



UNION MONDIALE DES ANCIEN(NE)S ELÈVES DE LA COMPAGNIE DE JÉSUS
WORLD UNION OF JESUIT ALUMNI/AE
UNION MUNDIAL DE LOS ANTIGUOS ALUMNOS DE LA COMPAÑIA DE JESÚS

ENSEMBLE TOGETHER CONCORDES

SYDNEY, NSW, AUSTRALIA

DECEMBER 2009

President's letter

Gratitude and Response

Gratitude! Yes, a deep gratitude is my overwhelming emotion and way of thinking as I begin my term as President of WUJA. My prayer is that I can respond with competent service to the honor of being selected as president of WUJA by the Burundi Congress. In just a short time in this position I have begun to recognise the great contributions so many make to WUJA and I am deeply grateful for all of these contributions. I thank Bernard Thompson for all he has contributed as President and in his many years of service to WUJA, and I count on him for wise counsel. All of us should be deeply grateful for the very hard work of all of our officers and Council members, especially for the hours of time and very competent service given to the organisation by François-Xavier Camenen, our Secretary, and Mario Soavi, our Webmaster. Laurent Grégoire and Eric de Langsdorff are keys in the functioning of the Pedro Arrupe Association and all of us should thank and support them and the Association. Fr Pierre Salembier SJ, has been very effective as the Delegate of Father General and carried a heavy load of responsibility for us. All of us must say *muchas gracias* to Robyn Treseder for her work as editor of ETC and for agreeing to continue her competent and dedicated service. And I thank the members of the new Editorial Board who will work with her. Thanks to all of you who have stepped forward to serve as officers and Council members for the next few years.

A very special vote of thanks is due to Grégoire Banyiyezako and all of the team in Bujumbura who worked so very hard to organise and implement a very successful Congress. The hospitality, logistics, liturgies, and content were all superbly fantastic! All of us have memories we will not forget and, of even greater importance, we have a deeper understanding of Africa and the desire to be more supportive of our brothers and sisters on that continent. The dynamic of the Congress made many of us ask, "What can I do?" Thank you to our fellow alumni in Colombia who have agreed to host our next Congress. All of the persons I have mentioned, and many more who I should probably mention, are the Incarnation of the Love of God for all of us and our world at this point in time. Of greatest importance, we all thank the Jesuits and Jesuit institutions that pull us together and unite us as one in a common cause.

How should we respond to these blessings, to what has been given us through our Ignatian experiences? What will we do for Christ and all of our brothers and sisters, especially those living in poverty as we go forward? Through action, we are called to be good stewards of all of our gifts, including our Jesuit education. There is so much to do! How do we respond? My prayer is that I can serve as a facilitator and servant to enable WUJA, that is, all of us who are alumni, to become ever more effective in our service in all sectors of today's very troubled world, wherever each of us is called. Collectively we have great resources, giftedness, and power. How can we support each other in service? Since education is a life-long process, how do we facilitate each others' growth? My vision is of alumni and alumnae working together in service, supporting each other, and facilitating our mutual growth, all for the greater honour and glory of God. All of us are needed to think through and put hard detail and programming in place.

Tom Bausch – President
World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae



Opening mass, Kiriri Campus, with main celebrants: the Archbishop of Bujumbura, Evariste Ngonagoyé, the Archbishop of Bukavu, François-Xavier Maroy and the Secretary of the Apostolic Nuncio, Fr Roberto Lucchini.



Congress mass, Church of the Sacred Heart, Lycée du St Esprit, Gihosha. The main celebrant was Father General Adolfo Nicolás SJ.

Editorial



**Bienvenue
Welcome
Bienvenido**

This edition of ETC covers the World Congress of Jesuit Alumni/ae which was held in Bujumbura, Burundi in July 2009. I thank the many people who have assisted with the content, by offering their impressions, views, ideas and photographs. Nothing is of course as good as being there and taking it all in 'first hand', but this ETC endeavors to give an idea of the Congress and the wide field it covered.

With a publication of this size, if we are to experience a number of presentations, unfortunately, they must be edited. I approach with care and reverence, presentations that took many hours of preparation and do my best to give a resumé that entices the reader to seek the 'whole' article.

