



INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU



Photo: Reza

ACTIVITY REPORT 2010

<http://www.ipb.org/>

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ACTIVITY REPORT 2010

This was a year of tragedies and disappointments. Haiti suffered a massive earthquake and Poland lost its President and top officials in a plane crash; there were armed clashes between the two Koreas and a violent crackdown in Thailand after a long standoff between factions; the Gaza flotilla was attacked by Israeli troops; Aung San Suu Kyi was released but the generals continue to rule Burma as before; and Deepwater Horizon became a universal term for ecological catastrophe. Meanwhile the big powers failed to solve any of the major challenges facing humanity at the climate summit in Cancun, at the G20 in Seoul or at the Lisbon NATO meeting. They were busy, it is true, bailing out various failing euro-economies – but did the issue of over-spending on the military feature in their discussions? Not yet: for that we have had to wait until 2011. Above all, 2010 was the year of Wikileaks, who invented a new form of whistleblowing for the internet age and – like it or not – revealed to the world some of the real calculations of those who wield the power of guns and dollars.

IPB continued its work in two main areas : Disarmament for Development (D for D) and nuclear disarmament; and in addition organised two large-scale events to commemorate the centenary of IPB's Nobel Peace Prize: *Making Peace* (exhibition) in Geneva in June, and *A Climate of Peace* (conference) in Oslo in September.

DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

Science for peace session at NPT: New York, May 5

Among the important issues related to that of military spending is the spending of intellectual capital on militarism. It was in order to highlight this neglected dimension that IPB co-organised, together with INES, the International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Social Responsibility, a workshop at the NPT Review Conference. Title: *The misuse of brainpower: the conversion of science and technology for human and environmental needs*. Speakers: Dave Webb (CND, UK), Jackie Cabasso & Andy Lichterman (Western States Legal Foundation, USA), Subrata Ghoshroy (MIT, USA).

Oslo conference, Sept 24

Among the major sessions held at the IPB's centenary conference was a panel on D for D, introduced by Colin Archer (IPB Secretary-General). Several speakers addressed diverse aspects of the issue.

Arms Down ! campaign (Religions for Peace)

Nearly 10 million signatures were collected in the course of this worldwide effort by the youth wing of Religions for Peace to draw attention to disarmament issues. Among the demands was a 10% reduction in military spending worldwide. IPB has given support to this campaign in various ways, through endorsement, distributing info etc.

Release of SIPRI Military Spending figures (June)

IPB again issued a communiqué on the increasing level of spending highlighted in the annual yearbook of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), and showing the glaring contrast with the limited funds available for development purposes.

IPB statement on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (August)

The purpose of this statement was to raise the issue of military spending in the context of the UN Summit debate (Sept) on how to achieve the MDGs by 2015. The text was co-signed by several other international organisations.

MacBride Peace Prize (Sept)

IPB's annual peace award (named after former IPB President and Nobel laureate Sean MacBride) was awarded during the centenary conference in Oslo to Binalakshmi Nepram of Control Arms India/Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network.

Speaking engagements

The Secretary-General made presentations on the D for D theme on several occasions:

- Promotion of the Right of Peoples to Peace, NGO side event, Geneva, March 19.
- Rennes, Arradon and l'Ile Longue (Brittany, France, April);
- Making Peace festival Geneva, June 6
- Melbu festival, northern Norway; August
- School for International Training seminar, Geneva (spring and autumn sessions);
- Leeds Met. University UK (summer school on nonviolent action, August).
- Asia-Europe Peoples Forum, Brussels, October
- Florence conf. (Kipling Association) on peace in Mediterranean, October
- Presentation to students: Castellon University, Spain, November
- International Workshop for Peace and Disarmament, Seoul, November.

Other officials have made a range of presentations at various events including:

- Making Peace garden party, Geneva, June
- World conference against A and H bombs, Hiroshima - August

- Nobel laureates' summit, Hiroshima, November
- World Education Forum, Santiago de Compostela, Spain, December.

Publication

Climate Change: A climate for Peace or Conflict? By David Hay-Edie (IPB Studies series)

Web – Newsletter – Facebook

Among IPB's regular information services is the posting of news items related to D for D to our main website and monthly newsletter, as well as Facebook and Twitter pages.

