



# Servas Monthly News 22



April 2007

## How do we treat each other?

I look at the news on the internet and it contains so much about people being nasty to each other. Some of it is due to no consideration of how another person feels. A lot of it is deliberate.

*But we are Servas and we would not behave like that?*

I look at organisations that I belong to and how people treat each other. A recent example was when I flew into a local airstrip. Chatting with the lovely couple who own it I was commenting how much I liked it. They said that a pilot who had been in earlier had been very scathing with a lot of negative comments. It turned out that I knew that pilot and know that he has a rather brusque exterior but this covers a nice person (who was actually a Servas member in his travelling past). So I assured the airfield owners that he was not actually being nasty. The same airfield has had others making comments because it is a basic facilities airfield (my preferred type) rather than a fancy one.

*But we are Servas so we would not behave like that?*

And then I was chatting with a Servas traveller. His host seemed very authoritarian towards him in that she had to be right and he was wrong. She comment, almost abusively, about how he was overweight and so she would not give him an evening meal. She expected him to do all sorts of jobs for her. He felt very uncomfortable. His comments are not the only ones. In reports that I get there is occasionally a comment about a host who has seemed to have a negative attitude towards their travellers. *But I thought we were Servas and would not behave like that.*

And so I look back at how I have been as a host. Have I always been exemplary? Oops maybe not. What about the time when a family had come to stay even though I had pointed out that accommodation was very tight and they might be better elsewhere. It turned out that they were only coming to go to a local concert. Whilst they were in the next room I made a comment about this to my son, but I must have made it too loudly as there was a sudden hush in the next room. I should have thought before speaking. Should I have pushed a recent traveller to pack all the boxes of SI News for the US? No I have not been perfect.

Consideration for others should be foremost in our minds.

But there is plenty good going on. Look at the Far East Asia meeting on page 2, superbly constructive. Look at all those forthcoming meetings. Look at the suggestions for Peace making. Keep it up.  
*We are Servas and we behave like that.*

## Annual Report Reminder

Pramod, our Exco General Secretary, has been busy chasing up the countries who have not yet returned their Annual Report 2006 Form. As National Secretary please check that you have filled in and sent yours to him. He needs it to put together with those from all countries to have an overview of the whole of Servas world wide.  
**Hint:** they were due in on the 31 March 2007 - that is this year.

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## Contact

We welcome articles coming to SI Monthly News. We do not guarantee the article, or any part of it will be published. This depends on the theme for the month along with the number of other articles also available for publication.

Preferred method of contact is email at:  
newsletter @servas.org or jgiffould @aol.com

Please make sure that Servas: Monthly News is part of the subject heading. Otherwise if the email address is not recognised it may get deleted before being read.

## News

### The Far East Asian Regional Conference, April 6-8, 2007

Background: The elected FEA Regional Coordinator Kin-ya Tsuge, resigned. Having organized 3 previous conferences for FEA, Mr. Nishiyama, the National Secretary of Japan, stepped in as interim FEA AC. Mr. Kim was elected NS of Korea effective 1 Jan 07. Mr. Nishiyama worked closely with the NSs of Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China and Japan to continue the direct working relationships within the FEA region and their participation in this conference. Mr. Kim and Mr. Nishiyama visited each other. With his recent retirement as a high school English Teacher, Mr. Kim enthusiastically offered to host the FEA Regional Conference in Korea.

PreConference. Mary Jane Mikuriya, SI Vice President, met with Mr. Nishiyama and Mr. Kim to discuss the elements of the conference needed to comply with the intent of the EGA - consideration by the NSs which countries should be included in the FEA, election of the AC, regional goal setting, Financial Operating Procedures, to help strengthen Servas within the region and by individuals/teams/national groups volunteering for projects to support Volunteer Center established by EGA.

Friday, April 6, 2007 Interviewing techniques Servas Korea is divided into 12 regions. Each region elects its regional coordinator, has 4 Servas regional meetings a year which are announced on the Korean website and open to members from other regions. These 12 regional coordinators together with the 8 elected executives for Servas Korea have 4 board meetings a year. Although, Servas Korea has 310 hosts there are few Korean Servas travelers maybe 60 a year. To be a traveler, Koreans must be hosts. To encourage more travelers Servas Korea will need trained interviewers. Mr. Kim received a sample USA Interviewer Kit to be translated and adapted for Korean regional coordinators. It was with these 20 national Korean Servas leaders, the NSs of India, Pakistan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Japan that I discussed, Interviewing techniques of prescreening, structured interviews and holding travelers accountable for following Servas rules.

FEA Meeting of the NSs was an open meeting to demonstrate transparency. Present, in addition to the NSs of Korea, Taiwan Hong Kong, China and Japan, were two silent observers: NS India and NS Pakistan. With Mary Jane as moderator, each national Secretary gave an oral presentation of Servas in his/her country, each had submitted a written report to Mr. Nishiyama. Taiwan has doubled its membership to 22 with mostly young professionals, China needs more hosts in Shanghai and Beijing, Korea needs more travelers and seeks to make partnerships with organizations to enable hosts to have more visitors, Hong Kong is mostly day hosts due to the housing situation of Hong Kong; Japan is concerned about aging hosts and losing membership each year. The NSs considering which countries should be included in the FEA decided they wanted to continue to work together as the current 5 national groups and to recruit members in Mongolia. The group elected Mr. Nishiyama of Japan as AC and Mr. Kim of Korea as the Deputy AC. For regional goal setting, it was decided that the next FEA Regional Meeting would be organized jointly by Hong Kong and China in 2008 Taiwan wants to host the subsequent conference in 2009 or 2010. FEA is aware of the EGA support for youth so Servas Korea had given a Mongolian student a scholarship to attend the conference. Her aunt had been a Servas member in Mongolia Half of the Servas Members have joined Servas to help their children while the other half of hosts are members for their "pleasure." Financial Operating Procedures were distributed and discussed individually with the NSs. To help strengthen Servas within the region and show willingness to work with

other NSs, the SI funds supporting the FEA regional meeting were used to partially fund various people. NSs were encouraged to encourage volunteers for projects to support the Volunteer Center established by the EGA.

