

**THE 26th IFNGO WORLD CONFERENCE,
22nd IFNGO ASEAN NGO's WORKSHOP and IFNGO YOUTH WORKSHOP ON PREVENTION OF
DRUG & SUBSTANCE ABUSE, PUTRAJAYA & MELAKA, MALAYSIA**

Report



Opening Ceremony

As the President of IFNGO, Mr. Nuno Jorge, representing OFAP, participated in the 26th IFNGO World Conference. The conference is organized by PEMADAM Malaysia, the theme is "Healthy Wholesome Communities: No Drugs". For the first time, three main events running concurrently during the conference, including the 22nd IFNGO ASEAN NGO's Workshop and the ASEAN Youth Workshop. Participants from these three events come together on the final day of the main conference.



Delegates and Board of IFNGO

This four days conference provided a forum for the exchange and sharing of information, ideas and innovative modalities for prevention of drug and substance abuse.

On the last day of the conference, recommendations are reached to ensure continuity and sustainability of drug and substance abuse prevention programs and modalities. The modalities are made for primary, secondary and tertiary



Conference Hall

prevention that proven to be effective in the prevention of drug and substance abuse and related issues.

The recommendations also focus on global burden of disease from alcohol-tobacco consumption and reiterate the importance of national and regional program and policies for drug prevention. It stressed the importance of religion and family in helping the youth to pursue happy, healthy, and wholesome drug-free lifestyles.

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 26th IFNGO WORLD CONFERENCE,
22nd IFNGO ASEAN NGO's WORKSHOP and IFNGO YOUTH WORKSHOP ON PREVENTION OF
DRUG & SUBSTANCE ABUSE, PUTRAJAYA & MELAKA, MALAYSIA
On 15th – 18th November, 2015.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. To urge Governments to recognize that the level of current total global consumption of alcoholic beverages is a major health issue with serious social and economic impact and to encourage governments to implement effective evidence-based policies and strategies.
- B. To urge all N.G.O.s to advocate for the promulgation of a FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON ALCOHOL CONTROL (F.C.A.C.) along the lines of the successful WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (W.H.O.) FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL (F.C.T.C.).
- C. To urge our respective Governments to remove alcoholic beverages and tobacco products at duty-free outlets as well as to de-list them from the World Trade Organization (W.T.O.) list and Free Trade Agreements. (F.T.A.).
- D. To urge relevant Governments to ban direct as well as indirect advertising, promotion and sponsorship of alcoholic beverages in the same vein as the ban on advertising of tobacco products.
- E. To advocate that the formulation of alcohol policy by Government should be devoid of any influence by Industry players.
- F. To recommend that countries with inhalant abuse problems enact comprehensive legislation to prevent inhalant abuse.
- G. To urge N.G.O.s to make greater use of Positive Role Models in their Preventive Education and Social Re-integration Programmes.
- H. To urge all drug rehabilitation programmes to encourage the involvement of the recovering and recovery population.

- I. To urge N.G.O.s to advocate that all drug prevention and rehabilitation programmes both institutional and community-based, ensure a comprehensive approach and involvement of all stake holders.
- J. To remind all affiliates of IFNGO that proper capacity building is indispensable for implementing programmes to achieve the objectives of our organizations, and recommend the development of the same as a priority concern.
- K. To urge N.G.O.s to make greater use of ICT, the Internet and have on-line programmes using all the existing as well as new innovative communication channels to outreach the new generation.

As the President of IFNGO, Mr. Nuno Jorge also gave a speech on “Empowering Family & Community.” Below is the text from Mr. Jorge.

Chairperson, Excellencies,

Dear Members of IFNGO, Delegates and Participants

My Friends:

I was asked to speak on this subject, possibly on account of my concurrent position as President of OFAP – the Organization of the Families of Asia and the Pacific. I must say that, for some time, I hesitated to accept, since “Empowering Family and Empowering Community” is a recurrent theme, which has been object of many important and kind words, from people wiser than me – without really encouraging results. It seems to be a long and meandering road, where progress is very slow.

It would be easy to resolve this issue by saying that, like a growing child, a time must come when they must walk with their



Mr. Jorge delivering a speech

own legs... Or, less charitably, “slaves cannot be freed, they must free themselves”: and we know the outcome of the many rebellions, through History...

But it is true that there must be an underlying will, or, at least, interest, from the concerned entities to be empowered: however, we cannot expect, in the same manner of a flower, to successfully plant it, without the right conditions and environment, followed careful nurturing.

Let begin with FAMILY, since the Community is based on and derives from this basic building cell.

