

International Encounters

Réseau Lebret Network



*Working paper*

**YOUTH  
IN THE FACE OF TODAY'S  
GLOBAL CRISES**

Report on the international youth encounter  
jointly organized by

**Centre Lebret-Irfed and AREDS**

*Karur, Tamil Nadu, India  
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Développement et Civilisations  
Lebret - Irfed

49 rue de la Glacière  
75013 Paris  
France

Tél. +33 1 47 07 10 07  
Fax : +33 1 47 07 68 66

[www.lebret-irfed.org](http://www.lebret-irfed.org)

Email : [contact@lebret-irfed.org](mailto:contact@lebret-irfed.org)

Director: Isabelle Duquesne



Renganathapuram Post  
Krishnarayapuram T.K. Pin 639108  
Karur District  
Tamil Nadu  
India

Tel. + 91 4324 250618  
91 94431 50618 (mobile)  
Fax: + 91 4324 207420

[www.aredsindia.org](http://www.aredsindia.org)

Email: [aredsind@gmail.com](mailto:aredsind@gmail.com)

Director: Lourthusamy Arokiasamy



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## Les points forts de la rencontre

La rencontre internationale « Jeunes face aux crises globales » qui s'est tenue à Karur dans le sud de l'Inde du 20 au 26 mai 2009, est la première initiative conjointe que le Centre Lebret-IrfeD et AREDS consacrent spécifiquement à de jeunes dirigeants.

Avec en arrière-plan, les crises financières et écologiques, il nous a paru primordial d'ouvrir un espace de réflexion collective internationale qui s'adresse à des jeunes socialement et professionnellement engagés, provenant, pour cette première étape, majoritairement d'Asie.

Nous avons voulu entendre quelles sont les réponses mises en œuvre par ces jeunes adultes pour faire face aux conséquences des crises. Leur permettre de parler de leurs situations locales et d'échanger avec les jeunes leaders d'autres pays ou régions, nous semblait un bon moyen pour mutualiser leurs initiatives et renforcer leurs capacités à travailler durablement pour le changement social.

Nous avons été heureux de voir l'enthousiasme avec lequel ce défi a été accepté ! L'intérêt manifesté par les participants pour les différentes activités du programme, a été remarquable, depuis le questionnaire préparatoire plusieurs mois avant la rencontre jusqu'aux séances de « *Playback Theater* » à la toute fin... Nous avons perçu une telle générosité dans l'engagement de ces jeunes : leur participation aux ateliers, leur volonté d'apprendre autant que possible, leur soucis de rapporter chez eux et dans leurs organisations ces clés de compréhension forgées ensemble, ces promesses de garder le contact au travers d'un réseau qui fonctionnerait de manière créative...

### Une demande de reconnaissance

Les débats, en ateliers ou en plénières, ont fait émerger combien ces jeunes ont besoin - et exigent- d'être reconnus. Reconnus économiquement et socialement : ils ont dit leurs grandes difficultés d'accès à la sécurité alimentaire, au travail, à un environnement

non toxique. Reconnus politiquement : ils demandent que l'on accorde plus de confiance en leurs capacités à proposer des solutions et des alternatives afin d'améliorer les situations dégradées dans leurs communautés.

### Le lien entre local et global

Les personnes-ressources, choisies pour apporter des éclairages sur les questions globales comme la crise financière ou le changement climatique, ont permis de mieux comprendre les situations vécues au niveau local – et par conséquent de mieux savoir comment agir... L'un des exemples est le phénomène d'accaparement des terres agricoles par les compagnies privées, dont sont victimes de façon croissante les communautés autochtones.

Il est également apparu clairement que l'actualité des crises financières et environnementales n'était une nouveauté pour aucun d'entre eux. Leurs communautés souffrent de plein fouet, et doivent déjà gérer, les impacts des catastrophes, naturelles ou liées aux activités humaines : pauvreté, chômage, déplacements de populations...

Le vrai choc, pour beaucoup d'entre eux, fut de se rendre compte que la situation allait empirer et les affecter encore plus durement. Mais leur réponse a été de continuer, avec volonté et courage, à s'informer, échanger des nouvelles, construire des réseaux « Jeunes »...

### L'amitié pour dépasser la barrière des langues et n'exclure personne

Le climat de réelle amitié qui s'est développé entre les jeunes participants malgré les différences culturelles, a apporté beaucoup de joie et de plaisir tout au long de l'expérience. Cela a sûrement contribué à surmonter la barrière des langues, à rendre plus vivants les processus d'apprentissage et à renforcer l'appropriation par les jeunes des informations et savoirs nouveaux.

Certains participants avaient de réelles

difficultés avec l'anglais (moyen de communication employé). Mais ceci ne les a pas exclu de la réflexion en profondeur, les autres jeunes et les organisateurs s'arrangeant de façon souple et informelle pour que des traductions simultanées leur permette de débattre.

Cela réaffirme avec force l'importance de donner, aux militants locaux et à ceux qui travaillent sur le terrain, l'opportunité de participer malgré les difficultés de langues. Ils ont hautement apprécié d'avoir la chance de replacer dans un contexte internationale leurs questions et priorités locales, et de bénéficier des « échanges entre pairs » venus d'autres pays.

Pour les organisateurs, il s'agissait aussi de gérer la difficile - mais incontournable - question : comment entendre et travailler avec les plus pauvres et marginalisés, ceux qui n'ont jamais la parole ?

### Accueillir et rencontrer pour comprendre et respecter

Nous avons parlé d'apprentissage collectif se construisant dans la joie. Il nous faut aussi dire l'importance de la gentillesse et de la générosité des Tamouls (population de Karur) qui nous ont accueillis. Le déroulement de la rencontre dans les locaux d'AREDS et SWATE (organisation de femmes) et son articulation avec les activités de ces deux organisations ont permis une situation d'apprentissage idéale. Plus d'un participant a perçu l'intérêt de s'en inspirer pour ses propres engagements professionnels et militants.

L'expérience relatée par Christi Samy (directrice de SWATE), l'engagement politique du « Front des femmes » aux dernières élections législatives, a motivé un grand nombre des participants et leur a ouvert les yeux sur l'importance d'inclure une dimension politique dans toute action qui vise à créer du changement social.

Les visites d'immersion culturelle, intégrées au programme, ont créé les conditions d'une meilleure compréhension d'autres cultures et sont, à ce titre, certainement essentielles au développement d'approches pluralistes pour faire face aux tensions qui marquent de nombreux pays dans le monde.