Sat. 7 Apr. Servas Korea Board Meeting -Mary Jane, observer

- Each board member given 500 Servas business card with his/her picture on it.

- Board gives approval to Korea to seek to have SI GA in 2009 in Korea. NB: Mr Kim could get a visa for the NS Pakistan, while the NS of India realized it would be impossible for India to get visas for Pakistan Servas members. Therefore, although Servas India very much hoped to host the next GA, it has thrown its support to Korea to host the next GA

- After a spirited discussion, Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding for Servas Korea to provide home hospitality for foreign visitors recommended by the Busan Convention and Visitor Bureau (something like the Meet the Danes program for foreign visitors that sold me on Servas before I knew there was Servas)

Sat. April 7, FEA Regional Servas Conference -. Conference agenda on Servas Korea website. Students from Vocational School video taped and webcast FEA Conference. 180 conference participants attended.

- Introductions of Foreign Guests, Korean Servas Leaders and invited Guests

- Mary Jane - guest speaker gave greetings to the conference from EXCO. She told how the GA determines the direction and policies for Servas International and EXCO carries them out. She discussed how NGs could assist a struggling NG. How the GA wants to put Peace back into Servas. She distributed a DVD documentary **A Force more Powerful** on how nonviolent power over came oppression and authoritarian rule. The documentary shows how the power that Gandhi pioneered has been used on 4 continents and in every decade of the 20th Century to fight for rights and freedom. A copy of the DVD was presented to each of the 7 NSs attending the conference. For those who wanted to get involved now, Nonviolent Peace force, [www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org](http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org) was recommended. To work on service projects to overcome needs, violence and environmental challenges a 25 year old NGO, International Volunteers for Peace was recommended. Mary Jane encouraged the 12 regions in Korea to identify a project to help Servas locally, nationally or international. To be inclusive, the events should invite nonmembers to their projects.

- Formal signing of the Servas Korea, Busan Convention and Visitor Bureau Memorandum of Understanding was observed

Sunday, April 8, 2007 (Easter Sunday)

- Three concurrent workshops

- tour of Kyongju an ancient Korean village and visit to Posco Steel Co. in Pohang.

- Participants with host families for an overnight visit All wanting homestays were assigned hosts. I had two homestays in Korea. As a teacher, I especially enjoyed speaking with 5th grade students studying English in a 1400 student middle school in Busan.

The conference was well organized and many Servas members were involved. Servas Korea has, including the National Meeting, 53 meetings per year -- more than one a week. It received \$5000 donation from the Busan Convention and Visitor Bureau for this conference. This Conference has shown me that Korea has an effective organization and strong leadership. I believe that Mr. Kim, NS has the time, the organizational skill and vision to help SI. He is willing to work on an international assignment.

*Mary Jane Mikuriya, SI Vice President*

## Meetings, Get together, Seeing each other

### Get together in London

The venue is **Pontefract Castle**.  
This is in Wigmore Street, London W1.  
The nearest Underground Station is Bond Street.  
Date: First Monday in every month.  
Time: 6.30 onwards.  
Look forward to seeing you all there.

**United States Servas. Inc.**  
**Tri-National Conference**  
**Canada – Mexico – United States**  
**“Peace in Everyday Life”**  
July 20 – 22, 2007  
**California State University, San Diego**  
**San Diego, California U.S.A.**  
**On-line registration and reserving rooms will begin in May, 2007.**

### SERVAS MEGA PICNIC

Region of Ecaussines, Belgium

Sep 23, 2007

Servas Mega PicNic and Walk

The second edition of the Mega PicNic will take place in the French speaking part of Belgium, in the Province of Hainaut, South of Brussels. More details will follow, but you can already block Sunday 23th of September in your agenda in order to join us.

This event will be organized by the Peace Group of Servas Belgium & Luxemburg

Theme: We want to know each other better!

For more information please contact [Julie Pesesse](mailto:Julie.Pesesse@servas.be),  
Peace Secretary  
Rita Dessauvage, NS, [belgium@servas.be](mailto:belgium@servas.be)

### Youth and Family Week, 2007

Dalesbridge, Yorkshire, UK

Sun 29 July - Sat 04 Aug

See previous issues for detail

Contact: [dasher1949@aol.com](mailto:dasher1949@aol.com)

### EUROPE

A good reason for all Servas travellers to visit...

#### Luxembourg and the Greater Region: European Capital of Culture 2007

Get ready for plenty of enriching experiences, discover new horizons and find out more about the Servas hosts in the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg and the Greater Region (parts of Belgium, France and Germany) Rita Dessauvage NS Belg & Lux

[belgium@servas.org](mailto:belgium@servas.org) [luxemburg@servas.org](mailto:luxemburg@servas.org)

Visit <http://www.luxembourg2007.org>

<http://www.sibiu2007.ro>

### Hospitality Exchange Party

Brussels, Belgium May 05, 2007

A big Brussels Open Hospitality Exchange Day will be organized in the centre of Brussels on Saturday 05-05-2007

Meeting point: steps of the Bourse/ Beurs (Stock Exchange) at 7 pm

Everybody is welcome to join in!

There will be members of different Hospitality Exchange Networks.

Detail information:

<http://www.4komma6692.de/event/brussel/>

On behalf of Olivier Zilli, Servas coordinator/interviewer/ Brussels

### 4th Annual Youth Assembly at the U.N. August 12-15, 2007

#### Post Assembly Leadership Training Seminar August 16-20, 2007

- Get involved with U.N. issues & Global NGOs
- Make a difference in YOUR lifetime and ... Prepare for a Great Experience in New York City
- Networking and Career Opportunities
- Great Speakers, Engaging Workshops
- All events at the United Nations are FREE
- Special Post-Assembly Leadership Training Seminar: Transforming Information Into Action

#### BE THE CHANGE!

~ Website Launch and Applications Accepted from February 10, 2007, at the web address below

Special Youth Achievement Awards: Your school, community, religious or civic organization can nominate you for SPECIAL RECOGNITION for Humanitarian deeds in 2006-07

Special for 2007: Join the U. C. Peace Festival! Performance Groups interested in Cultural Diplomacy and Peace through the Arts are invited to join us for a day, or two, the entire week, or more!