I will not define it closely, since this concept have many expressions around the world. Just let me assume, loosely, as a minimum common denominator, that it is a group of people, intimately interacting and supporting each other, with the objective and joint responsibility of raising future generations.

FUTURE GENERATIONS: newborn babies, toddlers, teenagers, young adults, who will be the citizens of their community, who will organize and develop their community in the future, who will be the agents for empowering their community. Consequently, Family, without the creation of a future generation of concerned, responsible and involved citizens, will be weak, and the resulting community inoperative.

I am very sure that, in any family, a measure of love is a blessing that is rarely lacking. Material support usually follows.

INSTRUCTION can be

more or less taken from granted, albeit, unfortunately, not in all corners of the World. Unfortunately, I am not so sure that, understanding [mutual understanding], communication with the resulting intimacy, and sincere convictions, among other requirements that make up for a proper, convincing and sustained EDUCATION, is so prevalent.



Delegates at the Conference

Without education, and continued family support, a new member of the family, of the community -- and society -- will be very much a “self-made” citizen, sometimes estranged from family and friends, thus becoming, eventually, a weak link in the community. These conditions favor a sense of detachment, a fertile ground for unhealthy, even unsocial, or self-destructive behaviour, from where, for instance, drug and substance abuse – and other addictions – may well develop. Certainly, this can be enhanced by the misuse of the many new advances in science and technology, marvels still untamed, such as internet and world wide communication: if you wish, for instance, the increasing dependency on mobile appliances facilitating impersonal contact, instead of a more involving face to face interaction.

In all this, allow me a personal aside, in that I am saddened, by my conviction, that the total self-sufficiency and independence, so cherished [by some] of the younger generations, is but a road to loneliness, in late years of life...

It is been said, very truly, that “the whole tribe is needed to raise a child”, or, in modern terms, “no Man is an island”. What we verify, transversally, around the world, no doubt fueled by economic necessity, is that the traditional extended family is becoming ever smaller, and the resulting nuclear family, not to mention the single parent family, very much unsupported. Growing Future Generations are, ever more, from a very early age, entrusted to institutions,, which, as competent as they may be, are, indeed, transient in the course of the years, and certainly not as warm and well rooted, as the family itself, namely via their Grandparents, or even “adopted” ones.

Because of the limitations inherent to this presentation, I have put on table just a very simple set of reasons, to explain why this “empowering” is not really expected to happen... Tomorrow? Unless by a “magic wand”...

The reality call is that, like all good things in life, they must be relentlessly hard fought and worked on. Like most good things in life, it requires a sincere collective effort, born from clear evidence and convincing need.

As with the flower in the garden, a gardener is needed to provide the necessary conditions for it to grow, and, then nurture it to fruition. I can see such a role for the entirety of society, indeed for the whole nation, before family and community may flourish. Then, and only then, they will be able to walk with their own legs.

Society has leaders, who are concerned with Family, in accordance with their own different circumstances, culture and stage of development; they must endeavor to strengthen this very important basic cell, by resolving both old and new challenges progressively threatening it, in so many different ways.

Perhaps by starting a dialog, when needed, in which economic ambitions are not paramount, but humanity is. By enhancing each one's roots with the best of the traditions of each community, offering solidarity hand in hand with reciprocal responsibility: when no one will be alone, else finding a brother or a sister in a neighbour, in a process where, while liberty is shared, license is rejected.

In a change from the main trust in money, particularly wealth much in excess from what is reasonably needed for one self, and one's children and grandchildren as well, to the emphasis in the dignity of the human being. A change that will inevitably come, when it becomes evident to all, that "there is no one so poor that there is nothing he may give, nor anyone so rich that there is nothing he may need to receive"; in other words, the assumption of cooperative CITIZENSHIP by everyone, specially, future generations, without whom there will be no purpose.

This will take time and effort. Even if success is not assured, it must be pursued, led by those best positioned to take the initiative.

"Empowering Families and Community"?

At the end of the day, it lies in the hands and will of Persons of Reference and in the example of Respected Leaders.

Leaders and Persons such as yourselves, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you for bearing with me.

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Nuno Maria Roque Jorge,

President (2007-2009, 2013-2015), IFNGO

The General Meeting of IFNGO is also held to determine the President-elect for 2017-2019, Mr. Augusto Nogueira, the President of ARTM, concurrently the Vice President of OFAP is elected. OFAP will continue to give full supports for members of IFNGO.

IFNGO MANAGEMENT BOARD 2015 – 2017

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Mr. Augusto Nogueira and his staff at the conference