

# Stockholm meeting was a success

The ARC•PEACE biannual meeting in Stockholm 15-18 April, 2010, was yet another successful event of our organisation. Holding the meeting and conducting the presentations cum seminar discussions in conjunction with our closest collaborator ASF International has been as rewarding as it was in Barcelona in 2008. Wider participation among members of ARC•PEACE and the collaborators, stronger pledge for the mission and exploring new ways of collaboration and field initiatives, are the results which inspire us all.

*Bijay Misra.*



## **New members on their way**

Seventeen members from eleven countries participated in the biannual meeting and made presentations keeping high the spirit of ARC•PEACE, is a clear success. Welcome news was received from several countries. ARC•PEACE Sudan with its varied activities is near to enrol a few more members to reach the number 30 and ARC•PEACE India, in the making, is already having ten members on the list and an equal number on promising members on line. ARC•PEACE Japan is on a revival path with new members promising to join the existing small group. All these strides are encouraging and give us confidence in making ARC•PEACE stronger. A new inspiring logo, improved website and the yahoo list have provided extra strength for communication and collective action among all members of ARC•PEACE.

As a co-chair of ARC•PEACE it is a special source of confidence in our mission and encourages me to put my best for the mission in order to take it to new highs. I am sure, you all, our fellow members, feel the same.

## **Activities that hold the ARC•PEACE mission high**

Several exemplary grass root initiatives are undertaken by members in Peru, Sudan, India, Nepal, focusing on specific aspects of social responsibility. ARC•PEACE as an institution has been active in standing against social injustice and unethical practice in architecture and planning. We have rightly made three important public statements namely, “Israeli architects must stop designing illegal settlements” as infringement on Palestine sovereignty; “Those who pollute most must commit themselves to greater reductions” with regard to greenhouse gas reduction; and “Architects and Planners must take the global slum problem seriously”, realizing that we do not do enough to contribute to the reduction of the global slum problem. Added to these statements ARC•PEACE has continued avidly to vent its mission and views against the nuclear weapons and facilitating access of the poor to housing and basic infrastructure at several platforms of the UN such as ECOSOC, Habitat and Human Rights.

## **The road ahead till we meet in 2012**

We have the challenge to innovate and do more to promote social justice and reduce inequality in the development process. We know that the task is huge but we can each do our bit individually. We can also make a jump in the task through collective action. The Stockholm meeting charted new actions to strongly focus on 2 or 3 themes that are close to our mission. It was decided to explore strong action that relate to three great threats to mankind namely: eradicate nuclear and weapons of mass destruction, response to environmental crisis including managing climate change and risks from disasters and housing crisis for the majority. It is also encouraging to note that members wanted a clearer and stronger focus in all activities being pursued at the UN on behalf of ARC•PEACE. We decided to have closer interaction between the members for suggestions and advice for the ARC•PEACE representative at the UN. It is also further encouraging that members promised to explore new ways to raise the funds for ARC•PEACE through increased memberships and approaching global funding agencies with solid proposals for cross country and cross cultural field projects.

## **We can do it collectively**

*All this new energy is most welcome. We all together can achieve our goals. The challenge before us is closer. We should have more frequent interaction between us, share responsibilities and voice univocally to promote the ARC•PEACE mission. I am optimistic that we will stride ahead and pace during the coming years and strive best to put ARC•PEACE on the global map.*

*Bijay Misra*

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