Please visit the official website of the WUJA www.jesuitalumni.org for unedited versions of the presentations. The website has much to offer, and it keeps growing. Mario Soavi, the very able Webmaster, is always ready to add more material – his contact: soavi@jesuitalumni.org

God bless,

Robyn Treseder

Editor – *Ensemble Together Concorde*
World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae
Email: robyn.tr@bigpond.net.au

My sincere thanks go to Eric de Langsdorff, Frédéric Buxtorf and Denis Larcher for the French, and Cécile Launay for the Spanish translations and proof reading for ETC. Grateful thanks also go to proof reader Sr Josepha Clancy CSJ for English. Ed.

World Congress of Jesuit Alumni/ae Bujumbura, Burundi – July, 2009

In January 2003, at the end of the Kolkata Congress, the World Union took the risk of naming Africa as the venue of the next Congress. Success was not guaranteed. The first step was to invite those in charge of the African Associations to come together. This they did in Nairobi in September 2007.

It was there that Grégoire Banyiyezako, President of the Association of the Collège du St Esprit in Bujumbura, and Fr Guillaume Ndayishimiye, representing the Rwanda-Burundi Region of the Society, suggested hosting the Congress in Burundi.

The next step was to mobilise the other countries of Africa, most especially the Associations of the seven colleges of the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo. Fr André Cnockaert SJ played a key role in assuring a delegation of 40 Congolese to take part. Finally, it was necessary to persuade delegations from other continents that despite the recent conflicts, which for 15 years had torn the country apart, Burundi could guarantee the security that was required for the organisation of such an event.

It was organisers of the Congress, Grégoire Banyiyezako and his team, who individually took up this challenge; but we are in debt to all the people of Burundi. Since the elections of 2005, which re-established democracy in Burundi, workers for peace have laboured at every level to achieve, at the beginning of 2009, the handover of arms by the last of the rebel groups and the search for the political compromises necessary for peace. In a few months the streets of the capital had changed beyond recognition. Here was proof that the prophets of doom over Africa are not always the most clear-sighted. We thank our friends from Burundi for making possible a gathering that those who were present will long remember.

*Pierre Salembier SJ – Jesuit Counsellor
World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae – October 19, 2009*



Edited resume of a *dream* or a *vision* for Jesuit alumni/ae worldwide, by André Cnockaert SJ at the close of the World Congress in Burundi

IN AN ADDRESS DELIVERED TO THE CONGRESS, FR ANDRÉ CNOCKAERT SJ, THE SPIRITUAL COUNSELLOR OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO'S ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS, PROPOSED A NUMBER OF DIRECTIONS TO MODIFY THE BEHAVIOUR OF ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS IN ORDER TO MAKE IT MORE IN TUNE WITH THE WISHES OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS. FOLLOWING ARE SOME KEY IDEAS OF HIS STRONG AND OPTIMISTIC INTERVENTION:

- For more than 50 years, through the Superior Generals' voices and some statements of its General Congregations' decrees, the Society of Jesus has expressed this dream: that its pupils who were educated to a responsible freedom, make the formation they received bear fruit 'in their lives', with an open-minded, generous spirit inspired by a Christian humanism, and that they remain particularly mindful of the weak and the discriminated against, in a fight for a more just and brotherly world.
- Wished also is that its alumni/ae gather together in associations, enabling them, at a local, national and international level, to become forces of renewal and improvement of human society.
- Also dreamed is to see these Associations, Unions, etc, join and help to establish a *worldwide Ignatian family* with a common vision of service (GC35).
- This dream will never become a reality if the Associations are

satisfied with only being groups either 'cultivating nostalgia of the past or just offering their members mutual support'.

- They are rather invited:
 - To strengthen their capacity of mobilisation, notably by launching joint social projects with the schools and their educational teams, in which their pupils would be involved.

- To give support to the World Union which will allow it to pursue its ambitions, within its limitations, enabling it, for example, to set up a world central secretariat. This would provide it with the means that are required for an effective operation at world level, similar to what exist for other Ignatian movements.

Please visit www.jesuitalumni.org for a complete text of this address.





