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# ENSEMBLE TOGETHER CONCORDES

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The president of our WUJA Mr. Tobon, with the President, Vice President and staff of the Sophia Alumni Association

## EDITORIAL

### On the voluntary work

To accept a voluntary work in an organization, without the compromise of a working relationship or job contract, implies that we put the best of us to a cause in which we believe and that deserves our commitment. This effort usually takes a lot of our time and involvement and it often requests from us more than we could give.

The voluntary work is a demanding one that sometimes requires from us discipline, responsibility and commitment on specific timetables that we have to honor. This involvement requires that we have enough motivation to the cause or we might fail to fulfill this responsibility that we self impose on us.

It could sound contradictory but there is more compromise in the voluntary work than in a work in which we are paid to do it. After all if we are not willing to meet our chores in the work in which we receive a salary, we would be replaced and there will be many candidates to take our place even with a reduced salary. But another story is to do a work in which we volunteer and we don't get a payment as reward.

To resign from this kind of voluntary work, that we embrace with love and enthusiasm, is difficult since there are not many people willing to jump and take it. It is often difficult to get people to work and help on associations and social work in which the only payment is to feel comfortable with oneself for a job well done for the benefit of others.

In any voluntary work people of great commitment and willingness to serve others are needed. In most of our Jesuit alumni/ae associations we have only a bunch of few people that carry on the hard work. This is a fact of life. We can't expect many volunteers for the kind of job that an association of alumni/ae demands. Those actively working in our associations have to know that they are giving the best of them in favour of others and that they can't expect to be replaced easily.

I encourage them to continue with their hard and enthusiastic work. They have demonstrated that they are "Men and Women for others". I would like to present my respects and my thanks to those that everyday work for our alumni and the poor and the needed in their countries. They deserve our admiration and our support.

On the other hand those in charge of our associations have to be innovative. They have to find ways to invite new fellow alumni/ae, specially the young ones, to join our Jesuit lay movement. I believe that our work in the different regions of the world will survive and be effective only if we could involve the new generations. They are the ones that will carry on the torch and with their fresh view of life they could be more effective in our work with the alumni/ae.

The best way to get help and involvement, in our associations, from our fellow alumni is to offer them programs in which they can practice and put to work their Ignatian values that they learned in school and in which they can

demonstrate their love and commitment for others.

Fabio Tobón

President WUJA

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### PEDRO ARRUIPE WORLD ASSOCIATION

Here we are in the year 2000... At the beginning of this new year, please note the latest report on the «Dollar Arrupe Campaign». Now that the Associations and the Federations have been informed through the repeated articles published in the latest 1999 ETC issues ( many thanks to President Tobon for his editorial in ETC about this topic which has become one of the aims of the World Union), we hope that, this year, they will be able to answer generously these appeals.

The Pedro Arrupe World Association has now high objectives for the next three years: its activity must be mostly focused on two fields: firstly, the aide towards the young who wish to devote themselves for a while to the service of unprivileged people (for instance, Young European Volunteers teams in Europe, inspired by Jesuit Volunteers Corps which has begun in the United States 40 years ago) and, secondly, the programmes concerning the refugees: please note that we have started at the end of 1999 our social and educational programme towards the refugees in Rwanda (an initial payment of 4.580 euros was sent to the Jesuit responsible for the Great Lakes-JRS).

We hope that we will be able to carry on our aid this year and the following, thanks to the « Dollar Arrupe Campaign». We will give you more detailed accounts in the next ETC issues, on both the local situation in the refugees camps and on what our initial aid has allowed us to achieve locally. Concerning the details of implementation (fund raising events and payments), you must refer to what was published in the last ETC issues in August and December 1999. Please also note that, in 1999, we were able to give a subsidy of 2.290 euros to the head of the Jesuit Refugee Service in the Balkans. We again want to thank our friends in Australia, in France and in Ireland for their quick and generous answer to the «Dollar Arrupe Campaign» and we confidently hope that the others will follow their example in the year 2000.

Laurent Grégoire and Eric de Langsdorff

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### VISIT TO FR. KOLVENBACH

On January 27th the President and the Vice president of our World Union, along with Fr. Vincent Duminuco, visited Fr. General Hans-Peter Kolvenbach S.J. in Rome. As in the previous years it was a very good and warm visit. We always appreciate very much how keen is Fr. General of our movement and how well informed he is of our developments and our work.

