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PEACE CONSTITUTIONS
FOR GLOBAL DISARMAMENT
CONSTITUCIONES DE PAZ PARA EL DESARME GLOBAL
PUNTARENAS, COSTA RICA, JULY 16th, 2009

GUEST SPEAKER PROFILES



Manuel Araya Incera

Manuel Araya Incera is professor of the history of international relations at the University of Costa Rica and at the Foreign Service Institute “Manuel María de Peralta”. He has been a visiting professor and lecturer at several universities in the US, Guatemala, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic. He is the producer and conductor of PERSPECTIVAS, a weekly program broadcast at the University Costa Rica that analyses current social and political issues. He also teaches courses and workshops on Negotiation and Conflict Resolution techniques at the Foreign Relations Ministries of various Central American countries. He has published extensively, including on Costa Rica-Japan relations.



Colin Archer - *Contributed a written and recorded video message*

Colin Archer has been the Secretary-General of the International Peace Bureau since 1990. A Peace and human rights activist since early 1970s, he has been involved in many projects in development education, North-South solidarity, nuclear weapons abolition and the international peace movement, including in the World Court Project and Abolition 2000, the 1999 Hague Appeal for Peace, and Global Campaign for Peace Education. He is the author of *Warfare or Welfare? Disarmament for Development in the 21st Century*, published by IPB in 2005, and *Whose Priorities? A guide for campaigners on military and social spending*, published in 2007.



Homero Arellano Lascano

Jorge Homero Arellano Lascano currently serves as the Secretary General of the Republic of Ecuador's Vice Presidential office. He has previously served as the Minister of State, Technical Minister of the State Department and General Commander of the Navy. He obtained his Masters degree in Political and Strategic Studies at the National Academy in Chile, and his undergraduate degree in maritime transportation at the Marine University of Chile. He also specialized in hydrography in the hydrography service of Brazil. He has written various works related to maritime themes, and participated in the drafting of text in defense of the current Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador.



Ebrahim Asvat

Ebrahim Asvat is a Lawyer, Professor of International Law and Journalist from Panama. He is the President and General Manager of El Siglo Newspaper, as well as the Executive Vice President of La Estrella de Panamá Newspaper. He has also served as Chief of the National Police and Legal Counselor to the Vice President of the Republic of Panama. He is a member of the International Bar Association, the Inter-Pacific Bar Association and the American Society of International Law.



Lara Blanco

Lara Blanco is Assistant Resident Representative and Program Coordinator of the UNDP Office in Costa Rica. A lawyer, she has a Masters Degree in Development from the Institute of Social Studies of The Hague, and is currently developing a Doctorate in Philosophy at the University of Costa Rica. Specialized in human development, civil society, gender and rural development, she has written several publications related with these topics. At present, she is acting as Coordinator of the Costa Rica Human Development Report 2009. She also teaches at the UNDP Virtual School of Human Development as well as Mastery of Woman Studies at the University of Costa Rica. In previous years, she acted as Executive Director of the Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress.



Rodrigo Carazo Odio

Statesman, educator, politician and farmer, Rodrigo Carazo is a respected global peace and human rights activist. He served as President of Costa Rica from 1978- 1982. As world statesman, he devised and offered to the world a unique formula for world peace and development. He founded the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and the University for Peace on the basis that "if you want peace, prepare for peace." A committed teacher and scholar, he lectures in History, Economics, Housing Administration and Planning, General Sociology and Community Development. He has been Co-Chair to the Peace Action Council, and has received many awards for his achievements towards peace.



Jonathan Granoff

Jonathan Granoff is President of the Global Security Institute. He is also Co-Chair of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Nuclear Nonproliferation, Senior Advisor to National Security Committee of the International Law Section of the American Bar Association, and has represented the International Peace Bureau at the Nobel Peace Laureate Summits in Rome since 2002. He serves on numerous governing and advisory boards, including the Global Dialogue Institute, Middle Powers Initiative, Jane Goodall Institute and the Bipartisan Security Group. He received his Baccalaureate degree, Cum Laude, from Vassar College and Juris Doctorate from Rutgers University School of Law.



Kawasaki Akira

Kawasaki Akira has worked as a researcher and activist on various peace issues, including nuclear disarmament, Northeast Asian security and Japan's security policy. After serving as Secretary-General of the Japanese NGO Peace Depot, he is now an Executive Committee member of Peace Boat. He served as the Secretary-General for the Organizing Committee of the Global Article 9 Conference to Abolish War, and coordinates the Global Article 9 Campaign as well as the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)-Northeast Asia. He is also a Global Council member of Abolition 2000 and a NGO Advisor to the International Commission on Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament (ICNND).



Karen Olsen Beck de Figueres

Karen Olsen is the widow of three-time president of Costa Rica Jose Figueres Ferrer, founder of the National Liberation Party who abolished the army in his country and created of the most significant public institutions in Costa Rica. Karen herself has lifelong embraced social service. From a young age, she has shown her permanent commitment to the most vulnerable groups — such as women, children, adolescents, the elderly, minorities and marginal groups. She has held various positions including First Lady of the Republic, National Congresswoman, and Ambassador of Costa Rica.



Jun Sasamoto

A lawyer, Sasamoto Jun has dedicated himself to issues such as post-war compensation and Article 9 of Japan's peace constitution. He is the Secretary General of JALISA (Japan Lawyers International Solidarity Association), an organization that works with the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL). He was a key organizing member of the Global Article 9 Conference to Abolish War held in Japan in May 2008, following which he spent six months in Costa Rica to study its peace constitution and international laws. In 2009, thanks to the inputs of Japanese lawyers and citizens, IADL's Congress in Hanoi declared Article 9 should be incorporated into every country.



Carlos Vargas Pizarro

Carlos Vargas is a lawyer and university professor. He directed the Legal Division of the Costa Rica Ministry of Foreign Affairs, represented his country as ambassador on several missions, and served in the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and International Court of Justice, where he was involved in the Advisory Opinion related to the Legality of Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons (1995). He also led the negotiations in the UN Human Rights Commission on the Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture. He is currently Vice-President of the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA).



Alyn Ware

Alyn Ware is a peace educator and a consultant for peace and disarmament. He is Director of the Peace Foundation Wellington Office (Aotearoa-New Zealand) and of Aotearoa Lawyers for Peace, Global Coordinator of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, and a Consultant at Large for the Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy (USA) and the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA). He was the UN Coordinator for the World Court Project and one of the coordinators of the drafting of a model treaty on the abolition of nuclear weapons circulated by the United Nations. He received the UN International Year of Peace (New Zealand) prize in 1986.



Roberto Zamora

Roberto Zamora is an Attorney at Law and a peace activist. He challenged his government's position on the Iraq war in the Constitutional Court of Costa Rica (2004-2005), which ruled that due to the Right to Peace and International Law, Costa Rica could not support wars in any ways, as well as in a case on nuclear weapons manufacture (2006-2008), on which the court ruled the constitution banned nuclear weapons, along with any other "things" meant to be used in war. A former international coordinator for Peace Boat, he has given many lectures in Japan on Peace Constitutions and participated in World Social Forums in Brazil and Kenya.