World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae

Resolutions adopted at the Bujumbura Congress

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE WORLD UNION OF JESUIT ALUMNI AND ALUMNAE, MEETING IN BUJUMBURA (BURUNDI) ON 27 JULY 2009 AT THE END OF THE 7TH CONGRESS OF THE WORLD UNION HELD THERE FROM 23 TO 27 JULY, HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS.

Resolution 1

The General Assembly thanks very warmly Fr Adolfo Nicolás, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, for taking part in the Congress, for the strength of his message and his fostering of the alumni actions, and for presiding over the Eucharist of 26 July. It values in particular his wish to have a stronger collaboration between the Society of Jesus and Jesuit alumni and assures him that they will pray for the accomplishment of his mission.

Resolution 2

The General Assembly warmly thanks his Excellency Mr. Yves Sahinguvu, first vice-president of the Republic of Burundi, for taking an active part in the Congress, as an alumnus of Jesuit Fathers, and for constantly supporting its organisation. It assures him of its high esteem and warm wishes for his action in serving his country.

Resolution 3

The General Assembly :

- Is deeply grateful to the Organising Committee of the Congress and to its president Mr. Grégoire Banyiyezako.
- Congratulates them on the considerable work of preparation that they performed and on the outstanding success of this Congress.
- Sends Mr. Grégoire Banyiyezako and all the other members of the Congress Organising Committee its warm and friendly wishes for their future action in favour of the alumni, of the Society of Jesus and of the countries of the Great Lakes area.

Resolution 4

[Resolution concerning the proposal to establish a centre of superior education of "excellence" in the Great Lakes area (Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo)]

- Considering the inspiring central theme of the Congress: "Jesuit Alumni/ae, for a better Africa : What have we done ? What are we doing ? What must we do?"
- While recognizing the urgent need of a quality high education in all sub-Saharan Africa;
- Going back to the history of the Jesuit presence in Burundi and the Great Lakes area and its considerable role in the formation of the educated elite of Burundi, Rwanda and DRC since the establishment of the Collège Inter-racial in 1953 as the only inter-regional and inter-racial institution of secondary education for Burundi, Rwanda and DRC;
- Considering the fact that graduates of the highly reputed Lycée du Saint-Esprit, which for 50 years has been offering the highest standards of secondary education, cannot find a local Catholic university of the same educational standards despite the fact that the country and the region are Catholic at more than 65%;
- Taking into account the resolution adopted by representatives of the alumni associations of the three countries concerned.

The General Assembly:

- Brings its full support to the proposal of studying the establishment of an initiative for promoting superior education of excellence for the Great Lakes area.
- Encourages the different associations and federations members

of the World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae, especially those of the three countries (Rwanda, Burundi, DRC), without excluding alumni from other countries, to actively participate in the "study committee" of the Society of Jesus, as mentioned by Father General Adolfo Nicolás in his address to the Congress regarding the establishment of a centre of superior education, and to provide the Society of Jesus with all forms of cooperation and partnership, particularly in fundraising, helping to find and supporting administrators and professors from all over the world, especially from other third world countries where they have been involved in developing similar institutions.

- Encourages the analysis of the possibility that the first campus of this centre of superior education would be on the site of the former *Collège du Saint-Esprit* at Kiriri.

Resolution 5

Jesuit alumni attach great importance to the organisation of quality teaching in schools, which includes notably a high level of social commitment among the teachers, the pupils and the alumni. This position is the logical consequence of our priority commitment for the deprived, who not only need such teaching but have a right to it. Any measure of public authority that prevents schools from ensuring that pupils and their parents are ready to comply with the pedagogic project of the school, is therefore to be regarded as an hindrance to such a teaching of excellence.

The General Assembly then calls on all authorities concerned to guarantee and, if needed, to restore the schools' freedom to decide on the choice of the pupils whom they want to educate.

Resolution 6

During the last decades, the three countries of the Great Lakes area, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi, have gone or are still going through massive criminal violence, whether ethnic, political or mafia-type, that have created huge human suffering reaching to the point of genocide. We believe that Jesuit alumni can contribute to restoring peace, starting with themselves. We therefore recommend that the concerned associations organise a gathering of alumni from the three countries, in which people are able to speak freely and frankly to each other, if needed with the presence of Jesuit fathers, in order to contribute to restore the sense of common good necessary to the resumption of development.