He asked us to convey his best regards to our Council members and to all the Jesuit Alumni/ae Associations in the world. We would like to share, through this edition of our ETC, the main topics covered in our visit, since they are of interest to all of us:

1. We presented Fr. General with an annual report of the main activities of the World Union and we discussed the contents of the report (a copy was sent to all Council Members, in case any association is interested in knowing it).
2. Fr.General asked, specially about the social actions that the different associations are doing for the poor and the needed in the world. Bernard and I told him about different associations that we knew about but we didn't have a full recollection.
3. We agreed that for next year we will have a report of these activities in the different regions of the world. This report has to be elaborated with the cooperation of all the Council Members.
4. It was agreed that we will have a general meeting of all the Council Members with Fr.General in Rome the last week of January 2001. This will be a good opportunity to meet and to visit and pray at the Holy Door in Saint Peter's Cathedral, in the year of the Jubilee.
5. We also discussed different themes for the World Union Congress to be held in Calcutta in 2003. We informed of the activities that the Indian Federation is doing far in advance to organize the Congress, although he was well informed of these activities. I believe that there has to be an active participation of the associations through their Council members with the Indian Federation to chose the final theme.
6. The exact dates of the Congress must be selected soon since Fr.Kolvenbach would like to attend and needs to book the dates in his calendar.
7. Fr.General is very interested in the cooperation with the IAJSB and The Catholic Social Thought Symposium. It was noted that Dr.Arumbai Raj one of our Council Members from India has been invited to participate in the Symposium in July 2000 in Mexico. The President of the WUJA has also been invited to present a paper and to talk to the Deans of the Jesuit Business Schools on the World Union and the possible cooperation among our organizations.

8. The monetary situation of the World Union was discussed. There is a need to make an effort to collect the dues from the different associations.
9. We also talked about the Pedro Arrupe Foundation, according to the report presented by Laurent Gregoire and Eric DeLangsdorff. There is also a need that the Council members help in the Dollar Arrupe campaign.
10. We reviewed the possibilities of our web site and the need to use it more extensively as one of our communication and exchange of information main tools.

We must say that the visit to Fr.Kolvenbach is an important event for our WUJA. We always feel that we are more than welcome and that we have the full support from the Society of Jesus in our work. We hope that all the associations worldwide keep their good work with the Jesuit Alumni/ae and specially to develop social projects for the poor and the needed

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## NEWS FROM THE WORLD

### AUSTRALIA

The Australian Jesuit Alumni Association

The South Australian Branch of the AJAA, under the direction of Mr Chris Hogan, is planning a significant event designed to address a most important issue facing Australian society today:

#### **Reconciliation of Australia's Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples**

One of the central issues in Australian society today is the reconciliation of its Indigenous and Non-indigenous peoples. The subject features prominently in discussions and various forms of action at all levels of government, in the media and in the community. Achievement of some level of reconciliation of Australian peoples is seen by many as indispensable to Australia's growth to a more mature nationhood.

While there has been some progress over the years, many believe the vast majority of the work still lies ahead. This belief is supported by statistics that indicate that Australia's Indigenous peoples are the most disadvantaged group in Australian society on almost all key indicators of quality of life and well-being - such as health, education, employment, and material prosperity. Hence, in her recent Australia Day address (26th January 2000), prominent Aboriginal leader, Ms Lowitja O'Donohue, was able to comment that «On any social indicator, my people are drastically over-represented at the wrong end of the scale».

There is much work to be done. Everyone in Australia has a role. Changes are being advocated of many kinds including constitutional reform, legislative change and the institution of more formal reconciliation processes and mechanisms to restore family connections fractured by practices of the past.

In the interests of promoting understanding and dialogue on the subject, the South Australian Branch of the AJAA is currently planning an evening address and discussion featuring a prominent Aboriginal person. The event will be held in May, 2000 at Aquinas College, a Jesuit University College in Adelaide, South Australia.

Robyn Treseder

Council Member Oceania

### FRANCE

The Annual General Meeting of the French Federation was held on February 5 and 6, 2000 in the Jesuit Spiritual Centre of Penboc'h, not far from the city of Vannes in southern Brittany. This meeting was an important landmark for the French Federation, as participants included the Presidents of the 21 associations which form the Federation including the alumni/ae from ND de Jamhour (Lebanon) living in France or in other European countries which has joined as an associate member. Some spiritual counsellors of the associations were also present, as were some young, active association members who have been invited to the last AGMs. We were, this year still, wonderfully welcomed, this time, by our friends of St François-Xavier's alumni/ae Association, by the Directors of Penboc'h centre and the one of St François-Xavier.

Traditionally, every President has to give an account of the activities of his local association. This was done on Saturday morning in the magnificent centre of Penboc'h on the edge of the Bay of Morbihan. Great moment of intense sharing, very rich in initiatives and in varied commitments, already encouraging us even more to go ahead....

