



# INTERFAITH LINK

July—September 2018

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## UNITED RELIGIONS INITIATIVE

URI envisions a world at peace, sustained by engaged and inter connected communities committed to respect for diversity, nonviolence, resolution of conflict and social, political, Economic and environmental justice

**URI Office,  
Karickam  
Kottarakkara  
PH:04742663903**

## URI Annual Youth Camp (5th May 2018)



### URI Annual Youth Camp Participants

URI Annual Youth camp was conducted on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at Karickam International Public School, Karickam. The main theme was “**Youth and Cyber Crime**”. Police Inspectors Sajjan George and Abhilash were the resource persons. Around One Hundred Young Delegates from various CCs attended.

#### Editorial

We are happy to bring out another issue of ‘Interfaith Link’ during this festive season. So many important events are in the offing including 3<sup>rd</sup> URI Asia Assembly. A training on “Disaster Management” has been scheduled for August. Many NGOs will be participating. U.N International Day of Peace will be celebrated with a big Peace Procession as usual.

It was great to have Eliza Snodgrass from New York as an intern here for one month. Shiv Vijay Singh from (Uttarpradesh) also visited us in June. We are extremely happy to wish bon voyage to Greshma P Raju, who will be leaving for Costa Rica to join the U.N Peace University. We wish her all the best.

**Dr. Abraham Karickam**



## UN World Interfaith Harmony Week Celebrations (Feb. 1 to 7)

### This year we had a week long celebrations for the Inter Faith Harmony Week.

#### Thursday, February 1 – INAUGURATION

The inauguration was conducted at Karickam International Public School CC. Mr. Thomas Mathew Kulangara (Former International President of IARF was the chief guest)

#### Friday, February 2 – POSTER PROCESSION

Six hundred students took part in the Inter Faith Poster procession. The posters carried very impressive and thought provoking messages related to inter faith harmony.

#### Saturday, February 3 – STATE LEVEL INTER-SCHOOL QUIZ AND LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD CEREMONY.

State Level Quiz competition for school students based on Holy Scriptures was conducted. Three categories were selected for Cash Awards of Rupees 5,000/-, 3,000/- and 2,000/- to 1st, 2nd and 3rd , positions respectively. 80 students from various schools participated.

The Chief Guest was the Rural District Police Chief, Mr. B. Ashokan, IPS.

In the Interfaith Public Meet chaired by Dr. Abraham Karickam, 17 personalities from three states of India were honored with citations and mementos for their Life Time Achievements.

#### Sunday, February 4 – INTERFAITH MUSIC CONCERT

A Music Concert on Interfaith Harmony was held at Odanavattam Cosmic Music School .More than hundred students presented different songs related to Inter Religious faith.

#### Monday, February 5- SPECIAL ASSEMBLY BY INTER FAITH STUDENTS MOVEMENT

Special assembly was organized at Karickam International Public School under the auspices of the Inter Faith Students' Movement CC

#### Tuesday February—6 – PEACE PLEDGE

#### Wednesday, February—7 WALL OF LOVE AT ST. MARY'S SCHOOLCC, MULAKKUZHA, Chengannur, Alappay District.

On the concluding day, a Peace Procession and Public Meeting was held at St. Mary's Public School cc at Mulakuzha, Chengannoor. A Peace Procession and Public Meeting held at the school.

#### Wednesday, February 7—CONCLUDING SESSION

The valedictory function of the IFHW celebration was held at Kerala Kavya Kala Sahitya CC. In the public meeting presided by the URI Global Trustee, Prof. John Kurakar, around 25 eminent personalities representing various religions, cine artists, poets, educationists, social workers and spiritual leaders attended. Dr. Abraham Karickam delivered the valedictory address. It was an evaluation of seven days program.





**An interview with Miss Eliza Snodgrass of the United States. Eliza, a sociology student of Canadian University completed her work as an Intern in the Regional Office of URI South India and Sri Lanka at Kottarakara, Kerala (India) during the period 19 May to 19 June 2018.**



*[This interview was conducted on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018 by Mr. K.G. Mathaikutty, Executive Secretary and Liaison Officer, URI – South India and Sri Lanka Region]*

Introduction: Eliza has been fully engaged herself with various tasks under the URI Regional Office, visiting URI School Cooperation Circles, Interfaith and Cultural Cooperation Circles, Educational Institutions, Religious Centers, Cultural and family functions, etc., while a major portion of her time was spent in one of the School CCs, namely Karickam International Public School, which is nearer to the office.