### Quelles perspectives après la rencontre ?

Cela fait maintenant un an que la rencontre a eu lieu. Les membres de ce réseau international « Jeunes » initié à Karur ont continué à se tenir au courant de leurs activités. Pour en citer quelques unes : cycles de formation-débat sur le lien entre questions locales et problèmes globaux ; camps pour la paix ; lobbying et plaidoyer pour les droits de l'Homme ; actions de défense de l'environnement ; travail avec les médias... Pour permettre ces échanges dans la durée, un des participants cambodgiens a créé un blog qui sert de « point de rencontre » à distance : <http://youthforalternatives.blogspot.com>

Les propositions élaborées par les participants, et présentées en p. 18 du présent rapport, sont le point de départ d'un possible programme à long terme du réseau « Jeunes ». Bien que chaque participant se soit chargé d'une tâche en lien avec ses centres d'intérêt, le besoin se fait sentir d'un effort qui structure le fonctionnement collectif.

Si l'échange d'information via emails est fondamental, il faudrait le compléter par des événements concrets qui ancreraient le réseau dans les réalités des participants et apporteraient des éléments nouveaux à leur travail ou engagement.

Enfin, l'idée initiale de l'axe thématique « Jeunes à l'heure des crises » est d'être un processus de réflexion itinérant dans différentes régions du monde. C'est précisément pour préparer les étapes suivantes - africaine, latino-américaine, européenne - que nous avons veillé à inclure dans la rencontre à Karur -étape asiatique de la réflexion- des participants d'autres continents.

Le Centre Lebret-Irled prépare avec le Réseau international Lebret les prochaines rencontres. Nous espérons que ce rapport saura susciter l'intérêt de nos partenaires à soutenir ce type de projets qui contribue à élaborer, dans la continuité, des outils de participation et de construction de savoirs et des espaces d'échange qui renforcent la capacité collective des jeunes à créer des alternatives face aux crises globales qui menacent partout la dignité humaine, la justice et le vivre-ensemble.

## Foreword: Main issues put forward by the encounter

The International Youth Encounter held in Karur was the first joint initiative of the Centre Lebret-Irfed and AREDS devoted to youth leaders. This effort to organize an international activity with young adults principally from Asia, was consciously taken to give the space to this very important mobilizing sector of society.

The encounter was organized with the context of the financial and ecological crises at the backdrop. We felt it was the opportunity to hear young people's responses to the deepening crises by looking into their own local situations and exchanging with other youth leaders from other countries, with the hope that they would inspire each other in their initiatives and reinforce their capacities to continue to work for change.

We were happy to see that the challenge was more than accepted! The interest shown by each of the participants through the various activities of the programme, starting from the preparatory work till the last activity with the playback theatre, was remarkable. We perceived a great generosity to contribute to the workshops and learn as much as they could, ready to take this acquired knowledge back home and to continue to network with each other in a creative manner.

### A call for recognition

From the various discussions, be those of the workshops or the plenary assemblies, one could sense their urgent need and call for recognition – economically and socially, as they expressed the great difficulties of young people today to accede to food, employment, and good and safe environment, and politically, as they demanded for greater confidence in their ability to propose solutions and alternatives to improve the degrading situations in their communities.

### Linking the local and the global

The information acquired from our speakers on the global issues of the financial crisis and climate change were eye-openers and helped understand to some extent why certain local situations were happening, for instance the phenomenon of land-grabbing which affects greatly the indigenous people. But it was also clear that the news outbreak about the financial and environmental crises was not a new situation for them locally. The effects on their communities, like poverty and unemployment, displacement of populations due to natural and man-made catastrophes were problems they were already dealing with.

What struck some of them was the fact that these situations would worsen and would even affect them more. How far would these difficulties go? Nonetheless, the will and the courage to continue to be informed, to exchange news and to build youth networks were the responses that came up.

### Overcoming language barriers through friendship

The spirit of friendship that developed among the participants, despite the different cultural backgrounds, brought lots of joy and fun in the experience. It surely helped overcome the language barrier and made learning more real and alive. Some of the participants had difficulties with English (the medium of communication) but this did not hinder them from in-depth exchanges. This also affirms the importance of giving the opportunity to local militant workers from the field to participate despite their difficulty in communicating in English: they appreciated so much this chance given to them to bring the message of the local to the international community and to benefit from the exchanges with other peers from "far-away". This is an issue that organizers need to address constantly : how can we make the poor and the marginalized participate better in international sessions?

### The means is the message

Speaking about real and joyful learning, we cannot not speak about this local territory, Karur and its Tamil population, including the AREDS staff, who welcomed us with so much kindness and generosity.

Having the encounter within the structures and activities of AREDS and SWATE (women organization) was a learning experience in itself, inspiring many to undertake similar initiatives back home. The political involvement of the “Women’s Front” in the last parliamentary elections in Karur, as shared by Christi, motivated many and gave them the conviction that the political dimension of any action was important to bring about change. The cultural visits that were integrated in the programme were likewise experiences at greater comprehension of another culture, certainly essential in developing pluralist approaches to the tensions that mark many countries today in the world.

### Which perspectives to develop?

A year after the holding of the encounter, the members of the Karur international youth network have continued to give each other feedbacks of what they have been doing, to name a few: training sessions and debates on local and global issues, peace camps and activities, lobbying work and human rights advocacy, environmental interventions, media productions. For continuous information and exchange, a blog has been created by one of

the Cambodian participants which serves as linking point for the participants in their work. <http://youthforalternatives.blogspot.com/>

The proposals noted at the end of the report certainly need to be taken up and developed further. Each participant had taken up a task in line with one’s interest but more effort is needed in implementing them collectively. An interesting long-term programme could be elaborated from these proposals. While exchanges of information through e-mails are fundamental, it would be important to have concrete events that could bring the participants together to strengthen the network and to bring in new elements in their work.

The idea to “keep the ball rolling” in the other continents (Africa, Latin America) may be one of these concrete actions that could be developed in the coming period. This was precisely the reason why we gave particular attention to having a number of participants from the other continents and not only from Asia. Centre Lebret-Irfed will have to continue to set up with them new encounters within the regional contexts.

We hope that this activity report will spark up interest amongst our partners and members of the Lebret international network and inspire them to give continued support to the youth and their activities —a way of truly helping them to build strong, informed and engaged youth networks that would pursue the search for alternative solutions to the crises, thus allowing people and communities to live better together.

Sally Rousset on behalf of  
Centre Lebret-Irfed and AREDS

Paris, 10th June 2010

## I. Objectives of the Youth Encounter

This international youth encounter entitled “Youth in the face of crises” was co-organized by the Centre Lebret-Irfed (Paris, France) and AREDS (Association for Rural Education and Development Service, Tamil Nadu, India) in Karur, Tamil Nadu, India, from May 20-26, 2009.

Held at the time of the outbreak of the financial crisis, the main objective of the encounter was to provide the opportunity for young leaders to come together, exchange and analyse from their own point of view, the current issues and problems that concern young people today in the context of the worsening world crises (economic, social, environmental).

