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**Study of the United States Institute on Religious Pluralism, Summer 2018:
Scholars and Students See Democratic Process in Real Time**

Once again, SUSI scholars and SUSI students representing universities across the globe came together this summer in Philadelphia to engage in issues of Democracy and Religious Pluralism with the Dialogue Institute. Visiting scholars from sixteen different countries entered the last week of their six-week study tour in Washington, D.C. as nineteen Middle Eastern students began their five-week journey in our nation's capital. Upon student arrival, scholars hosted a learning exchange session in which the scholars shared some of their most formative moments in the program with the eager students.

This session was followed up with visits to the Capital building and the Supreme Court before ending with a large group dinner. During this overlap, the thirty-five visiting

scholars and students had the unique opportunity of visiting the United States Supreme Court on the day President Trump announced his nomination for Supreme Court Justice. Both groups engaged in dialogue amongst the SUSI group, as well as entered into conversation with Americans standing in line waiting to tour the site. All SUSI participants were able to hear the opinions of Americans on the democratic process, and speculate on the Supreme Court nominee. Scholars and students witnessed Americans protesting the nomination, the media covering those protestors, and those who supported the nomination. It was a chance for the international exchange groups to gain a first-hand account of how such important decisions are made in the United States and how such decisions evoke a wide array of responses from the American public. This site visit sparked numerous comments about the United States Constitution and what specifically freedom of speech means in America.

The Supreme Court visit was also an excellent opportunity for the SUSI participants to witness the role the media plays in the recording of historic events. After such an explorative site visit, SUSI scholars went on to complete their last week in Washington, D.C. which involved a visit to the United States Department of State and the United States Institute of Peace. The SUSI students went on to Philadelphia, PA, to dive deeper into the foundations of democracy and religious pluralism.

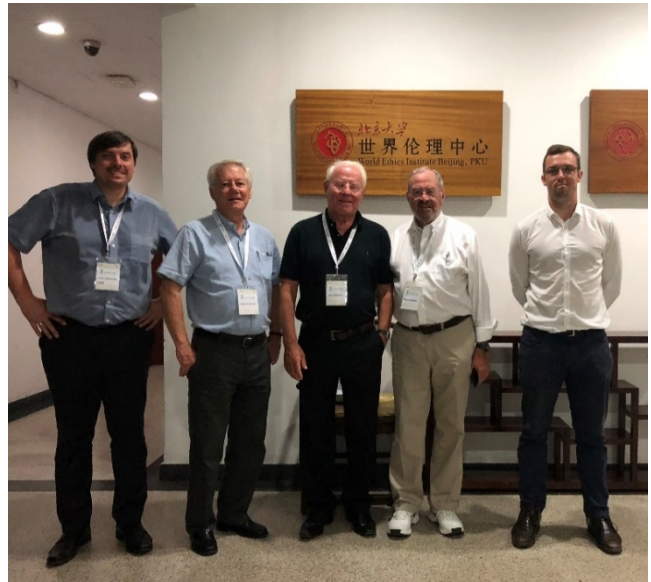
The Dialogue Institute hosts Global Ethic Panel at Parliament of the World's Religions



Dialogue Institute staff spent a week in Toronto, Canada, the first week of November to participate in the Parliament of the World's Religions. First held in 1893, it launched a modern interreligious movement that called for the respect and understanding among differing religious traditions. At the centenary event in 1993, Catholic theologians Leonard Swidler and Hans Kung drafted guiding principles for a global ethic. The Parliament has advanced the document that names 4 principle guidelines: 1. Commitment to a Culture of Non-violence and Respect for Life, 2. Commitment to a Culture of Solidarity and a Just Economic Order, 3. Commitment to a Culture of Tolerance and a Life of Truthfulness, and 4. Commitment to a Culture of Equal Rights and Partnership Between Men and Women. In this recent year, scholar Myriam Renaud led the Parliament in drafting and adopting a new fifth principle to focus on regeneration of earth resources, a Commitment to a Culture of Sustainability.