The afternoon was spent with a review of the major events of the last century and discussions for the future (the 2000 meeting was arranged to prepare our programme for the three next years). Fr. Jean-Yves Calvez, s.j., the former Director of Etudes, the well-known monthly Jesuit magazine, and Fr. Pedro Arrupe's very close collaborator at the Curie of the Society of Jesus in Rome for 14 years was invited to speak. After Fr. Calvez's presentation, we, as alumni/ae and citizens, now have a better understanding of the important work that awaits us in the 21st century, work that we will tackle with other well-meaning people. We will strive for a better organisation of the world ; more justice in the social and economic life ; efficient charity work ; a better approach towards the elderly who are increasingly numerous in all our societies ; a better urban environment ; THE QUESTION OF WHAT GIVES A MEANING TO LIFE ; a better balance between work and personal and family lives ; fair relations between men and women ; a renovation of the Church and of its message to meet the spiritual needs of men and of women tempted by the message of the sects ; and the peaceful coexistence of religions. We should all stay calm and avoid extremist words and thoughts when speaking about

certain realities which are considered as threatening to Europe.

In the evening, we made a pilgrimage to the large sanctuary of St Anne d'Auray (dedicated to St Anne, mother of the Virgin Mary) and visited the magnificent city of Vannes, in particular the cathedral and the floodlit ramparts.

On Sunday morning, we resumed our work, just before the visit of the college of St François-Xavier (which will celebrate its 150th anniversary in May) and Eucharist in the college's Chapel. We adopted a programme of action in four points for the next 3 years to come separating us from Calcutta Congress in 2003. This ambitious programme covers the educational, social, spiritual and associative fields. Some projects are to be continued and new ones launched to spread the word about the Ignatian spirituality, develop partnerships with the schools and Associations, especially those of Africa, TO TIGHTEN LINKS WITH THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL RESPONSIBLES FOR THE MOVEMENTS INVOLVED IN THE SERVICE OF THE CATHOLIC EDUCATION, and to cooperate with the Province of France in its apostolic work in schools, institutes, spiritual centres, and social projects...

Concerning this specific point, please note that a meeting with the Provincial Father of France and fifteen alumni/ae - all active members either of their local associations or Federation committee (President or representative for young alumni/ae) along with our national spiritual counsellor - was held in Paris on the afternoon of Saturday, February 26. It was an opportunity to exchange information and discuss the projects which the Province is currently carrying out, those established recently, or longer ago, to benefit young unprivileged people. This was also an opportunity to hear the Provincial Father make two appeals for two of these centres and a chance for us to express our concerns for the future of Jesuit schools and the education of current pupils, and to convey, as requested, our preoccupations on cultural, religious and social issues in our society. The questions raised on this occasion were serious, such as loneliness, confusion, loss of reference by many in our society today, a society characterised by excessive individualism and overabundance of media messages, which are not always as respectful as they should be, which complicates the educational task of families and schools.

We understand better after these two important meetings what it is we have to do. We must renew the vitality and increase the number of projects to which the associations of France and the Federation can devote themselves over the next few years. We aim to organise a large national congress in 2002 to bring together our vital forces, to review all our significant activities and to prepare, together with our friends of the European countries with whom we closely collaborate within the European Confederation, the large gathering of alumni/ae that will be the World Congress of Calcutta in 2003.

Eric de Langsdorff

President of the French Federation

## INDIA

### Preparation for the 6th World Congress

The Governing Council of the National Federation of the Jesuit Alumni/ae Association of India have nominated a five member Organizing Committee consisting of the two world Union Members Dr. M. Arumai Raj, Mr. Kalyan Chowdhury and the three Office-bearers of the Governing Council of the National Federation in order to plan for the forth-coming world Congress. It is a convention that the world Congress would be conducted only during the months of July in order to suit the needs of the European delegates who come in large numbers. But organizing any event in the months of July in Calcutta is very difficult because of the monsoon rains. Hence, the Governing Council have requested the world Union Members to find out an alternate dates in consultation with the President of the World Union and Rev.Fr.Vincent Duminnco.S.J. The organizing Committee have taken up this matter with the WUJA. The organizing Committee is also very seriously discussing about the theme of the congress with the WUJA.

### Warming-up of the National Federation for the World Congress:

In order to prepare for the 6th World Congress, all the Jesuit Alumni/ae Association of India have brought under one umbrella that is the National Federation. Since India being the vast region with numerous Jesuit Schools and University Colleges, the national Federation was further divided into four zones like north, south, west and central in accordance with the geographical region and the strength of Alumni.

After the formation of the National Federation, the Governing Council have met five times in different parts of India in order to take stock of the situation.

