

newSpecial

Summit of the Future

THE GLOBAL SEARCH
FOR LASTING PEACE

PRINTED & DIGITAL EDITION
NEWSPECIAL.ORG

SEPTEMBER 2024 - N°838

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA SINCE 1949

L'essentiel, c'est vous.

Vous faire bénéficier du plus haut niveau de maîtrise et de sécurité accessible à tout moment.



Hôpitaux
Universitaires
Genève

DIVISION
PRIVÉE

divisionprivee-hug.ch



UN SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE AND THE PATHS TO PEACE

The UN Summit of the Future can significantly promote global peace by fostering dialogue and collaboration among world leaders, policymakers, and civil society. By addressing the root causes of conflict, such as poverty, inequality, and climate change, the summit can create a more stable and just world. It encourages the adoption of new technologies and strategies for peacekeeping and conflict prevention, enhancing the UN's crisis response capabilities. Including diverse voices ensures inclusive peacebuilding efforts. Ultimately, the summit strengthens international cooperation and reaffirms commitments to multilateralism, inspiring collective action towards a peaceful and prosperous future.

In this issue, we bring you several articles that explore the paths to peace, through the moment of the recent Olympic Games, the summit itself, and reflections on how peace is always better than any war.

Don't miss the articles on the work of WHO and various organizational initiatives that continue to support the work done by us at a global level. We also have the first part of a three-part series focused on Madeira, as a travel destination, and continued exploration of Swiss parks and tunnels that are globally unmatched. I hope you enjoy this issue. //

SOMMET DE L'AVENIR DE L'ONU ET LES CHEMINS VERS LA PAIX

Le Sommet de l'avenir de l'ONU peut promouvoir de manière significative la paix mondiale en favorisant le dialogue et la collaboration entre les dirigeants mondiaux, les décideurs politiques et la société civile. En abordant les causes profondes des conflits, telles que la pauvreté, l'inégalité et le changement climatique, le sommet peut créer un monde plus stable et plus juste. Cela encourage l'adoption de nouvelles technologies et stratégies pour le maintien de la paix et la prévention des conflits, renforçant ainsi les capacités de réponse aux crises de l'ONU. L'inclusion de voix diverses garantit des efforts de consolidation de la paix inclusifs. En fin de compte, le sommet renforce la coopération internationale et réaffirme les engagements en faveur du multilatéralisme, inspirant une action collective pour un avenir pacifique et prospère.

Dans ce numéro, nous vous proposons plusieurs articles qui explorent les chemins vers la paix, à travers le moment des récents Jeux Olympiques, le sommet lui-même, et des réflexions sur la manière dont la paix est toujours préférable à n'importe quelle guerre.

Ne manquez pas les articles sur le travail de l'OMS et diverses initiatives organisationnelles qui continuent de soutenir le travail que nous accomplissons au niveau mondial. Nous avons également la première partie d'une série en trois parties consacrées à Madère, en tant que destination de voyage, et une exploration continue des parcs et tunnels suisses qui sont inégaux dans le monde.

J'espère que vous apprécierez ce numéro. //

READY FOR LUXURIOUS COMFORT.

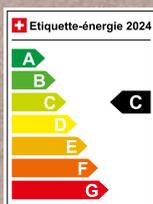
The new GLC.

Discover the New Mercedes-Benz GLC. The most dynamic Mercedes-Benz SUV ever with its sporty presence, pioneering interior features and innovative off-road technology. Benefit from unmatched conditions with **27% discount***. Unique conditions available for legitimization cards holders B, C, D, E, G, I, K, L, P & S.

Contact your Diplomatic Center.



Mercedes-Benz



GLC 450 d 4MATIC, 367 + 23 ch (270 + 17 kW), 7,0 l/100 km, 185 g CO₂/km, 34 g/km, energetic category: C. See applicable conditions at your Mercedes-Benz - Groupe Chevalley dealer. Pictures may differ from actual products. Condition non applicable to legitimization cards holders F, H, R, K purple/black stripes. Offer valid until 30.09.24, or until further notice.



YOUR DIPLOMATIC CENTER IN GENEVA – ÉTOILE GENÈVE
6 rue de Vermont, 1202 Genève – +41 (0) 22 733 37 07

GROUPE CHEVALLEY VOTRE PARTENAIRE AUTOMOBILE

ATHÉNÉE COINTRIN **ÉTOILE GENÈVE** **MARBRIERIE CAROUGE** **A&S CHEVALLEY NYON**

September 2024

N°838

FEATURED

- 06** The UN's Summit of the Future: Paving the Path for Global Peace and Progress
- 08** Four poems on peace
- 10** The Art of Sports: Sustainability, Diversity, and Inclusion at the 2024 Paris Olympics
- 14** Ticket to Verna
- 16** The obsolete notion of a "just war"



14

WHO

- 20** A knowledge management system for health emergencies
- 24** Embracing Change: How Effective Change Management Drives Success in Changing Digital Landscapes
- 26** Infection prevention and control (IPC)



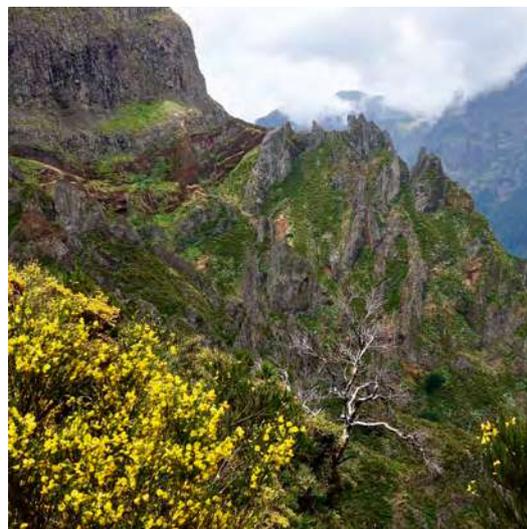
INTERNATIONAL GENEVA

- 28** New possibilities await at AidEx 2024
- 32** Embracing Faith: The Christian Fellowship @ WHO
- 35** Some Memories of our WHO Main Building
- 36** Death Literacy as a Vital Component of Public Health Education
- 41** Podcasts

35

ART & CULTURE

- 42** La perle de l'Atlantique
- 46** Songs for mother nature: Art meets Poetry
- 49** Honour and glory
- 51** Le col de l'Ofen



42

The UN's Summit of the Future: Paving the Path for Global Peace and Progress

A PIVOTAL EVENT AIMED AT ADDRESSING THE MULTIFACETED CHALLENGES OF OUR TIME AND FORGING A PATH TOWARD A MORE SUSTAINABLE AND PEACEFUL WORLD

The United Nations' Summit of the Future, scheduled for September 22-23, 2024. This summit is not just another high-level meeting; it represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reinvigorate multilateralism and enhance global governance structures. The Summit of the Future was conceived as part of the UN Secretary-General's "Our Common Agenda" report, which called for renewed trust and solidarity at all levels—between peoples, countries, and generations. The report emphasized the need for a fundamental rethink of our political, economic, and social systems to ensure they deliver more fairly and effectively for everyone. The summit aims to reaffirm the UN Charter, boost the implementation of existing commitments, and agree on solutions to new challenges.

KEY THEMES AND INITIATIVES

- **Pact for the Future:** One of the central outcomes of the summit will be the "Pact for the Future," a comprehensive agreement designed to address critical global issues and enhance international cooperation. This pact will focus on several key areas, including climate change, digital governance, and sustainable development.
- **Global Digital Compact:** In an era where digital technology permeates every aspect of life, the summit will also address the need for a Global Digital Compact. This initiative aims to ensure that digital technologies are harnessed for the common good, promoting inclusivity, security, and human rights in the digital realm.
- **Declaration on Future Generations:** Recognizing the importance of intergenerational equity, the summit will adopt a Declaration

on Future Generations. This declaration will outline commitments to safeguard the rights and well-being of future generations, ensuring that today's decisions do not compromise their ability to thrive.

- **Emergency Platform:** The summit will propose the establishment of an Emergency Platform to better prepare for and respond to global crises. This platform aims to enhance coordination and cooperation among nations during emergencies, ensuring a swift and effective response to crises such as pandemics, natural disasters, and conflicts.
- **Strengthening the UN:** The summit will also focus on strengthening the United Nations itself, ensuring it is fit for purpose in the 21st century. This includes reforms to enhance the efficiency, transparency, and accountability of the UN system.

THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE IS CRUCIAL FOR GLOBAL PEACE FOR SEVERAL REASONS

- **Reinvigorating Multilateralism:** In recent years, global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical tensions, and the climate crisis have highlighted the limitations of unilateral actions. The summit aims to reinvigorate multilateralism, fostering cooperation and collective action to address these issues effectively.
- **Addressing Root Causes of Conflict:** By focusing on sustainable development, climate action, and digital governance, the summit addresses some of the root causes of conflict and instability. For instance, climate change exacerbates resource scarcity, leading to competition and conflict. By committing to robust climate action, the summit aims to mitigate these risks.



United Nations, caption: September's Summit of the Future brings together leaders to create a path for a better world for us all.

- **Promoting Inclusive Governance:** The summit's emphasis on inclusivity ensures that all voices are heard, particularly those of marginalized and vulnerable communities. Inclusive governance is essential for building trust and preventing conflicts, as it ensures that everyone has a stake in the decision-making process.
- **Enhancing Crisis Response:** The establishment of an Emergency Platform will enhance global preparedness and response to crises. This proactive approach to crisis management can prevent conflicts from escalating and ensure that humanitarian needs are met swiftly and effectively.
- **Fostering Economic Stability:** By addressing economic disparities and promoting sustainable development, the summit aims to create a more equitable global economy. Economic stability is a key factor in preventing conflicts, as it reduces the likelihood of resource-based disputes and social unrest.

WHILE THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE HOLDS IMMENSE PROMISE, IT ALSO FACES SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES

- **Political Will:** Achieving the ambitious goals of the summit requires strong political will from all member states. This includes not only making commitments but also following through with concrete actions and policies.
- **Resource Mobilization:** Implementing the initiatives outlined in the Pact for the Future

will require substantial financial resources. Ensuring adequate funding and resource mobilization will be critical to the success of the summit's outcomes.

- **Global Cooperation:** In an increasingly polarized world, fostering global cooperation is no small feat. The summit must navigate geopolitical tensions and build consensus among diverse stakeholders to achieve its objectives.
- **Technological Integration:** Ensuring that digital technologies are used for the common good requires robust frameworks and regulations. The Global Digital Compact aims to address this, but its success will depend on the cooperation of both public and private sectors.
- **Sustaining Momentum:** The success of the summit will also depend on sustaining momentum beyond the event itself. Continuous engagement, monitoring, and evaluation will be necessary to ensure that the commitments made are translated into tangible actions.

The UN's Summit of the Future represents a landmark moment in the quest for global peace and progress. By addressing critical challenges and fostering a renewed spirit of multilateralism, the summit aims to create a more sustainable, inclusive, and peaceful world for present and future generations. As we look ahead to this pivotal event, it is essential that all stakeholders—governments, civil society, and the private sector—come together to support and implement the summit's ambitious agenda. Only through collective action and shared commitment can we hope to build a better future for all.

The Summit of the Future is not just a meeting; it is a call to action. It is an opportunity to redefine our collective future and ensure that the principles of peace, justice, and sustainability guide our global efforts. As the world gathers in September 2024, the decisions made and the commitments forged will shape the trajectory of our planet for decades to come. Let us seize this moment to build a world where peace and prosperity are not just aspirations but realities for all. //

Four poems on peace

POEMS



ENDLESS TEARS (1)

The tree wept, so did I
 Witnessing the massacres
 The bodies strewn around its roots
 Miles and miles of flowing blood
 The haunting cries, silence silenced
 Raindrops of pain from the dusty clouds
 Not to nourish, nor nurture
 To destroy, annihilate, vanquish.

For a hundred years, the tree
 Endless tears it had seen
 All its lives, tortured souls
 Confessed their fears
 To what purpose the fight, the battles
 To what purpose all the lives lost
 A cursed shadow above
 Nothing of joy, no one to liberate.

//

PEACEFUL SILENCE (2)

Amidst all the hustle,
 one desires a peaceful silence.
 Everyone is running around
 unknowing their inner desire.
 Mind monologues wanting awkward
 silence to be broken.
 Heart says be patient to hear
 the peaceful silence.

Wars and battles for supremacy
 are hurting many nations.
 Powerless and insignificant souls
 die of the suppression.
 Why have we transformed
 to emotionless creatures?
 Why humans' intelligence,
 has vanished with civilization?

Are we so heartless that others pain,
 cries cannot be felt?
 Are we to keep quiet because we are not hurt?
 Are we here to look for our own comfort?
 Where is the desire for the peaceful silence
 in this broken planet?

//

PEACE AND YOUTH (3)

Promise for a better world without
 challenges cannot be
 Because time will not stand still
 and so can't we
 Building on empathy gaining on with
 empowering the young with a vision
 to championing innovations
 Gaining substantial skills among
 the marginalized impoverished undeterred
 sectors of unwed mothers
 Invisible glass ceiling breakthroughs in the
 corridors of power and decision making
 Forging ahead for a futuristic mental
 health workforce & envisaging an enduring
 mindset from an early age
 Transcending odds delivering better, creating
 quality opportunity with digitized systems
 Instilling faith installing AI ensuring
 disasters are met equally with policies
 and an objective understanding
 Will deliver the best of services the best of an
 ever powerful ever agreeable comprehensible
 futuristic UN where the youth will thrive
 The young will be held close - their services
 will not go unnoticed, their share of
 adventurous deliverables will be show-cased,
 A show cause will remain
 measures of the past
 The sheer grandeur of a young worker
 will be not under the lens they will be met
 with encouragement and acknowledgement
 The young will be supported with several
 bindings and bonding to grow together
 to grow their vision and grow in integrity
 Among all the volatility amidst all the strife
 and the conflicts of war and injustice
 And that's the beginning of a 'win' which
 the world has never seen before, the people
 haven't clapped for before and
 The nations have not been able
 to acknowledge in such a tremendous
 way ever before!
 That's the future for UN
 where PEACE and YOUTH will engage,
 meet and emerge for an ever radiant
 impactful UN may be?

//

These poems advocate for peace as
a foundation for decent life,
where the UN mission and values will thrive,
setting the stage for human rights.



RIGHT TO PEACE (4)

Without a peace,
Does life mean anything?
Without a life,
Does any right make sense?
Right to the peace
Is a jewel in the crown
On the head of human rights.

Clearly written down
To open the door
To a beauty of life
Where all other rights
Are blossoming and flourishing,
Healthy life cherishing
And paving the path
To a new era
When the UN values
Will be respected,
Followed and appreciated.

And a life will be
The highest priority to all
And saving every single life
A duty, obligation
And task most important
In each day
Performed diligently
And proudly.

//

TEXT 1 SHAHEER ABOBACKER, WHO SEARO TEXT 2 SANGEETA JASMINE, WHO SEARO
TEXT 3 SHANTA GHATAK, WHO SEARO TEXT 4 IVANA KNEZEVIC, WHO HQ
PHOTO TEHZEEB KAZMI – UNSPLASH

The Art of Sports: Sustainability, Diversity, and Inclusion at the 2024 Paris Olympics

INSIGHTS FROM KEY FIGURES SHAPING THE GAMES HIGHLIGHT THE TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT OF PRIORITIZING SUSTAINABILITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION IN THE WORLD'S PREMIER SPORTING

“We must respect the rights and properties of our fellowman. And only then learn to play the game of life, as well as the game of athletics.” These words belong to Jesse Owens, a track and field athlete, who made history at the 1936 Olympic Games after winning four record-breaking gold medals.

The human bar for his outstanding performance could not have been higher. He was African American, training in a country where he could not share a sport facility or even a restroom with white athletes and where lynching was common. He competed in Berlin, running headfirst into the barbwire of Arian supremacy and the Nazi regime. Owens' triumph, courage and determination shook the walls that took many more decades to tear down.

Fast forward 88 years, diversity, sustainability and inclusion are the sacred trinity of the Olympic Movement. What do these hallmarks mean to Owens in the Paris of 2024? Different sides of the same Olympic medal? Token gestures? Or genuine commitments?

