Press Release

Lindau becomes a site of global peace dialogue

10th World Assembly of Religions for Peace will take place in mid-August for the first time in Germany at Lake Constance - 900 delegates from 100 nations are expected

Lindau, 06.08.2019 - Just two weeks before the start of the 10th World Assembly of Religions for Peace, the preparations in the organizing team are in full swing, soon the New Yorker colleagues will arrive and the big wooden Ring for Peace in the Luitpoldpark stands. The team is also preparing opportunities for the local population to participate, because from 20 to 23 August, the World Assembly will take place in Germany for the first time. High-ranking religious representatives will then deal with their own socio-political responsibility under the motto "Caring for our Common Future - Advancing Shared Well-being".

Gerhard Ecker, mayor of Lindau, is pleased: "We want to be a good host. The World Assembly of Religions for Peace is a highlight for us." The chairman of the Foundation Peace Dialogue of the World Religions and Civil Society, Wolfgang Schürer, had been campaigning from the outset to bring the World Assembly to Lindau: "The Federal Foreign Office, together with the Bavarian Government, is supporting the 10th World Assembly both in terms of content and finances, for which we are extremely grateful."

Ulrich Schneider, Managing Director of the Foundation Peace Dialogue of the World Religions and Civil Society, is particularly looking forward to several key themes: "It is about visions of peace, the mobilization of religions for sustainability and climate protection, the role of women in peace dialogue, the protection of religious minorities and refugees."

Following the conference opening with Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, a special ceremony will kick off the program on 20 August at 12:30 at Lindau Luitpoldpark right by the Ring for Peace sculpture, the symbol of the 10th World Assembly. "The opening ceremony is centred around the global protection of holy sites," says Schneider. The ceremony is open to the public who is invited to attend: Registration until 14th August at www.ringforpeace.org/ceremony.

As a permanent symbol of peace, the recently completed sculpture will remain in Luitpoldpark in Lindau. A 7.5 meter tall, upright wooden ring forms the shape of a Moebius strip, with 36 wood from all over the world having been integrated in it. Sculptor Gisbert Baarmann explains: "The Moebius strip, a wooden circle where the inside and the outside become one, is built of many individual elements that unite to form a special ring, a ring for peace. Whether the variety of wood species in this world is comparable to the diversity of beliefs is difficult to say,
but the beauty of any wood species is hard to beat." Like the woods of the ring, the delegates of the World Assembly come from all over the world.

Throughout the week, the organizer broadcasts all plenary sessions live on the Internet at www.ringforpeace.org. There will also be a public viewing at the Agora on the square in front of Inselhalle. The Agora offers an information fair where organizations, groups and initiatives introduce themselves and their thematically related projects: Tuesday to Thursday, 20 to 22 August, from 10 AM to 5 PM and on Friday, 23 August, from 10 AM to 12 PM.

On Wednesday, 21 August, between 7 and 9 PM, in the space between the churches on Lindau island, the local congregations invite the public to jointly eat and drink with the delegates and to start a conversation. In addition, everyone is welcome to participate in an ecumenical service, which takes place every morning from 8:00 to 8:30 AM at Unserer Lieben Frau Cathedral.

On Thursday, 22 August, at 3 PM audiences will be inspired by intriguing short talks, personal stories and exemplary ideas at the Lightning Talks in the Park Theater and Studio Cinema for 1.5 hours. Seven religious representatives and peace activists from all over the world will talk about their peace work, including speakers such as Chief Rabbi Dr. David Rosen and Religions for Peace Co-President and Muslim peace activist Lejla Hasandedic from Bosnia-Herzegovina. The entrance is free, registrations at talks@ringforpeace.org.

"Lindau has a long history as a city of peace," said Lord Mayor Gerhard Ecker. "With the Ring for Peace, Religions for Peace has already set an example in a central location of how we envision living together in our city: open and peaceful. We look forward to welcoming you to the Religions for Peace World Assembly soon."


Additional information and regular updates can be found here:
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