

Successful meeting in New York in July 2002

The meeting took place at New York University, the Fine Arts Library, Manhattan. It gathered 16 participants representing ARC•PEACE members in nine countries. Jim Morgan of ADPSR was the hospitable host, despite the fact that he had been organising the 20th anniversary of ADPSR. Some of us, who arrived before the ARC•PEACE meeting had the chance to meet members of Professionals' Network for Social Responsibility and participate in unforgettable Celebratory Cruise along Hudson River.

After warm informal greetings the ARC•PEACE co-chairs Dick Urban Vestbro and Luz Maria Sanchez opened the official meeting.

Invited speaker Alice Slater, representative of the Abolition 2000 network, talked about the new developments around the NPT and ABM treaties. She presented steps to achieve a common security. She emphasised the necessity to withdraw all nuclear weapons systems, to dismantle warheads, and to place all usable radioactive materials under international control.

The next invited guest, Afghanistan-born professor Rafi Samizai from the School of Architecture in Washington, gave a background about the bomb wars in Afghanistan. He pointed out that due to the US attacks rivers dried up and irrigation systems were destroyed. In addition huge areas became deforested. Professor Rafi Samizai was asked to collect information about the destruction in Afghanistan, to examine the need to send specialists on the preservation of the cultural heritage to the country.

Marilu introduced a discussion on global housing issues by presenting concrete actions undertaken in Lima, Peru to provide the poor with housing. She shared her experience in fund-raising, including her contacts with NGOs.

The activities during the last two years (after the Stockholm meeting) were reported by the following member organisations: Japanese Architects for Peace and Environment, Cuba Solar, Architect Designers Planners for Social Responsibility (ADPSR) of USA, ARC•PEACE Peru, ARC•PEACE Sweden and ARC•PEACE Poland. Dick distributed a written Chairman report and informed about the preparation for a book on professional responsibilities for sustainable development.

During the meeting it was decided to reelect Marilu and Dick as Co-chairs of ARC•PEACE, Sandra as our representative at the UN. Dorota was appointed Secretary and Dania the person in charge of communication. Marilu, Dick, Dorota, Sandra and Dania will form the new Executive Committee. Jean d'Aragon was appointed new Board member, Jim liaison with Abolition 2000, and Stephan Hawranick our new representative at the UN office in Geneva.

After reports on the financial situation and distributing tasks and duties the Co-chairs and the ADPSR host ended by thanking everyone for the active participation, and wished everybody welcome to the 2004 meeting in Gdansk. The members who stayed little longer in NY visited ethnic enclaves, museums, and other interesting places.

Dorota Włodarczyk

Secretary of ARC•PEACE