Q. What was your motivation to choose this place for your internship?

A. The reason that I decided to come to India was because I wanted to have experience working in school system as I have worked in school in the US, in New York. But I wanted to have an experience abroad somewhere besides New York to see how the education system works here. My grandfather Mr. John Wisner has worked with URI for such a long time and holds so much respect for Abraham and everyone here and so he recommended me. So that was originally why I was able to come and why I was connected with Abraham and it is true he is an incredible person because everywhere he goes, people have such high respect for him. Now I understand why my grandfather is so fond of him. He is such a natural leader and It is very clear when he walk around how people feel and speak so highly about hm. It was a great privilege for me to be able to see him work and read and speak.

Q. Could you share in brief about your back ground?

A. I am studying Sociology now. I have experience with only small children, as I have been doing babysitting and also doing some other jobs centered around children like volunteering in schools. I volunteered with Kinder Garten and secondary school students. I am fascinated by the method of education among different student communities. Here in India I wanted to be with children of different ages from Primary to Senior Secondary.



Q. What is your learning experience during the past one month in Kerala.?

A. It has been amazing. I have learnt so much. Cultural differences are numerous. I think it has given me a new view point on the US, a kind of global perspective, because I have seen through the eyes of people in Kerala looking at the United States, seeing Trump on the news, people speaking in Malayalam a lot about the US. So I think I learnt from Kerala in general the richness of culture, the people and the beauty of scenery. Everything is so bright and vivid. So I learned to really admire nature and everything that the earth has given us. From the school I have learnt the importance of education and taking advantage of the opportunity that I get as you know really getting excited about what you are learning and finding new ways to learn, finding new subject to learn about. So I learnt so much from being here so long.

Q. What are your views on the functioning of the URI South India Regional Office?

A. I think it is good. I think there is a lot of importance placed on the things that are specific to this area, which is important. When you are working with disaster management, that may not be something applicable in the United States, where the climate is not as extreme; but here it is something to focus on because it is necessary and important for the area. That is the key.

And also just from going to the Iftar parties, and meeting with different CCs and religious leaders here it is especially amazing to see the support that comes from different political groups, especially at the Iftar parties. It is a Muslim celebration but you have Hindus, Christians and different religions coming together to support in that celebration. It speaks all about the URI purpose and focuses on the spirit. Naturally in Kerala it is possible because they have different religions. It speaks clearly about URI purpose.

Q. What are your views on URI taking up this type of area and need based issues like the Disaster Management as one of its initiatives?

A. It is a great idea I think as long as the main message that URI stands for as long as the idea of interfaith connection is there. But the disaster management is one part that you are doing here. Having different celebrations, different groups having, the training including CPR training, etc. When the disaster strikes, it affects everybody beyond the boundaries of religion and all groups have to come together.

You have visited several CCs in and around Kerala. What are your observations and are these CCs functioning the way in which they are expected or are they promoting the URI purpose and Principles?.



It is very varied. The CCs are focused on very different things. So in the school that is going to be very different in school, different in Zero Limits and different from that of Musicians, which is very interesting to me. Where ever it is doing that is fine as long as it is supporting others. Again coming back to URI, Just to sit together in a room is amazing.

Maximum time I spent during this period was in the School CC, KIPS. I had a different conception about the schools in India compared to that in US and its education system. But after I saw the KIPS, and it's education system I had to change my views. It is so appreciable. The school is providing a very good environment for a holistic learning and intellectual growth, which is even better than that is available in some of the schools in US. By and large I have high opinion about the school and its disciplined students. Both the teachers and students are so friendly. I have also visited a few CCs, namely the Kala Sahiti Nature CC Vettikavala, Kerala Kavvya Kala Sahiti, Kottarakara, Zero Limits, Kollam, Fathima Public School etc. All of these CCs have given me different learning experience.

Q Your over all comments?

A. Actually funny enough. I was telling my parents, I think I may be starting an NGO for giving education in rural areas. When I was talking to Shiv Vijay from Uttar Pradesh, about how far - miles and miles for such a long distance there is no school, it is heart breaking . So that may be probably the biggest thing that I am taking with me. This has changed my outlook about what I want for the future. May be I will take to teaching.

