

COMMON BOND INSTITUTE

12170 South Pine Ayr Drive, Climax, Michigan 49034 USA Ph/Fax: (269) 665-9393
Web: www.cbiworld.org SOLweean@aol.com Facebook: tinyurl.com/CBIONFB

2nd Annual International Conference on Transforming Conflict: Sharing Tools for Dialogue and Engagement June 20-23, 2012 ~ Amman, Jordan

Sponsored by: Common Bond Institute,
International Humanistic Psychology Association, and People's Peace Fund

Endorsed by: an international list of over 100 universities and organizations
Official Partner of Charter For Compassion *and* Parliament of World's Religions

At a time of unprecedented transformation in the Middle East

A Multi-disciplinary, Multi-cultural Conference empowering the individual in society with mutually beneficial and collaborative skills in dialogue, interpersonal communication, decision making, negotiation, problem solving, mediation, conflict resolution, teamwork, leadership, good governance, and sustainable reconciliation.

PURPOSE:

- 1) To benefit citizens of societies in the Middle East, and particularly youth**, by providing them with extensive professional training in mutually beneficial, collaborative, and proactive skills in dialogue, interpersonal communication, decision making, teamwork, leadership, negotiation, problem solving, mediation, conflict resolution, and sustainable reconciliation, designed to build civic participation and local capacity for constructively addressing issues facing Middle Eastern societies today.
- 2) To Bring together best practices and successful models** for empowering peace through empowering citizens and the next generation of leaders and expert trainers representing leading institutes worldwide in each model, to offer practical skills training in the above areas.
- 3) To make a permanent contribution of a growing resource of training and educational materials** to the formal educational institutions for availability to an expanding number of individuals in society in the future.
- 4) To increase local capacity for peace by promoting engaged, strategic dialogue and high proficiency in skills** necessary to advance effective public participation in and commitment to the overall development and progress of society.

EXAMPLES OF FIELDS, MODELS, AND SKILL SETS TO BE PRESENTED:

NonViolent Communications, Win-Win negotiation, Consensus Building, Organizational Development, Dispute Resolution, Mediation, Restorative Justice, Dialogue and Deliberation, Holistic Management, Participatory Decision Making, Collaborative Leadership, Servant Leadership, Inclusive Teambuilding, Cross-Community Bridge Building, Interpersonal Communication, Dynamic Facilitation, Sustainability.

PROGRAM: (4 day conference):

The Overall design and character of the conference is interactive and holistic. During the 4 days of the program multiple breakout sessions offer intensive skills training in a wealth of proven, highly successful models and methodologies that are creative, innovative, practical, inclusive, collaborative, and culturally adaptive. Focused workshops are integrated with daily facilitated dialogue groups to incorporate and assimilate all learning experiences and formulate sound, practical applications that can best benefit each participant's community. Sessions offer personal experience, skills training, active learning, interaction, and dynamic dialogue.

4 DAY CONFERENCE PROGRAM: Key elements of the daily program design are:

- ◆ Skills training workshops, ◆ practical presentations, ◆ topical panels, ◆ daily facilitated dialogue groups,
- ◆ keynote speakers, ◆ action planning for applications of learning, ◆ multi-cultural learning community,
- ◆ live 2-way global links to other countries, ◆ cultural events and performances, ◆ rich networking and cooperation, ◆ displays.

1) Breakout Workshops - Skills Training Sessions and Practical Presentations:

The format of these sessions is training and demonstration intended to provide participants with specific, practical skills through learning proven curriculum and training programs in dialogue, interpersonal communication, decision making, teamwork, leadership, negotiation, problem solving, mediation, conflict resolution, and sustainable reconciliation that are holistic, collaborative, mutually beneficial, and compassionate. Leading experts in the fields conduct the training sessions and are available for continued important networking and future contact.

2) Daily Facilitated Dialogue Groups

These are daily focused sessions all participants engage in, facilitated by trainers to accomplish as much as possible within the time allotted. Dialogue groups are utilized as the engines of the conference leading to exploring productive ways to put principles and skills into practice

3) Topical Panels:

In keeping with the character of the conference, panels are intended to be an interactive dialogue between members addressing important topics - rather than a series of mini-presentations, and to extend the dialogue out to include the full audience for a significant portion of the session to promote a wider, more inclusive, and more fruitful discussion on the topic. This entire process is guided and facilitated by moderator(s) to ensure opportunities for multiple voices to be heard, that the focus is maintained, and to keep things on track in terms of time.