### VI - South Zone Jesuit Alumni/ae Congress, Trivandrum from 21st January to 23rd January 2000:

The 5th South Zone Jesuit Alumni/ae Congress was held at Loyola College, Trivandrum, Kerela from 21st January to 23rd January 2000. Nearly 200 delegates representing all the four states of south participated in the congress. The theme of the congress was "Towards Fullness of Life". The key-note address on the theme "Towards Fullness of Life" was sliced into four parts. Fr.Dominic George, Rector of Loyola College gave an overview picture of the theme. Fr.John Manippadams, Provincial of Kerela dwelt at length on Psychological and spiritual dimension, Dr. Alexander Jacob, IPS, DIG. of Police spoke on Administration and Family life and Mr. Sunil Gangadharan, Governor, Rotary International spoke on Corporate Leadership and Globalization Challenges. Each speaker analysed their topic with very deep insight and commitment. It was followed by entertainment and dinner.

The second day was fully devoted to the group discussion. The last and final day marked with hectic activities. After the Holy Eucharist at Loyola Chapel followed by breakfast, the preparation and reading of the congress statement have taken more time to arrive at the consensus. The rules and regulations of the South Zonal Council was approved and the New Council Members were elected in accordance with the rules. Dr. M. Arumai Raj, World Union Member of the Jesuit Alumni/ae conducted the elections and announced the office bearers. In the business meeting that followed it was decided to have this next congress at Bangalore during January 2001. The New Secretary of the South Zonal Congress Mr.Gunabalan proposed the vote of thanks.

### **The JAAT Executives meet at Loyola college, Chennai - August 1999.**

The Executives of the Jesuit Alumni/ae Association of TamilNadu met at Loyola College, Chennai on 29th August 1999. Dr. M. Arumairaj, World Union member gave the highlights of the Calcutta congress. Mr. Thomas Fernando of the Governing Council spoke on Federation of Jesuit Alumni Association of India. Rev.Fr.Provincial, in his talk, appreciated the sense of belongingness of our Alumni. He stressed the need for Community Colleges and Community Schools through Alumni Associations during summer vacations.

- A core group formed by the floor drafted a consensus statement on the Current Political Scenario & Alumni and given to the press.
- It was decided the out-going students of Schools and Colleges could pay Rs.50/- as Annual Subscription.
- It was decided to have the next JAAT Meet in St.Joseph's College Higher Secondary School, Trichy on the 2nd week of August 2000.

### **St.Joseph's Alumni Employment, Guidance and Training Center :**

St.Joseph's College Alumni Association in collaboration with the school is conducting the employment placement programme and training for the underprivileged sections of the students. They are conducting courses like screen printing, C, C++, Java Programming in Computers, Electronics Refrigeration courses, Two wheelers mechanism at a cheaper rate for the poor and the suppressed classes in the society. The success of the courses conducted demanded a more spacious premises and the management of St.Joseph's College was very generous in constructing a very spacious building for the classrooms and the workshops. The new training center was inaugurated on 8th of January 2000. The General Manager of BHEL opened the center and the Jesuit Provincial Rev.Fr.Francis Xavier blessed the new center. Dr. M. Arumairaj, the secretary of the St.Joseph's Alumni and the world union member highlighted the activities of the center. Rev.Fr.Britto, Principal of St.Joseph's College felicitated the centre.

Dr. M. Arumairaj  
World Union Member, India.

### **MORE FROM INDIA**

It is indeed heartening to note that Nepal is interested to work closely with Calcutta to ensure the success of the World Congress to be held at Calcutta in 2003. It may be pertinent to note that the King of Nepal is a Jesuit alumus. We want to seriously plan to hold a 'take-off or break' for the delegates attending the Congress in 2003 to Nepal immediately after the Congress. In this regard, since the Sydney Congress in '97 Nepal has assured us of all their support.

On last Saturday, Feb.5th, a meeting of the alumni/ae of the Northern Zone with representatives from Darjeeling and Calcutta was held at St.Xavier's, Calcutta. It was presided over by the National Co-ordinator, Fr.Herman Castellino, sj. The first Northern Council was also constituted at the said meeting. Mr.Naresh Gupta, the erstwhile hony. Secretary of St.Xavier's College Calcutta Alumni/ae Association was elected as the Northern Zonal Secretary and Mr.Sudip Mukherjee of Alumnorum Societas (St.Xavier's School, Calcutta Old Boys' Association) was elected as the vice-president. Alumni/ae of the New Delhi (inclusive of Jaipur) were requested to nominate a President. Further, Fr.Castellino requested the Old Boys Associations of the three Jesuit institutions who had sent their proposal to host the World Congress at Calcutta in 2003 to constitute an organising committee.

It was agreed that the organising committee would be formed by March 15th with the 6 representatives nominated by the National Federation at Jamshedpur and the National Co-ordinator. The alumni/ae of the 3 Jesuit institutions would be meeting in Calcutta soon to draw up further plans for the World Congress.