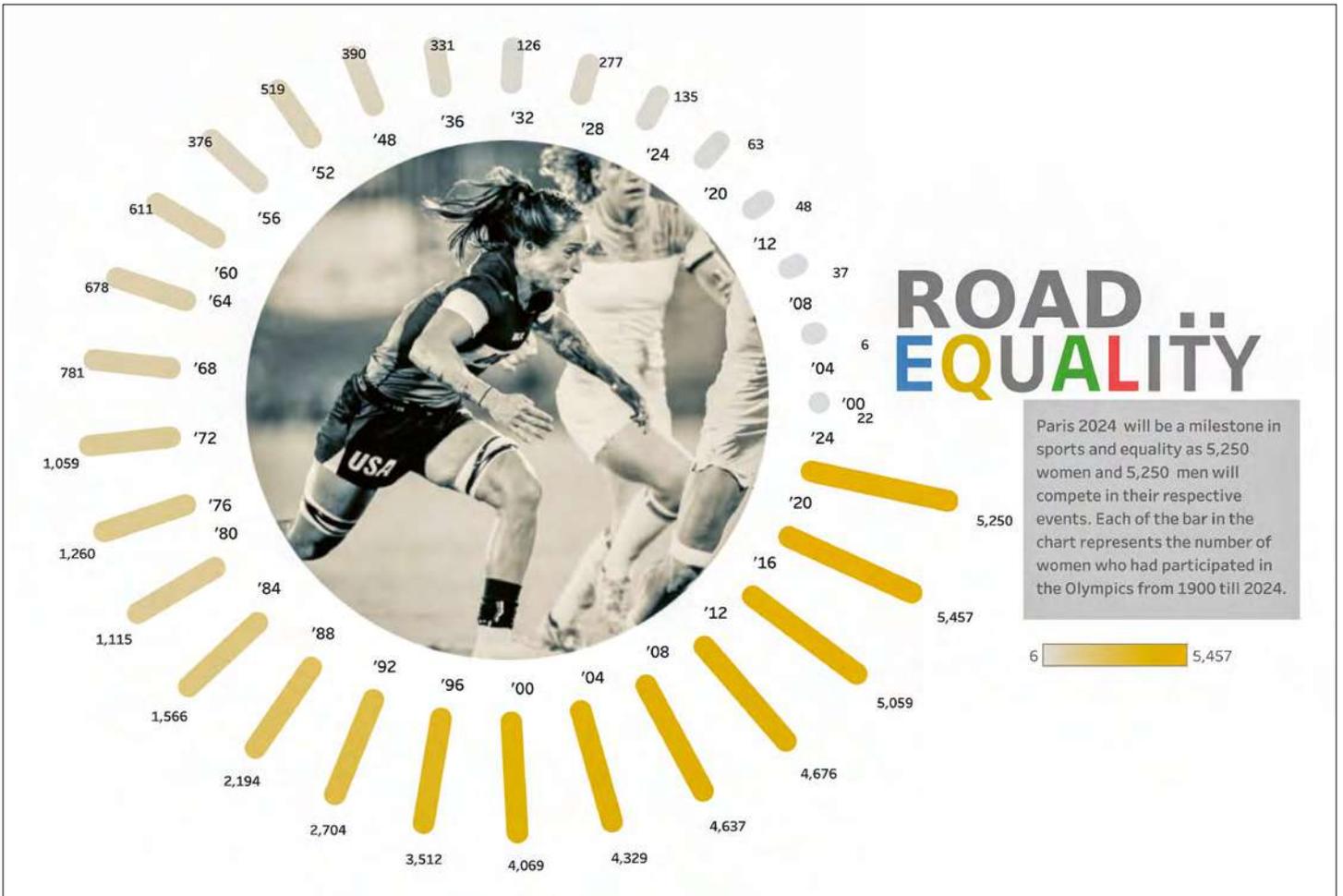
As the most romantic - and most visited - city in the world is hosting the Games, the global focus is not only on athletic prowess but also on the social impact of the Games. The Paris “Games Wide Open” score high in the diversity index. Absolute gender parity - including, for the first time, in sports such as boxing and cycling. A higher number of mixed sports. The largest team of refugee athletes since Rio 2016. Only 5% of the newly built infrastructure. Eco-friendly venues. Appeal to the young audience, with breaking and skateboarding on Place de la Concorde. Paralympic Phryge proudly racing on her prosthetic blade. The Pride House offering a safe space for gender expression. And so much more!

Building on the pledge to have the most sustainable Games in history, we have invited leading figures in the Olympic movement to share a candid look at the Paris Games, where sports intersect with sustainability, diversity, and inclusion—a vision poised to leave a lasting impact well beyond the medal ceremonies.

According to Christophe Dubi, Olympic Games Executive Director, not only the Games but also the IOC is a microcosm that reflects the trends and undercurrents of our society as a whole. What sets the Games and the IOC apart, in his view, is the “*courage to see tomorrow different from yesterday.*” That courage is amplified by the unique context. After all, it is rare to see the world judge a person with so much scrutiny, in a way society judges athletes for their performance in the Olympics. To Dubi, the courage not only to shine or fail on the world's display, but to champion change requires an extraordinary vision, agility and capacity to rise far above the Olympic podium.

According to him and his colleagues, the IOC has demonstrated plenty of courage through its drastic transformation. On her first day at the IOC in 1994, Marie Sallois, the now Director of Sustainability, walked into a rigid institution run by senior men and administrative assistants. Twenty years later, Marie says, the diverse profile of the IOC personnel, its strategic vision and a partnership-based approach define an organization in all its iterations. Indeed, when Magali Marcowicz joined Marie's team in 2019 as the first Head of Human Rights, she saw a very different organization, with over 40% of women in the IOC governance and over 75 nationalities represented.

TEXT YULIA LEMENEZ
PHOTO SHAZEERA ZAWAWI, SWISSQUOTE



Over the past few years, Jojo Ferris, the head of the Olympic Refugee Foundation, has built a large platform for vulnerable communities to showcase their talent and resilience on the Olympic stage. Kirsty Burrows, a young mother of a baby boy, is promoting safe sports in the Olympic Movement where mental health and well-being are emerging as a key priority. Benjamin Cohen leads the latest addition to the Olympic family, the International Testing Agency, which prioritizes athlete protection, fairness, transparency, and integrity.

Sustainability is at the forefront of Paris 2024. What specific initiatives were you excited to showcase that align with this vision as the Olympic Games Director at the IOC?

Christophe Dubi: Paris 2024 presented a unique opportunity to test sustainable practices in action. We are excited about innovations like carbon-neutral operations, eco-friendly venues, and community engagement programs that promote lasting environmental stewardship.

Marie Sallois: We are proud of piloting innovative practices such as promoting physical activity in schools and workplaces, implementing sustainable procurement and carbon budgeting, ensuring renewable energy sources for event

sites, and fostering circularity in asset management. We are also exploring gender equality initiatives through certification and maturity assessments.

What could athletes and spectators experience differently at the Paris Olympics, particularly in terms of sustainability and gender equality?

Marie Sallois: Athletes could notice greater gender diversity both in participation and staffing roles. They also had a more sustainable experience with reduced carbon emissions, more reusable options and sustainable food sources. Spectators and athletes were offered eco-friendly venues, sustainable transportation options, and innovative waste reduction practices. We aim to create a memorable and environmentally conscious experience for all participants.

Magali, as the IOC's Head of Human Rights, could you elaborate on how gender diversity and inclusion was exemplified at Paris 2024?

Magali Marcowicz: Among other things, Paris 2024 featured gender-neutral facilities, awareness campaigns, and support spaces for LGBTQ+ athletes such as the House of Pride. These initiatives aim to create an environment where everyone feels valued and respected. We rec-

The Olympic Games are becoming more equal.

EVERNESS

hotel & resort

Alliez sport et détente dans un cadre exceptionnel à deux pas de Genève

Découvrez le Padel à Everness sur nos trois courts accessibles à tous. Que vous soyez novice ou joueur confirmé, nous avons l'offre parfaite pour vous. Cours collectifs, leçons privées, stages intensifs ou simplement entre amis.

Vous êtes une entreprise ? Offrez à vos équipes une activité sportive fédératrice et fun avec nos formules Team Building. Retrouvez toutes nos offres sur www.everness.ch/fr/padel.

Après le sport, offrez-vous une pause gourmande au restaurant Everness. Profitez de notre terrasse panoramique avec une vue imprenable sur le lac. Un moment de détente idéal après l'effort.