4) Keynotes:

Meant to offer insights, inspire, and pose important questions and issues to address, keynotes by leading visionaries help frame the focus of the program.

5) Action Planning Sessions - Putting Principles Into Practice:

Formulating plans and developing collaborations for applying learned skills in addressing needs and benefiting the development of local communities.

6) Multi-cultural Learning Community:

The conference frame is designed to build an interactive learning community that encourages participants to learn from prepared material while also bringing their own perspectives and wisdom to bear in exploring constructive, concrete applications in daily life to improve relationships and conditions in their society and directly contribute to it's development. Experts in each model will be on hand to provide the specific workshops and participate fully in the entire program along side all participants, including facilitated dialogue groups that further process learning from the workshops

7) Live 2-way Global Links to Other Countries:

To expand the size and reach of the conferences, in addition to on-site presenters key individuals and groups gathered in at least 2 countries will be simultaneously Skyped into the conference during plenary sessions for real-time, 2-way participation. These live virtual groups will be present during our conference opening and plenary sessions each day.

8) Evening Cultural Events offer opportunities for cross-cultural sharing and appreciation, social interaction, and important community building during the conference to share cultural heritages, promote community, and create a common ground of reference for exploring core themes and integrating formal learning.

9) Networking, Cooperation, and Bridge Building: for mutual support and next steps in putting principles into practice in our communities to develop and maintain compassionate, cooperative, productive, and peaceful relationships within and between communities.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND STRATEGIC FOLLOW-UP :

The central intended outcome is increased individual proficiency among individuals in the Middle East with effective skills and capacity to actively engage in constructive civic participation and contribute to the development and advancement of their societies. In support of this, immediately following the conference and throughout the year leading up to the next event, conference organizers and their network of expert trainers will:

- 1) Conduct an assessment** of future needs for skills training and support for future conferences and trainings
- 2) Establish a Training of Trainers program** to develop an expanding, local pool of trainers who can continue conducting trainings in their communities throughout the year. Smaller group trainings will lead toward and provide input into each annual conference, and use the larger more concentrated training conference to further advance these groups. This process of the conferences spawning local training groups each year, with these groups then using the conferences as a venue for gaining new skill material and expertise, will be on-going. As a result, the level of skill proficiency in the population is expected to increasingly expand.
- 3) Educational and Training Resources:** Compile a growing, comprehensive resource library of educational materials, curriculum and training programs, and conference proceedings to contribute to the formal educational systems in Jordan and other Middle Eastern societies.
- 4) International Professional Network:** Promote and maintain an on-going and expanding international network of leading institutes and experts in support of local trainers and educational materials, and to further advance and develop the mission of the conference.
- 5) Published results:** Publish articles, research papers, conference proceedings and reports, an edited volume, recorded proceedings and interviews, and media and art images geared toward both the global professional and lay public to educate, increase awareness, and stimulate engaged dialogue.

ITINERARY: ♦ **4-day Conference** (Wednesday evening to Saturday afternoon)

Daily Schedule

Wednesday, June 20

3:00 pm *On-Site Registration & Check-in
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm: Conference Opening

Thursday, June 21

9:30 am - 9:00 pm:

9:00 am - 1:00 pm: Concurrent workshops, practical presentations, topical roundtable, facilitated dialogue groups
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm: Lunch
2:30 pm - 6:00 pm: Concurrent workshops, practical presentations, topical roundtable, dialogue groups, keynote
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm: Dinner
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm: Social/Cultural Event

Friday, June 22

9:30 am - 9:00 pm:

9:00 am - 1:00 pm: Concurrent workshops, practical presentations, topical roundtable, dialogue groups
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm: Lunch
2:30 pm - 6:00 pm: Concurrent workshops, practical presentations, topical roundtable, dialogue groups, keynote
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm: Dinner
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm: Social/Cultural Event

Saturday, June 23

9:30 am - 5:00 pm: (7:00 pm - 11:00 pm: Farewell Banquet)

9:00 am - 1:00 pm: Concurrent workshops, practical presentations, topical roundtable, facilitated dialogue groups,
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm: Lunch
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm: Final Dialogue Group (all conference)
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm: Conference Closing,
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm: Farewell Banquet (a final time to break bread together)