I also take this opportunity to remind you about the World Convention of Xavierians (EXALUS) proposed to be organised at London by the ALSOC on June 3rd & 4th later this year. If you recall that I had invited you to participate in this Convention last year around the time you had visited London. I had also requested you to give us some ideas as to how we can involve the European Council members. This could provide for building a platform for setting up a useful dialogue/interface between the European Associations and India and more particularly, Calcutta for setting up joint projects which could act as a model for the world to see in 2003. Incidentally, Fr.Julien Fernandes (in-charge of South Asian educational matters in Rome) has conveyed his willingness to participate in the panel discussion on education. Further, Mr.Shashi Tharoor, the present Special Assistant to the United Nations Secretary General who is an alumnus of St.Xavier's School, Calcutta is expected to attend. Therefore if you are present then it could also present us with an opportunity to discuss how the World Union can approach this matter.

With kind regards,  
Kalyan Chowdhury  
(Member WUJA-S/Asia).

### **JAPAN**

The Sophia Alumni Association

The Sophia Alumni Association is an organization embracing all graduates of Sophia University. Its dual purpose is promoting fellowship among our members and the development of our alma mater.

Founded in 1913, Sophia University will celebrate its 87th anniversary this year. Graduates now total approximately 82,000. Currently about 10,000 undergraduates study in 7 faculties and 30 departments. Roughly 900 postgraduates pursue higher degrees in Sophia's 7 graduate schools.

One of the main activities of the Sophia Alumni Association is organizing the All Sophians' Festival every May. On this

occasion thousands of graduates fill the campus to renew friendships with former teachers and classmates. Ceremonies start off with a Mass of thanksgiving. Various events, food stalls, and a beer garden produce a lively, congenial atmosphere. It is customary at this time to grant special recognition (including a certificate worded in Latin) to graduates celebrating their 50th, 25th, and 15th anniversaries.

In addition to this annual festival, the Alumni Association operates the Sophians' Club year-round. Located on campus, this club has a meeting room that accommodates about 70 persons, and a relaxed lounge for about 20 more. This club is the site of frequent social and academic gatherings. Every month there is at least one formal lecture by a Sophia professor or graduate. Various famous novelists and television personalities have contributed to making these lectures popular.

The activities of the Sophia Alumni Association are not limited to Tokyo. Numerous groups of graduates throughout Japan, and abroad, conduct various activities both to renew contacts and friendships and to encourage concrete cooperation. Such cooperation was particularly evident at the time of the 1995 Kobe earthquake and the 1996 takeover of the Japanese Embassy in Peru. Within Japan, groups of graduates have organized associations within their companies or professions. These groups bring together graduates of various ages to foster both social contacts and collaborative study. The Association publishes a quarterly newsletter to keep graduates informed about their mutual activities and recent developments at Sophia. This same information has now also become available worldwide and more frequently on the internet at <http://www.sophiakai.gr.jp>.

Proud to have studied at a university based explicitly on values of Christian humanism, we graduates hope to reach out beyond any one region or generation through our network of Sophia Alumni Associations.

Fr. Roger Downey, S.J.

Counselor

## LATIN AMERICA

### BRAZIL

There are not many news from this great country which has a very active alumni/ae movement. The Secretary General of the Brazilian Federation, Mr. Sergio Vieira passed away at the end of 1999 of a brain aneurism. We regret this sad news and we hope that Sergio has joined those blessed by God in heaven. To replace Sergio as Secretary of the Federation was elected Mrs. Mardile Friederich Fabre. We wish her complete success in this position and we would like to offer everyone's support and help.

The former Secretary of the Federation and actual President of the Latin American Confederation, Mr. Pedro Reis Lima Neto has been suffering health problems also that have kept him away from his duties. We wish Pedro a full and prompt recovery.

### CHILE

On March 18th, The President of the WUJA, Mr. Fabio Tobon visited the Chilean Association of Jesuit Alumni/ae, during a trip to Santiago, the capital of Chile. Thanks to Fr. Jose Juan Vergara, counselor of the Chilean association who organized the meeting, it was a successful one. We met with Mr. Juan Raventós, President of the association and with the delegates from all the Schools in the country. Some of them traveled as much as 1 500 km to participate which shows how high is their commitment with the alumni movement.

The association in this country is relatively young and they are working hard to improve their image and the acceptance among the alumni. The case in Chile is somehow unusual. They founded first the Chilean association with the alumni/ae from all the schools in the country. At this moment they are starting the associations in each school and to transform the movement in a federation of associations. I believe this is a correct approach, since the essence of our movement are the individual school, college and university associations.

We insisted that the best way to get the alumni/ae to participate in the associations is to develop social actions for the poor and the needed, as it was stated in the resolutions of our World Congress in Sydney. They have a good opportunity to work with the Society of Jesus in the "Hogares Cristianos" movement which was established by Fr. Alberto Hurtado S.J. and is one of the most successful social approaches that I have seen. Fr. Hurtado died some years ago and is in the process of canonization.