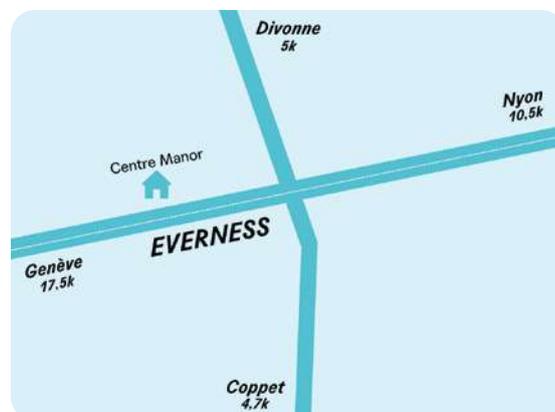
Réservation en ligne sur <https://padel.everness.ch/>

PLUS D'INFORMATIONS

+41 22 960 81 81, info@everness.ch

www.everness.ch

Ch des Champs-Blancs 70B, 1279 Chavannes-de-Bogis



PARKING GRATUIT, CENTRE DE CONFÉRENCES, ESPACE WELLNESS, PISCINE EXTÉRIEURE CHAUFFÉE



ognize, however, that the topic of transgender athletes is highly debated globally. Other challenges arise from cultural differences on topics like health and menstruation. A lot of work remains to be done.

What were your top three goals for the Paris 2024 Games?

Magali Marcowicz: Our goals were driving best practices in event selection and organization, implementing innovative initiatives like training volunteers to spot discrimination, and ensuring the Games embody universal inclusivity.

Kirsty, how does your team navigate the challenge of fostering a safe and supportive environment amidst the high-pressure backdrop of the Olympic Games?

Kirsty Burrows: At the Safe Sport Unit which I lead, we are dedicated to fostering a culture of respect and safety in sports. We prioritize psychological safety, ensuring that athletes can thrive both on and off the field. Our goal is to empower athletes to speak up and advocate for their well-being.

How does the ITA define its mission of “keeping sport real”?

Benjamin Cohen, Director of the International Testing Agency: “Keeping sport real” starts with acknowledging the complexities athletes face, such as societal pressures, economic disparities, and systemic issues that may lead to doping or unethical behavior. The agency aims to understand athletes’ realities comprehensively and provide support, education, and holistic solutions beyond traditional testing and sanctions.

What innovative approaches is the agency exploring to combat doping and protect athletes in Paris?

Benjamin Cohen: While our focus is primarily data-driven and scientifically oriented, we recognize the value of creativity in problem-solving and communication. We are exploring holistic approaches that incorporate meditation and art therapy to support athletes and combat doping effectively.

Kirsty, how will the Safe Sports Unit address concerns around athlete welfare and mental health during the Paris Games?

Kirsty Burrows: Our approach involves real-time response mechanisms using AI to combat cyber abuse and provide immediate support. We prioritize mental health with dedicated well-being zones, which for the first time will be part of gym facilities. We are proud of the Mentally Fit Helpline. It provides support to athletes in need, allowing them to access counseling and guidance in multiple formats like voice messaging or video calls. It connects athletes with licensed counselors who speak their language and offers free services for as long as four years after the Games.

Could you share your vision for the legacy of the Paris Games?

Marie Sallois: Large-scale events like the Olympics are pivotal in driving societal change and sustainability practices. We believe that the Paris Games set a new standard for sustainable and inclusive sporting events. Our focus is on leaving a positive legacy through green practices, community engagement, and promoting diversity in sports.

Christophe Dubi: Paris 2024 embodies the Olympic spirit of unity and resilience. By celebrating diversity and showcasing sustainable practices, these games will inspire people worldwide and foster a sense of hope for the future.

The 2024 Paris Games’ sustainability pledge challenges us to redefine the essence of sports, transcending mere competition to create a platform for positive societal impact. Let us carry forward the legacy of the Games in the spirit of innovation and collaboration, ensuring that the art of sport continues to inspire profound change in the world. And may the message of Jeff Owens fly high over the Olympic pedestal, inspiring the sacred trinity of diversity, inclusivity and sustainability to be *Citius, Altius, Fortius*. //

Ticket to Verna

THAT'S IT. I'VE HAD ENOUGH. I WANT OFF THIS PLANET

Turn on the TV any time of day - any day - and you'll catch a newscaster in mid-sentence say something like: "... killed in a bombing that..."; "... melting faster than previously..."; "... with aid supplies dwindling..."; "... charged with hate crimes against..."; "... massive job losses affecting..."

It's a 24-hour news cycle of atrocity, hatred, cruelty and greed. If it's not long-running wars, it's new ones. If it's not destruction caused by old technologies, it's the fear of future ones.

That's why I'm leaving. I've just bought my ticket to Verna.

Back in Junior High School, I read a short story that deeply impressed me. It's called "*Of Missing Persons*", by science fiction author, Jack Finney¹. Back in the 1950s, Finney published a tale of a bank teller in New York who can't take it anymore. The rat race. The violence. The everything.

This bank teller hears of a secret travel agency that can take you to the beautiful, green planet of Verna. It's inhabited by peaceful aliens who have become concerned with the decline of Earth. So, they've opened up travel agencies to take people who desperately want to leave. The ticket price? Whatever you've got in your pocket.

The hero buys his ticket and travels to a barn where like-minded travellers sit, waiting to be beamed to Verna. However, at the last minute, he thinks it's a scam - there can't be another option. *It's just not possible*. He gets up, furious with himself - just as he's leaving, the portal opens, and he sees a glimpse of that perfect, verdant world, but then, in a flash, the travellers disappear, and he's stuck on our planet forever.

Can you identify with the bank teller? How many times have we gotten up our hopes like that (for a political candidate, for a social movement), and then we lose hope, and everyone else loses hope, and it all falls apart?

Maybe it's because these movements are based on allegiances to a flag, or a platform, or the interests of one group. They want to kill in our name. They want to burn forests in our name. Maybe we have to think again.

Last night, I was reading Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Silverado Squatters*, about his travels in 1880s California. Stevenson writes of meeting a Swedish sailor who'd worked for years on Scottish ships. When the sailor learns the author is Scottish, he's overjoyed - and they feel a deep connection transcending any differences. As Stevenson writes, "Here was a man, at least, who was a Swede, a Scot, and an American, acknowledging some kind of allegiance to three lands... But, indeed, I think we all belong to many countries. And perhaps this habit of much travel, and the engendering of scattered friendships, may prepare the euthanasia of ancient nations."²

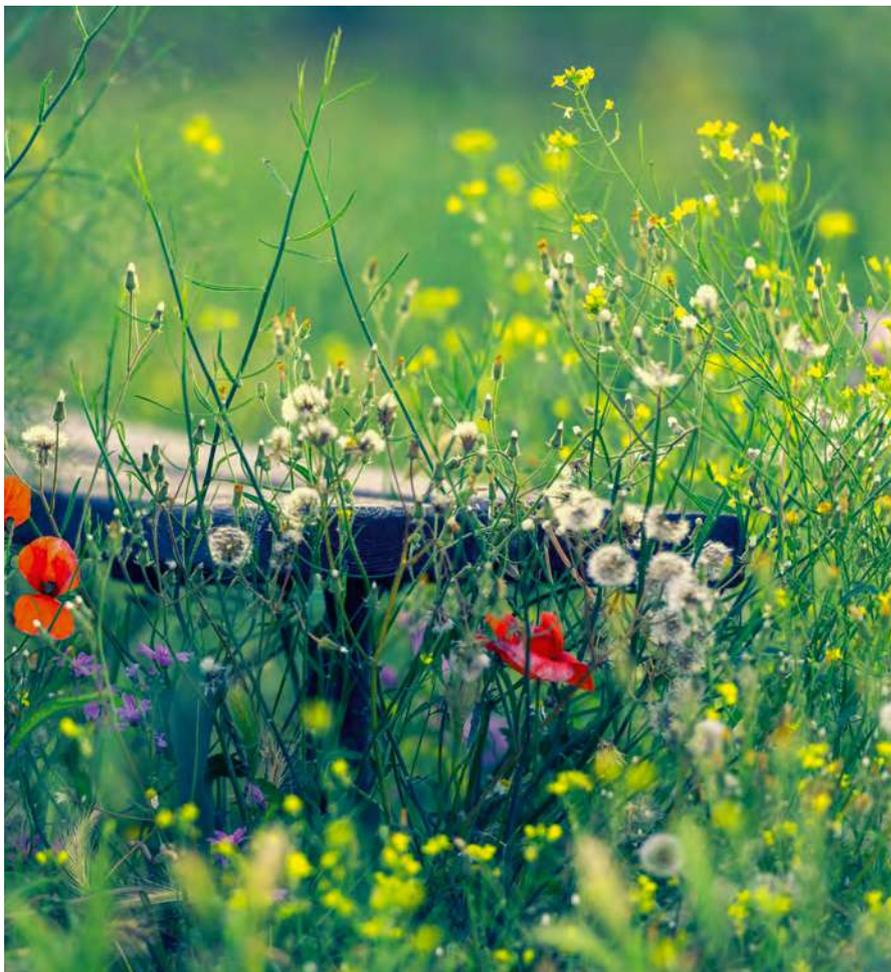
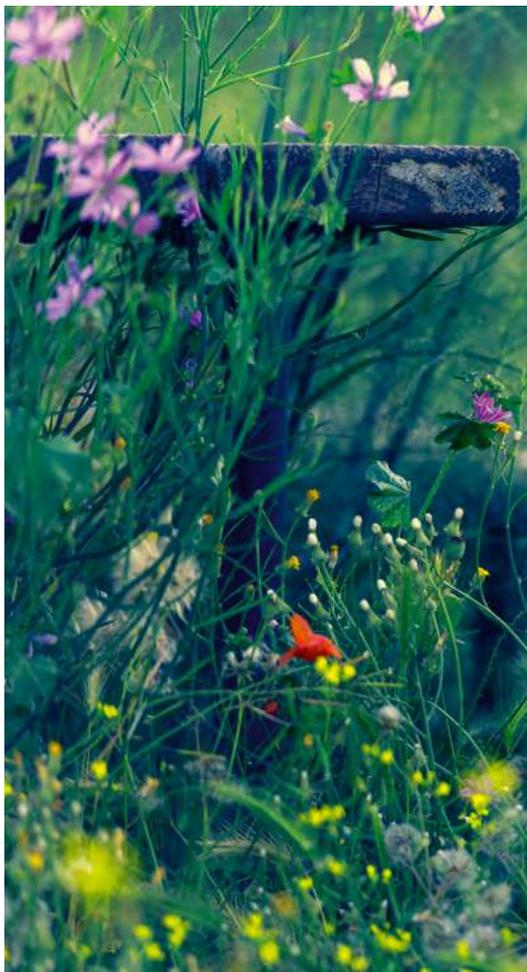
Engendering scattered friendships...Haven't you ever talked to a stranger on a train, and, in the space of an hour, you've felt you had more in common with them than people you went to school with, maybe even members of your own family? How many people have you met like that - 6, a dozen, maybe more?