Resolution 7

The General Assembly is very pleased with the many and excellent conclusions and suggestions presented both by the working groups and by the young participants during the congress.

As it cannot immediately draw up the many resolutions that might come out of these conclusions and suggestions, it entrusts the Council to analyse them as soon as possible, to draw an action plan from them for the four coming years, with objectives and deadlines for the implementation of this plan, for individual alumni, for their associations and for the World Union itself, and to make this plan public in three months at the latest. It wishes the Council to present an assessment of this action plan to the general assembly planned for 2013.



Retiring President, Bernard Thompson addresses the Congress opening.



Fr Guillaume Ndayishimiye sj, Mr Yves Sahinguvu, Vice-president of the Republic of Burundi, with Fr Roberto Lucchini, Secretary of the Apostolic Nuncio.



WORLD UNION OF
EXECUTIVE COMM

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- President..... Tom BAUSCH,
- Jesuit counsellor Pierre SALEM
- Vice-president Alain DENEFF,
- Secretary..... François-Xavier
- Treasurer..... Conrad GONS

COUNCIL

- Africa Grégoire BANY
- Sina BURAIMO
- East Asia Peter WONG,
- Europe Eric de LANGS
- Frank JUDO, E
- Latin America Pedro Pablo D
- Silvio PIZA, Br
- Middle East Nagy KHOURY
- North America Melissa DI LE
- Second seat: V
- Oceania Andrew HORS
- South Asia Ronald D'COS
- Naresh GUPTA
- Youth Wing Africa: Conny
- Europe: Julie
- East Asia: Dip
- Latin-America



Grégoire Banyiyezako, Father General Adolfo Nicolás sj, Vice President Yves Sahinguvu and Bernard Thompson.



Grégoire Banyiyezako, Burundi and Frs Rigobert Minani sj and Ferdinand Muhigirwa sj and Dr Geronce Balegamire, DR of Congo.



Presentation of the delegates from Belgium.



Delegates attending a Congress presentation.



Dancers and drummers.



The choir at the Kiriri Congress opening Mass.



World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae new

Back row: Naresh Gupta, India; Indonesian Pedro Pablo Diaz, Chile; Sina Buraimoh Aderem, Brazil; Eric de Langsdorff, France; Ronald D'Costa, India. **Front row:** Conrad Gonsalves, Belgium, Vice President; Tom Bausch, USA, Jesuit Counsellor; Francois-Xavier Camener

Cultural Evening held at the Islamic Cultural Centre. Artists and performers came from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda.



Dipo Sanjoyo, Indonesia.





JESUIT ALUMNI/AE EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL

USA
Fr BIER SJ, France
Belgium
Fr CAMENEN, France
ALVES, India

FRUYEZAKO, Burundi
Fr ADEMUYEWO, Nigeria
China
Fr DORFF, France
Belgium
Fr DIAZ, Chile
Brazil
Fr Y, Lebanon
Fr DONARDO, USA
Vacant
Fr HORSLEY, Australia
Fr TA, India
Fr A, India
Fr Muhindo, Oara Ehiemua
Fr Van Agtmael, Barry McStay
Fr Diplo Sanjojo, Arifadi Budiarto
Fr Fabio Cerqueira Campos, Rita Jobim



Fr Guillaume Ndayishimiye sj, Father General and Maryse Ndabaniwe.



Father General, Bernard Thompson and Congress delegates.



A group of delegates of the DR of Congo.



Fr André Cnockaert sj and a number of delegates from DRC.



Sina Buraimoh Ademuyewo, and the delegates from Nigeria.



Father General and many of the Latin American delegates.



Newly elected Executive and Council
Fr [Name], delegate; Frank Judo, Belgium;
Fr [Name], Nigeria; Andrew Horsley, Australia;
Fr [Name]; Peter Wong, Hong Kong; Mexican delegate;
Fr [Name]sonalves, India, Treasurer; Alain Deneef,
Fr [Name], A, President; Pierre Salembier sj, France,
Fr [Name], France, Secretary.



