Message from the Executive Director

Indeed, 2016 has proven a quite productive year, but also a year of a great loss. The late Professor George F. McLean (1929-2016), founding father of the RVP, left us a rich legacy and profound heritage. Throughout his life-long effort, he never stopped his dedication and devotion to the world of philosophy by means of traveling whenever and wherever possible promoting dialogue, cooperation and friendship among peoples, cultures, religions and civilizations. In this effort across the globe he organized regional conferences, conducted research projects and published philosophical studies.

The last research project Professor McLean initiated and planned was in December 2015 at his residence in the Boston area. It was entitled “Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: Challenges and Opportunities.” The purpose of this project is to prepare for the World Congress of Philosophy “Learning to Be Human” to be held in Beijing August 2018. It is pleased to note that a number of research teams have begun to work on specific issues under this general theme; regional conferences have been conducted and related publications have been developed. For detailed information of the RVP activities in 2016 see this edition of its newsletter.

As always, the RVP invites all philosophers and scholars to join this research effort to conduct in-depth studies and cooperative research on issues important to their cultures and regions. The RVP is delighted to publish and disseminate the resulting research, both in print and on the web.

Please continue to send your ideas and suggestions for future projects and cooperation. The RVP is ready to work with you in whatever ways to promote peace, dialogue and cooperation among peoples, cultures, religions and civilizations in these complex global times.

The RVP wishes to express its deep gratitude to all who have joined the effort and made rich contributions over many years.

Hu Yeping
February, 2017

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August 8-September 9, 2016: “Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: Structure and Role of Compassion and Mercy.” The five week seminar focused on the issues of love and compassion, of gratitude and responsibility. Indeed in these complex global times, the human family still faces great challenges. Such questions arise as what are the constancies or consistencies in human self-understanding? What role must be played by ethics and morality in the advancement of political and economic process, in science and technology? In what sense must the great religions of the world advance their own self-understanding, their identity and their mission? How to treat strangers or others in a pluralistic world? The seminar tried to treat issues related to the openness for compassion between self and other; compassion as social freedom in community; compassion as motivation of a progressive globalization; etc.

To philosophically pursue the role of compassion across cultures and civilizations is to search for cultural/spiritual elements capable of transforming human beings into citizens of a new global community. This requires human freedom to rediscover the high moral values associated with compassion as constituting a manifestation of humanity and benevolence. Compassion, thus, has the structure and the potential to transform the human person in terms of the dialectic of immanence and transcendence as well as the relational universe of each concrete human being.

The seminar was directed by João J. Vila-Chã, Philosophy Professor of Gregorian University (Rome) and RVP Vice President. The seminar participants came from such countries as Austria, China, Ethiopia/India, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uganda, Vietnam, etc. This was the 33th annual seminar held in Washington.

Seminar materials covered all major religions and civilizations, such as Buddhism, Islam, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity; from ancient to contemporary. During the seminar readings included such authors as S.R. Bhatt on Buddhist understanding of compassion and Noel Sheth on the comparison between Christian and Buddhist notions of love; Aref Ali Nayed and S.M. Zaman on Islamic concept of compassion; Confucius and Mo Tzu on Chinese understanding of benevolence; Robert C. Miner on classical understanding in terms of Thomas Aquinas; Miguel de Unamuno on tragic sense of life. Edith
Stein on empathy; Paul Tillich on love, power and justice; H. Scott Hestevold, Edmund Hill, Jeffrey Hopkins, Nigel Walker on mercy; Hermann Cohen’s book Religion of Reason: Out of the Sources of Judaism; and Martha C. Nussbaum’s Upheavals of Thought: The Intelligence of Emotions.

Gholamreza Aavani, Philosopher of Islamic Philosophy, Philosophical of Iran, joined the seminar to speak on the seminar theme from Muslim perspectives. Seamus Finn, Institute of Peace and Justice (USA), was invited to speak on how compassion and mercy could play a role in the financial system. Bayor Chantal Ngoltoingar from the Republic of Chad also spoke to the seminar participants by using her own experience to manifest that compassion and mercy is much needed in our complex world.

During the seminar each participant presented his or her own research paper: Shakil Abdul (Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia/India) presented his paper on “Tagore's Humanism: An Integral Part of Human Ethos”; Sayed Hassan Akhlaq (CSCV, Washington) on “Renewing an Islamic Theology of Compassionate God”; Brigitte Buchhammer (University of Vienna, Austria) on “Philosophy as an Advocate of the Whole Humanity: Moral Enhancement Theories – a Current Philosophical Problem”; Olga V. Chistyakova (Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia, Russia) on “Self and Other in Contemporary Culture (Context of Spiritual Life and Compassion)”; Pavol Dancák (University of Presov, Slovakia) on “The Thought of Karol Wojtyla on Suffering and Compassion”; Luis Miguel Torró Ferrero (Pontificio Collegio Spagnolo di Sant Giuseppe, Italy/Spain) on “Compassion and the Posthuman Age”; Le Thuy Hanh (Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, Vietnam) on “Tran Duc Thao’s Humane Dialectical Materialism with Learning to Be Human for Present Times”; Robinah S. Nakabo (Makerere University, Uganda) on “The Struggle for Recognition Blurred by Lack of Knowledge: Should There Be a Moral Obligation?”; Mallika Rajaratna (University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka) on “Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy’s Contribution towards Philosophy of Asian Art Comparative Aesthetics and Cross-Cultural Understanding”; Michal Reka (John Paul II Catholic University, Poland) on “Man as Subject of Gift of Oneself - Revealing Human
by Compassion and Solidarity”; Tikumporn Dhammajoto Rodkhunmuang (Mahachulalongkorn-rajavidyalaya University, Thailand) on “Realization of Compassion in Theravada Buddhist Community”; Yuan Xin (Tianjin Foreign Studies University, China) on “Compassion and Personhood in Confucius and Mencius”; Zhang Zhixing (Yangzhou Polytechnic College, China) on “Translation with Compassion”; Wu Yandong (Southwest University, China) joined the seminar discussions.

During the seminar John Farina, Professor of George Mason University, arranged some trips for the participants in order to provide opportunities for them to experience and explore the diverse American cultures, especially the American democratic tradition. The participants visited Mount Vernon, where George Washington, the first President of the United States, and his wife stayed as their plantation house and Philadelphia, where the Declaration of Independence and Constitution were signed. In order to understand the real meaning of the seminar thematic compassion and mercy, the participants spent a day at TASH, an non-profit organization which helps the disabled people, to contribute some of their volunteer service.

During the seminar a special service was also dedicated to the late Professor George F. McLean. The seminar participants expressed their respect, admiration and gratitude for his lifelong efforts in bringing peoples with different backgrounds together in dialogue and friendship.

As usual the Graham Family invited the seminar participants to spend a day at their house located on the shore of Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. The visitors enjoyed not only the natural beauty, but more so experienced the true spirit of generosity and kindness of the American people.
January 9-10, 2017: “Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: Justice and Responsibility.” This conference was one of the five conferences held in India and supported by the Indian Council for Philosophical Research (ICPR). It was planned and organized by Balaganapathi Devarakonda, Philosophy Professor of the University of Delhi (UD) and RVP Regional Coordinator. He took part in the RVP annual seminar in 2005. Reetu Jaiswal and Ayesha Gautam (UD) and Anumita Shukla (Ramanujan College) were the Co-Conveners for the Conference.

At the opening S.R. Bhatt, Chairman of ICPR, was the chief guest of the conference. William Sweet, Philosophy Professor of St. Francis Xavier University (Canada) and RVP Vice President was the keynote speaker. S.P. Aggarwal, Principal of Ramanujam College and João J. Vila-Chã were special invitees.

During the two day conference participants presented their papers and actively engaged in discussion and dialogue. Indra Nath Choudhuri (Chief Editor of the Encyclopedia of Indian Literature, Delhi), chaired the first session “Justice: Past and Present” when R.P. Singh (Jawaharlal Nehru University, India) presented his paper on “Realm between Perfect Justice and Minimizing Injustice”; Varun Tripathi (Sri Mata Vaishno Devi University, India) on "Justice in context of Absence of Injustice vis-a vis Nyaya in Buddha's Teachings"; Jeremiah (UD) gave the summary of the session. Sebastian T. Velassery (Punjab University, India) chaired the second session. “Moral Responsibility” when Saral Jhingran (Inde-
ependent author, India) presented her paper on “Justice Demands the Responsibility of the Moral Agent”; and Hu Yeping (RVP Executive Director) on “Personal Responsibility: A Chinese Perspective.” Jayati Saxena (UD) gave a report on the session. Reetu Jaiswal chaired the third session “Justice in a Global Context.” Thomas Menamparampil (Peace Center, India) presented a paper on “Dialogue in the Context of Perceived Injustice,” while both Anthony J. Carroll (University of London, UK) and Ouyang Kang (Huazhou University of Science and Technology, China) spoke about their unique experience during the visit across India. Samiksha Goyal (UD) reported the session. Thomas Menamparampil chaired the fourth session “Indian Perspective.” Chrysoula Gitsoulis (City University of New York, USA) presented a paper on “Sources of Unethical Behaviour in Corporate Environment”; Geetesh Nirban (UD) on “Eco-dharma as a Concept of Responsibility: Ethical Analysis through the Readings of Select Sub-narratives of Mahabharata.” Sudeep Raj Kumar (UD) gave a report. William Sweet chaired the fifth session when Pragti Sahni (UD) presented her paper on “On Responsibility” and Ruzana Pskhu (Russian People’s Friendship University, Russia) on “The Evolution of Concept of ‘Other’ in History of Philosophy and its Interpretation.” Puja Raj (Ramanujan College) reported on the session. In the concluding session, Jayshree Jha (UD) reported the entire event. Many participants also spoke about their ideas, suggestions and experiences.