This happened to me years ago, late one night when I was working in the city of Guangzhou. A colleague of mine (whom I only knew well enough to pass the time of day) invited me to walk up the path of White Cloud Mountain with him. It's a beautiful spot of greenery overlooking that sprawling city in southern China. There, amongst the trees and winding walkways, we sat down at a café. He invited me for a chrysanthemum tea; and, with the night air filled with the scent of pines, a beautiful flower opened up in my teacup.

We talked for a long time. We talked about everything and nothing. We talked about pressures of our jobs, hopes for our families, how we wanted to spend more time with them. We talked about our children and the cost of education, and how we tried to make ends meet.

And then it struck me, a lesson I've learned (and forgotten) over and over in my travels throughout Asia, Latin America and Europe. Although we differed in a hundred ways, from nationality, to religion, to politics (and these things were neither here nor there), we had many more things in common - the things that count.

TEXT ERIC STENER CARLSON,
UN SOCIETY OF WRITERS
PHOTO ROBERTO NAVARRO - UNSPLASH



And it's not just me and my friend in Guangzhou. There are millions of people scattered all over the world - potential friends who'd prefer sitting down to a cup of tea than fighting, people who just want a job, just want food for their table, and would be happy for you to join them in a meal. They're all potential refugees to Verna.

Don't get me wrong. I don't really think I'm going to be beamed to an otherworldly paradise. (Like they say, there is no "Planet B".) Verna's boundaries aren't geographical but mental. It's a state of mind, a way of thinking and including in very simple ways, and going beyond the violent nonsense that tries to separate us.

So, instead of actually going somewhere else, we can stay here and believe in something else. We can believe in each other. School teachers, shop keepers, mechanics, writers, truck drivers, artists, philosophers. On our maps, we can include all the families, all the friends, all the workers we have so much in common with scattered all over the globe. We can redraw the lines, so our maps aren't political or topographical, but fundamentally human.

There are just a few rules, if you want to go to Verna. You can bring your politics, if we can still sit down and drink chrysanthemum tea together. You can bring your religion, if you can still invite me into your house and share a meal. And the same goes for me.

The world can go on fighting without me, because I've got my ticket to Verna buttoned up in the breast pocket of my coat. My bags are packed. I've used up all my change, and I'm leaving my keys behind, because I don't need them where I'm going. //

My only question is, "Are you coming with me?"

1 Finney's story first appeared in *SF: The Year's Greatest Science-Fiction and Fantasy* (Dell, 1956).

2 Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Silverado Squatters* (London: The Folio Society Ltd, 1991) 157.

Finding calm in the chaos,
in the field of flowers,
one step at a time.

The obsolete notion of a “just war”

THIS IS A PART II & III CONTINUATION OF AN ESSAY ON PEACE STARTED IN JUNE 2024 ISSUE

PART I

For millennia going to war has been the prerogative of kings and heads of state. It was considered an attribute of every sovereign and practised worldwide in the sense of Carl von Clausewitz’ statement: “war is a continuation of politics by other means.”¹ This is also in the philosophy of Niccolo Machiavelli’s *Prince*, the end justifies the means, might is right.

Conquest, subjugation and exploitation have been the scourge endured by millions of human beings. Historians have recorded wars and their aftermath, sometimes adorning them with a splashing of glory.

Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Attila the Hun, Genghis Khan, Tamerlane, Louis XIV, Napoleon, President Andrew Jackson, Queen Victoria, Leopold II of Belgium², Theodore Roosevelt³, Hitler have all engaged in wars of conquest costing millions of human lives. The number of outrageously unjust wars is endless, from the Roman destruction of Carthage, to the conquest of Gaul, to the US wars against the First Nations of North America⁴, to the Opium Wars against China⁵ to the US overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom and its subsequent annexation through a fraudulent referendum⁶, to the Spanish-American war of 1898, etc. *ad nauseam*.

Since the entry into force of the UN Charter on 24 October 1945, aggression is prohibited by virtue of article 2(4) of the Charter. The use of force is only permitted with the express approval of the Security Council or - only temporarily - pursuant to article 51 of the Charter, which stipulates the right of self-defence if a previous military attack has occurred that requires an immediate response. Yet, self-defence does not legitimize vengeance, a prolonged war or the commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The so-called doctrine of “Responsibility to Protect” (R2P)⁷ is a dangerous invention, devised

to pretend that a foreign military intervention can be somehow legitimized by reference to “humanitarian principles”, which are not defined and can be invoked *à la carte*. Luckily, R2P is only “soft law” and cannot derogate from the obligation to refrain from the use of force without UN approval. It bears repeating that in case of conflict between the UN Charter and any other treaty, including the Treaty of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, it is the UN Charter that prevails pursuant to the “supremacy clause” laid down in article 103 of the Charter.

CRITERIA

Revisiting the old theory of the “just war”, we recognize a moral element, an effort to assert a kind of military ethics, which should ensure that an armed conflict is morally justifiable. According to the “theory”, which this author rejects, there are four criteria to be satisfied for a war to be considered “just”.

From the classical writings of Christian theologians, including St. Augustine⁸ and St. Thomas Aquinas⁹, a just war requires that 1) the war be declared by competent authority, 2) probability of success, e.g. a war must not be a gamble, a risky *vabanque* speculation; the aims of the just war must be reasonably achievable with the least amount of force, 3) war can only be a last resort, after all non-violent options have been exhausted, and 4) there must be a just cause, a legitimate *casus belli*, e.g. the necessity to stop genocide, but not simply trying to recapture lost territories¹⁰, teaching the “enemy” a lesson or collectively punishing peoples.

While an aggression automatically delegitimizes any argument of a “just war”, it must also be borne in mind that aggression frequently has a pre-history, and the target of the aggression may itself bear considerable responsibility for the outbreak of hostilities. Indeed, if a State engages in provocation and sabre-rattling, if a State deliberately escalates tensions and gives reason to another State to feel existentially threatened, then the provoker may actually bear greater re-



At the 1805 meat-grinder of Austerlitz Napoleon emerged victorious against the Austrians, Prussians and Russians. An estimated 15,000 soldiers died. Thousands were maimed.

sponsibility than the State that has been driven to a kind of “*pre-emptive self-defence*”. Admittedly, article 51 of the UN Charter does not allow any kind of pre-emptive self-defence, but at the same time it must be borne in mind that by provoking another state, the provoker is violating article 2(4) of the UN Charter, which specifically prohibits the *threat* of the use of force.

PART II

What are the criteria for a “*just war*”? What would we as UN staffers consider legitimate use of force?