The initiative was also meant to be an experience of intercultural dialogue, from the youth perspective. It contributes to deepening the reflection on DCL’s priority themes: “dialogue of civilizations and people’s development”; “civil society - public authority relationships”.

This joint endeavour with AREDS was a new occasion for strengthening further the partnership. AREDS not only shared its resources and training expertise, but also the life of the association amongst the Dalit communities in Tamil Nadu.

A declaration (see Annex A) was issued at the end of the encounter. It highlights a common shared vision as well as a collective engagement for concrete civil society and state action that would assure the access to youth rights on the social, political and economic spheres. In addition, the participants responded to the challenge of active networking among themselves, with the proposition of preparing a common action in a year’s time: “May 20, 2010: Youth Day for Alternatives”.

The project was financially supported by CCFD (France), Swiss Lenten Campaign, Entraide et Fraternité and Broederlijk Delen (Belgium) whom we thank greatly for their confidence in the project.

## II. Participants, their countries and organizations

Some 32 young women and men participated, with an average of 25 years of age, representing 24 organizations from 14 countries (1/3 young women - 1/3 from India, 2/3 from other countries).

Majority of the participants were from Asia, and a few from the other continents were also invited to enrich the debates and in preparation for similar initiatives in other regions (Africa, Latin America, Europe...).

The countries represented per region were:

- South Asia (India -from 4 states: Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Maharashtra; Bangladesh, Nepal)
- Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia)
- Far East (China, South Korea)
- Latin America (Brazil)
- Africa (D.R. of Congo)
- Europe (Czech Rep., France, Switzerland)

All the participants were members of organizations or networks linked to Centre Lebret-Irfed and AREDS through common concerns. This approach to ask partner organizations to

propose a youth participant was chosen not only to favour closer and ongoing relationships with the organizations involved but also to create a new dynamics of working together for the future.

The specific work and variety of responsibilities of the participants within their organizations contributed highly to the richness of the exchanges. (see Annex B)

Judging from their oral and written evaluations, all the participants were happy to have had the opportunity to join this initiative. For almost all, this was the first time they attended an international encounter, and it was very motivating for them and for their work to have links with other young leaders from other countries. The spirit was friendly, cooperative and concerned, joyful (especially during the cultural activities). There was great interest to learn about each other’s work and engagements. The encounter gave the participants a better understanding of the current global issues and the impact of these issues locally.



### III. Methodology and Programme

The methodology used combined both personal and collective preparatory work (choice of the participant by his/her organization and his/her written contribution for the workshops), workshops in small groups, plenary sessions for the whole group, exposure to the community and cultural visits, and the use of tools like the theatre and popular radio. This variety of activities allowed for a wide-range of opportunities for exchanges, learning, deepening knowledge, spiritual and cultural growth, having fun together and developing friendships. So much so that, even with the limitations of language, no one suffered from exclusion and all were able to communicate with each other. Even for the organizers, no particular effort had to be given towards making each one participate – it happened naturally, at different points and levels.

Preparatory work by the participants included responding to a questionnaire for participants (Annex C) and the preparation of a written contribution regarding the workshop topic chosen. With this preparatory activity, the participants already began to appropriate the activity as their own and prepare their participation even way ahead of the actual encounter itself. The written contributions served as support during the workshop discussions.

Articles on the crises, produced by various organizations and networks were circulated beforehand by e-mail. These served not only to provide information but also to solicit reactions on the relevance of the proposed actions to young people's situations.

The workshops served as a time for participants interested in the workshop theme to exchange ideas, deepen their knowledge of the issues and share further on their own work. The three announced workshops covered the following themes: social rights of young people, political participation of the youth, and young people's situations in war-torn and conflict-ridden countries.

The plenary sessions dealt with global issues concerning the financial crisis and climate change, as well as regional issues. These were rare opportunities to hear from resource persons on the particular topics and debate opinions with all the other participants especially outside of one's workshop.

These sessions were complemented by learning visits to AREDS and SWATE projects, which truly inspired many as to the various types of programmes that can be initiated on the community level.

The initiation to the Playback Theatre and the radio as organizational tools at the end of the encounter put the participants themselves as the subjects, a first-hand experience too of what they can develop with other members in their organizations and communities.

See Annex D  
for the Overall Programme of the Encounter



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## IV. Key issues discussed in the workshops

The discussions in the 3 workshops were guided by 3 questions: the concrete situation in each country, the actions already being done by one's organization and proposals for greater effectivity.

### Social rights of young people

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From this workshop exchanges, six areas could be summed up as key issues or problems that young people experience most at present:

#### **Poverty and unemployment**

Many young people are poor and this is basically due to the rampant unemployment.

#### **Health problems due to the unsafe environment**

The health problems of marginalized youth are linked not only to poverty but also to the degrading environment and poor living conditions. Drug addiction persists as a chronic problem.

#### **Access to meaningful education**

Because of poverty too, it has been difficult for many young people to access to higher studies that will allow them to land in good jobs. However, it was also noted that the quality of education today has gone down and is now subject to market and neoliberal laws. Korea for example is a country that promotes market-oriented values in its highly competitive educational system which greatly penalizes students who are not able to keep up, -- the cause of numerous suicides.

#### **Discrimination, caste and gender inequality**

The participants especially coming from the Indian regions were most sensitive to this issue of caste and gender discrimination. Ethnic groups who belong to the lower castes suffer

from discriminatory acts and violence from those in power. Women from these lower castes are doubly discriminated upon (gender and caste).

#### **Migration, refugees, displacement, tensions between the rural and urban**

Young people can also be migrants and refugees and be displaced for both economic reasons and as victims of wars and conflicts. Migration from the rural areas to the cities also creates tensions and instability.

The Chinese case of internal migration from the rural to the urban to find work has uprooted many young people. With the financial crisis and the shutting down of factories in the cities, young people are obliged to go back to their villages, but are unable to readjust to rural life and work which has become foreign to them as they had started to work in the cities at a very young age.

#### **Wars and conflicts**

Young people are often victims of tribal conflicts, genocidal acts, religious fanaticism. The particular cases of India, Cambodia, the Philippines, Nepal, DR of Congo, though having different contexts showed the intensity of instability, trauma and suffering on the part of children and young people that live in situations of wars and conflicts. Concern for the youth means putting a stop to these types of experiences. Those working in areas of continuous conflict have not been reactive to the problems posed by the financial crisis, as human rights issues have been their basic daily concern.

## Which responses can be developed to confront these issues?

The following key words were given as responses: information, consciousness-building, empowerment, participation, access to public services, defence of people's rights, organization, solidarity.