**Email us for accommodation costs;** Groups welcome: Perform or attend with your mates!

email: [yaapplications@faf.org](mailto:yaapplications@faf.org)

web: [http://www.faf.org/hl\\_youthassembly.htm](http://www.faf.org/hl_youthassembly.htm)

## Languages - Krio from Sierra Leone

<p>Language is an important tool of communication. When we understand each other we are more likely to be peaceful. Think of the problems that have arisen just by the wrong interpretation of what someone is trying to say.</p> <p>In this section, the aim is to build up a selection of words and phrases to help hosts and travellers communicate with each other and with other people. If you have words or phrases that you find useful then let us know. If you have languages you would like to share then let us know. For the moment the base language will be English. Hence any non-English words and phrases must have the English translation of them.</p> <p>In the long run it would be good to be able to publish a booklet of useful words and phrases in a range of languages for the Servas hosts and travellers.</p> <p>Our <b>20th</b> language is <b>Krio</b> from <b>Sierra Leone</b></p>		<p>Zero</p> <p>One</p> <p>Two</p> <p>Three</p> <p>Four</p> <p>Five</p> <p>Six</p> <p>Seven</p> <p>Eight</p> <p>Nine</p> <p>Ten</p> <p>Twenty</p> <p>Thirty</p> <p>Forty</p> <p>Fifty</p> <p>Sixty</p> <p>Seventy</p> <p>Eighty</p> <p>Ninety</p> <p>Hundred</p> <p>Thousand</p>	<p><i>Zero</i></p> <p><i>One</i></p> <p><i>Two</i></p> <p><i>Three</i></p> <p><i>Four</i></p> <p><i>Five</i></p> <p><i>Six</i></p> <p><i>Seven</i></p> <p><i>Eight</i></p> <p><i>Nine</i></p> <p><i>Ten</i></p> <p><i>Twenty</i></p> <p><i>Thirty</i></p> <p><i>Forty</i></p> <p><i>Fifty</i></p> <p><i>Sixty</i></p> <p><i>Seventy</i></p> <p><i>Eighty</i></p> <p><i>Ninety</i></p> <p><i>Hundred</i></p> <p><i>Thousand</i></p>
<p>Peace</p> <p>Hello</p> <p>The greeting for return from work.</p> <p>How are you</p> <p>Goodbye</p> <p>Be seeing you</p> <p>Have a safe journey</p> <p>Best wishes to your family.</p> <p>Do come again</p> <p>Please</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>That's nothing</p> <p>Where is the toilet?</p> <p>Left</p> <p>Right</p> <p>Straight on</p> <p>Behind you</p> <p>Where do I sleep</p> <p>I am vegetarian</p> <p>Where is the nearest telephone?</p>	<p><i>Peace</i></p> <p><i>Hello</i></p> <p><i>Kabor</i></p> <p><i>Aaw de body?</i></p> <p><i>We go see yaa</i></p> <p><i>Waka saful yaa</i></p> <p><i>Tell fambul adu</i></p> <p><i>Do cam back</i></p> <p><i>Do yaa</i></p> <p><i>Tenki</i></p> <p><i>Naa natin</i></p> <p><i>Wey de latrine?</i></p> <p><i>Left</i></p> <p><i>Right</i></p> <p><i>Traite</i></p> <p><i>Beyen</i></p> <p><i>Wusai ade sleep</i></p> <p><i>Me na vegetarian</i></p> <p><i>Wusai short for get telefon?</i></p>	<p>Do you eat meat?</p> <p>Where do you live?</p> <p>This is my sister</p> <p>This is my brother</p> <p>This is my mother</p> <p>This is my father</p> <p>This is my son</p> <p>This is my daughter</p> <p>What music do you like?</p> <p>Have you visited the town?</p> <p>Where are the shops?</p> <p>Is there a market?</p> <p>Thank you for your help.</p>	<p><i>You dae eat beef?</i></p> <p><i>Wusai you tap?</i></p> <p><i>Na me sister dis</i></p> <p><i>Na me brother dis</i></p> <p><i>Na me Mama dis</i></p> <p><i>Na me Daddy/Paa dis</i></p> <p><i>Na me boy pekin dis</i></p> <p><i>Na me girl pekin dis</i></p> <p><i>Woos music you lek?</i></p> <p><i>You don go na de town?</i></p> <p><i>Way de shap dem?</i></p> <p><i>Markit dae?</i></p> <p><i>Tenki for you hep</i></p>

## Country Reports

### Servas in Sierra Leone

Starting Servas in Sierra Leone has been very successful. Over 10 new members were recruited, screened and background checks perfectly done. Interviews were conducted followed by investigations based on individual information gathered for checks and balances. All references were contacted and they in turn responded in the affirmative.

This is good news for Sierra Leoneans and for Servas International. I am therefore pleased to inform you all, that at the last membership meeting held in Freetown on March 20, I was elected National Secretary for Sierra Leone Servas national group. In view of this, I wish to take this opportunity on behalf of our group to apply for membership of Servas International.

Visitors are welcome, and our hosts are more than happy with open minds, heart and hands to receive travellers.

Sierra Leone, slightly smaller than the state of South Carolina, is a West African country located between Guinea and Liberia. First, a Portuguese, then a British colony, Sierra Leone attained self-rule in 1961.

Sierra Leone reflects the diverse nature of the region with people from different tribal backgrounds. These differences can be seen in the traditional music and performances of local cultural groups. Come listen to the drums of the Temne or watch the dances of the Mende. See the fire-eaters or watch the "Mask Devils" dance.

Visitors are generally welcomed with friendliness as politeness is a shared value among Sierra Leone's people. Greetings, handshakes and courtesy are very important parts of this value which makes Sierra Leone's people so well liked by her visitors. This trademark politeness is given its credit in keeping things stable in the country through some tough times.