Undoubtedly, insurrection against oppressive rule is morally legitimate. Already the French Enlightenment philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau argued this, and the US Declaration of Independence of 4 July 1776 reads in part “*That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it... it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.*” This is an eloquent expression of the right of self-determination of peoples, in particular the right to resist oppression.¹¹

This idea has been incorporated into numerous UN General Assembly Resolutions, including the 1974 Declaration on Aggression¹², article 7 of which stipulates:

“Nothing in this Definition, and in particular article 3, could in any way prejudice the right to self-determination, freedom and independence, as derived from the Charter, of peoples forcibly deprived of

that right and referred to in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, particularly peoples under colonial and racist regimes or other forms of alien domination: nor the right of these peoples to struggle to that end and to seek and receive support, in accordance with the principles of the Charter and in conformity with the above-mentioned Declaration.”¹³

Alas, the Right of self-determination of peoples, anchored in the UN Charter (articles 1, 55, Chapter XI, XII) and in article 1 common to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, is not self-executing. Many peoples with legitimate aspirations to self-determination have rebelled against oppression and been massacred in the process, including the Igbos and Ogonis of Biafra and the Tamils of Sri Lanka¹⁴. While their insurrection could be considered a “*just war*”, consistent with General Assembly Resolutions 2625 and 3314, their inability to succeed has further reduced the validity of the “*just war*” theory, since the world watched and did nothing to prevent the massacres respectively by Nigeria and Sri Lanka.

Another consideration in evaluating a purported “*just war*” is that during the armed struggle the two principles of international humanitarian law be respected. The International Committee of the Red Cross has identified two overarching principles: the principle of distinction between combatants and non-combatants, between military and civilian targets, and the principle of proportionality. In the 2023-24 war in Gaza, it is clear that Israel has grossly violated both principles. At present there is a contentious case under the Genocide Convention before the International Court of Justice. There is a pending criminal investigation before the International Criminal Court and on 19 July 2024 the ICJ delivered an Advisory Opinion that clarifies who is the victim and who is the aggressor (<https://www.icj-cij.org/case/186>).

A wider understanding of a “*just war*” would necessarily encompass the ethics and viability of post-war settlements – a *jus post-bellum*. While the general idea is that all wars must be prevented and that the United Nations should be more pro-active in mediating peace, it is most impor-

tant to ensure that post-war arrangements provide for conditions of sustainable peace. In this context it is far more important to provide immediate humanitarian assistance to victims on all sides of a conflict and take measures aimed at reducing hatred with a view to reconciliation and reconstruction.

In particular, the text of article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights must be kept in mind – the prohibition of war propaganda and incitement to hatred and violence. Indeed, most wars have been sustained by propaganda and hate-mongering. What is necessary is to implement the promise of the UNESCO Constitution that “*since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.*”

CONCLUSION

All wars are unjust. They are barbaric and shock the conscience of mankind. They outrage the humanity of civilians and soldiers alike. The material and spiritual damage caused is colossal, leaving wounds that can only heal with time and *caritas*.

Lawyers, historians and the media all collude in concocting the apologetics of war and presenting multiple murder in the noble light of defending vital interests, “*self-sacrifice*”, patriotism, and elevating warfare on the pedestal of national pride and fountainhead of the “*glory*” of the nation. Indeed, all wars unleash good and bad human traits. There is true heroism and genuine self-sacrifice, which deserve our respect. But heroism is not the exclusive domain of one party to a conflict. There are heroes on all sides. Alas, their courage and sacrifice are wasted.

No, there are no “*just wars*” but only meat-grinder and messy slaughter. The so-called “*just war doctrine*” is an obsolete scam (in principle abolished by the UN Charter) to justify aggression and landgrab. The only “*just war*” is the war we must wage against the arrogance of power¹⁶, against the mentality that considers provocations and sabre-rattling as a kind of “*sport*”, although this kind of arrogance almost always leads to armed conflict.

The Roman poet Horatius painted war in pastel colours, “*dulce et decorum est pro patria mori*” (*Odes* III, 2, 13) – it is sweet and proper to die for the homeland – but why not LIVE for the homeland, for one’s family, children and grandchildren, for future generations, for beauty, mu-

sic, the common heritage of mankind? The British poet Wilfred Owen, who himself died during the First World War, called it “*the Old Lie*”¹⁷. The German novelist Erich Maria Remarque protested against the artificial creation and demonization of the enemy, when the adversary is just another young soldier, drafted into the Army and robbed of his youth. The main character in Remarque’s novel *All Quiet on the Western Front* is a simple German soldier, Paul Bäumer, who also gets killed at the end of the story, just before the armistice, thus highlighting the senselessness of it all. //

1 “*Der Krieg ist eine bloße Fortsetzung der Politik mit anderen Mitteln.*” - Vom Kriege, 1. Buch, 1. Kapitel, Unterkapitel 24.

2 Matthew Stanard, *Matthew G. Selling the Congo: A history of European pro-empire propaganda and the making of Belgian imperialism*, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, 2012.

3 Gregg Jones, *Honor in the Dust: Theodore Roosevelt, War in the Philippines.*, New American Library, 2013.

4 David Stannard, *American Holocaust*, Oxford University Press. 1992.

5 <https://www.historyisnowmagazine.com/blog/2021/3/7/queen-victoria-and-the-first-opium-war>

6 <https://www.hawaiiiankingdom.net/news/archives/03-2022>

<https://www.hawaiiiankingdom.net/news/category/united-nations>

07 General Assembly Resolution 60/1 of 24 October 2005, paragraphs 138-39.

08 *City of God, Political and Social Philosophy* “*War and Peace – the Just War*”; Thornton Lockwood, *Cicero’s Philosophy of Just War, taken from a missing fragment of Cicero’s dialogue On the Republic*.

09 *Summa Theologica*, Christian Classics Ethereal Library. pp. pt. II, sec. 2.

10 *This means inter alia that it would not be a “just war” if the Germans were to start a war to recapture their 700 year-old homelands in East Prussia, Pomerania, Silesia and East Brandenburg, lost to Poland at the end of World War II, nor Azerbaijan carry out a Blitzkrieg to recapture the Armenian territories of Nagorno Karabakh, nor Ukraine the Russian-populated territories of Crimea and Donbas.*

11 <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript>

12 <https://undocs.org/Home/>

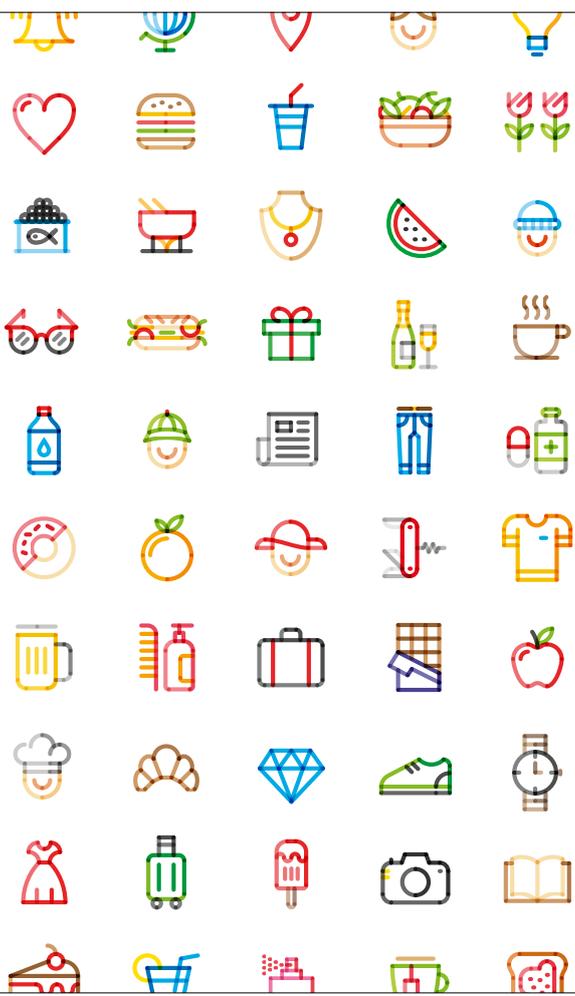
13 <http://un-documents.net/a29r3314.htm>

14 <https://www.counterpunch.org/2022/12/23/the-tamil-people-unsung-victims/>

15 <https://www.unesco.org/en/legal-affairs/constitution>

16 J. William Fulbright, *The Arrogance of Power*, Random House New York 1966. <https://archive.org/details/arroganceofpower00fulb>

17 See Wilfred Owen’s critical poem “*Dulce et decorum est*” <https://poets.org/poem/dulce-et-decorum-est>



A world of shops and food to enjoy!