We also have the opportunity to attend an invitation to the opening of a meeting room that the alumni gave to the San Ignacio School at El Bosque as a result of their Alumni soccer association. The Chilean federation is enthusiastic and they are eager to continue their hard work. Congratulations to all of the central committee and to Fr. Vergara for their hard work.

### MEXICO

Dear Fabio:

Following are the most important news about our Mexican Federation of Jesuit Alumni/ae

**Asia León.** The group of young alumni/ae of the Institute Lux and from the Iberoamericana University, both at León that last November hosted the fourth quarter meeting of the Federation Council are about ready to officially start their movement and to have their first Council. We hope that they will be ready by April so they can participate in our Board meeting in Monterrey.

**ASIA Tampico.** The hard and tenacious work of Mr. Enrique Terán with the alumni/ae of the Instituto Cultural Tampico, of which he is an alumni himself, has been fruitful and Enrique will participate in our board meeting in Monterrey along with some of the alumni from that institution. We wish them the best in the conformation of their

association.

**ASIA Laguna.** The day of the alumni/ae was celebrated by the board of directors of ASIA in this city, with the participation of the alumni from the Universidad Iberoamericana and the Carlos Pereyra School. It was a successful celebration. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Luis González Morfín, S.J., Counselor of their association and concelebrated by Fr. Víctor Verdín, S.J., Rector of the Carlos Pereyra School and Frs. Federico Brehm, Adalberto González Morfín and Miguel Buch.

**Mexican Federación.** In our Council meeting on April 8th there will be the election of our next President who will take charge of the Federation in August. The term of office is for two years and could be elected for one more year.

With best regards

Carlos Alvarado Santoyo

President - Mexican Federación of Jesuit Alumni/ae

## PERU

I would like to report that we are working hard in the preparation of our next Latin American Congress. We will have to send the first invitation to all the countries soon. The Congress will be held in Lima on September 26 - 30, 2001. We have been reviewing the different themes according to the recommendations of the past Congresses. We are checking on the resolutions of the congresses to see if they have been fulfilled. One possible slogan for the Congress is: "Bien Común: Jesuit Alumni where are we heading?" We truly believe that we have to forget about words and get into the actions. The program is being revised as well as the other events and tours to be offered.

On other activities of our Federation, we are publishing our newsletter "GaseASIA" every two months. More than 1500 alumni/ae attended our December 8th celebration in which we honored those alumni that celebrated their 60th anniversary. Cardinal Augusto Vargas Alzamora, S.J. is one member of this class. We also celebrated the Gold and Silver promotions of our school alumni.

Our Association has been sponsoring meetings of the different promotions by year. We are also conducting some sport events to gather together our alumni. We are planning to hold our ASIA Olympic games in June.

Our association is trying to come alive again the Academy of Peruvian Studies Santos García founded in 1934 by the Jesuit brother Santos García, who was in our school for more than 60 years. Three generations studied with brother Santos García.

Regarding our financial situation in 1999, we had some problems since we have collected dues only from 600 alumni.

Thanks to the help of our school we were able to host the get together on Dec.8th. With the success of the event we are optimistic that we will be able to reach our collection of dues to some 2000 alumni.

Best Regards

José Luis Camborda

President

## VENEZUELA

Last December we celebrated the appearance once again of our newsletter at the time of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of our association. The first issue of this new stage was dedicated to remember the beginning of our association Asia Ignaciana. We published the names of the Presidents of our association between 1939 and 1999. The bulletin was presented on Dec 8th on the occasion of a meeting of our alumni/ae. The newsletter has is structured with a main article, an editorial, different sections on programs, activities and a section of projects of our association as well as a remembrance section.

The January-February 2000 edition has already been published with an special section on the help that our alumni/ae gave on the occasion of the landslides that occurred on our country recently.

### Day of the alumni

On our October 10/99 board meeting it was decided that we will celebrate the day of the alumni/ae the first sunday of July each year. This year the celebration will be on July the first and we expect to have a large gathering specially of those promotions celebrating their 50, 45, 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15 y 10 anniversary.

### Ignatian Testimony

On the occasion of the tragedy that our country faced on December of last year, our school, the rector, teachers, students and alumni accepted the invitation of the Ministry of Education to take into our school 100 refugees of the floodings. In reality we had more than 240 refugees that received our attention and more that we could not house received our help. We installed the San Ignatius solidarity center where all our students, alumni and staff started to give their help to the refugees that kept coming. We received and classified a lot of help in the form of blankets, clothes, toys, food and the necessary items for this type of sad situations.