Some participants visited the Ramakrishna Mission, Delhi where they spent sometime in the temple and the Vivekananda museum. Later they visited the Indian Gate and other cultural sites.
Santiniketan, India

January 6-7, 2017: “Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: Humanity and the Modern Predicament.” This conference was held at the Visva-Bharati University (VBU) which was established by Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941), who received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913. As an influential figure in India he reshaped the Bengali literature and music as well as the Indian arts in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Asha Muhkerjee, Professor of Philosophy and founding Director of Gender Studies, along with her colleagues Kausik Bhattacharya, Chairperson, Sirajul Islam, Professor of Islamic Studies and other colleagues and students from the Department of Philosophy and Comparative Religion of VBU planned and organized the conference. The conference began with inaugural songs written by Tagore and sung by a group of students from the School of Music of VBU. Lighting the lamp was also part of the opening ceremony. Swapan Kuma Datta, Vice Chancellor of VBU, gave the presidential address; Sirajul Islam, introduced the conference theme; Kalyan Kumar Bagchi (retired Professor from the Department of Philosophy, VBU) was the chief guest; Asha Muhkerjee gave the keynote speech; João J. Vila-Chã and Kausik Bhattacharya gave thank notes respectively.

Vanlalnghak (North-Eastern University, India) chaired both first session on “Globalization and Modernity” and the second session on “Finding Ways of Humanizing.” Speakers included Ouyang Kang (Huazhou University of Sciences and Technology, China) who presented a paper on


Hu Yeping on “Identity Crisis and Metaphysical Being,” Ramesh Chandra Sinha chaired the session sixth on “Self and the Other.” Sanjit Chakraborty’s paper was on “The Citizen of Humanity”; Subhrabjoyti Das on “Sankara’s Notion of Self as the Foundation of Non-violence: Some Reflections”; Sudeshna Saha on “Relearning the Value of Human Existence in the Fast Changing World”; Chrysoula Gitsoulis also presented her paper.

In the concluding session Kausik Bhattacharya and William Sweet spoke on behalf of the Department and the RVP respectively. A good number of participants also expressed their ideas, suggestions and experiences. The conference ended in an amiable atmosphere.

During the conference the local organizers arranged some cultural programs. One evening all enjoyed the musical performance by the students of School of Music of VBU at the Lipika Auditorium. Beside songs and dances composed by Tagore some Boul songs were also presented to communicate the profound sense of humanist philosophy. Some participants also visit Tagore’s residence located in Santiniketan, which means the “abode of peace” to learn his life, literature, art works, philosophy, but more importantly his notion of nature, religion, spirituality and humanity. Participants enjoyed not only the intellectual exchange among themselves on the seminar thematic but also the rich local culture and tradition and enriched by the short but deep experience.
December 30-31, 2016: “Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: Culture, Religion and Democratic Values.” This conference was held at Banaras Hindu University and organized by Sachchidanand Mishra, Sanskrit Scholar and Professor of Indian Philosophy, Department of Philosophy and Religion of Banaras Hindu University (BHU).

At the opening, U.C. Dube, Professor of Philosophy from the Department of Philosophy and Religion of BHU, chaired the session, Sachchidanand Mishra gave welcome remarks, P.K. Mukhopadhyay, Professor of Philosophy and Religion (Jadavpur University, India) was the keynote speaker, João J. Vila-Chã gave a special address on the theme, and P.K. Bagde, Professor of Indian Philosophy of BHU, and Hu Yeping convened the conference on behalf of the University and the RVP respectively.

The first session chaired by Chryssoula Gitsoulis and D.B. Chaube (BHU) was on “Cultural Traditions and Democracy.” D.N. Yadav (Gorakhpur University, India) presented a paper on “Religious Pluralism, Cultural Diversity and Democratic Values”; Shruti Mishra (BHU) on “Gender Inequality and Women Empowerment in Our Tradition.” During the session two Anthony J. Carroll presented a paper on “Panentheistic Humanism and Global Challenges to Justice and Personal Rights”; Chryssoula Gitsoulis on “Contemporary Challenges for Moral Relativism”; Rajen Lakra (BHU) on “Religion and Morality: Related but Distinct.” D.A. Gangadhar (BHU) chaired the third session “Democratic Values and Action.” Madhumita Chatterjee (Barasat Government College, India) presented a paper on “Man-Woman-Nature-Nexus: A New Way to Look at Gender Equality from a Global Perspective”; Vivek Kumar Yadav (Indian Institute of Technology, India) on “Loosing Dissent in Democracy and its Relevance: A Philosophical Understanding”; Zahira Kh-
Fellow, India) spoke on the theme in Hindi. The second day the conference continued with the session four chaired by Mukul Raj Mehta (BHU) and all the speakers spoke the various issues related to the conference thematic in Hindi: Nandini Singh (Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth, India), Mishra Jayant Uppadhyay (BHU), Archana Tivari (Vasanta College, India), Vivek Kumar Pandey (BHU) and Devdas Saket (Vikram University, India). Anthony J. Carroll and Jata Shankar (Allahabad Central University, India) chaired the fifth session “Religion and Democracy.” S. Mishra (Allahabad Central University) spoke on the comparative study of religions: East and West; Thomas Menamparampil on “Religious Convictions at the Service of Society”; Rishikant Pandey (Allahabad Central University, India) on “Role of Religion in the Contemporary World”; Pitambar Das (Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth, India) addressed his concern in Hindi. Thomas Menamparampil and Ananda Mishra (BHU) chaired the sixth session “Democracy, Globalization and Peace.” Jata Shankar spoke on “On Democratic Values”; Kismat Kumar Singh (BHU) spoke on the issue in Hindi; R.C. Sinha on “Globalization and Cultural Conflict”; Hu Yeping on “Peace and Harmony as the Ultimate Goal of Justice.” During the valedictory session R.C. Sinha chaired the session, Sachchidanand Mishra gave a vote of thanks; Baleshwar Prasad Yadav and João J. Vila-Chã also expressed their gratitude on behalf of BHU and the RVP respectively.

Some of the participants spent New Year’s Day in Varanasi and visited Ganga river, a most sacred river for Hinduism and observed the ritual ceremony in the evening of the new year day. Varanasi (known as Banaras) is one of the important cultural and religious centers in India, especially famous for its number of ghats along the bank of the Ganga river. For Hindus they believe that cremation after their death in the city will bring salvation. It is also a place where Buddha gave his first sermon in nearby Sarnath. Those visits enriched their stay there.
Decemberv 26-27, 2016: “Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: The Cross-Cultural Way.” This conference was held at Manipal University Jaipur (MUJ), a new and beautiful university in the old pink city of Rajasthan in the northern India. Anthony Savari Raj, Professor of Philosophy and Head, Department of Arts at MUJ and a Fulbright Scholar, planned and organized the conference. S.R. Bhatt, Chairman, Indian Council of Philosophical Research, drove all the way from Delhi and gave the inaugural speech at the opening session. Sandeep Sancheti, President of the University, gave presidential remarks. Anthony J. Carroll, Professor of Philosophy, University of London, gave the keynote speech on “Panentheistic Humanism: The Cross-Cultural Way”; Anthony Savari Raj introduced the conference thematic; Mridul Srivastava, Dean of Faculty of Arts and Law of MUJ and João J. Vila-Chã gave welcome remarks and thanks note respectively on behalf of MUJ and the RVP.

The first session on “Cross-Cultural Humanity” was chaired by Sharada Jain (Secretary, Sandhan, India). B.M. Jain (Cleveland State University) presented a paper on “Bridging Cultural Divides: A Critique of Psycho-cultural Prophylaxis Approach”; Ramesh Chandra Pradhan (ICPR Fellow and University of Hyderabad) on “On Being Human: The Existential Predicament and Its Alternative Resolution”; Vidu Soni (International Human Resources Consulting) on “Diversity and Cross-Cultural Management in the Contemporary Workplace: An International Perspective”; Geeta Rama (University of Mumbai,
India) was a Respondent to the papers presented during this session. Ramesh Chandra Pradhan chaired the second session on “Cross-Cultural Foundations.” Ajay Verma (Jawaharlal Nehru University, India) presented a paper on “Constituting ‘Otherness’: An Enquiry into Constructionist and Non-Construc-tionist Account”; Alok Tandon (Hardoi, India) on “Living Together: Cultural Identity and Difference”; Bharth Kumar (Indian Institute of Technology, Indore) was a discussant of the session. R.S. Bhatnagar (University of Rajasthan, India) chaired the third session. João J. Vila-Chã presented a paper on “Religion and Transfiguration of Inter-Human Violence”; Kanchana Natarajan (University of Delhi, India) on “The Two Women Contemplatives: An Inter-cultural/in-religious Dialogue”; Hu Yeping on “The Integration of Two Asian Cultures: Ancient Wisdom for Today’s Global Times.” At the end of the session, Saral Jhingran, Independent Researcher, New Delhi, presented her book Why be Moral: A Search for Justification. It was jointly discussed by R.S. Bhatnagar and Anthony J. Carroll.