Relax. We take care of you.



ResaPark
Book your parking space

Pack VIP
The solution "comfort"



Priority Lane
Access security control with priority



Book now gva.ch/eservices

A knowledge management system for health emergencies

LIMITING THE NEED TO REINVENT THE WHEEL
FROM ONE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY TO ANOTHER

KNOWLEDGE LOSSES AFTER RESPONSES TO PUBLIC HEALTH EVENTS

Amani was an incident manager in the Republic of Global Land. You saw her on the news. She was the senior emergency responder in the Andromeda outbreak in the Republic of Global Land.

She was so eloquent as she detailed the morbidity and mortality statistics regarding the outbreak and the emergency response measures, they had put in place to contain it. She also hinted at the possibility of the Health Minister declaring an end to the outbreak soon.

Well, that was 10 years ago.

You are now the incident manager in the small Kingdom of Scientia. Your country is going through the 3rd outbreak of Andromeda. Each subsequent outbreak has resulted in more cases and deaths. The country has lost health workers, other emergency response personnel and several citizens to Andromeda. Emergency response resources which are already overstretched, are running out.

You remember Amani. What if you could seek her advice?

After several futile attempts to reach her, you find out she retired and is living in the home for the aged. Her memory is fading, and she may not be able to give you the information you requested. Alas!

“The knowledge they [responders] gained from the response would be valuable only if made easily accessible for the country to use and support national efforts to better prepare for and respond to future Ebola outbreaks and other emergencies, and to build overall capacities for emergency management in the country before it is ‘lost’ forever”.

Health Officials at WHO-supported AAR of four Ebola virus disease outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of Congo conducted in June 2021¹

LIMITED DOCUMENTATION OF REVIEW RESPONSES

Then you remember that member states conduct After Action Reviews (AARs) of all public health events. AARs are done to identify and document best practices during a response and challenges to and lessons learned from the response to an event, and to identify actions that need to be implemented to ensure better preparation for future public health events, including actions required to establish and strengthen the necessary capabilities in the health sector and beyond. After a few enquires you find out that the Republic of Global Land conducted an After-Action Review of the Andromeda outbreak several months after the outbreak had ended. But their report has not been published on the government website nor on the WHO website. What a bore!

A colleague, who you had met at a professional event, contacts his friends in the Republic of Global Land who then trace a hard copy of the After-Action review report you wish to access. They subsequently send you scanned images of the report. You sit down to peruse the report. It has been 10 days since you first tried to reach Amani and the number of cases and deaths reported by the Republic of Global Land are on the rise. Sigh!

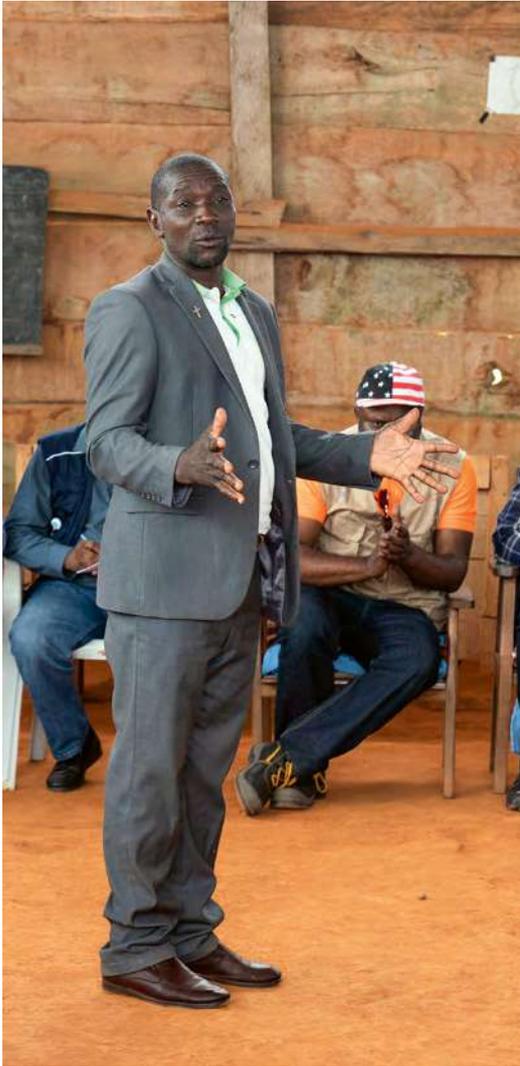
Although the knowledge was readily available in written form, it was difficult to find.

“... the availability of that technical information, that how-to information, was surprisingly inaccessible... A lot of the time we were scrambling around as though this stuff hadn't been done... it's not even that you can't find [knowledge], you don't even know how to look for it.”

One of the responders responsible for an aid organisation to the 2013-16 EVD outbreak in Sierra Leone.²

The 5-paged AAR report has a short background and methodology section. The bulk of the report is an assessment of response actions by

TEXT COUNTRY SIMULATION EXERCISES AND REVIEW UNIT (CER),
HEALTH SECURITY PREPAREDNESS DEPARTMENT, HEALTH EMERGENCIES PROGRAMME, WHO HQ
PHOTO CHRISTOPHER BLACK, WHO



So much of our future relies on preserving the past. Preservation is in the business of saving communities and the knowledge they embody.

select pillar. It documents what was done right and what went wrong. It also details specific actions (or inactions) that led to unfavourable emergency responses. You finish skimming through the document in 10 minutes. You then opt to reread the document in detail, with pen and paper in hand, to ensure that you did not miss any pertinent information. One-hour later, your paper is still blank. Although the report contains very useful information, you have a gut feeling that you have not found the information you seek though you still can't fathom what exactly it is. You get this sunken feeling in your stomach! Ah!

"... action reports may not cover every issue that needs to be dealt with during an emergency, as frequently unique and unanticipated events arise during each emergency. Furthermore, people may leave the organization due to attrition or retirement, and some of the informal rules that serve as the 'glue' that affords the very ability to function may be lost."

"The nature of the decisions, where they are made, who makes them, the data and information resources required to make and monitor them, and

the location of available knowledge to drive them may sometimes be unknown, unavailable, or both." Becerra-Fernandez et al.³

What if there was a way you could easily find out everything the Republic of Global Land did to contain the Andromeda outbreak 10 years ago including information that may not have been documented in the report?

A KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO PREVENT KNOWLEDGE LOSSES AND FACILITATE KNOWLEDGE CONTINUITY FROM ONE EMERGENCY TO ANOTHER

What is a knowledge management system?

Knowledge management systems are comprised of "initiatives, processes, strategies, and systems that sustain and enhance the storage, assessment, sharing, refinement, and creation of knowledge."

What are the types of knowledge?"

Tacit knowledge constitutes mental models, perspectives, intuitions, experiences, and know-how which may be difficult to communicate and may have not been articulated. Explicit knowledge is conveyed in formal systematic representations that are readily communicated such as books, reports, databases, libraries, or a set of rules.

Why should knowledge management systems preserve tacit knowledge?

Emergency responders usually go through a process of collating and selecting data that they analyse and structure to gain insights about public health events. Subsequently they can weigh these insights to make judgements that inform their life-saving decisions. Such a process is not always without fault which usually leads to devastating outcomes. When other emergency responders understand the rationale behind life-saving decisions made by their colleagues during past events, they do not have to 're-invent the wheel' in responding to on-going protracted public health emergencies and when preparing for future emergencies.

"It was really remarkable, we felt like we were doing this stuff for the first time, like no one in the world had ever decontaminated an ambulance"

One of the responders responsible for an aid organisation to the 2013-16 EVD outbreak in Sierra Leone.²

CAMERON MACKINTOSH
PRESENTS

BOUBLIL &
SCHÖNBERG'S

Les Misérables

ARENA MUSICAL SPECTACULAR

LYRICS BY HERBERT KRETZMER

ENGLISH VERSION | SOUS-TITRES EN FRANÇAIS

ARENA GENÈVE
30.10-3.11.24

OPUS ONE TAKAB ticketcorner+ Le Matin Dimanche RTS

DYN GROUP

ARE YOU AN ENTREPRENEUR IN GENEVA?

DYN is here for you and your business.

We support your real estate projects with expertise in taxation, accounting, and business consulting.