The people of Sierra Leone welcome visitors and are proud to show off their country. There are few social restrictions though sensitivity is suggested in the more rural areas. English is widely spoken in Freetown though Krio and tribal languages are more prevalent in the countryside. Translators are available.

Again, greetings are important in Sierra Leone. Business meetings usually begin with formal exchange of cards and introductory speeches. In most cases they will be happy to comply especially if you send them a copy of the picture. The government discourages begging of any kind.

We invite travellers to visit Freetown and see the city's attractions; Bunce Island, the British Slave Castle on the Rice Coast of West Africa and the West Indies until the British Parliament finally closed it down in 1808; Tiwai Island; Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Loma Mountains, Bintumani Peak; Gola Forest Reserve; Lake Sonfon; Outamba Kilimi National Park; Western Area Peninsula Forest; the beautiful beaches and more.

*Shed Jah, National Secretary, Sierra Leone*

### New Nat Sec for Switzerland

Congratulations to Katja Schmid, on taking over as the National Secretary of Servas Switzerland. We look forward to working with you.

### Annual Report 2006, Honduras

Since I returned of the eGA in Latin, Italy has focused myself in to upgrade the list of hosts and to affiliate new members, work that has not still been concluded for reasons of long distances and not upgraded readiness of telephone numbers and no money.

In January of 2007 I attended a Regional Conference On Leadership and Youth, in San José, Costa Rica, there we achieve two important things: (1) to choose the Coordinator of Area for Center America, Mexico and The Caribbean and (2) to incorporate to young from the Area to the International Program of Servas Youth.

I have celebrated a first meeting with people of the Republic of El Salvador with the purpose of making resurge Servas El Salvador; we will have another meeting in another border city in April 29 2007 where the date will be determined for the first official meeting of Servas El Salvador to more to take in October of the present year, in the capital City San Salvador.

I am working hard in being able to have our hosts' regional meetings and at least an annual assembly of the whole national group.

*David Espinoza, Honduras*

*(See also section on use of DFC money in Exco)*

### France

General Assembly for France will be at the end of May. We look forward to hearing their results.

### Your Country

Meetings, events,  
functions, general  
assemblies, trips,  
travelling, hosting,  
whatever goes on.

Share it with us. It can  
help others see where  
they are going and what  
they are aiming for

# Host and Travel Reports

## TRAVELLING IN SOUTH AMERICA..... 4 MONTHS..... 6 COUNTRIES.....

Before we started our trip we couldn't realize how important Servas would be. We had no Servas experience at all and we really didn't know what to expect from Servas. We only know Rose, the interviewer, and Rita, our National Secretary.

After four months travelling (26 July - 29 Nov 2006) with Servas in S. America we cannot express our feelings in a couple of words, so we have written this report.

All Servas hosts are very different, not only because they live in another country but there is an enormous variety in age, culture and interests.... However they have one thing in common: they all are proud of their own country and the way they tell about the own country and the own region is amazing.

### **Quito, Ecuador, July 2006**

We arrive in an upper class family. With Patricio we have extended discussions about the political situation in Ecuador and the large gap between poor and rich. The elections of mid October are coming closer and closer... and our host is very excited.

### **Cuenca, Ecuador, August 2006**

In Cuenca, in south Ecuador, mother and daughter Polo pick us up. On arrival we have lunch in a distinguished restaurant with typical dishes. We are a bit embarrassed because as traveller it's impossible to wear every day a new T-shirt. The restaurant isn't the final point of the culinary experiences: unknown fruit at breakfast and more typical dishes are following... Servas is certainly not the best for our figure... With Humberto we talk for a long time about the difference between the social groups in the country. This way we learn about the story of David, an indigene who lives with the family.

### **Trujillo, Peru, August 2006**

Elva in Trujillo (now are we already in Peru) lives with her little daughter in a small flat. She is happy to share the few square meters that are free with us. We chat in the kitchen till late at night.

### **Lima, Peru, August 2006**

Fernando gives us a warm welcome in Lima ... at 5 o'clock in the morning! From the first minute we feel at home. Again it becomes a culinary weekend. But not only food is a priority, a lot of different activities are on the program. Fernando accompanies us to the historical centre of Lima and spends a day with us to visit an archaeological site. By coincidence we have been part of a local festivity, we became 'members' of the Santa-Rosa procession! The whole evening long we talk about interesting topics and Fernando and his friend Felipe give an answer to all our questions; we enjoy every moment and our days in Lima are unforgettable. No diet in Lima neither. We learn to know five typical desserts of Lima, ...in less than 2 hours!!

### **Pisco, Peru, August 2006**

Elva from Pisco leaves Lima one day earlier than planned to be able to host us. To expect more hospitality isn't possible. Elva is a very courageous older lady and never stops talking. Her energy and enthusiasm gives us a warm feeling. When we leave at 7 in the morning for a boat trip, she acts as a grandma in former days: she wakes us up and serves us a breakfast full of energy and gives some good advice.

### **Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, September 2006**

In Bolivia Servas isn't very numerous. We had to travel to Santa Cruz to meet someone. We met Nils, from Germany and Marion. They lived in Spain before Bolivia. He perfectly formulates our Servas experience: with Servas hosts you have always something in common although they have a very different background and you meet them in very different contexts.

### **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

We weren't very lucky. We couldn't meet a Servas host

### **Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 2006**

Buenos Aires offers us a real Servas week! Although the national secretary Cintia is very busy she finds the time and the energy to share her passion for tango with us and to transform her kitchen in a tourist information centre. Funny how mother and daughter are passionately fond of the same soap. At these moments there is complete silence and we look and admire with them the Argentinean sex symbol and leading star.

### **Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 2006**

A couple of days later and some blocks further we stay with Zulma and Roberto, just retired and very active for human rights. Zulma shows us the whole city. We have so much to talk about and discuss, very interesting with their extended cultural background. While we cross the vegetable market we get the idea to cook dinner ourselves and to prepare a real Belgian meal. They are happy with this and decide to invite some friends. Asparagus in the Flemish way, Belgian endives with ham and cheese and finally chocolate mousse with sesame biscuits as dessert were appreciated.