Q. Finally, how far you have accomplished your expected goal or outcome out of this internship?

A. My notion about education in India was totally different. So I was not sure about the level of school education; but

I am so impressed. How thrilling the education is. The school is so phenomenal, the students are so well equipped. In terms of achievements I was able to go to classes and it was really amazing for me to be able to work with students of LKG to senior classes and to have free conversation sharing ideas. I was given so much freedom in terms of teaching.

Q What ranking you will give based on your expectation vs. achievements?

A. Like a 95%; the only reason that it is not 100% is because I could not learn more Malayalam. So it was different to communicate with K.G kids. All together, a fantastic experience which will shape my future. I enjoyed the discussion.

**Letter received from Shri Shiv Vijay Singh after his weeklong visit to URI, South India Regional Office, Karickam, Kottarakara, Kerala from 31<sup>st</sup> May to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018.**

Respected sir,  
Thank you!

I beg to state that I am thankful to you, URI and KIPS Karickam for giving me your space and support to make my visit to Kerala during 31<sup>st</sup> May to 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2018, an ever memorable pleasant experience in my life.

Firstly I want to say thanks to Dr Abraham Karickam, Mr. and Mrs. Ramachandran for giving me this opportunity. Mr. Ramachandran received me on my arrival at Kollam railway station on 31<sup>st</sup> May afternoon. We reached Dr Abraham Karickam's house at 5 'O clock to meet Dr Abraham, Susan and Aby son of Abraham. Then I met Miss Eliza, who is an intern and belonging to URI family from New York, U .S.A. and a priest of local church. After a brief introduction we all joined in a prayer for peace and healthy world and the evening tea and snacks. My night stay was in Ramchandran's house. I am very thankful to the wife of Ramchandran, who is a good host.

On 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018 morning after a heavy breakfast in Ramchandran home, we visited Karickam International Public School which is affiliated with C.B.S E. There we took part in the reopening assembly. I noticed that the staff and children have good manners under the leadership of the School Chairman, Dr Abraham Karickam and Director Mrs Susan. This is the 15<sup>th</sup> year of educational service. My sincere congratulations to all who are directly and indirectly involved in this sacred activity. Enjoyed nice south Indian food with Dr Abraham Karickam, Miss Eliza, and Mrs Susan in Motal Aaram .

2<sup>nd</sup> day we visited Palaruvi water fall and Thenmala Hydro Electric Power project . In evening we met Prof. John Kurakkar and other cc members, in a good meeting with Kavya Kala cc at Kottarakara ,Kollam Kerla. Next day Dr Abraham made a plan for a meeting in Kollam. We reached with a group in Kollam at 10.30 morning there we met Mr Mohanlal and Dr Devi Lal and group of CC members, who were waiting at Kollam. The meeting was arranged in a boat. Including the boatman, we were total 11 members and we started our boat journey, which lasted 3.30 hours, which was very nice and pleasing experience. we saw an island in the Arabian sea, and visited light house in Kollam beach. We visited the CC of Mohanlal And Devilal. In the evening we attended the iftar party at Kottarakara. After finishing the program we had our dinner and night rest.

Next day we visited a rock temple 15 or 16 km from Karickram village. On Fifth June (international environment day) we attended a great assembly in Karickam International Public School (KIPS) with children and teachers and other staff. There I was given an opportunity to plant a tree, which I did with pleasure in the midst of new kids. I felt myself elevated . Miss Eliza also planted a neem plant. Again thanks to Abraham and his associate members for giving me a chance on this historical occasion.

From there we collectively joined in the plantation program at St. Gregarious College, Kottarakara held by N.S S.unit of the college and First lady principal miss Summan Alexander. I was very pleased to visit he campus and plant a tree there. I heard another pleasantry that Dr Abraham was an excellent student of this college. Lastly came to Karickram School and had interactions with students of fifth and 10<sup>th</sup> classes in the presence of Dr Abraham sir and Miss Eliza. From the School all five of us visited Mr. K.G. Mathaikutty's (Mathew) home and had delicious lunch. Many thanks to Mrs. Elizabeth Mathew, who prepared nice food, which we enjoyed very much. After lunch I said goodbye to Mr. & Mrs. Mathaikutty and remained with fond and sweet memories of this journey, on my way back home, via Kollam Railway Station. Stephen accompanied me to Kollam station by car. Stephen gave me energetic food for my return journey. Thanks a lot to him . I have no suitable word to say for my role model Dr Abraham Karickram. May God give long life to them. My hearty gratitude to all of them.