The deliberation of the second day began with the recapitulation of the first day deliberations by Gisela Carrol. The focus of the first session was on “Cross-Cultural Orientations” chaired by K. L. Sharma (University of Rajasthan, India). Anthony Savari Raj presented a paper on “Imperative Philosophy for Cross-Cultural Times”; Devasia M Antony (Hindu College, Delhi) on “Raimon Panikkar the Rsi and the Interlude between Avadya and Advaita”; Saral Jhingran (New Delhi) on “Meaning of Being Human: Sources of Inspiration”; George K.J. (Indian Institute of Technology, India) was a discussant of the session. The second session chaired by Pradeep Kumar Sinh (Ranchi University, India) was on “Cross-Cultural Values” in which Chrysovala Gitsouli (City University of New York) presented a paper on “Utilitarian vs Rights-based Constructions of Values”; George K.J on “Cross Cultural Ethics: Normative Moorings of Conflicts and the Promising Framework of Convergence”; Kriti Vashishta (MUJ) on “Happiness and Emotional Intelligence of Working Women: A Cross-cultural Study”; João J. Vila-Chã responded to the papers of the session.

During the valedictory session, Sandeep Sancheti came to give the concluding remarks; Thomas Menamparampil gave the valedictory address on “Relearning to be Human for Global Times: The Cross-Cultural Way.” Anthony Sarari Raj and Hu Yeping also spoke on behalf of MUJ and the RVP respectively. The conference ended with the vote of thanks by the co-convener Robin Luke Varghese (MUJ).
December 22-23, 2016: “Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: Religious Pluralism: An Hermeneutic Understanding for the 21st Century.” This conference was the first of the set of Indian conference and planned and organized by S. Panneerselvam, Professor of Philosophy of University of Madras, ICPR fellow and Director of Chennai Philosophical Forum (CPF). The conference was held at the ashram of Sri Vishnu Mohan Foundation, Chennai. K. Padmavathi (Sathya Nilayam Research Institute, India) was the program coordinator.

At the opening Lalitha Rama-murthy, President of CPF, gave a welcome address; Swami Shrihariprasad, Trustee of Sri Vishnu Mohan Foundation, gave a presidential address; Ravichandran Moorthy, Professor of International Relations of National University of Malaysia and Moosa Raza, Former Secretary of South Indian Education Trust, and Hu Yeping gave inaugural, keynote and special addresses respectively; Sreekala M. Nair, Professor of Philosophy of Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kwon John Yoo, Professor of Philosophy of Chung-Ang University, Korea, João J. Vila-Chã and Sripathi, Sri Vishnu Mohan Foundation, expressed their vote of thanks individually.

The first session was on “Religious Pluralism: Ancient and Contemporary” chaired by João J. Vila-Chã; speakers included Anthony J. Carroll who spoke on “Panentheistic Humanism: An Hermeneutical Understanding of Contemporary Pluralism”; Kwon Jong Yoo on “How to Be an Authentic Human Being: Revisit to the Confucianism”; Varghese Manimala (Henry Martyn Institute, India) on Call to be Authentic Religious in the Contemporary World: Respect for Pluralism and Interreligious Dialogue”; T.V. Vasudev (Kuppuswami Shastri Research Institute, India) on “Religious Pluralism in the Context of Rg. Veda”; K. Padmavathi reported on the session.
The second session was on “Religion and Spirituality” presenters were Sivapalan Selvadurrai, Anindita Dasgupta, Mandy Wong Shiet Chin and Vandana Saxena (National University of Malaysia) who presented their paper on “Salience of Religion and Nationality on Team Effectiveness in SME ICT Sector: Malaysian Case Study”; Thomas Menamparampil on “Profiting from Religious Pluralism: Re-learning to be Human in the Context of Diverse Spiritual Traditions”; Rogi Thomas (University of Dundee, UK) on “Post-secular Return of Religion: A Religion of Being-for-the-Other”; Faizlur Rahanman (Independent Research, Chennai) on “Religious Pluralism from Islamic Perspective.”


The fifth session “Situating Religious Pluralism” was chaired by Patrick Laude (Georgetown University, Doha, Qatar) and Ananta Giri (Madras Institute of Developmental Studies, India) spoke on “Re-thinking and Transforming Religious Pluralism as Meditative Verbs of Pluralism: Multi-topical Hermeneutics, Transpositional Dancing and the Calling of Global Responsibility”; P.K. Pokker (ICPR fellow) on “Guru Darshanam and Gnostic Multi-culture”; Aditya Angiras (Sadhu Ashram, India) on “Humanity in Upanishads”; Padma Padmanabhan (University of Madras, India) reported on the session.
Anthony J. Carroll chaired the sixth session “Re-understanding Religion in the Contemporary World.” Satyana-rayan S. Aboti (Poornavad Educational Trust, India) spoke on “Dr. R.P. Parnerkar’s Monograph on ‘Humansim’ Revisited in the Context of Relearning to be Human for Global Times: Religious Pluralism”; V. Chandrasekar (RKM Vivekananda College, India) on “Religion for the Transformation of Man: Human to the Divine”; Lalitha Ramamurthy (CPF) on “Relearning to Human for Global Times: Religious Pluralism”; Chenchulakshmi Kolla (Sri Venkateswara University, India) on “Some Reflections on Facts and Theories of Religious Pluralism and Diversity”; Thanigaivelan (Annamalai University, India) on “Religious Pluralism and Modern World”; N. Veerapan (Vivekananda College, India) gave a report on the session.

“Different Religious Traditions and Their Significance for 21st Century” was the theme for the seventh session chaired by Uma Shankar. Speakers included Sharad G. Paralkar (Poornavad Shiskan Prasarak Mandel, India) who presented a paper on “Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: Religious Pluralism”; T.K. Badrinath (Vivekananda College) on “The Integration of Science and Religion in the Philosophy of Swam Vivekananda”; E.M. Prasannakumar (University of Madras and ICPR fellow) on “A Cognitive Approach to Religious Pluralism and Culture”; E. Jeris Emmanuel (Pachaiappas College, India) on “Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: Religious Pluralism”; T.K. Parthasarathy (Independent Researcher, India) on “Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: Religious Pluralism”; P.R. Padmakumar (International Center for Spiritual Studies and Amrita University, India) on “Religious Pluralism in the Context of the Teacher and the Taught: Amirantan-damayi’s Interpretation of Bhagavad Gita”; A. Subramanyamu (Sri Venkateswara University) on “An Interpretation of Buddhism and Modern Religious Thought”; Vidya Sainath (Independent Researcher, India) gave a report on the session.

At the valedictory session, Swami Shrihariprasad, Thomas Menamparampil and C.T. Indra, Professor of English, University of Madras, spoke respectively. S. Panneerselvam and Hu Yeping concluded the conference. Local musicians performed traditional Indian music. Chennai is well-known for its Southern Indian dances and other forms of music and art.
September 12, 2016: “Ethos and Violence.” This conference was planned and organized by Dariusz Dobrzański, Professor of Philosophy and RVP Regional Coordinator and took part in the RVP annual seminar and Przemysław Strzyżyński, Professor of Theology. Both are professors at Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland. The conference theme was specifically concerned in relation to the complex world situation in these global times. The main goals was to explore and clarify the characteristics of historical and cultural contexts in which the current ethos has come into being and the important aspect which determines the violence potential of ethos. Without confining a diagnosis with utopian thinking, the conference participants tried to formulate normative projects for the emancipation of ethos from violence and looked into a violence-containing ethics which could be a sound basis for a universal communicative cooperation.

Dariusz Dobrzański chaired the first session when Peter Jonkers (Tilburg University, Netherlands) presented a paper on “Religion as a Source of Evil” and Tadeusz Buksiński (Adam Mickiewicz University) on “Ethos and Violence in Quran.” Yaroslav Pasko (Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University, Ukraine) chaired the second session. Edoardo Martinelli (John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland) spoke on “Praxis and Violence in Contemporary Human Society”; Przemysław Strzyżyński (Adam Mickiewicz University) on “The Ethos of Communication Without Violence”; Krzysztof Przybyszewski (Adam Mickiewicz University) on “Globalisation Processes vis-à-vis Human Trafficking from The Vantage Point of Forced Labour.” Tadeusz Buksiński chaired the third session when Yaroslav Pasko presented a paper on “Colonial Society: The Modernization of Values or Post-Soviet Version of Neotraditionalism?”; Dariusz Dobrzański on “Ethos and Violence in Witold Gombrowicz’s ‘Diary’.”