Economic empowerment of young people can be achieved through:

- ♦ more employment opportunities and better sources of livelihood,
- ♦ creating micro-credit or people's credit banks,
- ♦ technical skills training...

Alternative and quality education should be promoted through:

- ♦ alternative education that is pro poor. The activities of the Sanggar learning centers in the *kampongs* (poor districts) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, developed by the YPR (People's Shelter Foundation), are oriented towards alternative education (basic social analysis workshops, theatre and festivals, bulletins and comparative studies, craftsmanship)
- ♦ popular educational workshops on issues such as health, the global ecological crisis or education
- ♦ student groups and organizations devoted to studying global economic issues and their social consequences
- ♦ constant use of wide media forms (internet, radio...) and other forms of cultural expression (theatre...) to spread information
- ♦ formation of structures for the awareness and protection of human rights



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Social consciousness and thinking amongst the youth should be developed by making them aware of current social problems and encouraging them to participate in social movements.

As opposed to corruptive practice, real public services on health, education, and environment and transparency of national budgets should be assured by states.

In relation to the movement from the rural to the urban, young people should be encouraged to re-value rural life. Agricultural activity should be promoted, but the land and its resources have also to be protected.

## Political participation of young people, especially young women.

### Responses of public authority to the needs of young people

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At the start, the group agreed to define political participation as:

- ♦ political consciousness,
- ♦ electoral participation,
- ♦ politicization of issues,
- ♦ use of democratic spaces,
- ♦ ability to express and address political issues.

Generally, youth from the rural villages are not interested in politics. If at all, voting is influenced by campaigns of popular leaders. The lack of proper electoral education have made young people vulnerable to manipulation. Young people who wish to enter politics are also not taken seriously nor supported by their elders with longer political experience.

In India, where fundamentalism, nepotism and caste-based politics take on a big role in politics and elections, the energy of young people is being used by the fundamentalist forces.

In Nepal, the youth are sometimes dragged to join the Maoist party wherein they have been used as blockings and to instigate violence. Even in government institutions like the PLA (army of the government) where many young people work, the young people are exploited.

In Cambodia, hierarchical traditions also stifle youth initiatives, and young people are not taken seriously by their elders. Most government programs are not youth-oriented and youth expression is often repressed.

In the Philippines, corruption is rampant and particularly in Mindanao, violence and killings are part of the election scenery.

In Brazil, despite greater freedom of expression, there is a lack of political education and the youth have become passive as compared to previous years.

In the Czech Republic, despite a more open democratic space today, young people don't vote because they are disappointed with the main political party and they don't support or believe the small political parties, seen as more concerned with their own war with other opposing parties.

The members of this workshop affirmed the importance of young people's political participation in instances of decision-making, be it in their local communities or at other levels, with the view of finding new alternatives and solutions to help local populations face the current crises.

Young women's participation in instances of local governance should be given particular attention. Most policies in the rural areas, like in Indian villages, are adult and male-oriented. One way of dealing better with women and children's needs would be to provide the opportunities for women to take up key positions in decision-making bodies.

In terms of what is already being done by their organizations in this field, the participants said that their organizations encourage their members to be politically active through their lobbying activities, youth dialogues, electoral education, campaigns, mobilizations.

It was further proposed to work for more youth participation in peace processes (youth quota) as well as in other instances of decision-making.

## Young people living in situations of war and communal conflicts

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Starting from the specific situations of conflicts in their countries, 5 main issues were identified by the workshop participants as causes of conflicts:

- ◆ Socio-economic segregation and marginalization (France, Brazil)
- ◆ No access to quality education (Brazil, Philippines)
- ◆ Exploitation of natural resources (Philippines, Dem. Rep. of Congo)
- ◆ Struggle for political power (Nepal)
- ◆ Negation of ethnic and cultural identity (India, Philippines, Malaysia)

The following types of actions are being undertaken by the participating organizations in this workshop to address conflicts:

### **Emergency aid and rehabilitation**

- ◆ Emergency and psychological aid to victims of wars and conflicts and to displaced persons
- ◆ Care of children victims
- ◆ Creation of pedagogical farms for youth insertion

### **Educational work**

- ◆ New pedagogy development (re-learning) like the Freney method which is based on experience-sharing
- ◆ Youth encounters around peace issues

### **Political actions and community-building**

- ◆ Lobbying and political pressure towards the authorities
- ◆ Facilitating peace negotiations and social dialogue between conflicting groups
- ◆ Building networks of local organizations
- ◆ Reconsolidation of local community dynamics that have been destroyed by international NGOs that impose their own concerns
- ◆ With regard to the Santal tribal communities in India, struggles against land expro-

priation, land occupations particularly to defend sovereignty rights of Santal tribes, creation of village schools to protect cultural identity.

The group decided it was important to express their common visions that bring them together :

- ◆ Human dignity as the center of every action
- ◆ Education and conscious mass mobilization in order to assert rights, justice and equality
- ◆ The dialogue of civilizations and cultures for better understanding and cooperation;
- ◆ Equal possibilities in growing in an integral manner
- ◆ Rights for everybody to live in a self-sufficient manner in a society based on solidarity

Some long-term objectives were identified :

- ◆ NGOs should work for greater autonomy from donors and develop self-reliant schemes
- ◆ Tie closer links between NGOs and student organizations
- ◆ Create research centres linked to local NGOs, for theoretical as well as practical production

Short term objectives were also identified:

- ◆ Develop and exchange pedagogical tools for conflict resolution and peace education
- ◆ Make use of mass-media tools for knowledge-sharing (radio, internet)
- ◆ Creation of practical self-sufficient media tools (e.g. Blackbox radio created in 1991 in Bordeaux, France)
- ◆ Organize new encounters to strengthen the network.

## V. Plenary sessions and exchanges around global and regional issues

While the workshops gave the participants the opportunity to exchange on thematic issues and their own experiences, the plenary sessions took the form of inputs and served as the time where all the participants could come together and have a wider discussion on the global issues related to the crises.

These sessions were introduced by inputs from Indian resource persons. Discussions followed the inputs, enabling the participants to raise questions and doubts and to connect their own local issues to wider concerns. It was also seen that knowledge on these issues are important to one's daily work (e.g. youth education) and that this knowledge needs to be deepened.

### Towards rights and values realised youth Challenges and opportunities

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Joseph Xavier S.J. from the Indian Social Institute in Bangalore opened the sessions with his talk entitled: Towards rights and values realised youth - challenges and opportunities.

Dealing with the effects of the globalized system from the perspective of the Indian experience of the poor and marginalized, Fr. Joe showed how the youth crisis is more than a specific issue, and how it is very often the result of the failure of the system.