My sincere regards and best wishes,

Shiv vijay Singh.  
Sarvodaya Bundelkhand CC

North Zone ,India



## World Environmental Day Celebrations at Karickam International Public School CC

10<sup>th</sup> grade students of Karickam International Public School presenting a tree to KIPS on World Environmental Day (June -5), Shyny.P.John, class teacher handing over the same to Miss. Eliza Snodgrass (United State of America) in the presence of Shiv Vijay (UP), Dr. Tenny Abraham (Senior Principal) and Nisha.V.Rajan (Principal).



*Miss Eliza Snodgrass (United States of America ) planting a tree on the campus of Karickam International Public School in the presence of Shiv Vijay Singh (UP) in connection with the World Environmental Day (June 5<sup>th</sup> ). LKG students are watching.*



Shiv Vijay Singh (Sarvodaya Leader, Bundelkhand, Uttar Pradesh) planting tree in Karickam International Public School .





**The Iran Nuclear Commitment**  
**By the members of**  
**Voices for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons**  
**Cooperation Circle of United Religions Initiative**  
 Prayer for the Iran Nuclear Deal

Each month a few diplomats, lawyers, clergy, activists, and scientists meet to counter the nuclear threat that hangs menacingly over all the earth. In our opening prayer we say, “The Beginning and the End are in your hands, O Creator of the Universe. And in our hands you have placed the fate of this planet...” When the United States backed out of the Iran Deal, we felt as though the fate of the planet had been laid bare to a regional, perhaps, global war and even worse, to nuclear weapons’ development without verification. Such moral dereliction creates a far more dangerous world. Our argument rests on one assumption; i.e., that verification is far, far better than non-verification.

The Iran Nuclear Deal intended that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) would provide intrusive inspections designed to assure the world that Iran is not now and will not in the near future produce nuclear weapons. Originally, this was signed onto by China, France, Germany, Russia, United Kingdom, and the United States (P5+1).

If the time line of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was approaching its expiration date, then it would make sense to revisit the overall terms to see if adjustments would need to be made or if the agreement should be scrapped or modified.

If the official inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), on the ground in Iran, spotted alarming nuclear developments, it would make sense to revisit or scrap the JCPOA.

If the P5+1 coalition thought better of the deal, it would make sense to have responsible negotiations among all relevant parties to determine whether to revisit or scrape JCPOA.

What has actually happened makes no sense, at all. The deal is many years from its expiration date. There have no alarm bells sounded by the IAEA inspectors. No deliberations, among relevant parties, have taken place. Nevertheless, the United States of America has singularly broken its promise and fled the scene in hasty retreat. Not to be trusted in keeping nuclear agreements! Almost two decades ago, leaders of the United States looked at a couple of empty aluminum tubes, dismissed a comprehensive monitoring review pointing to an absence of nuclear weapons in Iraq, and decided that Iraq posed a nuclear threat to the region and to the United States. What followed was an entire destabilized region, catastrophic suffering and hundreds of thousands of deaths. Today in Iran, the leadership of the United States decided that having verification of Iran’s sensitive nuclear activities is a bad deal. The United States has chosen to show leadership by setting the stage for the demise of the JCPOA and to open the door for Iran to progress unobserved in nuclear development.

Years ago, the world would have been better served if comprehensive and convincing verification had been allowed to take place in Iraq before invasion. Today the world would have been better served if the P5+1 nations had continued to have comprehensive and convincing verification in Iran. Nuclear weapons are infinitely more important than political whim. Walking away from nuclear responsibility is not only cowardice but the world’s greatest threat.

Our prayer goes on to say, “ We ask for your guidance and to share in your imagination in our deliberations about the use of nuclear force. Help us to lift the fog of atomic darkness that hovers so pervasively over our Earth, Your Earth, so that soon all eyes may see life magnified by your pure light.”