With the participation of more than 160 Medical Doctors, many of them alumni from our school we established our Campaign Hospital to help those wounded. We also installed the San Ignatius Communication Center to help us organize the reception of the donations and the distribution of them. Thanks to this center we were able to get drugs for our drugstore and to get the necessary help for the refugees.

We also helped clean some roads with excavators provided by some alumni and to help in the rescue of some people by helicopter also provided by our alumni. There were other alumni that helped the needed in different regions of the country. We could say that there were not any Ignatian alumnus that didn't help in this tragedy to relieve the pain and sorrow of those that lost all they had.

This was a wonderful and painful experience that demonstrated the love of our alumni for those in need. Without any doubt, our Ignatian community practiced the Ignatian values and the slogan "In all to love and serve".

Mario Ayala Coll  
President - ASIA Colegio San Ignacio, Caracas

## USA

Hi Fabio,

Sorry for the tardy response but there is not much to report. I am speaking to a web design person about a web site for the US Jesuit Alumni. In addition there is an event in Raleigh, North Carolina on March 19th that is being advertised to alumni of all Jesuit institutions in the area. A description follows:

The Ignatian Apostolic Partnerships office of the Maryland Province and St. Raphael's Church, the Jesuit parish in Raleigh, NC is sponsoring a gathering of Ignatian and Jesuit-connected people in that area. Fr. Ron Darwen, SJ is the guest speaker and will talk on Ignatian Spirituality that day.

Best wishes,

Ron Ferreri

Council Member USA

## WORLD COUNCIL MEETING

On January 27th of this year in Rome, the President, the Vice president Mr. Bernard Thompson and Fr. Vincent Duminuco, S.J., met with Fr. General. In this meeting it was decided to call a World Union Council meeting in Rome on January 26, 27 and 28 of 2001.

We believe this would be a good opportunity to get in touch face to face and to discuss several aspects concerning our World Union. Besides, it will be a chance to have all the Council members together before the World Congress in Calcutta in 2003. It will be a good support for the Indian Federation in their work towards our Congress.

The following persons will be invited to attend this meeting:

- President of the WUJA
- Vice President of WUJA
- Secretary General of WUJA
- Treasurer of the WUJA
- 12 Council Members
- Two Vice Presidents of the Pedro Arrupe World Foundation
- Our web master, Mr. Mario Soavi

Fr. Vincent Duminuco will also attend the meeting.

As part of our meeting in Rome, Fr. Kolvenbach has agreed to meet with all of us. I believe this will be a very positive aspect of our gathering. We might also invite a guess speaker to address us.

The general topics to be covered in this meeting are:

- World Union Strategic Plan
- Review of the Mission, Vision and Values of the World Union
- Report by the Council Members of the actions in their region, specially the social work of the different associations
- Status of the Pedro Arrupe World Foundation and plans for the future
- Financial status of the World Union and collection of dues
- Use of our web site and how to take a better advantage of it
- The ETC Newsletter and its usefulness
- Action plan for the following years before the World Congress
- Organization of the World Congress, theme, dates, participation, etc.

For those who wish, it will also be a good opportunity to visit and pray at the holy door in Saint Peters Cathedral in this Jubilee year.

We truly believe that this Council meeting in Rome will be a milestone for our World Union and it will help us develop new programs and approaches towards our goal of being "men and women for others". We would appreciate if all the associations of Jesuit Alumni/ae worldwide get in touch with their Council member and prepare a report of the social actions to benefit the poor and the needed in their region.

## A LETTER FROM CONGO

Dear Companion,

I am very happy to renew contact with you today. I remember you and I had the pleasure to meet you during the last World Congress of Jesuit Alumni / AE in Sydney in July 1997. Unfortunately, I was disturb by the political atmosphere in my own country, Democratic Republic of Congo, during this period.

By the way, I didn't stay a long time in Sydney. But, I always kept carefully on mine your visit card which allows me today to write to you. In Democratic Republic of Congo, we didn't receive regularly news concerning the activities of World Union and others Jesuit Federations. In this fact, I would appreciate the sending of more information about our organization specially the activities reports of General secretary's office and others documents speaiking about it. In addition, I would like to receive futher details About Colombian Federation with if possible a booklet which contains the names and adresses of National Federations, members of World Union following countries and Continents.

Please note that I look forward to establish relationships with you and other members of Colombian Federation in all fields to exchange experiences and to study the opportunies to develop together some projects. Please, You can contact me to the following addresses:

By post : P.o Box 16.044 Kinshasa 1 - Democratic Republic of Congo

By E-mail: a\_bokoko@hotmail.com

I stop here today and I will be long next time. God bless you abundantly!