Although the number of participants was small, presentations and discussions went well. The dialogue and exchange among participants were productive and fruitful in a friendly atmosphere. During the conference one session was devoted to the late Professor George F. McLean. Participants expressed their gratitude for his life-long contribution to the philosophical world throughout his lifetime.

After the conference, some cultural programs were arranged for the participants.
Beijing, P.R. China

July 10-11, 2016: “Dialogue of Religions and Beliefs in China.” This conference was planned and organized by Gan Chunsong, Professor of Chinese Philosophy, School of Confucianism, Peking University and RVP Regional Coordinator. He also took part in the RVP annual seminar in 1998.

The conference was sponsored by and held at the Beijing Shichahai Institute where Tang Yijie was the Director. Now Yue Daiyun is the Director and Gan Chunsong Associate Director. Gan Chunsong chaired the opening session. Yue Daiyun gave opening remarks; Huang Xinyang, Vice President of Chinese Daoist Association and Daoist Master, Hu Xuefeng, Vice President of Beijing Tibetan Buddhist Association and Great Lama, and Yi Xue, Great Monk of Buddhist Temple, and João J. Vila-Châ gave remarks on the conference thematic respectively.

Yao Xinzhong, Professor of Philosophy, School of Philosophy, Remin University of China, chaired the first session “Dialogue of Religions.” Hu Yeping represented a paper by Vincent Shen, Professor of Philosophy, University of Toronto, on “The Dimension of Interculturality in Professor Tang Yijie’s Philosophy”; João J. Vila-Châ on “Religion and the Transfiguration of Human Violence”; Zairunisha and Satya P. Gautam (Jawaharlal Nehru University) on “Revisiting the Cultures of Dialogue: Towards a Hermeneutics of Inter-Religious Dialogue”; Cheng Lesong (Peking University) on “Inclusion and Exclusion: Two modes of Daoist Mysticism”; Peter Jonkers (Tilburg University, Netherlands) on “How to Understand the Religious Other?” Joanna Grela (Jagiellonian University, Poland) on “Buddhist Messages about Cross-species Friendship as Allegories of Inter-
Harmony’; **Zhang Yaonan** (Research Institute of Education, Taiwan) on “A Study on Comparative Philosophy and Religion in Tang Yijie’s Philosophical Thought.” **Yao Xinzhong** also chaired the second session “Confucianism, Buddhism and Christianity.” **Philip J. Rossi** (Marquette University, USA) on “Recognizing Human Fragility: The Dialogue of Religions as Enactment of Hospitality”; **Katia Lenahan** (Fujen University, Taiwan) on “The Possibility of Dialogue between Religion from an Artistic Perspective and Its Relation to Religious Education”; **Dai Jing** (Huazhong Normal University, China) on “On Marx’s ‘Free Labor’ and the Meaning of Sabbath Day”; **Prakriti Mukerjee** (Jawaharlal Nehru University) on “Confucian and Buddhist Ethics”; **Wang Xinli** (Juniata College, USA) on “Why does it matter and should it matter whether confucianism is a religion?” **Katia Lenahan** chaired the third session “Religious Belief and Chinese Society.” **Yao Xinzhong** presented Sha Lianxiang’s paper on “Breaking the Middle Way and Opening to the World”; **L.P. Singh** (University of Delhi, India) on “Religion of China and Interfaith Dialogue”; **Lin Kuohsiung** (Taiwan Jiaotong University) on “On Divine”; **Asha Mukerjee** (Visva-Bharati University) on “Globalization and Religion: Dynamics and Dichotomies”; **Yan Zhenze** (Nanjing University, China) on “Christianity and Confucianism on Love”; **Yi Zhihua** (Huazhong Normal University) “Dao of Daoism: Explanation of the Foundation of Daoist Teaching.”

In order to deepen the thematic understanding, participants visited the Buddhist temple associated with the Institute; Yonghe Temple, a Lama temple of Tibetan Buddhism; White Cloud Temple, a Daoist temple; and the Temple of Confucius, the second largest Confucian temple in China.
July 6-7, 2016: “Hermeneutic Understanding of Translation of Early Buddhist and Christian Scriptures: Theories and Praxis.” This conference was planned and organized by Huang Chao, Professor of Religion, Department of Religious Studies, School of Philosophy, Wuhan University (WU) and RVP Coordinator at WU. He also attended the RVP annual seminar in 2010. As usual the conference was held at the conference hall of the School. Chen Hiuming coordinated the conference.

Although one of huge floods in the city history took place during the conference, local participants made great efforts to walk across the town to attend the conference. Zhai Zihong, Chairperson of the Department of Religious Studies of WU chaired the opening session when Wu Genyou, Dean of School of Philosophy of WU, Vincent Shen, Vice President of the RVP, and Zhou Zhijia, Director of Zhengzang Library, spoke respectively. Zhai Zihong also chaired the first session. Vincent Shen spoke on “On the Nestorian Translation of Christian Scriptures: In Comparison with the Buddhist Successful Model”; Wu Genyou on “The Reflection of Three European Philosophers on Confucius’ Thought and Methodology”; João J. Vila-Chã on “The Transfiguration of Violence and the Hermeneutics of Peace.” Hu Yeping chaired the second session when Sun Jinsong (WU) presented a paper on “Lotus Sutra and Tiantai Sect”; Cao Yan (WU) on “A Basic Human Right Revealed by the Buddhist Concept of Lose”; Shen Ting (WU) on “A Re-discussion of the Reason and Essence of Revival of the Modern Zang Chuan Dharmalaksana”; Yuan Jingwen (Guangxi University of Public Administration, China) on “Resolving Confusions Regarding the Academic Expedition of Xuanzang from Consciousness-only Doctrine: Discussion based on the Conception of ‘Future Constant’ and ‘Present Constant’.” Sun Jinsong chaired the third session. Du Xiaoan,
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an old friend who translated most of the conference presentations (Shanxi University of Science and Technology, China) spoke on “The Comparison between ‘Prajna’ in Buddhism and the ‘Wisdom’ in Christianity”; Xie Jinsong (Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China) on “The Difference between Soul and Word: Prajnaparamita vs The Gospel of John”; Gu Rouyan (Hong Kong Chinese University, Hong Kong) on “Dialogue between Buddhism and Christianity: Viewing the Compassion of Bodhisattva in Treatise on the Scripture of Adoring the Great Vehicle from the Perspective of Christianity.” Du Xiaojun chaired the fourth session. Lu Youxiang (WU) presented a paper on “Brief Discussion on Buddhism and Truth, Goodness, Beauty and Joy”; Wimal Hewamanage (University of Colombo, Sri Lanka) on “Language for Peace Building: Buddhist Attitudes”; Sang Jingyu (WU) on “The Three Steps of the Development on Religious Spirituality: A New Explanation of Unified Thought of Zong Mi Zen Sect.”

Xu Tao (WU) chaired the fifth session. Philip J. Rossi presented his paper on “Remarks on Translation as Inculturation: The Language of Otherness and the Otherness of Language in Sacred Texts”; Peter Jonkers on “Lost in Translation”; Hu Yeping on “Hermeneutic Interpretation and Understanding in Contemporary Communication Across Cultures, Religions and Civilizations.” Sang Jingyu chaired the sixth session when Sang Dapeng (Three Gorges University, China) spoke on “Interpretation of Semiology on Consciousness-only”; Li Jie (Zhejiang University, China) on “Revival of Civilization and Realization of Truth: Enlightenment on Spread of Xuanzang’s Intercultural Buddhism”; Fang Yong (WU) on “Chinанизation: The Fate and Historical Enlightenment of Nestorian in China.” Xie Jinsong chaired the last session when L.P. Singh spoke on “Translation of Buddhist and Christian Scriptures in Chinese”; Liao Zhaoyu (Tarim University, China) on “The Sinification of Islam and the Governance in Northwest Borderland of China”; Xu Tao on “The Argument and the Influence of ‘Intermediate State’ in early Christianity.”

In the concluding session, Zhai Zhihong and Hu Yeping spoke on behalf of WU and the RVP and expressed their wishes and willingness to continue the long-term future cooperation.
July 6-7, 2016: “Moral Responsibility and Human Character.” This conference was initiated by Gong Qun, Professor of Philosophy, School of Philosophy, Remin University of China (RUC) and Director of RVP Center at RUC, Beijing. He also attended the RVP annual seminar. The conference was organized and held at Shangrao Normal University (SNU) in Shangrao, Jiangxi Province.