The large group of delegates from India.



Fr Provincial of South Belgium with African delegates.

David Rothrock, Burundi, Fr Tom Roach sj, USA,
Fr Michael Sheil sj, Ireland, and Andrew Horsley, Australia.

Alexandra Boogers.

Frs Luk Arts sj, Bob Albertijn sj
and A Cnockaert sj.

Fr Fratern Masawe sj, Jesam moderator
and PeterWong from Hong Kong.



Sincere thanks to Andrew Horsley, Dipo Sanjojo and Fr Bob Albertijn sj for generously supplying the photographs used in this edition of ETC. Editor.

Youth Experiments

World Congress of Jesuit Alumni/ae – Bujumbura, Burundi – July 2009

IN THE WEEK PRIOR TO THE CONGRESS OF HOPE, FOUR 'EXPERIMENTS' OR PROJECTS TOOK PLACE IN BUJUMBURA – BURUNDI, BUKAVU – EAST CONGO, AND CYANGUGU – RWANDA. TWENTY-EIGHT YOUNG ALUMNI/AE TOOK PART, THEY CAME FROM AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BRAZIL, FRANCE, HUNGARY, INDONESIA, IRELAND, DRC, NIGERIA, RWANDA AND BURUNDI TO WORK TOGETHER, TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, TO LEARN AND TO GIVE. SINCERE THANKS ARE EXTENDED TO BURUNDIAN ORGANISERS, JOCELYNE NAHIMANA AND JEAN-PAUL MUKUNZI SJ WHO HAVE COORDINATED THE WORKS OF THE ACCOMPANYING TEAMS ON THE FOUR EXPERIMENT VENUES! MANY THANKS TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM!

This article is edited from reports from each of the Experiments. The unedited, very moving, reports can be read on the WUJA website jesuitalumni.org



Julie Van Agtmael – Belgium

Third year history, University of Antwerp and alumna of Onze-Lieve-Vrouwecollege, Antwerp.

In Cyangugu the young alumni/ae worked with widows of the genocide, many of whom are also HIV-positive due to the rapes they had to endure during the civil war in Rwanda. In the Bukavu centre there were children accused of sorcery who had been abandoned by their families. One project in Bujumbura was FVS/Amade, a transit centre for children with health problems. The last project, where I spent my pre-congress week, was called Ingoro Y'Amahoro or Centre of Peace in Bujumbura.

This centre is run by sisters of Mother Theresa of Calcutta and has three sections. First there is an orphanage for children. When we were there, there were 53 babies under the age of two, and 35 children between the ages of 2 and 7. All were either abandoned or were orphans. In the second section, physically or mentally disabled elderly people lived. Most of them were without relatives and not capable of taking care of themselves. The last part of the centre was a little hospital for malnourished children. The six Sisters are helped by local girls who can eat and live there instead of being paid.

Our job was to participate in the daily tasks; we gave the children food, we gave them affection – we did laundry – we talked to the old women, which made them very happy – we painted beds, chopped wood – it was busy, there was always more to do.

We are not naïve in thinking we made a huge difference by being there, but our view on the world changed by taking part in these experiments.

Alexandra Boogers – Belgium

Second year bachelor of medical sciences and alumna of Onze-Lieve-Vrouwecollege Antwerp.

I worked, together with five other colleagues, for 5 days as a volunteer for *Famille pour Vainqueur du SIDA (FVS)* a transit centre in Bujumbura, which looked after children between the age of 6 and 18 with HIV/AIDS. They are medically treated and socially supported. During the period that the children live in the centre, the search for their family goes on. If no relatives are found, an appropriate guest family is chosen.

We spent the day with the children, this was at the same time easy and extremely difficult. Communication with the children wasn't always easy, but with body language and some creativity we were able to communicate. Despite the language gap and the short period we spent with the children, we had intense contact. The love we received from them was overwhelming.

AIDS medication is free in Burundi thanks to money from abroad that NGO's contribute. AIDS is a disaster for Africa. The solution lies not only in financial support. Cooperation is the solution. There has to be interaction so that Africa can be independent in the future. One investment is of crucial importance: education. Without education, no knowledge. Without education, no future.