Video

IPB commissioned a special video clip on military spending which was shown at the Silvester Zauber (outdoor New Year Celebrations) in Zurich.

Forward Planning: Global Day of Action on Mil. Spending June 2011

The idea originated at the seminar on military expenditure held in Washington DC in November 2009. The Global Day is co-organised with Institute for Policy Studies, USA. An initial letter sent to close colleagues for support. A formal announcement was made on Sept 17 via email and website, which was then followed by collecting endorsements and promises to organise events. Plans include: website; organiser's toolkit. Date: April 2011, linked to SIPRI Annual Report launch.

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

NPT Review Conference May 2010 New York City

IPB participated actively in what is considered a major diplomatic event, and judged by many to have been a success. Nuclear Weapons Convention is now a recognised part of the official disarmament debate.

Pre-NPT Conf Riverside Church, New York

In the days preceding the conference, a major civil society event was organised to bring together nuclear abolition activists and make the link to related issues. The final assembly was particularly exciting and in-

spiring. Ban Ki-moon made a terrific speech which earned him a standing ovation. IPB President Tomas Magnusson also spoke from this big platform.

Pre-NPT Rally, New York

The highlight of the civil society response to the NPT Review was a large rally and march in which 15,000 gathered in Times Sq. to hear speakers, including from IPB, on the themes of the conference. There was a huge Japanese contingent. Sadly, the press coverage was weak.

International Planning Committee: Preparations for NY events & follow up

IPB took part in the preparations for these important events via an international planning committee.

Abolition 2000 and International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)

IPB is a member of both these networks which aim at the abolition of nuclear weapons. The Secretary-General and representatives of many member organisations attended the annual meeting of Abolition 2000 in New York in May.

Conference on Disarmament (CD) & NGO Committee Geneva

The CD remains as paralysed as ever, much to the frustration of NGOs like IPB who follow developments in Geneva. The efforts of the NGO Committee for Disarmament to promote NGO involvement have also been blocked by states. Attention is turning to the question of whether a Fissile Materials Treaty - or a Nuclear Weapons Convention - could be negotiated in another forum ?

Hiroshima-Nagasaki commemorations, August

The World Conference against A & H Bombs is the largest annual gathering of nuclear disarmament activists anywhere. IPB was represented this year by

Board member Reiner Braun. IPB member organisation Gensuikyo acted as the key organising hub for the whole event.

Nobel laureates' summit, Hiroshima, November.

IPB was represented at this important gathering of laureates by Alyn Ware (former Vice-President) + Prof. Shoji Sawada. Among the outcomes was agreement to set up a Nobel Laureates Action Committee to help advance the nuclear disarmament agenda.

Middle Powers Initiative (MPI) conference, Geneva, September

A high level event, involving many ambassadors and NGOs was held in Geneva to explore paths towards a nuclear weapons convention. IPB is among the group of 8 NGOs who form the Steering Committee of the MPI. A meeting of this Committee was held during the conference and IPB was represented by Bo Wirmark, Tomas Magnusson, and Colin Archer. A new Chairperson was appointed in 2010: Amb. Richard Butler of Australia.

News services

As with D for D, IPB's information services to the nuclear abolition community include posting of a wide range of news items to our websites, social media networks and email lists.

MAKING PEACE

IPB engaged a specialist in the organisation of photographic exhibitions (Ashley Woods) to arrange a major event in Geneva to celebrate the centenary of IPB's Nobel Peace Prize (1910). To mark the opening of the month-long outdoor exhibition, IPB's team put together a one-day festival, involving a very wide range of Geneva partners in a successful mix of activities that involved thousands of people.

Organisation

The project took over 9 months of preparation. With a photo-exhibition entitled *Making Peace* at the heart of the programme, most research and development time went into the exhibit itself, which presented photos taken from early 20th century to the present

day. In the end a total of 115 images were chosen (from 17 photo agencies / 90+ photographers) with the exhibition divided into 5 sections, the "Five Colours of Peace":

1. Disarmament and Nonviolence
2. Conflict prevention and Resolution
3. Economic and Social Justice
4. Human Rights, Law and Democracy
5. Environment and Sustainable Development

Apart from the exhibition, a Peace Village was also created and using the 5 colours of peace, organisations (NGO+IGOs) working in each of the 5 areas were invited to present their work to the public.