Lai Minggu, Vice President of SNU chaired the opening session when Zhan Shiyou, President of SNU, and Vincent Shen spoke on behalf of the University and the RVP respectively. Gong Qun chaired the first panel presentations: Vincent Shen spoke on “Philosophical Reflection on Moral Responsibility: Moral Duty, Choice and Sense of Compassion”; Chen Zhen (Nanjing University, China) on “Moism and Our Responsibility to the World Peace”; Philip Rossi on “The Enduring Value of H. Richard Niebuhr’s The Responsible Self as a Framework for Human Responsibility”; Zhan Shiyou on “Kant’s Morality and Responsibility.” In the afternoon, participants were divided into two groups. Han Dongping (Huazhou University of Science and Technology, China) chaired the first group when Asha Mukherjee spoke on “Moral Responsibility: Moral Action and Motivation”; Wu Jinqing (Jiangxi Normal University, China) on “Moral Education of Young Girls in the Ming Dynasty”; Arkadiusz Gut (Catholic University of Lublin, Poland) on “Interaction between Moral Judgement and Conceptual Thinking,” Peter Jonkers chaired the second group. Gao Zhaoming (Nanjing Normal University, China) presented a paper on “Moral Responsibility of Science and Technology: Reflections on Artificial Intelligence”; Bo R. Meinertsen (Shanghai Jiaotong Uni-
versity, China) on “Responsibility to Nature”; Zairunisha and Satya P. Guatam on “The Transformation from Power and Duty on Ecological Issues.” The third group was chaired by Asha Mukherjee. Han Dongping spoke on “Human Free Will and Moral Responsibility”; Prabhu Venkataraman (Indian Institute of Technology, India) on “Education and Moral Responsibility.” Tian Haiping (Southeast University, China) chaired the fourth session. Peter Jonkers presented a paper on “Moral Responsibility and Practical Wisdom in Global Times”; Wu Tongli (Shandong University, China) on “Objection to Fact, Intention and Free Will.” Xiang Yuqiao (Hunan Normal University, China) chaired the first group in the following morning. Gong Qun spoke on “Augustine on Goodness and Evil”; Marcos Jaramillo on “Property and True Natural Law in Confucianism”; Li Yong (Wuhan University) on “Needs, Responsibilities and Rights.” Chen Zhen chaired the second group. Jia Lingchang (SNU) presented a paper on “Socialist Core Values and Common Sense”; João J. Vila-Chã on “Violence and Peace”; Zou Linping (SNU) on “Relationship between Morality and Happiness.” Arkadiusz Gut chaired the third group. Xiang Yuqiao spoke on “On Moral Memory”; Tian Haiping on “Am I the Protector of My Brothers?—A Moral Question.” Satya P. Gautam chaired the fourth group. Lin Guoxong spoke on “On Four Lives”; Wu Lanli (Huazhou University of Science and Technology) on “Moral Responsibility of Choice and Freedom.” In the concluding session, Gong Qun gave a thematic summary of the conference and Hu Yeping expressed the gratitude to SNU and all the participants.

Participants also visited old streets in the old town, the well-known Daoist mountain, San Qingshan and Ehu Academy (Goose Lake Academy) one of the four well-known academies in Jiangxi Province and where New Confucian scholars Zu Xi and Lu Jiuyuan met in Song Dynasty.
June 29-30, 2016: “Reciprocity: A Human Value in a Pluralistic World.” This conference was planned and organized by Wang Tianen, Professor of Philosophy, School of Social Sciences, Shanghai University (SU) and RVP Director at the SU. He took part in the RVP annual seminar in 2015 when he expressed his interest in the theme of reciprocity.

The conference was held at the SU International Conference Hall and well attended due to the interest due to the thematic interest. Wang Tianen chaired the opening session. Tao Qian, Dean of Social Sciences of SU, Chen Sumei, Professor of Philosophy, Vice Director of the Institute of Philosophy, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences and Vincent Shen gave opening remarks respectively.

Chen Sumei chaired the first panel “Reciprocity as a Radical Anthropological Characteristics.” Vincent Shen spoke on “Reciprocity and Generosity: Ethical Praxis and Ontological Foundation”; Wang Tianen on “Reciprocity: From Mutually Beneficial Cooperation to Radical Anthropological Characteristics”; Maija Kule (University of Latvia, Latvia) on “Human Reciprocity: Communicativeness and Participation”; Zou Shipeng (Fudan University) on “The Existential Way to Plural
ism”; Philip J. Rossi on “The Relational Anthropology of H. Richard Niebuhr as a Conceptual Framework for Dynamics of Human Reciprocity.”

Yan Menwei (Nankai University, China) chaired the second session “Nature and Characteristics of Human Reciprocity.” Svitlana Shcherbak (Skovoroda’s Institute of Philosophy, Ukraine) presented a paper on “Inter-subjectivity as Equality and Reciprocity”; Qiu Renfu (SU) on “Reciprocity and Human Symbiosis”; Astrid Vicas (Saint Leo University, USA) on “Reference and Reciprocity”; H. Kalbasi (Allameh Tabatabaie University, Iran) on “The Otherness in Contemporary Philosophy and the Possibility of Transition from Crisis”; Sun Yong (Shanghai Finance University, China) on “The Reciprocity in Chinese Traditional Philosophy.”

Vincent Shen chaired the third session “Dimensions and Levels of Human Reciprocity.” Yan Menwei spoke on “Reciprocity and Kant’s Personal Rights of Citizen of the World”; Asha Mukherjee on “Reciprocity and Justice as the Boundaries of Human Relationship: A Philosophical Concern”; Li Liang (SU) on “An Investigation on the Nature and Origin of Reciprocity in China in Recent Three Decades”; Denys Kryukhin (Skovoroda’s Institute of Philosophy, Ukraine) on “Reciprocity as Source for Reconciliation”; Andrew Tsz Wan Hung (Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong) on “Reciprocity in Friendship: The Dialogical Transformation of Friendship.”

Xu Mengqui (Xiamen University, China) chaired the fourth session “Reciprocity and Global Ethics.” Peter Jonkers spoke on “Can Reciprocity be the Principle of a Global Ethics?”; Ning Lina (SU) on “Reciprocity of Thinking and Thoughts: A Logical Perspective”; R.P. Singh on “The Value of Reciprocity in a Pluralistic World.”

Ma Ni (Jilin Academy of Social Sciences, China) chaired the fifth session “Reciprocity as a Fundamental Value for Cultural Communication.” Chen Xinhan (SU) presented a paper on “The Collective Consciousness and Collective Unconsciousness in Interrelations”; Irina Boldonova (Buryat State University, Russia) on “A Hermeneutic Dialogue for Sustainable Development”; Yan Tianmin (Capital University of Physical Education and Sport, China) on “Athleticism: A Cultural and Value Activity Based on Reciprocity”; Shen Haiyan (SU) on “Exploring the Reciprocity as the Sign for Buddhist Understanding of Truth.”
Dai Pan (Xiamen University) chaired the sixth session. (Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences) presented a paper on “Information Technology and Extension of Mind”; Charilaoas Harry Platanakis (Koc University, Turkey) on “Aristotelian Reciprocity”; Yang Song (Xiamen University) on “A Research on the Issue of Supervenience”; Zairunisha and Satya P. Gautam on “Vedic Principle of Reciprocity for the Era of Globalization”; Tu Xiaofei (Appalachian State University, USA) on “Confucian Reciprocity and the Debate in Humanitarian Intervention”; V. Prabhu on “An Enquiry into the Case of Animal Welfare through Reciprocity.”

Liu Xiaotao (SU) chaired the seventh session “Reciprocity and Morality” when Zhang Yanfen (SU) spoke on “Information, Community and Reciprocity: A Consideration on the Issue of Reciprocity from Value Theory”; Ionu Untea (University of La Rochelle, France) on “From Games of Truth to Games of Identity”; Rachel Chan (HELP University, Malaysia) on “Reciprocal Bilingualism: The Base of Bananas, or Purely English Speaking Malaysian”; Yin Yan (SU) on “Reciprocity: Moral and Ethical Principles of Individual Identification.”

Shen Haiyan (SU) chaired the eighth session “Reciprocity and the Pluralistic World.” Li Haifeng (Beijing Normal University, China) spoke on “Reciprocity in Traditional Chinese Culture”; Kunawi Basyir (Islamic University Government (UIN), Indonesia) on “Pluralist Movement in Indonesia”; Wu Liqun (SU) on “A Preliminary Analysis of Reciprocity from the Perspective of Confucian Philosophy”; Wiwik Setiyani (Islamic University Government) on “Bisosiative Dialectic in Pluralism.” Hu Yeping chaired a session with the student speakers. Rafael Van Damme (University of Leuven, Belgium) spoke on “Violence: A Reciprocal Vice and a Unilateral Value? A Reflection on State Violence and Reciprocity in Criminal Law”; Li Xuyang (Renmin University of China) on “Art: The Realization of Reciprocity in Human Creativities”; O. Victor Ojo (SU) on “Sino-Nigerian Relations: Exploring the Roles at Play”; Li Huali (SU) on “Cultural Reconciliation in Perspective of Globalization.”

Ouyang Guanmin, Vice Dean of SU School of Social Sciences and Hu Yeping spoke at the concluding session and wished to continue our future cooperation in various ways.

After the conference some participants visited the city, especially the Bund area. Shanghai is the largest city in China.
June 30-July 1, 2016: “Dialogue of Cultures: Contemporary Thomism and Postmodern Society.”