Experiment in Ek'Abana orphanage, Bukavu – DRC

Barry McStay, Clongowes – Ireland.

... In the midst of all this, it is amazing to see the spirit of community among the people, especially the children we met in Ek'Abana (DRC). The joy of a single game or a traditional dance, the lack of self-consciousness or vanity, the light among the darkness is unbelievable. You cannot help

feeling happiness when you see how happy the children can be against all the odds ...

Richard McElwee, Clongowes – Ireland.

... Whilst my first day at Ek'Abana was not as I had envisaged, any amount of time that was spent with the smiling children was a humbling experience. Their pleasant and free-spirited nature promoted an easy-going character that welcomed each and everyone of us with open arms. Even though there was a language barrier, their smiles spoke a thousand words. They were caring kids – all the more remarkable considering they had been banished from their homes for supposedly bringing bad luck upon their families ...

Tim McNamara – Clongowes – Ireland.

... The most memorable experience with the kids was probably the dancing session in Ek'Abana. It was very moving to see how happy the children were despite the hardships they had endured so recently. The experiment was, I think, easily the most valuable week of the Congress ...

Experiment in Cyangugu, Rwanda – Group Recommendations

Harry Nnaji Ifeanyichukwu and Gregory Atafo Imoukhuede, – Loyola Jesuit College – Nigeria.

- That the (non functional) AVEGA clinic project, built three years ago, be put into operation and equipped with donated facilities for the testing of AIDS and ARV's (antiretroviral drugs) for the treatment of AIDS.
- Apart from donations to the clinic, they need a hall to take care of the widows and orphans.
- In Cyangugu, Fr Martin Mundendeli SJ also has a vocation school, which needs an extra classroom block for carpentry, and volunteer teachers.
- As most of his students are either orphans or very poor children a scholarship program should be established.
- Also, experienced personnel in the counselling and medical field would help the Avega group.

The *Youth Wing* of the WUJA was born at the Congress – its purpose is to organise more experiments and to attract young alumni/ae to the WUJA and to service to others.



Africa: Our potentials outweigh our problems Implications for *Witnesses to Hope*

IN PREPARING MY PRESENTATION FOR YOU TODAY, I WAS DEEPLY INFLUENCED BY TWO VERY IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS THAT ARRIVED LAST WEEK. THE FIRST WAS TEXT OF THE NEW SOCIAL ENCYCLICAL OF POPE BENEDICT XVI, *CHARITY IN TRUTH (CARITAS IN VERITATE)*, A DOCUMENT FILLED WITH SO MUCH HOPE IN RELATING TO THE LARGER ISSUES OF DEVELOPMENT THAT I THOUGHT IT SURELY MUST SHAPE THE DIRECTION OF MY PRESENTATION. THE SECOND IS THE SPEECH THAT USA PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA DELIVERED IN ACCRA, GHANA, ON 11 JULY, JUST TWO WEEKS AGO.

I believe that the Pope's recent encyclical letter makes it quite clear that hope for development – in Africa or in any other place on our globe – is based on the foundation of the human person. Development that recognises the dignity of the human person in community, with rights and duties that lead to social justice, with respect for ecological integrity. In a similar vein, Barack Obama called for Africans to face the reality of the opportunity of the moment, an opportunity for change and for justice, an opportunity that "must come from the decisions that you make, the things that you do, and the hope that you hold in your hearts."

And so I would like to emphasise at the start that it is indeed a spirit of hope that enables the potentials of Africa to outweigh the problems. Problems there are, yes – economic, political, military, social, ecological, cultural, etc – and there can be, must be, no denying that! But there are also potentials – yes, human resources of women and men who are children of God, with talents and abilities often latent but when unleashed of tremendous intellectual, emotional, physical, spiritual strengths; natural resources of land, fields and forests, animals, minerals, beauty. And there can be, must be, no denying that! Indeed, that is what we are witnesses of, as witnesses to hope.

