered together with indigenous peoples, NGOs, scientists, government leaders and the United Nations at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in Jakarta to [launch the](#) Interfaith Rainforest Initiative country program in Indonesia and make a historic commitment to protect the third-largest tropical rainforest on the planet. The launch received strong endorsement by the three major Muslim organizations of the country (Indonesian Ulema Council, Nahdlatul Ulama and Muhammadiyah), noteworthy for the largest Muslim nation in the world. Also represented at a high level were the Protestant, Catholic, Hindu, Buddhist and Confucian faiths, as well as the Indigenous Peoples' Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN).

A New Online system for Accreditation to UN Environment Assembly

If your organization is not yet accredited to UN Environment Assembly and if you are interested to be accredited and gain a consultative status within the [rules of procedure](#) of the [UN Environment Assembly](#), please refer to the criteria for accreditation as derived from Rule 70 of the Rules of Procedure and submit your request accordingly. [Guidelines here.](#) Use this link to access the new [online accreditation system.](#)