The two-day conference was planned by Dalia Marija Stančienė who took part in the RVP annual seminar 2012. It was held at Klaipeda University (KU), Klaipeda, Lithuania, which regularly conducts workshops and seminars on Thomas Aquinas’ philosophy and theology.

At the opening session Kęstutis Dučinskas, Vice-Rector of KU, Dalia Marija Stančienė and Zbigniew Pańpuch, Professor of Philosophy, The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland, gave opening remarks.

Dalia Marija Stančienė and Vytis Valatka (Vilnius Gediminas Technical University) chaired the first session. Ernesta Molotokienė (KU) on “Thomistic Ethics vs. angeletics: The Search for Dialogue”; Gintautas Vyšniauskas (KU) on “Thomas Aquinas’s Concept of Marriage and Contemporary Problems of Marriage.”

Ernesta Molotokienė (KU) and Gintautas Vyšniauskas (KU) chaired the second session. Tomas Kačerauskas (Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania) spoke on “The Resonance of St. Thomas Aquinas’ Ideas in Philosophy of M. Heidegger”; Tautvydas Vėželis (Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania) on “A Priori Structures of Dasein’s Existentiality in Heidegger’s Book Being and Time”; Tomas Kaulius (Telšiai Bishop Vincentas Borisevičius Priest Seminary) on “The Links Between Edmund Husserl and Thomas Aquinas: Philosophy according to Edith Stein.”

Dalia Marija Stančienė and Gintautas Vyšniauskas chaired the third session. Zbigniew Pańpuch (The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin) presented a paper on “The Immigration: The Ancient Solution of One Present Problem.”

Ernesta Molotokienė and Vytis Valatka (KU) chaired the fourth session. Māra Kiope (Latvia University, Latvia) spoke on “The Problem of the Third Intentionality in Thomas Aquinas: Unity of Mind and Will in the Perspective of Inter-cultural Dialogue”; Dalia Marija Stančienė on “Thomistic Concept of Ontology”; Andrius Kulikauskas (Vilnius Gediminas Technical University) on “God’s Dance: Reconceiving the Holy Trinity for Non-Christians.” The conference was concluded in an active exchange of ideas and insights.
Lviv, Ukraine

June 22-24, 2016: “Philosophy of Dialogue and Understanding: The Construction of European and World Communities.” The conference was planned and organized by Anatolij Karas, Professor of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, Lviv National Ivan Franko University (LNIFU), Lviv, Ukraine. He is especially specialized in the notion of Civil Society.

At the opening Volodymyr Melnyk, Rector of LNIFU, Jan Łaszczyk, Rector of Academy of Special Pedagogy, Warsaw, Poland, Serhiy Rudenko, Vice Dean of Department of Philosophy of Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University and Edward J. Alam, Director of the RVP in the Near East gave opening remarks respectively.

Anatolij Karas chaired the first plenary session. Serhiy Prolyeyev (Kyiv) presented a paper on “The European Identity and the Ukrainian Perspective”; Vasyl Gluhman (Slovakia) on “Dialogue of Ethical Theories: Kant and Consequentialism”; Wilhelm Dancă (Romania) on “For Sake of United Europe: Tollerance, Dialogue and Hospitality”; Olha Homilko (Kyiv) on “Values Dynamics under Conditions of Global Uncertainty and Local Instability: Risks and Prospects”; Tadeusz Buksiński (Poland) on “Nationalisms and the Possibility of Dialog.” Serhiy Prolyeyev chaired the second plenary session. Anatoliy Yermolenko (Kyiv) spoke on “Global Ethos and Universality Ethics of Discourse in the Contemporary World”; Helena Ciążela (Poland) on “Philosophy of Global Responsibility as a Basis for Philosophy of Dialogue in the 21st century”; Ouyang Kang (China). World Complexity, Value Conflicts and Human Wisdoms in the Global Time”; Edward J. Alam (Lebanon) on “Philosophy of History and Political Transformation: Remembering Walter Benjamin”; Anatolij Karas on “Civil Society as a Phenomenon of Civilizational
Mutual Understanding.”


The second session was on “Scientific and Educational Factors of Formation of Mutual Understanding Intentions” Scientific and Educational Factors of Formation of Mutual Understanding Intentions” and chaired by Lyudmyla Horbunova, Serhiy Rudenko, Lyudmyla Horbunova and Serhiy Rudenko. Speakers were Tomasz Zimny (Poland) «Role of Educational Constructivism in Democratic Competences Formation”; Natalya Boichenko (Kyiv) “Counterfactual Status of University Communities Ethical Norms: due in particular”; Oleh Perepelytsia (Kharkiv) “Actualization of Enlightenment Strategies of Emancipation”; Anna Laktionova (Kyiv) “Relative Normativity”; Hanna Hubenko (Kyiv) “Bioethics as an Educational and Philosophical Perspective”; Nataliya Pytetska (Kharkiv) “Bioethics as a Method of Human Activity Regulation and Control”; Viacheslav Artiuh (Sumy) “On the Term ‘Historiosophy’”; Natalia
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Olha Hrabrova (Kharkiv) “Gustatory/Nutritional

A Conference Session

A Conference Session
Exchange: a Model of Intercultural Dialogue”; Barbara Więckowska (Poland) “Discourse of Body in Plato’s State. Medicalization as a Symptom of Totalitarianism”; Petro Petrovskyi (Lviv) “Methodology of Post-modernism in the Context of the Ukrainian Identity Forming”; Tetyana Kozyntseva and Serhiy Chyrkov (Sumy) “Nomadiness of Postmodern Cinematography”; Dominika Gruntkowska (Poland) “The Catastrophe at Smolensk as Polish ‘Romantic Spectacle’.”


Oresta Losyk, Oleksandr Bilokobylskiy, Oresta Losyk and Oleksander Bilokobylskiy chaired the fifth session “Discursive and ethical


A special round table “Europe and Ukraine: Axiolofy of Mutual Understanding” was chaired by Anatoliy Karas’, Vakhtang Kebuladze, Andriy Dakhniy and Ihor Derzhko. Vakhtang Kebuladze (Kyiv) spoke on “Change of Methodological «Optics» of Humanities”; Oleksandr Bilokobyl’skyi (Donetsk-Kyiv) on “Discussion of Particular Axiologies as a Factor of Global Ethics Formation”; Andriy Dakhniy (Lviv) on “Identity and «zwishenization»: Ukraine between Europe and Russia (Philosophical-Historical and Intercultural Perspectives)”; Roman Dodonov (Donetsk-Vinnytsya) on “Discoursive Factors of Conflict in Donbas”; Volodymyr Hurzhy (Donetsk-Vinnytsya) on “Use of Religious Symbols as a Component of Worldview Influence during the events in Donbas 2014”.

At the beginning of the conference a music performance was conducted by Nazar Dzhuryn, Cellist and Professor of Music from Chicago. He played Johann-Sebastian Bach Prelude from Suite No1 and Sarabande from Suite No 5 for cello solo; Gyorgy Ligeti (Hungary) Sonata for cello solo and Yuri Laniuk

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May 27-29, 2016: “Interaction of Cultures and Values: Philosophical Crossroad.” This conference was planned and organized by Nur Kirabaev, Vice Rector and Professor of Philosophy and Ruzana Pskhu, Professor of Philosophy, Department of History of Philosophy, People's Friendship University of Russia (PFUR), Moscow, Russia and RVP regional coordinator. Both of them took part in the RVP annual seminars in the past. PFUR and the RVP have a long history in cooperative efforts started by Nur Kirabaev and Yuri Pochta, Chair of Department of Politics of PFUR, both of them came to Washington to attend the RVP annual seminars in the past. The PFUR has organized conferences almost every year since the early century.

At the opening session Nur Kirabaev and Vladimir Tsvyk, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of PFUR gave welcome remarks. Nur Kirabaev and Yuri Pochta chaired the first session. Vladimir Mironov (Russian Academy of Sciences and Moscow State University, Russia) spoke on “Philosophy and the Word”; Andrei Smirnov (Russian Academy of Sciences) on “Cultural and non-Cultural Islam: The Consequences of Scrapping Meaning of Paradigms”; Bianca Boteva-Richter (University of Vienna, Austria) on “Moving Cultures: Migration and Intercultural Identities”; Valeri Gubin (Moscow State University of Humanities) on “Is a person the highest value?” Aleksandr Pertsev (Ural Federal University, Russia) on “Philosophy and National Self-conscience”; Alexei Rutkevich (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia) on “Facts, Fictions and Values in Historical Knowledge”; Anatoli Lukianov (Russian Academy of Sciences) on “Value Archetypes of Confucianism and Taoism”; Anatoli Kolesnikov (Saint-Petersburg State University) on “From Multiculturalism to a Dialogue of Philosophical Cultures.”