Photo: Ashley Woods

Programme

In all, the festival amounted to 5 main events spread along 1km of Lake Geneva:

1. Photo exhibition, consisting of 100 panels, exhibited from 6 June – 4 July.
2. Peace Village with special guest NGOs incl. 'Cartooning for Peace' and 'Aina' + side-events including student photo contest, concerts, films and children's workshops.
3. Garden Party on the terrace of the Palais Wilson (UN Human Rights office), with speeches from the Director-General of the UN at Geneva, and the Ambassadors of Norway and Switzerland.
4. Public debates (held at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Geneva)
5. Internet site (www.makingpeace.org)

Funders

Main funders of the event were:

- Loterie Romande :
- Swiss Confederation
- Canton of Geneva

- The City of Geneva provided free services. Corporate sponsors: Hewlett Packard (printing & inks) Caran d'Ache (paper and drawing materials) and Sony (flatscreens and playstations).

Total estimated number of visitors to Making Peace : 50,000

Outcomes and follow-up

The overall success of the project has undoubtedly increased IPB's 'brand awareness' among the public, as well as helping develop partnerships with Geneva institutions. We believe that this was the first time in Geneva's recent history that a major event has brought together organisations (IGOs and NGOs) working for peace AND the general public.

Furthermore, Making Peace is an important tool that can be reused by IPB and its members, in order to enhance the visibility of IPB and its member organisation in different countries - either as an outdoor or an indoor presentation. We are now actively seeking such opportunities in a variety of cities.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

In addition to project development, the IPB maintains contact with members, and is engaged in many forms of cooperation, advising, networking, coordination, political lobbying, etc. The latter includes diverse political communiqués on current issues, for example our December 2010

statement to inspire the new UN Women agency to put emphasis on women and conflict resolution and peace.

Current projects in the pipeline include several peace education programmes, new publications and at least two peace history conferences.



Photo: Peace Boat

OSLO CONFERENCE: A Climate of Peace

Nobel-centenary conference (Oslo, 23-26 September) gives new energy to the IPB

The climax of IPB's centenary year was the week-long programme of activities held in the Norwegian capital in September. It was a joint partnership with the Norwegian Peace Council, the Fredsradet. The participants came from all continents and all sectors of the peace movement. The celebrations were varied too: ranging from a youth seminar and two evening concerts to the MacBride prize ceremony at the Nobel Centre; from a Nordic meeting of activists at the UN Association offices to formal sessions of the Assembly and Council at the Nobel Institute; and in between two full days of conference on the theme 'A Climate of Peace' at the Literature House.

Among the distinguished speakers at the conference were former Director-General of UNESCO: Federico

Mayor (former Director-General of UNESCO; Minister of Research and Higher Education: Tora Aasland; Deputy Mayor of Oslo: Aud Kvalbein; Nobel Peace Center Director: Bente Erichsen; Binalakshmi Nepam,

Control Arms India/Manipur Women Gun Survivors' Network; Khder Kareem, Mayor of Halabja, Iraqi Kurdistan; Kristian Harpviken, Director, Oslo Peace Research Institute, PRIO; as well as former and current IPB Presidents, researchers, journalists and peace advocates from many countries.

All the feedback received was positive - the feeling of 'new energy for the challenges ahead' was widespread. The speeches given by different contributors are available on the IPB website, as is the conference Photo Gallery (created by Alexander Harang). IPB Council issued a special statement on the occasion of the centenary of IPB's Nobel Peace Prize.

SEAN MACBRIDE PEACE PRIZE



This year's prize was awarded to **Binalakshmi Nepram**, a writer-activist born in India's northeastern state of Manipur. She holds a master's degree in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. In 2004, Ms

Nepram co-founded Control Arms Foundation of India, the first Indian civil society organization to work on conventional disarmament issues and to make disarmament an issue that is meaningful to people's lives. Three years later, in 2007, she also set up the Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network in her home state of Manipur to help women and children affected by gun violence. Ms Nepram is also leading the civil society work in India on the issues of landmines, cluster bombs and the International Arms Trade Treaty. She has represented Indian civil society at the United Nations in several fora such as those related to the Control Arms campaign, disarmament and the Commission on the Status of Women. She has also published several books. The Prize, a silver medal contributed annually by the Irish Campaign for

Nuclear Disarmament, was awarded to Ms Nepram on 23rd September at the Nobel Centre in the Norwegian capital Oslo, at a ceremony to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the International Peace Bureau in 1910. The ceremony also served as the opening session of the IPB's Triennial Conference.