He challenged the participants to learn from the movement of the marginalized in the following areas:

- Promoting development with a human face
- Ensuring State accountability
- Building movement-base to expand rights space
- Promoting ethical market, responsible state, enlightened civil society
- Building up collective responses

### Current financial crisis and responses from social movements

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The discussion on the current financial crisis and responses from social movements was introduced by Sushovan Dhar from Vikas Adhyayan Kendra (VAK) /CADTM-India.

After looking into the various aspects of the crisis (financial crisis, crisis of production, food crisis, climate change, energy crisis, wars for controlling strategic resources and people's resistance to the war efforts, crisis

of global governance), Sushovan presented five sets of alternatives that have been proposed by social movements as ways of responding to the crisis (see Annex E). Discussion and clarifications followed. Despite the complexity of the issues, the participants appreciated the input which helped them understand and situate better the financial crisis for their own local work.

### Climate change

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During the particular session on climate change, Sushovan developed the following points:

- The climate and its disruptions
- Impacts
- How to avoid the catastrophe: physical conditions
- The structural obstacle
- A global movement, a programme for struggle, an eco-socialist perspective

The presentation on climate change was preceded by a film on Bangladesh, produced by Arnab Dewan's organization, the Arjo Cholochitro Foundation. The film showed the harsh consequences of environmental degradation and climate change on the country and its population.

Christi Samy of SWATE also shared their experience of environmental struggles in Tamil Nadu.

The issue of climate change was considered by many as complex, but it was also seen as an opener in what is a priority concern today.

## Women's Front Youth in war-ridden countries

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Two local and regional issues (the Indian elections that just took place and the participation of the Women's Front; the situation of African youth in war-ridden countries like the Congo) were also taken up in two evening sessions to discuss further

women's political participation as well as the situation of child soldiers in Africa.

These two sessions hoped to widen the concerns of the participants from their own local situations to other regional experiences.

## Strategy definition and Integral view

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This methodological input, by Barnabas Tiburtius, was meant to help the participants develop an integral way of looking at the problems and issues concerning them. B. Tiburtius contributed documented information on the situation of youths in the world. He also shared on his activity of

"Providing a forum for multi-dimensional and integrated knowledge dissemination and interchange that will empower personal and spiritual growth" which can be studied further via his website ([www.livingspark.net](http://www.livingspark.net)).

## VI. The learning visits to AREDS and SWATE projects

The learning visits to AREDS and SWATE projects (documentary film, Dalit school, training centre, small economic activities) allowed a deeper and more concrete understanding of issues of caste inequality and women's oppression and empowerment.

The exposure of the participants to the activities of AREDS and SWATE was very much appreciated as highly motivating for the participants to take up similar initiatives back home.

The political involvement of the "Women's Front" in the recent parliamentary elections in Karur, as was shared by Christy, motivated many and gave them the conviction that the

political dimension of any action was important to bring about a change.

Tamil popular culture was experienced through the village visits where a popular street theatre for the election campaign was shown in the presence of the participants and villagers alike.

The cultural program presented by the AREDS-SWATE Youth group (dances, music and songs) at the end of the 5 days was an unforgettable event for many.

see blog pictures:  
<http://youthforalternatives.blogspot.com>

## VII. Initiation to the Playback Theatre and the radio

After the workshop proper, two days were spent to initiate the participants on two cultural tools that have proven very useful in working with communities – the playback theatre and the radio. A great learning for the participants but great fun as well. The “exercises” allowed getting to know each other better, expressing oneself physically and emotionally. Some would have wanted this to have been done earlier, but doing it at the end also had its own type of impact.

### The Playback Theater conducted by Cyril and Christy Samy, (SWATE, India)

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Playback theatre (PT) is an original form of theatrical improvisation, in which people narrate real events from their lives, and then watch them enacted on the spot.

In playback theatre members of the audience, with assistance from a conductor, share stories, dreams and memories. The playback actors recreate each story, transforming it into a theatre piece.

It is an exciting form of creative expression, community building and personal transformation. It has been

used in many ways: in the arts, in education, in training, in therapy, to highlight cultural awareness and the politics of difference and towards social justice.

This form of improvisational theatre was created in the year 1975, in the United States by Jonathan Fox. He believed in an immediate theatre. A theatre, that takes place everywhere, for any and everybody. It is an outcome of a search to build communities, accept persons, respect cultures, honour life stories. It is presently spread over 45 countries. In India it was initiated in Tamil Nadu in the year of 1998. Christina Samy of SWATE pioneered PT in India.



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## An introduction to training on the use of the radio given by Benoît Bories (Nomad University, France)

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Nomad University, based in Toulouse, France has been conducting radio workshops and initiating mobile radio projects as a means of exchanging experiences particularly on the local level, with the objective of linking together inhabitants of the same geographical entity (the so-called “living together”).

These workshops have enabled the association to work with people who are less represented in the dominant classical media (adolescents, handicapped persons, adults and youth from working class districts, persons living in the rural areas).

At the start, the spirit behind the free radio consisted in making the local people speak for themselves to rebuild social cohesion which was falling apart little by little. It seemed that for such spirit to last, the stable poles of radio expression needed to be moved to places where local populations do not or have little access to this medium of local expression.

Which is why it was seen as important as a first step to organize radio production workshops for the appropriation of this medium.

At the second stage, there is the possibility to create radio programmes with the use of mobile radios that can be broadcasted directly on FM waves by means of internet streaming, simple to use, and entirely free of cost. This form of communication also offers many possibilities. No images to limit the imagination, only sounds to evoke sentiments, or the atmosphere of the context of a discourse.

Using this form also allows participants to follow the whole production process : sound recording, mounting and radio broadcasting. Finally, sound recording using a microphone is less intimidating than using a camera and brings more people to speak out through this media form.

As an exercise, Benoît Bories, from Nomad University, registered interviews with his tape recorder and transposed them. He later sent to all the participants the url to download the audio documentaries which represented the portraits of some participants.

**Presentation of social and political context of Mindanao by Cha**  
[http://universitenomade.fr/sons/youth\\_encounter/cha\\_philippines.mp3](http://universitenomade.fr/sons/youth_encounter/cha_philippines.mp3)

**Struggle of Santali people by Prakash and Sunnita**  
[http://universitenomade.fr/sons/youth\\_encounter/prakash\\_djerkan.mp3](http://universitenomade.fr/sons/youth_encounter/prakash_djerkan.mp3)

**A struggle of the student movement by Virgil from India**  
[http://universitenomade.fr/sons/youth\\_encounter/virgil\\_indian\\_student.mp3](http://universitenomade.fr/sons/youth_encounter/virgil_indian_student.mp3)

**Presentation of AREDS and a way to reach autonomy by Samy**  
[http://universitenomade.fr/sons/youth\\_encounter/samy\\_areds.mp3](http://universitenomade.fr/sons/youth_encounter/samy_areds.mp3)

**Situation in jail in Calcutta for people from Bangladesh by Chottu**  
[http://universitenomade.fr/sons/youth\\_encounter/chucco\\_calcutta.mp3](http://universitenomade.fr/sons/youth_encounter/chucco_calcutta.mp3)

**Presentation of SWATE and the women's front in Tamil Nadu**  
[http://universitenomade.fr/sons/youth\\_encounter/swate.mp3](http://universitenomade.fr/sons/youth_encounter/swate.mp3)

## VII. Proposals for networking and follow-up

### Networking

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- Develop youth partnerships and networks
- Take local issues to the international level
- Seek support for resources to organize workshops in other developing countries
- Share views and ideas of the information received from the local to the national and international levels
- Organize together on the same day (May 20, date of the start of the conference) an event in each of our countries to celebrate our Youth Network!

