



Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Robert Doyle

## **MELBOURNE TO HOST INAUGURAL GLOBAL DIALOGUE FORUM, 10-12 OCTOBER.**

17 September 2010

Hosted by the Global Dialogue Foundation under the auspices of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), up to three hundred participants are expected to attend next month's forum on promoting intercultural exchange in the Asia Pacific region.

The forum will bring together participants in the field of intercultural relations from grassroots organisations, the academic community, (the private sector, government) and international agencies under the theme "Unity in Diversity 10.10.10; Bridging Cultures, Building Peace." Organisers are seeking to highlight and learn from the experience of community leaders in uniting people from diverse cultural backgrounds for a common purpose.

A key component of the three-day event will be 'the Marketplace of Ideas', which serves as an opportunity for established grassroots intercultural initiatives to promote their program to an audience of policy makers and potential sponsors. The most successful projects will be rewarded with support from the 'World Intercultural Fund for Innovation' (WIFI) network, launched at the 2010 UNAOC forum in Rio de Janeiro.

This is the first United Nations Alliance of Civilizations related event to be organised in Australia. Global Dialogue Foundation CEO, Peter (Pece) Gorgievski, welcomed the UNAOC's involvement: "Our goal is to see a scaling-up of grassroots initiatives that aim to develop understanding and cooperation among people and cultures. We look forward to working with the UNAOC and partner organisations to develop a similar model throughout the Asia Pacific region." President Jorge Sampaio, High Representative for the UNAOC, is expected to deliver a video address at the forum's opening ceremony.

Registration is still open to members of the public who wish to participate in the forum workshops. The four focus areas are: integrating migrants; shaping perceptions, challenging stereotypes – the role of the media today; education for intercultural citizenship; the role of religious, faith and traditional faith leaders in promoting peace and human development. Although spaces are limited, participation is free.

Pledges and recommendations from each workshop will be compiled into a final conference document, which will comprise the 'Plan of Action', to be reviewed at the 2011 forum.

More information on the forum can be found on the official website at <http://bit.ly/GDF101010>

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