Ruzana Pshu and L. Krishtop (PFUR) chaired the second session. Nur Kirabaev spoke on “Philosophy and Culture”; Yuri Pochta on “Limits of the Intercultural Dialogue in Postmodern Situation”; Gilles Bertrand (Institute of Political Studies, France) on “The Values and the Economic-Political Challenges of the Modern World”; Sergei Niznikov (PFUR) on “Is There a Moral Position in Niccolo Machiavelli?”; Abbas Jong (Allameh Tabataba’i University, Iran) on “Identity and Third Culture in a

Marina Mchedlova (RPFU) chaired third session. Ruzana Pshu spoke on “The Main Principles of the Religious Hermeneutics of Gerhard Oberhammer and New Interpretation of Vishishta-advaita Vedanta of Ramanuja”; L. Krishtop on “Phenomena of Holiness in the Light of Schopenhauer’s Views: Christianity vs. Indian thought”; Ivan Negreev (Orthodox Institute, Russia) on “Between Aesthetics and War. Vedic Vṛtya in the Light of the Indo-Germanic Parallels”; Maxim Demtchenko (Russian Orthodox University, Russia) on “Place and Role of Saniyasa in the Interreligious Dialogue in Modern India”; Ella Driaeva (Moscow State University, Russia) on “Quest for Identity in New Communication Environment”; Maxim Mikhailiev (Institute of Global Ethnology and Anthropology, Russia) on “Burkhanism as a Religion of Dialogue”; Vahid Mahdavi Mehr, (Iran) on “Language Games, Integration And Extremism: A Philosophical look at the Effect of Imported Islamic Thought V.S. Organic Development of Islam in Christian Countries.”

Yuri Pochta chaired the fourth session. Natalia Kanaeva (National Research University, Russia) presented a paper on “The Treatment of the Methodology of Cognition in Traditional Indian Medicine (based on the «Carakasa-hitā»)”; I. Grebeshev (RPFU) on “Philosophy of N. Berdyaev in the Context of the Western Philosophy”; A. Kosichenko...
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A Conference Session

Anna Ribakova (Russian Orthodox University) on “Nevar’s Buddhism: Religious and Philosophical System at the Cultural Cross-roads of Tibet and India”; N. Danilova (Moscow State University of Linguistics) on “Borrowings in the Modern Russian Language as a Reflection of World-outlook.”

During the conference a special round table was dedicated to the theme of “Philosophy and Values: Tolerance in Comparative Analysis.” Nur Kirabaev chaired the session. V. Naidish, A. Likianov, Y. Pochta, M. Mchedlova, D. Kazarinova, V. Ivanov, R. Pskhu, L. Krishtop, S. Nizhnikov, S. Rudanovskaya, P. Rezvykh, V. Zhdanov and others joined the discussion.

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The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (RVP) expresses its deep gratitude and admiration to those who served the RVP in the past in promoting mutual dialogue and understanding among peoples and cultures.
March 29-31, 2016: “Being Human in Multi-cultural Traditions.” This conference was planned and organized by K. Remi Rajani, Professor of Philosophy, and Director of Satchidananda Murty Center for the Religious Studies, Department of Philosophy, Andhra University (AU), Visakhapatnam and Director for the RVP Center at AU. She also took part in the RVP annual seminar in 2015.

The conference was supported by the Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), Ministry of Human Resource Development and Prof. K. Satchidananda Murty Centre for Religious Studies. The participants included Hon’ble Sri Jaya Surya Garu, Principal and District and sessions Judge, Visakhapatnam. S.R. Bhatt, Chairman of ICPR sent his paper on “Onto Perfection Asato Ma Sadgamaya Tamaso Ma Jyotirgamaya Mrtora‘mrtam Gamaya”; K. Rama Krishna Rao, Director of the Institute of Human Sciences and Service delivered the keynote address on “Meditation: Mindless and Mindful Discovering the Human and Realizing Peace and Harmony” and P. George Victor, Professor of Indian Philosophy and Director of Center for Religious Studies at AU gave val-edictory address on “Infusing Aham Brahmasmi In Synchronizing Tat Tvam Asi.” At the opening Thomas Menampampil read the late Professor George F. McLean’s letter to the conference.


During the conference participants presented their papers in relation to the thematic. Dilipkumar Mohanta (University of Kolkata, India) spoke on “Religious Pluralism And Interfaith Dialogue”; C. D. Sebastian (IIT Mumbai University) on “Aporia of Tension and Value in Multicultural
alism”; Thomas Menamparampil on “Being Human Amidst Multicultural Traditions”; Ganesh Prasad Das (Utkal University, India) on “The Identity and Destiny of Man in a Multi-Cultural World”; Veerasamy S. George Joseph (Chennai Loyola College, India) on “Hindu Scriptural (Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam And Lokasa Graha) and the Other Religious Insights Enhancing Healthy Healthy Family Living Through ‘Multi-Cultural and Inter-Religious Co-Existence’”; Nesy Kuriakose (Kerala University, India) on “Do We Need Multiculturalism?”; J.K.K. Herndon (University of Pune, India) on “Inter-Cultural Philosophy: Growing through the Myriad Approaches to Oneness”; Aditi Dasgupta (West Bengal State University, India) on “Alienation and Solidarity: The Dialectics of Culture”; B. Sambasiva Prasad (GITAM University, India) on “Beyond Cultural Identity: Gandhian Perspective”; Sandip Chatterjee and Sukla Chatterjee (Derozio Memorial College, University of Kolkata) on “Global Ethics and International Development: The Mission of the Vedanta as Envisaged by Swami Vivekananda”; K. Bhima Kumar (University of Allhabad) on “Inter-Faith Dialogue as a Means to Resolve Conflict: Some Preliminary Observations From Buddhism”; Pratick Mallick (University of Kalyani, India) on “Philosophy of Being Middle Class”; Tapani Chakravartty (Mahila Maha Vidhyalaya University, India) on “Radhakrishnan on Spiritual Reality in Which All Mankind Is One”; B.R. Shanta Kumari (Pondicherry Central University, India) on “Being Human: Virasaivism Perspective”; Abha Singh (Bihar University, India) on “A Peep into Global Ethics And International Development”; MD Sirajul Islam on “Sufism and Inter faith Dialogue for Global Peace & Harmony”; T.K. Parthasarathy (Independent Researcher, India) on “Council for Research in Values and Philosophy”; D. Uma Devi and M. Vijaya Prasad on “Multicultural Education”; George Karakunnel on “Religious Philosophy of Sri Narayana Guru”; Theavy Ser (Phnom Pen Bible School, Cambodia) on “Humanity, Diversity Characteristic of the Modern World.”

Scholars from William Carey University, Shillong, India, presented their papers: Paul Mohan Raj on “Issues in Indian Plurality and Multiculturalism,” Gita Pyal on “Socio-Cultural Changes in the Khasi Tribe of Meghalaya,” and Baiaphira G. Lyngskor on “Intergrated Multicultural Education in the Indian Society”; from Bangalore Acts Academy
Higher Education, India: **John Mohan Razu** on “Essentializing Humanity Amidst Plurality: India a Case in Point” and **Rajesh** on “Being and Becoming Human: A Biblical Position on Human Rights”; from S.V. University, India: **P. Chinnaiah** on “Humanity Crisis in Multicultural Traditions World” and **Chenchulakshmi Kollaf** on “Samkhya-Yoga Gunas as Reflections of Multi-Cultural Identity.”

Scholars from Andhra University also presented their papers: **K. Gayathri Devi** on “Kaivalyadarsanam of Swami Sri Yukteswargiri: An Inspiration to Inter-Faith Dialogue on Christianity and Sanatanadharma/Hinduism,” **M. Rajeswara Rao** on “Upanishads: Global Teachings,” **M. Solomon Raju** on “Global Perspective of Multicultural Education And Some Important Aspects” and **Satya Pal and C. Pradguna** “Quandary of Being Human in the Constancy of Encultural Patterns of Life: Call for re-learning to Be Human”.

The host professors and scholars also spoke at the conference. They were: **A. Subramanyam, A. Dhanalakshmi, D. Srinivas, Indu Mani, Sony Havilah, K. John Sudheer, M.V.V.P. Kumar, M. Vijaya, S.M. Indira, Padma Meenakshi, V. Eswara Rao, Satyavani, Nireekshana K. Kancharla, Roshan Nisar, John Christopher, Y. Devadanam, Mantri Madhan Mohan, T. Sambasiva Rao, Damodar Singh, Reddeppa V., and Venkata Rao**.

On January 12, 2017 **K. Remi Rajani** organized the first endowment lecture on interreligious dialogue. The lecture was entitled “Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: Friendship as a Fundamental Value.” It was endowed by **G. Nageswara Rao, Vice-Chancellor and V. Uma Maheswara Rao**, Registrar as well as the Members of the Executive Council of Andhra University. This endowment lecture was the continuation of the joint efforts between the University and the RVP initiated by **K. Remi Rajani**.

