

ARC•PEACE biannual meeting in Vancouver at UBC

Minutes - June 17, 2006

Present:

*Marilu Sanchez Hurtado,
Epifania Inocente Meza,
Barnabas Nawangwe,
Asumpta Nnagenda-Musana,
Yasmine Carlsson
Sandra Hernandez-Colon
Dorota Wlodarczyk,*

*Dick Urban Vestbro
Gerda Glissen
Eric Selis
Branca Balac
Tony Watkins
Jaime Royo Olid*

Regrets sent from Jean d' Aragon, Osman El Kheir.

1. Formal matters

Dick is elected as a chairman of the meeting and Dorota as secretary. The proposed agenda is accepted.

2. Introduction of participants and reports from member organizations

Participants introduce themselves. Dick introduces those, who had to cancel their arrival because of various reasons. Dorota summarises an activity report sent by Cubasolar (attachment titled Report of Cubasolar for Arc Peace meeting). Dick introduces activities of Arc Peace Sudan. Sandra outlines an involvement of ADPSR in post Katrina disaster activities. Marilu describes earthquake-proof housing construction. Arc Peace Peru involves in their activities 47 communities, 107 shanty towns, grassroots' women organizations and students. Tony illustrates Codes of Ethics ("Do no harm") adapted among others by his organization and a formulation of Peaceful Cities network. Dick informs that Swedish Arc Peace is dissolved and Swedish ASF will be formed soon. Yasmine is among the founders.

Eric introduces ASF Belgium, an organization formed 15 years ago consisting of 70 members. He reports on their Pro Deo program focused on advisory help in building housing. Poor and homeless and those who cannot afford to employ architects are the target group. Barnabas marks out neglected vernacular building technology in Uganda.

3. Reports from the Rome meeting of ASF in November 2005 and the Gdansk meeting of Arc Peace in August 2004.

Eric gives the main points from Rome meeting. He points to know how transfer and formulation of network cooperating with Red Cross in solving design problems in Tsunami areas. ASF Italia has a lot of initiatives and look for collaboration with others. Marilu suggests to involve students to develop links between countries. ASF Spain is very active and cooperates with Peru.

Dorota and Dick describe previous biannual meeting in Gdansk in 2004. On Aug. 6th participants paid tribute to the victims of Hiroshima, which attracted the attention of Polish media.

4. Cooperation between ASF and Arc Peace

Cooperation between ASF and Arc Peace is highly appreciated by all gathered and will be further strengthen. .

5. The role of work in the United Nations

Sandra reviews from activities in the United Nations. She stresses the importance of NGO work.

6. Future activities

Yasmine and Osman are proposed to be editors of Newsletter. Tigran will be asked to be a webmaster. Dick mentions that 2 students financed by Leonardo program will come to Stockholm for 4 month to help with Arc Peace work (starting from Febr. 07). Choice of a place for a next Arc Peace meeting is kept open. The proposals are: Turin (in connection with UIA congress) or in Spain.

7. Administrative affairs of Arc Peace

Board members composition is discussed. Dick will send out to the list an invitation to nominate candidates. Financial situation of Arc Peace is difficult due to postponed membership fees of some organizations. The collected money was sufficient only to cover partly Marilu's trip to Vancouver. Tony forwards Thanks to the organizers of meeting in Vancouver. .

Dorota Wlodarczyk
Secretary

Dick Urban Vestbro
Chair

REPORT OF CUBASOLAR FOR ARC.PEACE MEETING June, 2006

Cubasolar, as usual, has continued working in order to **improve people living** conditions, mainly in very isolated rural areas, by providing:

- Renewable and efficient energy systems
- Water supply, including water quality and appropriate pumping solution.
- Sanitation and environmental care.

Another important issue to achieve this goal is promoting information and people capacitating. For that, Cubasolar edit a Popular Magazine called "Energia y Tú" (Energy and You), dedicated mainly to young people, and many books and manuals, including text books for different educational levels.

The role of universities and research centers related to Cubasolar is the development of I &D activities respect to these issues. The results in research are published in a Scientific Magazine called "Ecosolar". Also Scientific Congress and Workshops have been held to exchange scientific and popular knowledge about ways to improve people living conditions.

Education and instruction about Cubasolar subjects include informal and formal ways. This last one starts before the primary school and continues up to post graduate courses and PhD.

THIS IS A VERY BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE MAIN ACTIVITIES CUBASOLAR CONTINUE CARRYING OUT UP TODAY.

Report written by Dania González Couret

