

## APOLOGIES FOR ANY CROSS-POSTING!

### GPPAC International Day of Peace e-bulletin, 21 September 2011



Today is the International Day of Peace. A day that is celebrated, honoured, remembered and observed throughout the world as a day of ceasefire and peace.



Many members of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) have or are

organizing events and festivities for the 21 September. Below you will find some examples of these activities from Asia Pacific, the Middle East and North Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.

### What is the International Day of Peace?

The United Nations International Day of Peace, 21 September, has existed since 1981, but until 2001 there was no fixed day appointed to celebrate peace and to cease fire. The UN proclaimed 21 September to be the International Day of Peace in 2001 through Resolution 55/282. This day is an important means to raise global awareness of the importance of peace and conflict prevention in order to increase the pressure on policy makers, governments and international organizations around the world.

### GPPAC Activities Across the Globe

- In New Delhi, India Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace ([WISCOMP](#)), the United Nations Information Centre, and Control Arms Foundation of India are organizing an event on "*Women, Peace and Disarmament*" to mark the International Day of Peace and to honour women-led initiatives for peace and humanitarian disarmament in South Asia. The conference will be held on Wednesday, 21st September 2011 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at UN Conference Hall, 55 Lodi Estate, New Delhi 110003.
- In the Pacific a media kit was circulated to all GPPAC Pacific country media organizations and companies- with the main message of "***making peace the news***", the regional theme for this year's International Day of Peace. Throughout the region different events are planned, including;
  - In Fiji a full-day event will include a Community Radio Broadcast, 'Not just sweet talk – the Women's civil society series-movie', writing of peace messages, a peace vigil, 'From the mat to the policy table- "A call to action" A short DVD on [FemLINKPACIFIC](#) and GPPAC Pacific's peace building initiatives in the Pacific' and Youths speak for peace.
  - In the Solomon Islands two main activities will be organized by Voise Blong Mere and Winds of Change; a two-day Peace Stakeholder Consultation Dialogue/Forum; and one-day women for peace vigil and 1325 awareness/discussions on peace issues with women for peace to contribute to the Solomon Islands Peace Building Policy Frame work.
  - In Papua New Guinea placards depicting the International Day of Peace were displayed throughout Port Moresby by participants of a Community Justice

Training that started on 19 September. This will be combined with speeches and engagement with the media.

- In Bougainville, Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency started its celebration early by having a high level meeting with representatives from UNDP including from New York, as well as a peace walk.
  - In Tonga, Ma'a fa'fine Moe Famili Inc. and the Friendly Islands Human Rights Democracy Movement Inc. a demonstration broadcast of Tonga's first ever women-led community radio station, Le'o 'o e Kakai 98FM dedicated to promoting UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (Women, Peace and Security), Peace building and Dialogue .
- In Lebanon, sponsored by the Displaced Minister Mr. Alaeddin Terro, The Middle East and North Africa Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflicts (MENAPPAC) and the Permanent Peace Movement ([PPM](#)) within its annual awareness raising programs that aims at consolidating civil peace in various regions of Lebanon and social reintegration of young people, is organizing an event as part a series of activities in the "House Doctor", Beirut, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, September 20, 2011.

The celebration will be in collaboration with Zivik project (project aim of the creation of Peace Units in high schools from teachers and students).

The program encloses a speech by PPM Director and Regional Initiator of MENAPPAC Mr. Fadi Abi Allam, and a speech from the Minister of Displaced, a speech of the academic board representative Mr. Sabah Younis. The event program also includes artistic performances, including theatre, dance, painting, poetry and zajal songs, plus a documentary about the dangers of small arms. Moreover, an open discussion will be held at the conclusion of the event and a cocktail reception will follow at the end.

- In Rio de Janeiro, Brasil at the Universidade Federal Fluminense a roundtable is organized on 'La construcción de la paz en América Latina y el Caribe – Reflexiones alrededor del Día Internacional de la Paz'. The event is co-organized by Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales ([CRIES](#)), Laboratório de Estudos sobre Política Externa Brasileira ([LEPEB-UFF](#)) and Programa de Pós-Graduação em Estudos Estratégicos ([PPGEST-UFF](#)), and includes presentations by Dr. Thiago Rodrigues, Cap Rejane Pinto Costa, Antonio Rangel Bandeira, and Clovis Eugêneo Georges Brigagão. In closing the annual Premio Latinoamericano y Caribeño a la Paz 2011 will be presented by Andrei Serbin Pont.