The Rt. Rev. William E. Swing, Founder and President of United Religions Initiative (URI)

Signed by the members of Voices for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons Cooperation Circle of URI:

Mary Lou Anderson: Nevada Desert Experience Interfaith Peace Organization

Jonathan Granoff: President Global Security Institute

James Goodby: former Ambassador and American diplomat

Thomas Graham: former Ambassador and American diplomat

Mussie Hailu: Ambassador and Regional Dir. of URI for Africa

David T. Ives: Prof. and Exec. Dir. Albert Schweitzer Institute, Quinnipiac U.

Abraham Karickam: Ex. Sec. of URI’s Asia Region

Linda Modica: Northeast Tennessee Cooperation Circle

Mario Nicolini: Executive Director, Forum of the World's Religions - Slovakia

William Perry: former U.S. Sec. of Defense

Hiro Sakurai: UN Representative for Soka Gakkai Int’l

George Shultz: former U.S. Sec. of State

Dan Smith: Attorney, Law Office of Daniel U. Smith

William Vendley: Sec. General of Religions for Peace

Monica Willard: UN Representative for URI

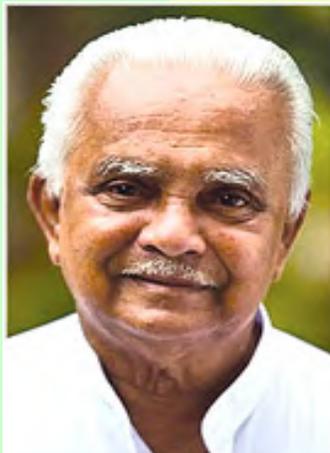


## Visit to North Indian CCs



A delegation from South India visited a few CCs in North India during the month of March 2018. They visited Bundelkhand Sarvodaya CC in Uttarpradesh and visited various important centers in the state of Uttarpradesh. In the state of Punjab they visited the Patiala CCs and schools for differently abled children. They visited Golden Temple in Amritsar and Waga Border also (Border between India and Pakistan).

## Second URI Asia Peace Award



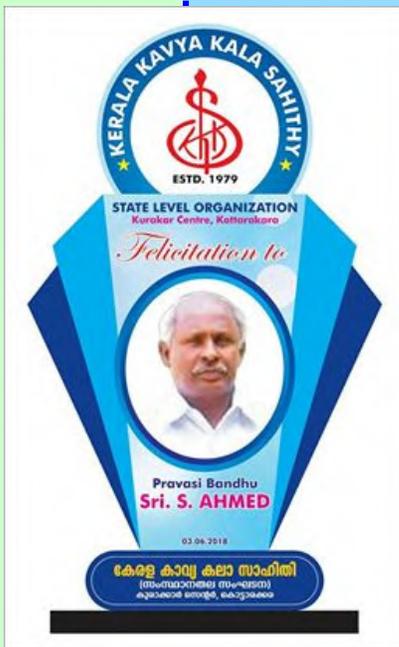
**Dr. A.T Ariaratne**

The second URI Asia Peace Award will be given to Dr. A.T Ariaratne, popularly known as the Sri Lankan Gandhi. This will be awarded during the Third Asia Assembly scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka from 5 to 7 October.

The first URI Asia Peace Award was given to Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostom Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan in 2016 during the Travelling Peace Academy Training in Kerala. Rev. Dr. Victor Kazhanjian and Sally Mahe presented the award to Chrysostom in a colourful meeting.