### **Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 2006**

In the weekend we arrive at Veronica and Oscar's place. Maybe they were hippies in a previous life. They are real Argentineans: barbecue on the roof! This way we contribute at the annual consumption of meat in Argentina.

### **Santiago, Chile, November 2006**

Alvaro from Santiago moved out of the city, but no problem, we can stay with his parents in Santiago. Ricardo proposes to imagine that we know each other for years and we feel immediately at home... From all Servas hosts we met we think Ricardo is the most convinced: Chile is simply the best for everything. Ricardo is a man with a golden heart. With the whole family we have a barbecue in the garden at Sunday afternoon. On Monday morning we visit with him the place where he is working.

The way these people are sharing with us all they have let us feel comfortable and it's incredible how we have the impression that we know each other for many years. The feeling to have good friends and to have a home so far from our own place gives us the energy to go on travelling around the world.

### **Bariloche, Argentina, November 2006**

What a pity we have less good experiences. Our host is new in Servas. First she gives us a warm welcome, but the next day she suddenly tells us at 5.30 pm to look for another place for the night ... she is too busy ... One hour later we are on the last bus going to the south! In the extreme south of the continent, far from everything and shivering of the cold temperature we meet Gabriel.

Travelling In South America..... 4 Months..... 6 Countries..... continued

**Ushuaia, Argentina, November 2006**

In Ushuaia, 'fin del mundo', Gabriel is the only Servas member. Nevertheless he enjoys receiving Servas travellers. In the tourist season it might very busy...but no problem because Gabriel loves Servas. The first night he cannot host us because other people are staying with him. He takes us for a drive high in the mountains and we can enjoy a magnificent sunset on the Beagle canal. The next day we meet him by coincidence and he can host us. In a way he is a bit sad for the bad experience of the previous day: his youngest child lent her book about national parks and the Servas guest didn't give it back.

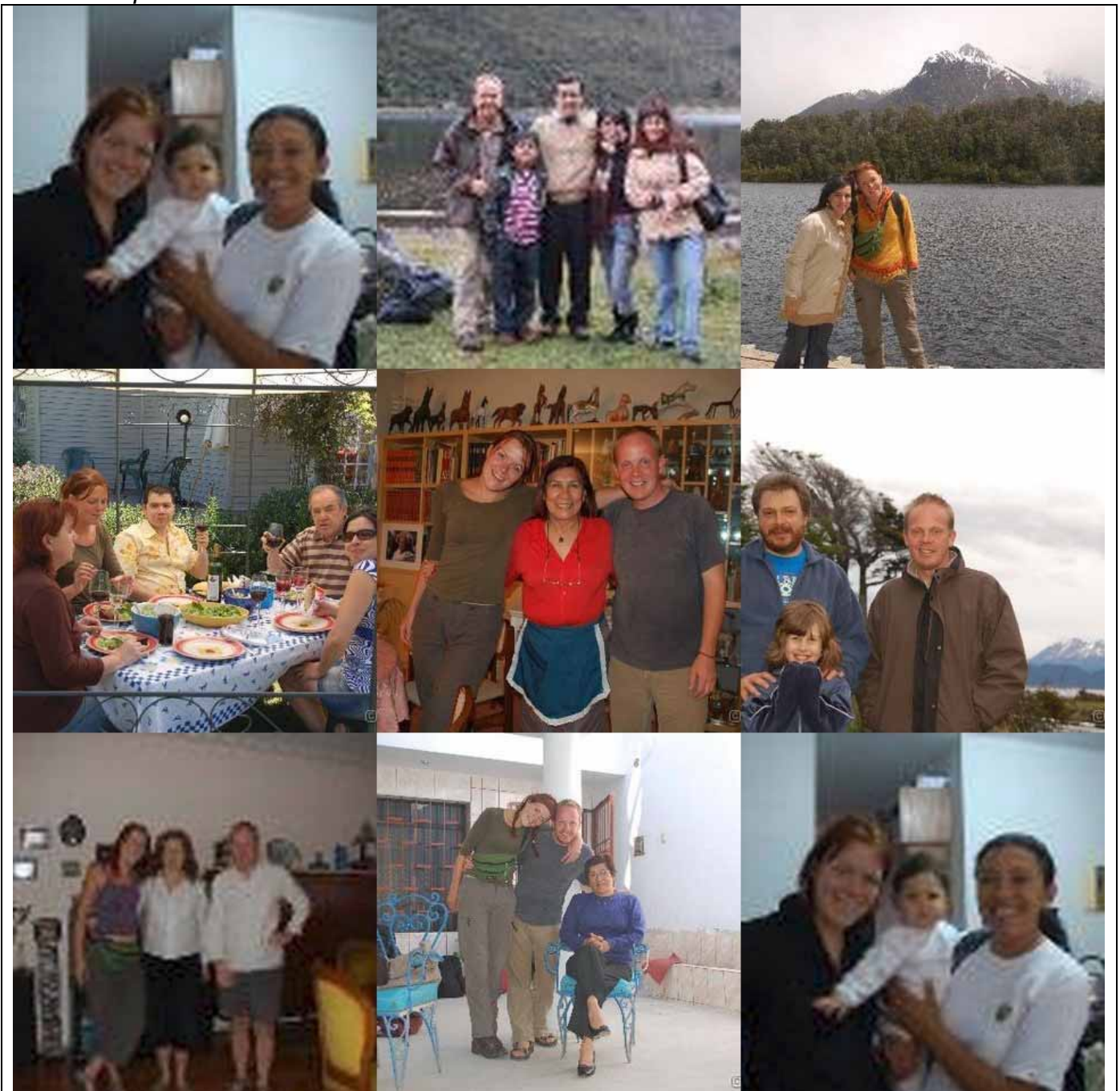
Nevertheless we are welcome. We admire his Servas spirit and once more we have a very enriching and cosy evening.