### Continuing research and education

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- Identify better the elements that exclude the youth

### Exchange of Information

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- Restitution of the experience in Latin America, Africa and Europe
- Write articles and updates of local situations and circulate them
- Continue to exchange ideas, collect and share information particularly on the realities in one's country, local issues, resources, approaches in mobilizing and youth-building
- Share information and analysis on trade and economic issues to the local people as the way of thinking and understanding is an important element for change
- Translate the declaration in own language and send it to the local media, human rights organizations and political parties, grassroots women's groups
- Provide the space for addressing activities done by the network in the local newsletter of the organization

### Tools development

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- Open a blog: <http://youthforalternatives.blogspot.com>
- Find creative ways of bringing information to the local level: many youth do not have e-mails, do not even go to school
- Continue using folk arts and theatre for building movements

### Political Action

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- Bring the youth to instances of political decision-making
- Bring in and look into women's (young women in particular) issues
- Build movements
- Organize and join peace initiatives
- The network that was established should continue to fight for youth rights and social justice

## VIII. Available documentation

Available upon request: [contact@lebret-irfed.org](mailto:contact@lebret-irfed.org)

- Joseph Xavier, SJ. "Towards rights and values realised youth : Challenges and Opportunities", Karur, India, May 2009
- Sushovan Dhar, "The Current Financial Crisis and Responses from Social Movements" (Powerpoint)
- Sushovan Dhar, Confronting the Climate Change (Powerpoint)
- Declaration of the Assembly of Social Movements at the World Social Forum 2009, Belem, Brazil
- François Houtart, "Letter to Social Movements, Non-Governmental Networks and Intellectuals", New York, April 9, 2009
- "The global economic crisis: An historic opportunity for transformation". Asia Europe People's Forum declaration, Beijing, 15 October 2008
- Barnabas Tiburtius, "In time of crisis: Youth encounter in India" (backgrounder)
- Recommendations of the UN Commission of Experts of the President of the General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System
- On Bangladesh. CD production of Arjo Cholochitro Foundation
- Mémoire des ateliers radios 2006-2008. CD production, l'Université Nomade

### Participants' written contributions:

- Mao Piseth, "Youth participation in politics in Cambodia"
- Kochi Soren and Chottu Hembram, "Political participation of young people"
- Frantisek Tymal, "Relationship of young people to politics in a post-communist country and two paradoxes of freedom"
- Tilottam Paudel and Radha Dhakal, "Political participation of young people and systems of representation in Nepal"
- Sushil Bhattarai and Debaki Acharya, "Young people's lives in the midst of war and conflict in Nepal"
- Benoît Bories, Radio Nomade: A project of social meshing for a "better life together".
- Park Gahye, "Social rights of young people in Korea"
- Park Gahye, "Political participation of young people in Korea"
- Xavier Raj, "Social rights of young people"
- Invani Lela Herliana, "Youth Involvement in the Kampong in the Context of Cultural Diversity"
- Samuel Soren, "Unorganized tribal youth define village political organization"
- Prakash Soren, "Psychological problems of students in the urbanized set-up"
- Sunita Hansdak, "A Struggle for decent life among young tribal women in the urban milieu"

### FINAL DECLARATION

Youth members from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe and from various cultures and beliefs assembled at the International Youth Encounter in Karur, India, from May 20-26, 2009, to discuss the role of the youth in the contemporary crisis. We arrived at a common vision of promoting a world where human dignity is in the centre of everyone of our actions.

***We further declare that:***

We are aware of the exploitative and oppressive cultural, social, political, economic and environmental situations that our planet as a whole is facing today;

We recognize that our elders throughout history have set forward paths. The good ones have been forgotten and lessons from the bad ones have not been learnt due to the replication of ideas that maintain inequalities through a system based on power, oppression and social stratification. This encourages groups of people to dominate over others.

We believe that the roots of this system have reproduced themselves throughout generations, evolving under different models and excluding the majority of human beings including the youth by depriving them of basic human rights, justice, and access to education, livelihood, natural resources, and gender equality.

We are convinced and we reaffirm that humanity has come to a turning point and new directions need to be taken.

We believe that we cannot escape the effects of the past nor reproduce the same mistakes. Hence, new chapters need to be written based on a new consciousness that is emerging all around the world.

***For these reasons, we, the youth, decide that:***

We will develop concrete actions in order to unite all youth under a shared common vision based on the recognition of human dignity, gender equality, minority-ethnic and cultural rights and also the right to have a decent life (employment, education, health, etc.) based on mutual concerns, sharing, respect and reciprocity;

We will promote and establish alliances to build collective and conscious numbers in order to strengthen our capacity and voices.

We will pressurize governments, institutions, political parties, international, national and local organizations, movements to take concrete actions and be accountable for the realization of this common vision;

We will seek new pedagogical approaches that encourage conscious and critical development of children, youth, adults and humanity as a whole;

We will act towards sustainable living, especially in respect of environment, rooted in traditional wisdom, local experiences and innovations. These models will be based on the total awareness that we are interrelated; four legged people, two legged people, plant people, water people, air people, mineral people, etc;

We will defend and uphold the right to self determination of all nationalities, cultures and communities;

We share our experiences and vision with everyone marching into the future for the attainment of our common collective goals.