# കേരളകാവ്യ കലാസാഹിതി അവാർഡ് ഭാരതീയ പ്രവാസിബന്ധു . എസ്.മുഹമ്മദിനു നൽകി



യു .എസ് എ അക്കാദമി ഓഫ് യൂണിവേഴ്സൽ പിസ് ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂഷൻറെ ഡോക്ടറേറ്റും (ഹോണററി ) മറ്റ് നിരവധി പുരസ്കാരങ്ങളും നേടിയ ഡോ : പ്രവാസി ബന്ധു എസ് അഹമ്മദിന് യു.ആർ. ഐ യുടെ കേരളത്തിലെ ഏറ്റവും വലിയ യൂണിറ്റായ കേരളകാവ്യ കലാസാഹിതി അവാർഡ് നൽകി ആദരിച്ചു .കൊട്ടാരക്കര കുരാക്കാർ സെന്റർ -ൽ കൂടിയ വാർഷിക സമ്മേളനത്തിൽ കവികൾ ,കലാകാരന്മാർ ,അദ്ധ്യാപകർ ,സിനിമാപ്രവർത്തകർ ,സാമൂഹ്യപ്രവർത്തകർ തുടങ്ങി ജീവിതത്തിൻറെ വിവിധ മേഖലകളിൽ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്ന നൂറിലധികം പേർ പങ്കെടുത്തു . ജൂൺ രണ്ടാം തീയതി 2 .30 pm നു കൂടിയ യോഗത്തിൽ കേരളകാവ്യ കലാ സാഹിതി പ്രസിഡന്റ് പ്രൊഫ്.ജോൺ കുരാ കാർ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷത വഹിച്ചു . വാർഷിക സമ്മേളനം U.R.Iയുത്ത് ലീഡർ മിസ്സ് എലിസാ {ന്യൂയോർക്ക് } ഉത്ഘാടനം ചെയ്തു . മാതാ ഗുരുപ്രിയ അനുഗ്രഹ പ്രഭാഷണം നടത്തി . യു.ആർ .ഐ ഏഷ്യാ സെക്രട്ടറി ജനറൽ ഡോക്ടർ എബ്രഹാം കരിക്കം ,ശ്രീ . ശിവ വിജയ് { ഉത്തർ പ്രദേശ് } ശ്രീ .നീലേശ്വരം സദാശിവൻ ,ശ്രീ . ജി .ബാലകൃഷ്ണൻ നായർ ,ശ്രീ . രാമചന്ദ്രൻ നായർ , ഡോക്ടർ ജേക്കബ് കുരാക്കാർ , കോട്ടാരതല ശ്രീകുമാർ ,ഡോക്ടർ അനിൽ കുമാർ ,ശ്രീ .വാസുദേവൻ നായർ, അഡ്വക്കേറ്റ് സാജൻ കോശി ,ശ്രീമതി ചിന്നമ്മ ജോൺ , കൊട്ടാരക്കര സുധർമ്മ ടീച്ചർ ,ശ്രീ .കെ സുകേരള കാവ്യ കാലാ സാഹിതി .കുഞ്ഞച്ചൻ പരുത്തിയറ , ജി .ബാലകൃഷ്ണൻ നായർ , ജനറൽ സെക്രട്ടറി അഡ്വ . സാജൻ കോശി കമ്മറ്റി അംഗങ്ങളായ ഹ റികുമാർ , അജികുമാർ , കെ. സുരേഷ് കുമാർ എന്നിവർ പൊന്നാട അണിയിച്ച് പ്രവാസി എസ് അഹമ്മദിനെ ആദരിച്ചു കേരള കാവ്യ കാലാ സാഹിതി പ്രസിഡന്റ് പ്രൊഫ്. ജോൺ കുരാക്കാർ , U.R.Iയുത്ത് ലീഡർ മിസ്സ് എലിസാ {ന്യൂയോർക്ക്} എന്നിവർ ഒരുമിച്ച് കേരള കാവ്യ കാലാ സാഹിതി അവാർഡും പുരസ്കാരവും ശ്രീ . അഹമ്മദിന് സമ്മാനിച്ചു . അനുമോദനങ്ങൾക്ക് നന്ദി പ്രകാശിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ശ്രീ .ഭാരതീയ പ്രവാസിബന്ധു എസ് .അഹമ്മദ് മറുപടി പ്രസംഗം നടത്തി . സമ്മേളനത്തിൽ വച്ച് അദ്ധ്യാപിക ശ്രീമതി ചിന്നു .പി തരകൻ രചിച്ച " ക്രിസ്തുമസ്സ് കരോൾ " എന്ന ചെറുകഥാ സമാഹാരം ഡോക്ടർ എബ്രഹാം കരിക്കം പ്രകാശനം ചെയ്തു .അനുമോദന സമ്മേളനത്തോടനുബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള 25 കവികൾ പങ്കെടുത്ത കവിയരങ്ങ് ശ്രീ. എൻ അനിൽ പവിത്രേശ്വരം ഉത്ഘാടനം ചെയ്തു . കവി ആറ്റുവാശ്ശേരി സുകുമാരൻ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷത വഹിച്ചു. സഹദേവൻ പവിത്രേശ്വരം മോഹൻകുമാർ, കൊട്ടാരക്കര സുധർമ്മ, ചേനപ്പാറ സഹദേവൻ ,വെട്ടിക്കവല രാമചന്ദ്രൻ, സുരേഷ് കുമാർ കൊട്ടാരക്കര, അജയൻ കൊട്ടാറ, അനിൽ കുമാർ ആന്റർ എന്നിവർ കവിയരങ്ങിൽ പങ്കെടുത്തു.