Sincerely yours in Jesus-christ,

Jean-Claude Bokoko Mpongo

Note: I encourage all of you to exchange correspondence with the Congolese association. F. Tobon

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## THE WU SITE: WHICH PROSPECTIVES?

It all started at the beginning of the World Union Congress at Sydney. During the introduction message to the delegates, the former Secretary announced the set up of the WU site. It was July, 9th 1997.

The chosen address was (and is already) <http://www.jesuitalumni.org>, a long one but full of meanings. "Org" stands for non-profit organization, and that's what we are: A world organization, settled to help our former teachers to fulfil their mission and ourselves to continue our permanent education and to act in the world for the poorest and the unhappiest. "Jesuitalumni" because that is our origin, which we are proud of and which we continuously take our strength from.

The aims of the site, from the beginning up to now, were mainly seven:

- First of all, this was set to be the place where every alumnus/a can find the updated Statutes and Regulations of the WU. This is not a secondary goal. In the past, so many times there were symptoms of lack of consciousness of what are our principles, our rules. In addition, as we are a living organization, many asked for a place where to study our Statutes and to place the eventual requests for changes. Now this place is on.
- The second goal was the publishing of the names and references of our President and of the WU Council members. We have always asked for a major communication from the single alumnus/a and association to our ruling committee. This is a way to settle all this up.  
In this part there will be some changes in the near future. Every Council member will have his/her WU e-mail address, and a little space on the web site to put articles, news, thoughts, publications and so on. The aim of all this is to let our representatives work for us, be as a sound case of our work, problems, prospectives. And the mean for getting all this real can be the WU site.
- The third goal of the site was to announce the main news of our world. In this section, in the last year, there was a link to an outside page reporting the persecutions of Catholics in India. That was a major issue that needed to be spread to everybody in order to encourage pray and help from all the Union in favor of our Indian associations. And this space on the site was the best we could do to spread the news.
- The fourth goal, the newest, was the message board. This was the welcome message posted by our President on August, 6th:  
"The idea is to use this section as a good and powerful communication tool within ourselves. It is expected that you use this section to inform other associations world-wide and other fellow alumni/ae of your activities, achievements and programs.  
We could also use the message section to request information or ideas or even help from other members of our world family of Jesuit alumni/ae. Our website will be as useful as we want it to be. I would like to invite all the Jesuit Alumni/ae Associations and Federations to use our web as much as possible. This certainly could be one of the biggest achievements of our World Union. We could not only benefit from this section but most important we could help and give generously to our colleagues in the world."

- The fifth goal was to publish online our magazine ETC and links to other associations' publications. This is another way to share knowledge.
- The sixth goal was to publish the final documents come out from our last WU Congress in Sydney. These are, and must be, the guidelines for our activity in the present and in the near future. They must be objects of study, reflection and action.  
This space is already set to host all the preparation documents which will introduce us to the next Congress, Calcutta 2003.
- The final goal was to publish the WU database. All the associations and educational institutes (of every level) are listed here, with a big peculiarity: if one of these has a web site, there is a direct link to it. Up to now almost two hundred links are listed in the database.

Currently the site has been relocated on a Canadian server: this major change permits us to give free space to all those Associations that do not have the chance to have a site on the Web. The only thing these associations must do is to apply and they will be given their space, address and e-mail.

So, finally, which prospectives do have our WU site?

Share of information and share of resources, these are now and must continuously and more and more be the goals of our site. But we must solve one major problem too: not so many people come and visit it. The average number of visits each day is 31, not so many if compared to our alumni/ae population (almost 5 million).

During this first part of Y2K, two activities will be done to enhance the traffic on the site:

- a series of mailing to promote the message board, the link to association magazines and the free space for poorest associations;
- registration on search engines.

But if, already now, someone has ideas, time to help me in maintaining and promoting the site, please contact me sending a message to: [webmaster@jesuitalumni.org](mailto:webmaster@jesuitalumni.org).

Mario Soavi

WUJA's Webmaster

## AN IDEA

Following is an idea received from Fr. Downey from Japan:

One area where I personally would like to see more "networking" would be in encouraging groups of alumni spread out globally to contact local Jesuit alumni associations. For instance, I am fairly sure that there are many graduates of Jesuit school living in the Tokyo area; but they currently have little or no contact with each other nor with Sophia Alumni.

Likewise, there are Sophia Alumni in places like New York, London, and various cities of Latin America who have not formal contacts with local Jesuit alumni. Contacts of this kind would not be too difficult to start and may prove fruitful.

Note: I truly believe that this is a good idea. I also know that in some associations they are allowing the participation of all Jesuit alumni/ae, regardless of their school or college. How are they contacting them, how are they actively pursuing this goal?

Please sen us your ideas so we can share them among other associations. Thanks in advance.

Fabio Tobon

Presidente WUJA