ELECTIONS: NEW OFFICIALS

At the end of a four-day conference the IPB for the very first time elected one woman and one man to jointly head the organization for the coming three years. This was considered an innovative way of meeting the many challenges confronting the organization. It is also the first time that a Norwegian is elected President of IPB. Ingeborg Breines, Director of the Nordland Academy for Arts and Sciences in Northern Norway and a former UNESCO director, is sharing the presidency with Tomas Magnusson, former journalist and director of the Swedish humanitarian organization GI.

At the IPB Assembly held in Oslo on Sept 26 a new set of Officers, Steering Committee (Board) members and Regional Representatives were also elected. (see chart overleaf)



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Secretary-General: Colin Archer

*The International Peace Bureau is dedicated to the vision of a World Without War. We are a Nobel Peace Laureate (1910), and over the years 13 of our officers have been recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize. Our 320 member organisations in 70 countries, and individual members, form a global network which brings together expertise and campaigning experience in a common cause. IPB has United Nations Consultative Status since 1977 and is the Secretariat for the NGO Committee for Disarmament (Geneva). Our main programme centres on **Sustainable***

Disarmament for Sustainable Development..

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ipb1910>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/IntlPeaceBureau>

Global Day of Action on Military Spending: <http://demilitarize.org>

IPB OFFICIALS 2010 - 2013

ELECTED AT TRIENNIAL ASSEMBLY

OSLO, SEPTEMBER 26, 2010

Co-Presidents

Treasurer

Vice-Presidents

(6)

Ingeborg Breines + Tomas Magnusson

Victor de la Barrera

Arielle Denis

Tony Kempster

Terumi Tanaka

Chiara Maria Venturi

Alicia Cabezudo

Mayra Gomez

9 PERSONS

Reiner Braun

Paul Lansu

Laura Lodenius

Agneta Norberg

Yayoi Tsuchida

Carlos Vargas

Tarja Cronberg

Joe Murray

Metta Spencer

Salvatore Vella

9 + 10 = 19 PERSONS

Norway + Sweden

Spain-France

France

UK

Japan

Italy

Argentina-Spain

Bolivia - NZ

TOTAL OFFICERS

Steering Committee members

(9)

Germany

Belgium

Finland

Sweden

Japan

Costa Rica

Finland

Ireland

Canada

Italy

Co-opted (1)

TOTAL BOARD

Regional Representatives (Council members)

Africa

Africa

Africa

Asia-Pacific

Asia-Pacific

Asia-Pacific

Europe

Europe

Europe

Europe

Europe

Europe

Europe

Europe

Europe

M East

N. America

N. America

International

International

TOTAL REG. REPS.

TOTAL COUNCIL (BOARD + REG.REPS)

Ade Adenekan

Jules Renzano

Justin Mazimpaka

Fred Lubang

Jahangir Piara

Ema Tagicakibau

Fulgida Barattoni

Ben Cramer

Alexander Harang

Mariapia Indelicato

Ann Jordan

Delia Mamon

Vijay Mehta

Poul Eck Sorensen

Ingela Svedin

Kareem Khader

Kevin Martin

Teresa Wolfwood

Marc Joset

Allison Pytlak

20 PERSONS

20 + 19 = 39 PERSONS

Nigeria

DRC-Kenya

DRC-Kenya-USA

Philippines-Thailand

Pakistan

Fiji-NZ

Italy

France

Norway

Italy

UK

Switzerland

UK

Denmark

Sweden

Iraqi Kurdistan

USA

Canada

Switzerland

USA

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- Japan Council against A & H bombs, Gensuikyo
- Donald and Nicole King, Paris
- AJ Muste Memorial Institute (legacy of Prof. Kingsley Price)

For specific support of the *Making Peace* Programme, see p.5