### The Nuclear Prayer

The beginning and the End are in your hands, O Creator of the Universe. And in our hands, you have placed the fate of this planet. We, who are tested by having both creative and destructive power in our free will, turn to you in sober fear and intoxicating hope. We ask for your guidance and to share in your imagination in our deliberations about the use of nuclear force. Help us to lift the fog of atomic darkness that hovers so pervasively over our Earth, Your Earth, so that soon all eyes may see life magnified by your pure light. Bless all of us who wait today for your Presence and who dedicate ourselves to achieve your intended peace and rightful equilibrium on Earth. In the Name of all that is holy and all that is hoped. Amen.

The Rt. Rev. William E. Swing, President and Founder  
United Religions Initiative (URI), [www.uri.org](http://www.uri.org) & [www.nuclearprayer.org](http://www.nuclearprayer.org)

## UNITED RELIGIONS INITIATIVE – VYK - IRDRP - SADHANA

*Jointly Organizing*

South India Conference on

**Community Based Disaster Management & Mitigation**

*In association with Kerala State Disaster Management Authority*

**During 20 to 22 August 2018 .**

**Venue: Chaithanya Camp Centre, Thellakom, Kottayam**

### Background:

Significant changes are taking place in the climatic condition, resulting in the frequency and severity of the related hazards increasing and spreading into the new geographical areas of South India. By and large, the people are not aware enough to cope with the climate change impacted major hazards. The expected outcome of this conference is to have awareness and to develop essential coping mechanism at grass root level communities in the area.

### Community Based Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation.

The fundamental principle of community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) involves the development of bottom-up processes arising from the communities themselves.

Development is based on the community's specific needs and its aspirations for safety, and appropriate actions to address these. The CBDM & M conference provides an opportunity for practitioners to learn, upgrade and share essential skills and knowledge to systematically address disaster risk reduction challenges at the community level and to facilitate the processes to reduce disaster risk of vulnerable communities.

### Medium of language and Expected participants:

Since the conference is being jointly organized by VYK partners from three South Indian States, the medium of language is desirable to be in English. We expect participants mainly from disaster prone areas. The total number of 80 persons is proposed to be accommodated in the camp. The participants are expected to be involved in the decision maker level / C.E.Os, department heads, disaster management practitioners, etc., of the organizations of South India based NGOs, local government institutions, as panchayats, blocks, etc. ; but will be kept open for selected participants from Sri Lanka for this conference.

Boarding, lodging and conference hall facilities are in the same compound with average standard quality of services. The interested participants are to register their name before **10<sup>th</sup> August 2018**. Accommodation, food and snacks during the conference are provided free of cost.

For more details and Registration Form, Please contact: URI Office:

**Email [urikarickam12@gmail.com](mailto:urikarickam12@gmail.com) Phone : 0474 – 266 3903 / 9746712009.**



# BON VOYAGE



Greshma P Raju, Intern at URI Office, Karickam, Kottarakara has been selected by United Nations mandated University for Peace, Costa Rica to pursue MA in International Peace Studies. The university was established by the United Nations General Assembly through its resolution 35/55. The University's mission is "to provide humanity with an international institution of higher education for peace and with the aim of promoting among all human beings the spirit of understanding, tolerance and peaceful coexistence, to stimulate cooperation among peoples and to help lessen obstacles and threats to world peace and progress, in keeping with the noble aspirations proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations. "

Congrats and best wishes for her success from URI Family.

*Chief Editor:*  
*Dr. Abraham Karickam*

*Editor:*  
*K.G Mathaikutty*

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## **Third URI Asia Assembly, Sri Lanka (October 5 to 7)** **Sarvodaya Institute of Higher Learning. Bandaragama**

Theme: “ **UNITED FOR PEACE ; TRANSCENDING BOUNDARIES**”

Third URI Asia Assembly will be held at Sarvodaya Institute of Higher Learning from 5 to 7 October 2018. The theme will be “**UNITED FOR PEACE ; TRANSCENDING BOUNDARIES**”. 125 delegates from different Asian countries will attend.