A clear commitment of the Society of Jesus to making Africa a priority of apostolic preference was made by the 1995 Jesuit General Congregation 34, and re-enforced at the 2008 General Congregation 35. For me, priority means giving first place (1) to clear understanding, (2) to committed respect, and (3) to efficient response.

Let me conclude by returning to the theme of hope, of hope that enables potentials to outweigh problems in this beautiful continent of Africa. For what hope do we have for our world's future if we don't put a priority on understanding the tremendous potential of Africa, far outweighing the problems; or don't put a priority on respecting the Africans, full of dignity as God's children, able to contribute so much to the whole world; or don't put a priority on responding to the needs of Africa, not only through missionary charity but through political justice.

That's the challenge facing all of us in this World Congress gathered around the theme *Witnesses to Hope*. My sisters and brothers, I pray we have the wisdom and the courage to be such witnesses to hope and with God's good help face up to that challenge!

Peter J Henriot SJ

Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection, Lusaka, Zambia



Witnesses to Hope

Jesuit Alumni/ae for a better Africa: What have we done? What are we doing? What must we do?

I AM INVITED TO TAKE OCIFE'S COLLABORATIVE PROJECT WITH THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC) AS A CASE STUDY, AS ONE INSTANCE OF HOW EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN JESUIT-RELATED INSTITUTIONS ARE TRYING TO WORK TOGETHER, BEFORE CLOSING WITH SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT THE FUTURE.

We are OCIFE (Office Catholique d'Informations et d'Initiatives pour l'Europe) also known in Brussels as the Jesuit European Office: founded 1956, with offices in Brussels, Budapest and Warsaw, and an antenna in Strasbourg where we are legally constituted.

For 50 years, up to 2005, we have dealt with themes affecting 'the EU in itself': the hoped-for Constitution, Enlargement to include post-Soviet countries etc. In 2005–06 we secured the support of the Conference of European Provincials to broaden our horizons. So though we maintain our work on 'the European Union as such' we took up a second, complementary, and equally important theme: work on the EU *in relationship*, especially with developing countries, and from the perspective of social justice.

We thought of the DRC. It is a country of massive importance that has suffered greatly (the civil war from 1996 to 2002 caused more deaths than any conflict since WWII: an estimated 5.4 million – almost 20 times those of Darfur). Secondly, the EU is massively involved with DRC: financial support for the democratic transition of 2006, military support for the UN peacekeeping force (MONUC) etc.

We knew we wanted to work in the area of peace and development. We called our project 'RPAN', the 'Relational Peace Advocacy Network'. The Congo has immense wealth. But if Africa is rich,

Africans are poor, largely through what Human Rights Watch calls 'resource curse'. An abundance of natural resources is far from unmixed good news for a country. Without certain conditions, the benefits may almost all leave the country whilst the negative impact of the exploitation remains there. Peaceful and sustainable development for the Congo is almost unimaginable unless the resource question can be managed with greater justice.

Let me offer a final word on the unifying theme of this congress: *hope*. I certainly believe there is real hope for Africa, but I suspect it will continue to pass through deep suffering also. This will be a consequence of failures within Africa: but just as important, through the failures of the rest of the world *towards* Africa: in particular our own European failure to accept genuine solidarity, as if Europe and Africa were different worlds.

Europe of course will not determine the fate of Africa. But the first step in ethics is to refuse to do harm: perhaps our project can be seen as an attempt to challenge some of the harm that is inflicted in Africa by transnational corporations in the name of economic growth, but growth of a kind that has little to do with authentic development.

Frank Turner SJ

Bujumbura, Burundi

Excerpts from the Address of Father General Adolfo Nicolás SJ to the World Congress of World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae Bujumbura, Burundi – July 26, 2009



Dear Friends,

It is a great pleasure for me to be among you today, alumni and alumnae of the Jesuit schools of Africa and other continents, as well as among my dear Jesuit companions who are responsible for

accompanying former students.

It is also a great joy for me to find myself in Africa for the second time, today in Bujumbura, and to take this opportunity to thank all those who have organised this Congress and who have welcomed us to Burundi.