During the four months of travelling we often disagreed about many things, but about Servas we are unanimous: so fantastic that there are no words to express our feelings.

*Jo & Evelyn on a trip around the world  
Hosts & travellers Servas Belgium*

<http://home.versateladsl.be/travelweb>

*and some pictures of the travels.*



## More Travel and Comments

### Israel and Turkey -part 8 - finale

In the March issue the 12 travellers from India visited Istanbul. In the final part of their travel some visits before returning.

As in every issue space precludes being able to include the whole of this descriptive report. Those wishing to read the full report should contact the editor - see email address on p1.

#### 10<sup>th</sup> June 06

It was a free day but was raining. Mr. Murat had guests at home and Sercan wanted me to prepare vegetarian dishes. So I went to his house and prepared Khichadi. Sercan also wanted me to go to Mr. Kemal Ertas house, who invited all of us for dinner. Sercan told me that since he is alone we should help him. We learnt he had asked somebody to prepare Vegetarian dishes. They introduced me to Eva whom I considered as Kemal's daughter. But I learnt afterwards that she was his beloved. Kemal expressed his desire to make Eva wear the sari which he had brought from India. I made her to wear Sari over her small skirt. People started coming slowly and slowly. They expressed the desire to prepare chapattis. Bhavanaben and I prepared some puris.

Mr. Kemal had huge big balcony facing the Sea. Opposite to Domabalche Palace. He showed the palace and said I am waiting for 4999 queens of sultan to come to me. A dozen Turkish men and women and ten of us, introduced ourselves. A young boy of 25 introduced himself saying, "I am David, this guy (Kemal) is my father! I was taken a back by this impolite introduction of his father. It may be common for them.. We talked about Indian-Turkish friendship. One part of Turkey belonged in Asia. The western civilization has influenced them much more than Asian.

#### 11.6.06 The day of our departure.

Sercan had tasted Potato wada in India so he wanted to prepare it. We went in search of weekly market to get coriander and flour of chickpeas. I bought Cherries, Plums and Apricots which were very good. We came to Sercan's house. Dr. Ramesh Sharma boiled potatoes. I cleaned coriander and prepared parathas. Vegetables, Potato wadas and water-melon was our brunch at 12.noon. Sercan told me about his plan to tour the world explaining the people that we are all one. I told him about Mr. E.P. Menon and Mr. Satish Kumar who had trekked round the world without a single penny. He was inspired by this idea. To understand it better I presented him my book on "Vinoba Bhave's Philosophy: A new perspective in Gandhian Thought."

We packed for the Aerodrome and started our journey at 2.p.m. We reached the Airport at 3.15 p.m. Sercan was sad but had to tell us 'Good bye'. The plane was full as 70 Neurologist physicians from India, in Istanbul for a conference were now returning to India. It was a homely atmosphere but there was no Indian vegetarian food. It was Turkish rice, salad, bread and lentils. On 12<sup>th</sup> June at about 3.15 a.m. we reached Mumbai and everybody was in hurry to reach to the destination.

We came to know the culture, way of life, attitude and traditions of the people of different countries by the SERVAS way of traveling. Let SERVAS prosper more and more in the world.

Dr Geeta Mehta, India

### Checklist: Performance of S I

...a federation of national Servas groups, encompassing an international network of hosts and travelers. The purpose of the network is to help build world peace, goodwill and understanding by providing opportunities for personal contacts among people of different cultures, backgrounds and nationalities. (SI Statutes)

**Indicator One:** How strongly does Servas International contribute to the constructive engagement of its participating Servas National Groups, e.g. by:

- equipping Servas with sound facts, reasoned principles, strategic vision and collective memory
- fostering diversity, respect and constructive work in and among national and international committees
- managing current budget, in-trust resources legally and consistently with established financial guidelines
- preventing and resolving local problems through wisdom, compassion, commitment to common good
- upholding the Statutes democratically; and respecting and responding to directives by General Assembly
- celebrating outstanding achievements towards Servas's purposes

**Indicator Two:** How well does Servas International facilitate promotion of the global Servas system and inclusiveness at the local level, adapting universal Servas values and best practices, annual Officer and Committee Reports and election results into local languages cultures (*interpretation and translation of meetings and documents, websites in local language*)?

**Indicator Three:** How strongly does S I directly or through National Groups engage in global dialogues and demonstration projects with members of local communities, Area Coordinators and with other Servas National Groups and other individuals in the country or region, on issues important to the region, related to Servas purposes (*number of events, size and impact*)?

**Indicator Four:** How well does Servas International effectively participate in the development and capacity building of Servas National groups in contributing significantly to the global purposes of peace, goodwill and understanding among individuals, among hosts-and-travelers, and within the community locally and among individual members of other groups represented at the UN?(*give specific examples*)

**Indicator Five:** How active and successful does Servas International identify and implement partnership projects which advance its defined purposes?

**Indicator Six:** What quality does Servas International attain in its communication role, between its Servas National Groups and other stakeholders, with other networks world-wide, with government and the public in a given country or Area (*quality of global and local website, frequency of updates sent to SI website, etc*)?

**Indicator Seven:** To what extent does Servas International grow and showcase new engagements and affiliations with new Servas National Groups and increase contacts among travelers and hosts and others (*number per year and trend*)?

### Sharing your Servas videos with everybody

Various people are wanting to share their Servas experience by video. This is great. To do this easily there is a section in Youtube on the internet being set up for Servas. Why not share your experiences with everybody there.

search for servas in [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)  
see this link :-)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5ludK8iuiQ&eurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Efriendswithoutborders%2Eorg%2Findex%2Ehtml>

### Exco meeting in Bangalore

The meetings in Bangalore should result in an EXCO Action Plan to:

- address continuing EXCO work
- action the Latina GA directions
- respond to and correct items listed by the Audits

make use of our own analysis of trends, Big Picture, etc. and advice received from Committees, etc., and national secretaries, etc.

### Using DFC money

Starting in 2005, in order to update Host List for Honduras, Dr. Espinosa personally visited hosts whose phone number is not accurate to be really sure if they want to be listed as hosts and they will not be left out.

