



EDITORIAL

LET'S SHAKE HANDS

Cheers, all friends, well-wishers and Advisors, in an inaugural of first E-bulletin of Asian Humanist Alliance (AHA)-IHEYO. We can not express our happiness of this event in words.

During the IHEYO conference in India 2006, a deem voice about formation of youth Humanist Alliance turns into an Asian level vow this time for the promotion of humanist activism among youngsters. Many youth organizations are joining hands to make loud humanly voice for fulfillment of our mission.

Our mission is to promote awareness among Asians and making them happy as we imagine through humanist logo (H). For this we have to face many challenges in future. It is our strength that AHA-IHEYO has very keen and dedicated group members. It has generated us more courage that will be able to tear the society of injustice, where in there is the resign of superstitions, fundamentalism, dogmatism, irrationalism etc.

Asia is still taken as a place where the human rights violation occurs mostly and is suffering from regime of religion. It also taken as a nest of superstitions and terrorism. We all youngsters' needs to fight against it untill mission accomplishes. In this time we are fighting for democracy wherein justice and equality prevails for all. We are committed to achieve the goal although it has a very long way. We are glad for our first step towards our mission by publishing this e-bulletin. We are sure there are many youngstars who are willing to join their foot towards same mission.

We are optimistic about strong contribution for the betterment of the society where there would be eradication of bloodsheds & human discrimination. Firstly lets' try to make every policy makers and activists more rational, scientific, secular, ethical. We can plant the seeds of humanism in every individual through those social change makers.

We also invite all the readers in a same yard from where we start the journey of justice, love, tolerance, peace, development and democracy. Let's start journey carefully against war and violence, let's go to people with the idea of science and creativity for better social civilization.

AHA is the Asian part of the IHEYO which is the daughter of International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU). AHA is committed to foster same knowledge throughout Asia by youngsters. We have responsibility to promote humanist idea by making strong steps of newly born baby AHA- IHEYO.

AHA-IHEYO is planning to organise Asian level young humanist conference soon. It would be the exiting moment for us. We are passionate that, by this event we can collect and groom more active and dedicated young humanists in our journey.

If you do have same interest to be active leader and want to join us for collective work for betterment of this society, let's join hands. If we have already joined hands, let's shake it again for more courage and energy.



GREETINGS

Sonja Eggerickx

IHEU President

(International Humanist Ethical Union)

Dear Young Humanist Friends in Asia,

It is with great pleasure that I send you my greetings and wishes of success for the immense work you are undertaking for humanism in Asia and for that in the world.

There is still a lot of work to do for Humanists, but as long as there are human beings who are concerned with what happens in their neighbourhood, in their countries, in the world,..., there is hope for a better world where humanism is important, where there is no room for fundamentalism, nor for oppression of other human beings, where freedom of speech, freedom of opinion, is highly respected, where there is peace...

I more than welcome your initiative and sincerely hope that the seeds of what you are planting today will be the basis of a strong rationalist movement.

Gea Meijers

Former President

IHEYO

Dear humanist friends!

With warm feelings I think of your countries, remembering the time I was there last year, which gave me the opportunities to meet many of you!

The coming and ending of years is a moment to look forward and reflect. In doing so I would like to give you the following small thoughts to think about.

Humanism is not only about not putting responsibility for your life into someone else's hands (like in hands of Gods), but moreover it is a positive philosophy and ethics with many inspiring thinkers that can enrich you while shaping and giving meaning to your life. It is about free thinking -no dogmas- as much as it is about the art to shape your life, *lebenskunde* in German, the art of living, *levenskunst* in my language, you will know how to translate it to your language hopefully.

Making living an art is about being conscious on how to live your life, being ethical and being happy. I am then not talking about temporarily moments of thrills. I think a life full of chasing after hedonistic pleasure or instant happiness does not provide for a feeling of overall happiness. Struggle, caring for others, achievement, pushing one's boundaries is equally part of life and the combination of the two is important.

Art of living is about a feeling of content you have about your life in general. Happiness as part of the art of living would be for me, to quote the philosopher Paul Bruckner: 'A successful life is a life that finds its recognition in the way it goes apparently, and how a person, no matter how modest it is, would not want to swap its life for any other life'. I hope you experience this in your life and that with this you can find strength to follow your own path.

Lars-Petter Helgestad

President

IHEYO

"Dear Young Asian Humanists! Please receive my best wishes for your important humanist work in 2008. I look forward to hearing more about you and your organisations in the coming year!



STATEMENT

Asian Humanist Alliance, AHA-IHEYO

MISSION

To foster the humanist idea among youths in Asia.

VISION

All Asians with humanistic life stance. (Where in such humanistic approach reflects in action while tackling issues big or small.)

ACTIVITIES

- Increasing the membership (Not only in terms of quantum but also in terms of commitment)
- Discussions and participation of youth. (Discussions for action. Even though little but participation and involvement is very much needed.)
- Regional based conferences. (Both Inter and Intra based. Certain issues may be confined to a country but some may be for the entire region for which later we can consolidate.)
- E-bulletin. (To share information. Everyone can contribute based on their activities. Everyone to think and respond)
- Fund raising (To strengthen the activities.)
- Identification and sharing of collective working areas. (Issue based Inter/intra youth assemblies, Networking with other groups with identical objectives, Developing need specific programs.)

Member Organisations of AHA-IHEYO

S.N.	Country	Organisation	Contact
1.	India	Atheist Center	atheistcentre@rediffmail.com
2.	Nepal	CIRA	rajupc80@gmail.com
3.	Nepal	SOCH Nepal	sochnepal@gmail.com
4.	Nepal	HUMAN, Youth	humanyouth@hotmail.com
5.	Nepal	RAFAJ, Youth	humanism@wlink.com.np
6.	India	Prayatna Foundation	prayatnafoundation@rediffmail.com
7.	India	Tarksheel Society Punjab	tarksheel_azad@hotmail.com
8.	Pakistan	(CRY)	cry_pk@yahoo.com
9.	Pakistan	Aware Girl	aware_girls@poetic.com
10.	Nepal	MAPS	info@maps.org.np
11.	India	SDF	vbrawat@gmail.com

Brief Introduction to our member organisations will be published in upcoming E-bulletin of AHA-IHEYO.

Set Activities of AHA-IHEYO for 2007/2008

1	Identifying local group and activities
2	E-bulletin
3	Website update (IHEYO website)
4	Create an email group for regular discussion
5	Steering Committee Meeting
6	Organising Conference/workshop
7	Fundraising