Karur, May 25th, 2009

## ANNEX B

## Participants, their organisations and their responsibilities

**Yao Yao , Civil Society Watch, China**

Mobilise the urban youth to work with rural communities, and work towards keeping rural youth leaders from migrating to the city

**Benoît Bories, Université Nomade, France**

Coordinator of radio workshop involving young people

**Renato Biz Martins, YMCA-Young Men's Christian Association, Sao Paulo, Brazil**

Responsible for Information technology project for youth education

**Park Gah-ye, Diplomacy and Trade Institute, South Korea**

Chapter leader in an academic society of university students engaged in studies and debates on politics and economics, trade, reunification of N&S Korea, alternative international order against neoliberalism

**Muny Chhit, Youth for Peace, Cambodia**

Provide training to youth on peace-building, education on genocide, social participation of youth

**Piseth Mao, Association pour l'animation de la Jeunesse, Cambodia**

Animator, computer and language training

**Sa Im Meas, ADHOC-Cambodian Human Rights and Development Assn., Cambodia**

Handles human rights campaign programs

**Charity Care Lavandero , Alliance of Mindanao Youth for Peace, Philippines**

Youth organizer in universities and in multi-sectoral mobilizations with the mass movement

**Invani Herliana, YPR-People's Shelter Foundation, Indonesia**

In-charge of youth exchange program on environmental issues

**Frantisek Tymal, ADEPTTs, Czech Rep.**

Organizes media events, development education, information campaigns

**Teh Lee Wen, International Movement for a Just World, Malaysia**

Produce reading materials, facilitator in discussions

**Achille Biffumbu, Regional Coord. MAS (Méditerranée-Afrique-Solidarité, France), Dem. Rep. Congo**

In-charge of the promotion, management and accompaniment of local initiatives, groups and projects focused on rural youth in villages and in technical and agricultural schools

**Kochi Soren, Udayani Social Action Forum, Calcutta, India**

Village animator (Santal tribals and dalits), coaching children, coordinating Youth Peace Club activities and helps in training women in self-help groups

**Sunita Hansdak, Johar Human Resources Development Centre, Jharkhand, India**

Work with youth and students from the Santal tribe in Dumka, Jharkland

**Selim Benaissa, Mouvement pour la Coopération Internationale, Switzerland**

Currently follows-up East Timor project with the MCI, with past involvement in youth activities in Brazil

**Tilottam Paudel, Jagriti Child and Youth Concern, Nepal**

Presides his organization, coordinates activities, cooperates with other organizations

**Sushil Kumar Bhattarai, JCYN, Nepal**

Involved in their e-newsletter and does monitoring and field visits under their Education support program

**Radha Dhakal, JCYN, Nepal**

Takes charge of project and program elaboration and reporting

**Debaki Acharya, JCYN, Nepal**

Program coordinator of the organization

**Janaki Raju, SWATE, Karur, Tamil Nadu, India**

Field executive of SWATE and works directly with adolescent girls

**Fatima Lintang, Young Advocates for Peace and Solidarity, Mindanao, Philippines**

Organizes young people, especially out of school youth, under their Education and Training Program

**Samuel Soren, Johar Human Resources Development Centre, Jharkhand, India**

Coordinator of their tribal self-rule project

**Senthilkumar Subramanian, AREDS, Karur, Tamil Nadu, India**

Coordinator of the PDM (People's Development Movement) initiated by AREDS and works directly with the youth

**Prakash Soren, All India Catholic University Federation, Dumka, Jharkhand, India**

President of the local unit of AICUF

**Thennarasu Muthiaiah, Hindu Youth Organisation Port Klang, Malaysia**

Educational support to Hindu youth in Port Klang

**Xavier Raj, Christ Hall Seminary, Madurai, India**

As seminarian, brings together young people to inculcate moral values for individual and collective upliftment

**Arnab Dewan, Arjo Cholochitro Foundation, Bangladesh**

Involved in field planning in film production particularly with indigenous communities in the Chittagong Hill tracts

**Chottu Herbram, Udayani Social Action Forum, Calcutta, India**

Works with Dalit, Santali, Muslim groups and particularly in organizing self-help groups and refugees from Bangladesh who are caught and put in jails in Calcutta

**Rebecca Furtado, AICUF, Mumbai, India**

Journalist in university paper, student organizer

**Virgil Siqueira, AICUF Mumbai, India**

Mobilizes and sensitizes organized youth students and out-of-school youth on local and national levels

**Vimal Dabhi , AICUF Gujarat, India**

Organizes out-of-school youth in their local area

**Nixen, Chennai, India**

Journalist and responsible for a local organization in Chennai helping in the education of children.



*Youth Encounter in the context of today's crises*  
May 20 – 25, 2009, Karur, Tamil Nadu, India

Dear participant,

We are asking you and all the other participants to this youth encounter to kindly respond to this questionnaire and to send it back to <sally.rousset@lebret-irfed.org> with a copy to aredsind@gmail.com as quickly as possible before the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2009.

This questionnaire is meant to help both the organizers and participants to prepare the encounter. We highly encourage you to respond to the questions in close collaboration with the responsible persons of the organization your are representing in this activity.

Your responses will also serve to determine which workshop you will particularly be active in. After receiving the responses to the questionnaire, DCLI will confirm this information with each participant. Each participant is then expected to prepare a paper on his or her specific input in relation to the workshop theme.

A synthesis of the answers to the questionnaire will also be done by DCLI and distributed to all participants as quickly as possible for collective information.

<b>Last name:</b>	<b>First name:</b>	<b>Male</b> <b>Female</b>
<b>Age:</b>		
<b>Date of birth:</b>		
<b>Personal Address:</b>		
<b>Tel. no.</b>		
<b>e-mail address:</b>		
<b>Passport number:</b>		
<b>date of issue:</b>		
<b>expiration date:</b>		
<b>Languages spoken:</b>		
<b>Name of Organisation:</b>		
<b>Address of organization:</b>		
<b>Telephone no.:</b>		
<b>Fax:</b>		

1. What types of activities does your organization carry out in your community, country or region?

2. What is the socio-cultural context of the young people you and your organization are in touch with? In your country more generally? What problems do they encounter?

3. What kind of work does your organization do directly with young people? What were the successes, the failures, faced by your organization in this work? What are its present problems and needs in its work with young people?

4. What is your particular task in your organization? Do you work directly with young people?

5. What are your expectations from this international encounter? What is the relevance of this initiative for you and your organization? What results do you expect to be achieved?

6. Choose two workshops in which you would like to participate (out of the three proposed).



**Workshop A: Social rights of young people:** right to work, to health, to safe environment, to decent life, and responses

- in urban and rural milieus
- as migrants



**Workshop B: Political participation of young people**

- Political participation of young people and especially young women
- Responses of public authority to the needs of young people: is there a problem of confidence or of models?



**Workshop C: Young people living in situations of war and inter-communal conflicts**

- Young people's lives in the midst of war and conflict
- The impact of religious fundamentalism and youth responses
- The rights of minorities and "living together"

7. On what particular issue(s) can you speak about/prepare a paper on?

8. Aside from the ones stated above, are there other pressing issues concerning young people which you think need to be discussed ?

9. Does your organization have any audiovisual materials which you can bring for use in the workshops?

10. Are you interested in staying two days longer (May 26 and 27) for a workshop on Playback theatre or for meeting other organizations and movements?

**Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> of May**

8.00	Breakfast
9.00 – 9.45	Welcome Remarks – Mathias Rethinam Recall of Objectives, process and programme– Sally Rousset Practical Details - Samy Lourthusamy
9.45 – 11.00	Short introduction by participants (max. 5 min.)
11.00 – 11.15	Break
11.15 – 12.15	Keynote address: Towards rights & values realised youth - challenges & opportunities, J. Xavier S.J.
12.15 -13.00	Clarifications and debate
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch
14.30 – 15.30	The Current financial crisis and responses from social movements – Sushovan Dhar
15.30 – 16.15	Clarifications and debate
16.15 – 17.00	Break
17.00 – 18.00	Documentary film on AREDS + discussion - Samy Lourthusamy
	Visit to AREDS office
18.30 – 19.30	Sharing with Christi Samy on the participation of the Women's Front in the recent Indian elections
20.00	Dinner

**Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> of May**

8.00	Breakfast
9.00 – 10.00	Strategy definition and Integral view – Barnabas Tiburtius
10.00 – 10.30	Introduction to the workshops - Mathias Rethinam
10.30 – 10.45	Break
10.45 – 13.00	Workshops
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch
14.30 – 17.00	Workshops (short break in between)
17.30	Visit community initiatives of AREDS-SWATE
20.00	Dinner
21.00	Presentation African youth situation in DR of Congo – Achille Biffumbu

**Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> of May**

8.00	Breakfast
9.00 – 10.00	Inputs: Ecological issues: impacts – Sushovan Dhar
10.00 – 10.30	Experience of environmental struggles – Christi Samy
10.30 – 11.00	Debate
11.00 – 11.15	Break
11.15 – 13.00	Workshops continue.
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch
14.30 – 16.30	Prepare synthesis of workshop proposals
16.30 – 17.00	Break
17.00 – 19.30	Plenary : Reporting back.
20.00	Dinner

**Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> of May**

8.00	Breakfast
9.00 – 9.45	Synthesis of workshop proposals and reflection
9.45 – 11.00	Discussion and Plans of Action
11.00 – 11.15	Break
11.15 – 13.00	Plans of Action
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch
14.30 – 16.30	Presentation of draft of declaration and debate
16.30 – 17.00	Break
17.00 – 18.00	Evaluation
18.30 – 19.30	Cultural presentation – Cultural group of AREDS
20.00	Dinner
After dinner	Cultural presentation - participants



### Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> of May

8.00	Breakfast
9.00	Leave for Trichy – Cultural visit (whole day)
Evening	Goodbye party

### Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> of May

8.00	Breakfast
9.00 – 13.00	Playback Theatre Training
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch
14.30 – 17.00	Presentation on Community Radio – Benoit Bories
20.00	Dinner

### Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May

8.00	Breakfast
9.00 – 13.00	Playback Theatre Training
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch
14.30 – 17.00	Playback Theatre Training - end

## ANNEX E

## Responses from social movements to the crisis

Presented by Sushovan Dhar  
in his input on Financial crisis

### Alternatives I

- Integral audit of the debt
- Escaping the debt trap and IFI' s conditionalities
- Suing the World Bank
- Expropriation of ill-gotten wealth
- Common front of Third World countries to repudiate the public external debt

### Alternatives II

- Re-nationalisation of privatised services and corporations without "compensation"
- Creation of a strong Public Credit Bank
- Workers' control (scrutiny of the book accounts) / Elimination of bank secrecy
- Control of ex change / Strict control on capital movements
- Abolition of tax havens and offshore banks

### Alternatives III

- Food sovereignty / agrarian reform / control of food price
- Another fiscal policy: reduction or elimination of V A T on basic goods and services
- An emergency programme to create jobs and protect revenues of the people
- Reduction of 80 % of greenhouse gases by the North and 20 % by the South

### Alternatives IV

- Literacy campaign / Reform of education (free of charge)
- Developing the public health system
- A programme for people's housing, including renovation and building new houses
- Public water supply
- Formalisation of informal sector and legal minimum wage

### Alternatives V

- A new international financial architecture
- Abolition of the WTO, World Bank and IMF
- Creation of Banks of the South by pooling part of the foreign currency reserves of the developing countries

## RÉSEAU INTERNATIONAL LEBRET

### UN RÉSEAU POUR RÉFLÉCHIR SUR LE SENS DU DÉVELOPPEMENT AUJOURD'HUI : REGARDS CROISÉS SUR LES QUESTIONS INTERNATIONALES



[www.lebret-irfed.org](http://www.lebret-irfed.org)

- ◆ Un **réseau international** de 200 hommes et femmes, animé par le **Centre Lebret-Irfed** à Paris, qui apportent des témoignages et des analyses, et échangent des pratiques, depuis des lieux d'engagement divers :
  - de religions diverses, originaires de tous les continents et de toutes disciplines,
  - appartenant à des organisations de terrain comme aux Églises ou au milieu académique
  - se reconnaissant dans le message et l'approche de L.-J. Lebrete mais conscients que ses analyses doivent être adaptées à notre temps
  
- ◆ Une **structure associative** qui reflète une solidarité internationale et l'interdépendance entre les peuples : 2/3 du Conseil d'administration sont des membres du réseau hors Europe.
  
- ◆ Des cycles de **rencontres internationales** sur deux thèmes de notre temps
  - **Société civile** : les relations société civile - autorités publiques (Prague, Haïti, Lubumbashi, Asia-Europe People's Forum) et l'appui à l'émergence et à la prise d'autonomie d'organisations de la société civile dans des contextes fragiles ou déstructurés (Timor Leste)
  - Le **dialogue interreligieux et interculturel** (Beyrouth, Mumbai, Hanoi, Bangalore, Asia-Europe People's Forum)
  
- ◆ Des **produits**
  - Une **revue** « *Développement et civilisations* »
  - Les « **Cahiers de Développement et civilisations** », pour tirer les enseignements du travail mené avec le réseau
  - Des **comptes-rendus** de chaque rencontre internationale
  - Des **modules** de formation-débat :
  - Une **synthèse** sur chacun des quatre thèmes des rencontres internationales et des cycles de formation-débat.
  
- ◆ Une **méthode**
  - Appliquer à la préparation des rencontres une méthode inspirée de la recherche-action
  - Permettre aux personnes et groupes concernés d'être pleinement, et à leur rythme, acteurs de changement, et notamment veiller à ne pas étouffer les dynamiques endogènes,
  - S'engager sur la longue durée et permettre la prise de recul nécessaire à toute action durable.
  
- ◆ Une **équipe** de trois salariés et de personnes ressources volontaires mobilisées sur les activités d'animation, d'organisation, de réflexion, d'écriture...