At the EGA in 2006, David Espinosa was one of the Central American NS that demanded SI support for a Central American Regional Servas Conference. Pablo brought all the Central Americans to a lunch meeting in Latina and translated their agreed desire to have help from SI and from and for each other.

David Espinosa went to the Central American Regional Servas Conference in January 2007 and he met Stefan, a German youth and Servas traveler working with young people in El Salvador as his alternate military service. Stefan came to the Central America Servas Conference at the urging of Markus Kappenberger, NS of Servas Germany. Stefan was able to go to the Central American Regional Servas Conference because travel & conference registration funds were generously provided by Servas Germany. David Espinosa is now a mentor to Stefan as Stefan seeks to develop Servas in El Salvador, a country with less than 10% of people with telephones. Stefan will like David be making home visits to built Servas in El Savador.

Thanks to the DFC, both David and Stefan have money to support their outreach effort in their countries.

Now this is the kind of personal initiative, personal encouragement and with funding, and the cooperation between National groups the EGA was encouraging. Don't you agree?

*Mary Jane Mikuryia, SI Exco*

### Another UN conference that might interest people:

Vision Statement

**60 Annual DPI/NGO Conference**

**Climate Change: How it Impacts Us All**

**United Nations, New York, 5 – 7 September 2007**

The 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, in addition to reviewing the scientific evidence that has documented the changes that are taking place in the earth's weather patterns, is being structured to produce a plan of action to counter the catastrophic impacts that Climate Change poses. Climate Change threatens every aspect of life on earth, and also the viability of the planet earth itself. We now know with 90% certainty, attested to by the most informed and respected scientists, that the environmental degradation causing the climate warming phenomenon is primarily caused by human activities.

The scientific knowledge provided by the conference will help NGOs better understand the myriad causes of Climate Change. UN, governmental, NGO and other community experts will lead a series of roundtable discussions with conference attendees on the diverse approaches that have already been put in place to counter Climate Change and analyze their effectiveness. We can achieve several important goals by working together to counter and control Climate Change:

(1) Identify defensive measures capable of minimizing damage from climate change.

(2) Slow down any further climate warming by reducing or eliminating human actions that scientists identify as causative.

(3) Change our lifestyles to accommodate these facts.

After exchanging information on best practices and recommended standards with the experts and each other at the roundtables, workshops and network sessions, NGOs will have the tools they need to form partnerships and create effective action plans to counter the Climate Change crisis. In addition to reducing harmful emissions by conserving energy and supporting the use of environmentally friendly alternatives themselves, they will have the knowledge they need to educate their friends and neighbors to the cataclysmic dangers posed by Climate Change. Participants will also understand the urgent need to protect themselves, their families and the entire world's people, as well as every other species, by taking appropriate action now.

## UN ACTIVITIES THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST SERVAS MEMBERS

**Event Name: World Environment Day (UNEP)**

**Event Date: 5-Jun-2007 Event Location: Global**

**Event Description:** Global events to mark Day include national and local seminars, parades, tree-plantings, children's contests, *etc.*

**Event URL: [www.unep.org/wed](http://www.unep.org/wed)**

**Event Name: Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, thirty-eighth session**

**Event Date: 14 May - 1 June -2007 Event Location: New York, UNHQ**

**Event Description:** The 38th Session will consider reports submitted by States parties on measures taken to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The Committee will examine country reports from Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Pakistan, Serbia, Syrian Arab Republic and Vanuatu.

During its sessions the CEDAW Committee considers reports of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Following such consideration, the CEDAW Committee formulates concluding comments that assist the State party in the further implementation of the Convention.

**Event URL: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/38sess.htm>**

**Event Name: Sixth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

**Event Date: 14-24-May-2007 Event Location: New York, UNHQ**

**Event Description:** As an advisory body of ECOSOC, with the mandate to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights, this year the special theme is territories, lands and natural resources.

**Event URL: [www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session\\_sixth.html](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session_sixth.html)**

**Event Name: Launch of the World Youth Report**

**Event Date: 8-May-2007 Event Location: New York, UNHQ**

**Event Description:** The report examines existing challenges and opportunities for the world's young people between the ages of 15 and 24 and provides regional overviews of the major youth development trends in priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth. It also explores major issues of concern to youth development: employment, education, health, poverty, and violence.

**Event URL: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/>**

## Peace

### 50 Ways to promote peace

This continues and completes what was started last month. Just some ideas to get us thinking and maybe being active.

25. **Stay tuned** to what's going on in the world through newsletters, periodicals, newspapers, radio, TV, and online.

26. **Educate yourself about the violence threatening kids** in your community and nationwide. Help bring safety and peace to kids at [Children's Defense Fund](#) and [End Abuse](#).

27. **Learn another language.** Being able to communicate in a foreign language helps you participate in diverse cultures.

28. Help bring peace to the environment by **reducing your carbon load emissions.** Learn what you can do at our global warming campaign site at [www.onesweetwhirled.org](http://www.onesweetwhirled.org).

29. Learn how to fight fairly. **Fight to resolve** differences, not to win.

30. **Register people to vote.** One reason the political game's gone sour is that too few of us play. Find out more at [Rock The Vote](#) or [Project Vote Smart](#).

31. Become a **volunteer on a peace project.** Check out [Peace Brigades International](#), [Seeds of Peace](#), and the [Peace Corps](#).

32. **Volunteer at your local battered women's shelter.** Learn about the importance of non-violent conflict resolution.

33. **Sign-up as a member of a peace organization** like [Global Exchange](#), [United For Peace & Justice](#), or [Peace Response](#).

34. **Call a radio talk show.** The good ones are often the town meetings of the airwaves.

35. **Write letters and articles in support of peace** and non-violence to the editors of your local media. Published, they can change minds, and even unpublished they can impact the media.

36. **Sign a peace pledge.** A good place to start is [www.peacepledge.org](http://www.peacepledge.org).

37. **Adopt a politician.** Write a monthly letter to your Representative, Senator, or President on peace-related issues.