For the Superior General of the Society of Jesus it is a special joy to meet former students who represent the Jesuit schools of the entire world, because your assembly is a testimony to the significant commitment of the Society and its academic institutions in the field of education. Your group, because of its international character, offers a significant example of the criterion of universality to which the Society of Jesus professes and implements in its educational mission. Your assembly is a testimony of your desire to continue the universality of a pedagogical tradition with a view to service, service to the whole of humanity.

The World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae wanted not only to hold their meeting on African soil, but also to include the dimension of 'service for Africa'. This dimension coincides with a decision of the Society of Jesus, which since 2003 has included Africa as one of its five apostolic priorities.

We know that Africa has a human, cultural, linguistic and religious wealth that is truly amazing. The Christian way, and within it, the Ignatian way, consists in welcoming this diversity so that we might know it better, respect it, promote it and place it at the service of all.

Our African schools themselves embrace this great diversity, and the vision of Ignatian pedagogy includes the desire to respect this cultural and religious diversity. There is no contradiction in making our Jesuit institutions places of inter-religious collaboration. Indeed we have every hope that if young people of different cultures and religions come to know each other from their earliest years in school, then they will not feel threatened by diversity later on.

They will have already acquired attitudes of respect, listening, friendship and a spirit of cooperation.

The Society of Jesus is more and more aware that it cannot work in isolation. It cannot work effectively to bring about a more just world without collaboration with others and in particular collaboration with you, our former students. We realise that collaboration amid diversity does not just happen. It calls for openness and serious formation on the part of those involved.

How is this collaboration between past pupils and Jesuits being lived today? How could it develop in the future? In particular, how can it develop so that together we can do something with and for Africa? I do not have an answer to these questions, but your congress will be able certainly to outline concrete projects.

The challenges of a worldwide commitment, like all challenges of collaboration, have their demands. The first demand concerns each of us personally: a belief in the values and the ways of proceeding that we acquired in our Jesuit education. We all recall the phrase which Fr Pedro Arrupe often used, "men and women for others" and which was enriched by Fr Kolvenbach as "men and women for and with others".

The second demand concerns structures. If the Society of Jesus is concerned about changing some of its structures in order to breathe new life into its apostolic mission in the Church, it may be useful to ask if the World Union has the structures adapted to the effective collaboration about which I spoke earlier. You are challenged, and we Jesuits are challenged. It is in this condition that we will put into practice the wish expressed by the last General Congregation:

"We encourage the Society's government at all levels to explore with other communities of Ignatian inspiration, both religious and lay, ways to promote and support an 'Ignatian Family' or 'Ignatian Community' which will have a common vision of service, will promote networks of mutual support, and will foster new and closer forms of collaboration locally, regionally, and internationally. We encourage Superiors, especially Major Superiors, to seek ways to support and accompany CLC and other Ignatian inspired autonomous associations locally, regionally, and nationally". CG 35, D6 #29. Together we need to choose to take a step forward so that we may ensure a collaboration that is qualitative, effective and enduring.

Dear Friends, my meeting with you has been brief, but our conversations with one another will bear testimony to the new life which is emerging from Jesuit communities and their educational institutions and which is rooted in the mission of Jesus Christ. I want to assure you that the Society of Jesus will respond to the World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae, not by taking solo initiatives, but by searching for ways in which we can work together.

I have heard about the strong expectations which were expressed in your congress for a contribution of the Society to higher education. There are obviously great expectations in your region for such a contribution. The Society is open to the reflections you have begun. May these reflections be made in collaboration with those in charge.

I reiterate my deep conviction: the Lord is at work in your meetings. He wants to bring about new responses for meeting the needs of the continent of Africa and the universal Church. With this end in mind, He is seeking new forms of collaboration. I ask the Lord to bless your work and everything that will come from it.

Adolfo Nicolás SJ
Superior General of the Society of Jesus

IMPORTANT. The Pedro Arrupe World Association is the social arm of the World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae. Its recent work in Africa assisting the African Jesuit AIDS Network (AJAN) is vital and important – its valuable help is sought by many elsewhere around the world. Please visit the website: www.jesuitalumni.org for its Congress report (2003–2008 period), the 2009 Arrupe Dollar campaign news and Bank coordinates for donations.