



AT THE EDGE OF EMERGENCE

Dialogue and Retreat

Friday morning, 9th February to Sunday afternoon 11th February 2007

An invitation to leaders,
change agents, and
consultants
who are shaping
a new world.

Dear Colleague

Revisiting the Cradle of Mankind to dialogue and explore Africa's wisdom and contribution to the pressing needs of our time

Those of us in the field of world service cannot help but feel the urgency of this time. Some are even convinced that the challenges to our global system have gone beyond the point of repair. At the same time, many of us feel that the leadership we provide individually and collectively, by influencing organizations and systems at the global level, can make the difference. The task is challenging but our collective resource and potential influence is significant.

A global community is forming, shaping, organically connecting, with a sense of purpose beyond the ordinary. We hold a very positive vision for the future in our hearts.

To enhance this process and ensure sustainability, we will facilitate a series of dialogues and retreats throughout the world. The aim of these dialogues and retreats is to bring together those who are contributing in unique ways in business, government, education and public affairs. Through our collective network, we will invite leaders of the 21st century; people embodying a style of leading that combines integrity and reason, the secular and the sacred. Each is trying to integrate the growth and development of their inner lives with their work in the "outer" world. We feel there is much for us all to share and learn from each other.

The first of this series of dialogues was held in October 2006 at Peace Village Learning & Retreat Center, a beautiful spiritual setting in the mountains of upstate New York. This dialogue focused on the deepest questions at the heart of each person's service given the urgency of our time. It afforded a moment in time for us all to reflect on our own spiritual unfolding. It was designed such that there was generous time for silence and contemplation, and for personal conversations with other participants.

The outcome of this gathering was that, we were able to arrive at a new way of understanding and speaking about the extraordinary challenges and the emerging opportunities of our time. It further amplified the need for future dialogues around the world in order to tap into the rich diversity for deeper learning. The bond created amongst those present has translated into ongoing spiritual, moral and intellectual support.

Time has now come to create the same in Africa. We believe that Africa has a very important role to play in this process. Africa has many treasures that the world has not explored and one such great treasure is the philosophy of "Ubuntu", a way of living by using your heart as the compass. Even though the world has made a lot of progress in many technical respects, the human spirit has sometimes suffered in the process. Many are now feeling called to connect our heads (logic) with our hearts (spirit). We feel that Africa has a great contribution to make in this unfolding by sharing its wisdom with the world. The continental retreat will offer us an opportunity to explore this wisdom so that what evolves out of the process can be a catalyst to create a world *Imbumba* (*Imbumba – A Zulu word meaning bringing people to work together*).

Our Continent has sustained the thread of human life from the beginnings of human history. Many diverse tribes, nations and cultures drawn together. What is the contribution of our rich and diverse collective culture to the pressing needs of our time?

You are invited to a continental retreat and dialogue to be held in South Africa from the morning of the 9th February until after lunch on the 11th February 2007, at the Magalies Manor. This place is set in the Magaliesberg Mountains, a majestic mountain range rich in early creation, wildlife and scenic exhibition, a perfect setting for a deeply spiritual and transformational workshop. It is in close proximity to a world heritage site, 'Cradle of Humankind.'

The hosting organisation will be the Brahma Kumaris who are adept at providing sanctuary space for the human spirit. The retreat will give participants an opportunity to spend time with the senior yogis of this organisation. The meals provided will be wholesome vegetarian.

The food and accommodation cost will be R3000.00 per person in single rooms or R2500.00 per person sharing. Space is limited so please RSVP by January 15th 2007 by completing the attached registration form and email to pratiba.daya@bkinfo.net or fax to Pratiba Daya on Tel:+27 11 648 5060.

Please feel free to forward this invitation to your colleagues and other like-minded people. Plan to join us in weaving this fabric of relationships in an environment of silence created to enrich our thinking and dialogue. Your presence and voice at this gathering will make a difference.

Sincerely,

- MOREL FOURMAN, CEO, Gaiasoft, Whole Systems Transformation Company, UK
- MARKUS MOSES, Managing Director, Ndawo Consulting, Johannesburg, South Africa
- SISTER VEDANTI, Regional Coordinator Africa, Brahma Kumaris, Kenya
- SONIA STOJANOVIC, Transformation Consultant, McKinsey & Company, South Africa
- LEFUMA MOKHETHI, Life and executive coach, South Africa

A Metaphor for Global Transformation

■ ELISABET SAHTOURIS, Evolution Biologist

"I like to use the metaphor of the butterfly. In metamorphosis, within the body of the caterpillar little things that biologists call imaginal discs or imaginal cells begin to crop up in the body of the caterpillar. They aren't recognized by the immune system so the caterpillar's immune system wipes them out as they pop up. It isn't until they begin to link forces and join up with each other that they get stronger and are able to resist the onslaught of the immune system, until the immune system itself breaks down and the imaginal cells form the body of the butterfly. I think that is a beautiful metaphor for what is happening in our times. The old body is going into meltdown while the new one develops. It isn't that you end one thing and then start another. So everybody engaged in recycling, in alternative projects, in communal living, in developing healthier systems for themselves and each other is engaged in building the new world while the old one collapses. Its collapse is inevitable. There is no way around that."