38. **Take social action** to support specific legislative peace initiatives. Try the [Waging Peace](#) site to get started.

39. **Vote.** Voting is your hard-earned right and your official voice. For information about the democratic voting process, visit the [Federal Election Commission](#) or the Center for Voting and Democracy.

40. Support organizations and/or campaigns that fight for **basic human rights** for all people. Social justice promotes peace. For a start, visit [Global Exchange](#) or [Amnesty International](#).

41. **Run for elective office.** Be a voice for non-violent conflict resolution, reasoned sanity, and balance.

42. **Learn about nuclear weapons** from the [Union of Concerned Scientists](#). Sign an appeal to end the nuclear threat. Visit the [Nuclear Threat Reduction Campaign](#) and [WagingPeace.org](#).

43. Take part in **online advocacy for peace.** Some good sites to get started are [20/20 Vision](#) and [The Interfaith Alliance](#).

44. **Write to your own government;** write to a foreign government. Let them know you care about what they do and hold them to the same standards for peaceful conflict resolution.

45. Call your **City Council** and attend the next meeting. It's often through the strength of a group that changes are made and community is built.

46. Encourage **peace projects for school classrooms.** You can find some great ideas at [CelebratingPeace.com](#) and [UNESCO](#).

47. Teach young people skills for **non-violent conflict resolution.** Learn about some great strategies from the [Resolving Conflict Creatively Program](#) or [www.Images-Education.org](http://www.Images-Education.org) for teachers, classrooms, parents, and students.

48. Teach young people about peace. **Let your behavior reflect the values** you want them to espouse.

49. Support your community's efforts to **create jobs and training opportunities** for kids that help them become productive, contributing adults.

50. **Dig deep.** Oftentimes, reaching peaceful resolution means understanding what's at the root of a problem rather than what's most apparent on the surface.

## Peace - an essay contest

Dear Friends of Peace,

Young people from around the world are invited to enter the 2007 International Essay Contest. We are pleased to announce that starting this year, this annual contest is a joint UNESCO-Goi Peace Foundation program.

The theme for this year's contest is "The role of media and information and communication technologies in building a peaceful world." The deadline for entry is June 30, 2007. First prize winners will receive a cash award and a trip to Japan.

Please see the complete guidelines below. The same information can be found on the Goi Peace Foundation website: [http://www.goipeace.or.jp/english/activities/programs/0702\\_00.htm](http://www.goipeace.or.jp/english/activities/programs/0702_00.htm) and on the UNESCO Youth website: <http://www.unesco.org/youth>

To read winning essays from last year's contest, go to <http://www.goipeace.or.jp/english/activities/programs/programs-17-00.htm>

Please spread the information about the essay contest to young people in your network  
*May Peace Prevail on Earth!, The Goi Peace Foundation*

The United Nations has designated 2001-2010 as the "**International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World.**" Not only should young people benefit from this global movement, but they should be empowered to play a leading role in the creation of a culture of peace.

The theme of this year's International Essay Contest is "**The role of media and information and communication technologies in building a peaceful world.**"

Young people from around the world are invited to submit their creative ideas on this theme. \*This theme was a central topic discussed at the UNESCO Euro-Mediterranean Youth Forum held in November 2006.

\* **Theme:** "The role of media and information and communication technologies in building a peaceful world"--

TV, radio, Internet and other forms of media have great influence in shaping our lives and society. What should be the role of the media and communication technologies in the future. How would you make use of these various tools of communication to help create a better world.

2007 International Essay Contest for Young People  
Organized by The Goi Peace Foundation and UNESCO,  
Endorsed by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports,  
Science and Technology of Japan  
Japan Broadcasting Corporation, Nikkei Inc.,  
Tokyo Metropolitan Board of Education  
Supported by Japan Airlines and Tombow Pencil Co., Ltd.

\* **Guidelines:**

1. Essays may be submitted by anyone up to 25 years old in one of the following age categories:
  - a) *Children* (ages up to 14)
  - b) *Youth* (ages 15 - 25)
2. Essays must be 800 words or less, typed or printed in English, French, Spanish or German.
3. Essays must have a cover page indicating
  - (1) category (Children or Youth)
  - (2) essay title
  - (3) name
  - (4) present address
  - (5) phone number
  - (6) fax number
  - (7) e-mail address
  - (8) nationality
  - (9) age as of June 30, 2007
  - (10) sex
  - (11) school name and grade
  - (12) word count.

Teachers and youth directors may submit a collection of essays from their class or group. Please enclose a list of participants' names and the name and contact information of the submitting teacher or director. (Entries missing any of the above information will not be considered.)

4. Entries may be submitted by postal mail or e-mail.
5. Essays must be original and unpublished.
6. Essays must be written by one person. Co-authored essays are not accepted.
7. Copyright of the essays entered will be assigned to the organizers.

\* **Deadline:** Entries must be received by June 30, 2007.

\* **Awards:** The following awards will be given in the Children's category and Youth category respectively:  
*1st Prize:* Certificate and prize of 100,000 Yen (approx. US\$900) ... 1 entrant  
*2nd Prize:* Certificate and prize of 50,000 Yen (approx. US\$450) ... 2 entrants  
*3rd Prize:* Certificate and gift ... 5 entrants  
*Honorable Mention:* Certificate and gift ... 25 entrants  
*All entrants* will receive a certificate.  
(Certificates, prizes and gifts will be mailed to the entrants by the end of the year.)

\* *1st prize winners* will be invited to the award ceremony to be held in Tokyo, in November 2007.  
(Travel expenses will be covered by the sponsor.)

\*\* *All prize winners* will be announced in November 2007 on the Goi Peace Foundation web site ([www.goipeace.or.jp](http://www.goipeace.or.jp)) and UNESCO web site ([www.unesco.org/youth](http://www.unesco.org/youth)).

\* **Please send your entries to:**  
International Essay Contest  
c/o The Goi Peace Foundation  
1-4-5 Hirakawacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0093  
Japan  
E-mail: [essay@goipeace.or.jp](mailto:essay@goipeace.or.jp)