**João J. Vila-Chã and Hu Yeping** were invited to speak at the lecture on the thematic issue on the role of friendship in these complex global times from both Eastern and Western perspectives, especially from the Confucian and the Christian traditions. Both referred to the notion of friendship articulated by Aristotle in ancient Greece and argued how friendship can play an important role in religious dialogue and cooperation today. After the lecture, the visitors visited the beautiful coastal city with different historical and religious sites.
March 4-5, 2016: “Religion, the Sacred and Hospitality.” This conference was planned and organized by Wilhelm Dancă, Professor of Philosophy, Faculty of Theology, University of Bucharest (UB) and RVP Regional Coordinator. He took part in the RVP annual seminar in 2006.

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Emil Moraru (UB) chaired the fourth session. Bogdan Duca (Camera Deputaților, Romania) “The Foreign and Alienated Man: From Abrahamic to Phylogenetic Social Dimension”; Tarciziu-Hristofor Șerban (UB) on “Creativity and Hospitality and Theological Motivation in Helping the Christian Communities of the First Century”; Bălan Marin (UB) on “The Reception of the Alien in the Early Christian Era”; Lupu Ștefan (University “Al. I. Cuza” of Iași) on “Guest or Love in the Christian Tradition”; Lucian Dîncă (UB) on “Theological Hospitality of St. Atanasie”; Violeta Barbu (UB) on “Christian Solidarity and Political Correctness: Romanian Hospitality to the Patriarchs of Antioch (Syria).” Lucian Dîncă chaired the fifth session. Angela-Cristina Barbu (UB) presented a paper on “Europe and the Refugee Crisis between Hospitality and Fear”; Gabriel Sorescu (University of Craiova, Romania) on “Orthodox Church and the Immigration Phenomenon: Missionary Pastoral Opportunities and Responsibilities”; Florin Silaghi (UB) on “Hospitality between Tolerance and Responsibility”; Daniela Mare (UB) on “Hospitality in Catholic Schools.”

Gabriela Nicolae Blebea (UB) chaired the sixth session. Elvira Groza (University of Babeș-Bolyai din Cluj-Napoca, Romania) spoke on “The Construction and Deconstruction of Hospitality at the Boundary between Law and Moral Obligation”; and a few scholars from UB presented their papers: Daniel Duță on “Sacredness and Hospitality in Appearance as a Full Perspective of Communication Silence”; Elena Beca on “Let’s be Hospitable to Life”; Iulia Nițescu on “Catholic Ambassadors in the XVI century in Russia: Herberstein and Possevino”; Daniel Duță on “Sacredness and Hospitality in Appearance as a Full Perspective of Communication Silence”; Elena Beca on “Let’s be Hospitable to Life”; Iulia Nițescu on “Catholic Ambassadors in the XVI century in Russia: Herberstein and Possevino”; Costel Ghioanca (Iași) on “War: Prophet of the End or the Stimulus of Philanthropy?” Rodica Pop (University “Al.I. Cuza” of Iași) on “A Foreigner Yesterday and Today, the Romanian.” Stefan Lupu (University “Al. I. Cuza” of Iași) chaired the seventh session. Carmen Potra (UB) spoke on “Catholic Priests and Hospitality in Communist Prisons”; Anastasia Dumitru (Liceul “Lucian
World”; Mohamed Ahmed Suleyman (Beni Suef University, Egypt) on “The Concept of the Other in the Religious and Human Context”; Tănase D. Laurențiu (UB) on “Aspects of the Hospitality within Nowadays Romanian Society”; Florina Rodica Hariga (University “Al. I. Cuza” of Iași) on “Cosmopolitan Right and The Problem of Inconsistency regarding Unconditional Hospitality”; Ioan Dură (University Ovidius of Constanța, Romania) on “The Hospitality in the Horizon of Spirituality: The Synthesis of Romanian Spirit as a Point of Religious and Cultural Convergence between East and West.” Ioana Iliescu (UB) chaired the ninth session. Călin Piescu (Vienna, Austria) presented a paper on “The Sovereign Military Order of Malta: One Thousand Years in the Service of the Poor”; Răzvan Albert Marcu (UB) on “The Nature and Character in Francisco de Vitoria’s De Indis (1539), and its Relationship with the Law of Nations”; Marin Aiftincă (Romanian Academy, Romania) on “Culture and Religion in Late Modernity.”

Violeta Barbu (UB) chaired tenth session. Cristian Vacaru (Ierusalim, Israel) spoke on “Hospitality of Pilgrims to the Holy Land in the Past and Today”; Mihaela Voicu (UB) on “Gentle Aspects of hospitality”; Ana Petrache (Foundation for Interreligious and Intercultural Research and Dialogue, Switzerland) on “Hospitality of God - the right sanctuary”; Dreptu Ruxandra (UB) on “Saints. Representations of Hospitality in European Painting.” Marta Andro (UB) chaired the eleventh session. Maria Luiza Oancea (UB) presented a paper on “The Beginnings of Diplomacy Reflected in the Homeric epic”; Diana Popescu (UB) on “Hospitality from Jan Blahoslav, Bishop of Czech Brethren Union”; Ionuț Constantin (UB) on “The Phenomenon of Migration in Holy Scripture and in the Present World”; Lorena Stuparu (Romanian Academy) on “Hospitality and the Tenant.” Tarciziu-Hristofor Șerban (UB) chaired twelfth session. Liviu Marius (Bacău) spoke on “What is Monotheistic Hospitality?”; Ileana Stănculeasa (Bucharest) on “Hospitality as a Witness of Faith”; Alexandru-Filip Popovici (UB) on “Hospitality: An Approach to the Psychology of Religion”; Roxana Alexandra Ciurtin (UB) on “Hospitality of Inter-state Relations.” Lucian Dincă (UB) chaired the thirteenth session. Ștefan Beca (UB) presented a paper on “Hospitality as Open to Friends and Foes”; Gabriela Nicolae Blebea (UB) on “As a Child but as a Guest or as a Nuisance”; Magda Stravinschi (Institute of Astronomy, Romanian Academy) on “Open Arms to the Sky.”
**Washington, D.C.**

May 7, 2016 and September 25, 2016: Nur Kirabaev and Ruzana Pskhu, Russian People’s Friendship University (RPFU), paid a visit respectively to discuss the future cooperation in various aspects. Since the early 1990s have been working projects. During plans were under instance, a 5-day in Washington and a be held in Moscow in the process of meetings will focus study of the Eastern sophistical schools and thoughts.

A few books resulted from the research projects and conferences conducted at RPFU were also published by the RVP. Both expressed their willingness and wishes to continue such long-term collaboration.

January 11, 2016: Two Iranian scholars, Jafar Morvarid from Ferdowsi University of Mashhad and Vahid Mahdavimehr also from Al-Mustafa International University of Mashhad, came to Washington to pay a visit. The purpose of their visit was to explore the possibility of future cooperation. The mutual contact began with George F. McLean who visited their University and gave lectures there in 1990s. Hu Yeping, Frederick L Ahearn, Professor of Social Work of the Catholic University of America, Sayed Hassan Hussaini (Akhlaq), Scholar of Islamic Philosophy and Visiting Researcher at the CUA Center for the Study of Culture and Values, Huang Qihong (Southwest University, China), Zhang Zhixiang (Yangzhou University, China) and others were at the meeting during their visit.
Nine Books Published in the RVP Publication Series
“Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Change”

Series II. African Philosophical Studies
- II.18 Universalism, Relativism, and Intercultural Philosophy: Nigerian Philosophical Studies IV. Joseph C. Achike Agbakoba and Anthony C. Ajah, eds. ISBN 9781565183162 (paper).

Series IIIA. East Asian Philosophical Studies

Series IVA. Eastern and Central European Philosophical Studies
- IVA.55 Eurasian Frontier: Interrelation of Eurasian Cultures in a Global Age: Russian Philosophical Studies, IX. Irina Boldonova and Vensus A. George, eds. ISBN 9781565183186 (paper).

Series VII. Seminars: Culture and Values
- VII.35 The Secular and the Sacred: Complementary and/or Conflictual? John P. Hogan and Sayed Hassan Akhlaq, eds. ISBN 9781565183117 (paper).

Series VIII. Christian Philosophical Studies
The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (RVP) is a 501C3 not-for-profit entity with the following goals, objectives and operations.

**Goals:**
To understand and appreciate the cultures and values that shape aspirations and motivate actions.
To understand one’s own and other cultures and develop a positive yet critical appreciation thereof.
To build cooperation among peoples by providing horizons that heal deep tensions and promote peace and friendship on a global scale.

**Objectives:**
To mobilize research teams to study the nature, interpretation and development of cultures and to apply them to the challenges of contemporary change.
To publish and distribute the results of these efforts.
To organize extended seminars for deeper exploration of these issues and regional conferences for the coordination of this work.

**Operations:**
Research teams applying the resources of the cultural traditions to contemporary issues, and six to ten week annual seminars in Washington, D.C., for international scholars and representatives of the research teams.
Regional meetings for mutual critique and planning by these teams, and periodic world conferences for exchange of results on a global level.
Publication of the results of this research and critical reflection (over 300 volumes thusfar), and a unique distribution network to 350 university libraries worldwide, as well as through the usual book outlets, with the complete texts available on the web at www.crvp.org.