The Dialogue Institute showcased our most recent projects while connecting with old and new friends at the Parliament of World's Religions during the first week of November. Len Swidler participated in a panel, hosted by the Dialogue Institute, at the Parliament on the Global Ethic alongside colleagues Myriam Renaud and Stephan Schlensoeg. Renaud developed and revealed the fifth Global Ethic directive on sustainability in Toronto while Schlensoeg has been working closely with Hans Küng on the

DI participates in the 24th World Congress on Philosophy in Beijing, China



Professor Swidler has taught over three decades in China, Japan, and Indonesia. He became good colleagues with Professor Tu Weiming of the Institute for Advanced Humanities at Beijing University. The two professors have been leaders in strategic Neo-Confucian and Christian dialogue.

In using his legacy to advance the work of the DI, Professor Swidler recommended Board Chair Majid Alsayegh and DI Executive Director Howard Cohen attend this year's Congress. Both DI representatives were able to go and participated in a day-long session on Spiritual Humanism and Global Business. Four panels were presented: 1) Spiritual Humanism and a World Ethos, 2) Spiritual Humanism in Global Business: Harmony without Uniformity, 3) Humanistic Education for Global Business, and 4) Spiritual Humanism in Global Business: Case Studies. Majid Alsayegh spoke on panel 2 and Howard Cohen on panel 3.

The close of the event focused on a final plenary session with Professor Tu Weiming speaking to the importance of Confucian knowledge in understanding global values. He spoke of the connections between self, community, nature and heaven and how enlightenment requires harmony with nature and with heaven created by an interplay between rootedness and self-transcendence.

further development of the Global Ethic. This collaborative session was a dialogue on the history, development and future of the Global Ethic which addressed the sustainable aspects of dialogue about a global ethos.

In addition to hosting the Global Ethic panel, the Dialogue Institute worked a booth in exhibit hall during the week. We are grateful for our old friends who stopped by to continue dialogue, as well as for those who came to our booth to begin new connections. The Dialogue Institute spent the week in Toronto working to further our Dialogue Training Programs as well as initiate future collaborations and are excited to announce new initiatives in 2019.

2018 Jordanian SUSI Student Alumna Wins Grant For Her Action Plan



Recent SUSI participant, Linda Jaber, received a grant from the King Abdullah Foundation for the completion of her SUSI action plan. Linda Jaber was a participant from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the DI's SUSI summer 2018 program: Democracy and Religious Pluralism.

As a recent graduate of the English Language and Translation department from Middle East University, Linda left the SUSI program wanting to create a project in which students from around the

globe can understand, and participate in global diversity. Her recent work as a translator with the Young Woman's FIFA Championship in 2017 accelerated her into global thinking. Linda's action plan focused on engaging youth through social media and community service.

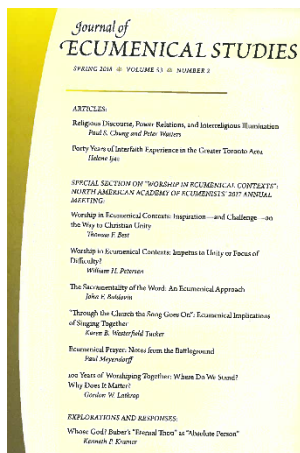
The Dialogue Institute board and staff would like to extend their congratulations to Linda. We are always

DI staff were able to meet and speak in depth with Tu Weiming and representatives from the Schlecht Foundation in Germany who helped to sponsor the DI involvement.

The Karl Schlecht Foundation in Germany works to provide leadership in setting values in businesses and society. The hope is to create norms for cooperation that can replicate wisdom for peaceful relationships across differing sectors of society. The founder, Karl Schlecht, uses the following questions as one basis for identifying norms and a person's self-assessment:

- Is it the truth?
- Am I honest, open-minded, and straightforward?
- Is it fair to all concerned
- Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Summer 2018 Journal of Ecumenical Studies



Our latest issue including, "Religious Discourse, Power Relations, and Interreligious Illumination" by Paul S. Chung and Peter Watter

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DI's SUSI Program Helps to Train Young Malaysian Parliament Member



Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman has become a member in the Malaysian Parliament. Syed, who will turn 26 on December 6, 2018, was sworn in as the 18th Youth and Sports Minister on Monday (July 2). We at the DI are proud to make this announcement because Syed was a SUSI participant in the winter of 2015. He was articulate and ambitious at that time and we wish him well in this new endeavor.

The youngest of four children, the Johor-born Syed's appointment to a full minister role under the new

excited to see the accomplishments of our young leaders and cannot wait to hear updates on the project Linda is leading in Jordan.

Pakatan Harapan government is also historic in itself, as he is the youngest ever minister in the history of the country.