DYN GROUP
Route de Saint-Julien 198,
1228 Plan-les-Ouates, Genève, Suisse

Rue de la Grotte 6,
1003 Lausanne, Vaud, Suisse

+41 22 566 66 20
www.dyngroup.ch

Follow us on
in @ f

Tacit knowledge gained through lived experiences of emergency responders like Amani are not systematically collected and preserved to support decision making during the response to ongoing prolonged emergencies and in preparation for future emergencies.

Moreover, emergency response teams are usually comprised of members of different organizations who may be working together for the first time. These responders usually return to their organizations and countries following an emergency response as it happened during the response to the four west African Ebola outbreaks between 2016 and 2018. Furthermore, over time in-country emergency responders may leave their organizations for other institutions or due to retirement like in Amani's case or decease. Thus, those that are left behind may find it difficult to adequately prepare for future emergencies.

When should tacit knowledge be collected?

Tacit knowledge should be collected as soon as possible after an event (or during a prolonged emergency) when emergency responders' memories are still fresh and emergency response team have not dispersed using established debrief sessions. Nonetheless, ongoing knowledge capture should also be used where immediate debrief sessions are not possible or tacit knowledge is gained during routine events.

How should tacit knowledge be collected?

Tacit knowledge should be collected during routine debrief sessions which should be expanded to include a root cause analysis of what worked (or did not work), why it worked and the rationale behind decisions made.

Debrief reports should include summaries of pertinent information related to tacit knowledge used during a response in addition to the routine procedural information.

Where should tacit knowledge be preserved?

Tacit knowledge should be preserved in a shareable online repository that countries like the small Kingdom of Scientia can access as needed to inform emergency readiness, preparedness and response. Nonetheless, the repository ought to be a living repository to accommodate for the volatile nature of knowledge.

Who should be involved in the collection and preservation of tacit knowledge?

Emergency responders who were on the frontline of a response are the main sources and users of tacit knowledge. The WHO can use its convening power to harness this untapped experiential knowledge of emergency response personnel and ensure it is well-packed in an accessible format for emergency response personnel to access worldwide.

Emergency responders who were on the frontline of a response are the main sources and users of tacit knowledge. The WHO can use its convening power to harness this untapped experiential knowledge of emergency response personnel and ensure it is well-packed in an accessible format for emergency response personnel to access worldwide.⁵ //

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/operations/simulation-exercises>

CONTACTS

Landry Ndriko Mayigane
mayiganel@who.int

- 1 World Health Organization. *Technical Report: After Action Review of the Response to the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th Outbreaks of the Ebola Virus Disease in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2021.*
- 2 Moon J. *Learning the Lessons of Crisis: Mobilising Knowledge During a Global Health Emergency.* Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform [Internet]. 2020. Available from: <https://www.socialscienceinaction.org/resources/learning-the-lessons-of-crisis-mobilising-knowledge-during-a-global-health-emergency/>.
- 3 Becerra-Fernandez I, Madey G, Prietula M, et al. *Project ENSAYO: a virtual emergency operations center for disaster management research, training and discovery.* Second International Conference on Internet Monitoring and Protection (ICIMP 2007) 2007. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/ICIMP.2007.35>.
- 4 Hajric E. *Knowledge Management System and Practices: A Theoretical and Practical Guide for Knowledge Management in Your Organization.* 2018. [https://helpjuice.com/pdfs/Knowledge_Management_A_Theoretical_And_Practical_Guide_Emil_Hajric\(PDF\).pdf?vgo_ee=evNPtBStQhwiXQhWB8Tws4UtBVR-F%2FuF%2F8jIPD4IjsJh4Kw%3D%3D%3AJZpa-qPhSrQAolcFiDvee%2FUECGRAeu8vt](https://helpjuice.com/pdfs/Knowledge_Management_A_Theoretical_And_Practical_Guide_Emil_Hajric(PDF).pdf?vgo_ee=evNPtBStQhwiXQhWB8Tws4UtBVR-F%2FuF%2F8jIPD4IjsJh4Kw%3D%3D%3AJZpa-qPhSrQAolcFiDvee%2FUECGRAeu8vt)
- 5 Mayigane, L. N., Burmen, B., Mbanya, A., Brennan, E., Vente, C., Vedrasco, L., & Chungong, S. (2024). *A Knowledge Management System for health emergencies: facilitating knowledge continuity and timely decision-making for frontline responders using experiential knowledge captured during action reviews.* *Frontiers in Public Health*, 12, 1427223.

Embracing Change: How Effective Change Management Drives Success in Changing Digital Landscapes

AS ORGANIZATIONS EMBARK ON DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, THE CHALLENGE LIES NOT ONLY IN INTEGRATING NEW TECHNOLOGIES BUT ALSO IN ENSURING EMPLOYEES ARE EQUIPPED TO USE THEM EFFECTIVELY

LEARN +

CMCoE



In the ever-evolving landscape of organizational operations, change management is a dynamic, constantly evolving process. As digitalization, globalization, and disruptive events reshape the world, organizations must adapt to stay ahead. This is especially true in our rapidly changing digital ecosystems, where the efficient integration of new technologies is paramount to success.

ADAPTING TO THE DIGITAL AGE

Imagine an organization on the brink of digital transformation. It faces the daunting task of transitioning to new systems and platforms. The challenge is not just about implementing new technological tools but also about putting the user in the center of the change. Employees need adequate training and support to fully embrace these new technologies and processes. This is where Change Management plays a crucial role. It incorporates strategies to manage the transition to digital systems and platforms. Change management begins with a clear, strategic plan that aligns with the organization's vision and goals. Employees need to feel confident in using new systems and technologies. Change management facilitates comprehensive training programs tailored to different learning styles and needs.

LEVERAGING DIGITAL ADOPTION PLATFORMS FOR CHANGE MANAGEMENT

A prime example of this is within the WHO context is the Digital Adoption Platform (DAP). A tool designed to streamline digital learning processes and enhance user adoption of new software and systems. So, what exactly is a DAP? It

is a software solution designed to help organizations accelerate the adoption and efficient use of new digital tools and technologies. It provides in-app guidance, training, and support to users, making it easier for them to understand and utilize new systems. DAPs are particularly valuable during periods of digital transformation, where employees must quickly adapt to new software and workflows.

LET'S LOOK AT THE EXAMPLE OF SPOTLIGHT STEPS WITHIN WHO CONTEXT.

This year, Information Management & Technology Department (IMT) launched Spotlight STEPS, a Digital Adoption Platform for WHO applications. It is already supporting the roll-out of WHO's new enterprise resource planning (ERP) system, called Business Management System (BMS). By embedding contextual guidance directly within the interface, employees will be able to learn and execute tasks more efficiently, resulting in a smoother transition and higher user adoption and satisfaction. Already in use by the eJRF/WIISE Project from the immunization department and the new global OneWHO Intranet, Spotlight STEPS is progressively rolling out to more applications.

WHY A DAP IS AN EFFECTIVE CHANGE MANAGEMENT INSTRUMENT

Organizations constantly face challenges when implementing changes, especially when it comes to adopting new technologies and processes. Resistance to change, lack of understanding of new systems, and low employee adoption rates are just some of the barriers that can hinder the success of a change project.

TEXT AISHWARYA RAGHURAMAN,
CRISTINA FERRERO & TORMOD LUND, WHO
PHOTO COTTON BRO STUDIO - PEXELS/CANVA



Facilitates Digital Transition: A DAP provides a layer of contextual, real-time support directly within the applications employees are using. This means that when an employee encounters new functionality or processes, they receive instant in-app guidance and assistance, facilitating the transition to the new technology. This contextual guidance eliminates the need for long and costly training programs, allowing employees to learn on the job while performing their daily tasks. By streamlining the right information to the right people at the right time, a DAP helps combat ineffective information overload.

Improves User Experience: By offering personalized and specific guidance based on the user's needs and actions, a DAP significantly enhances the user experience. Employees feel more confident and comfortable interacting with new technologies, reducing resistance to change and increasing acceptance of the new way of working.

Increases Productivity: By accelerating the adoption process of new tools and systems, a DAP helps minimize disruptions in productivity that often accompany organizational changes. Employees can quickly master new functions and work more efficiently, resulting in a smoother transition and faster recovery of lost productivity during the change.

Provides Actionable Data: A DAP provides valuable insights for change leaders, enabling them to identify areas of resistance, pinpoint gaps in understanding, and adapt training and communication strategies effectively to address these issues.

CONCLUSION

A Digital Adoption Platform (DAP) is a powerful change management tool that facilitates digital transition, improves user experience, increases productivity, and provides actionable data to drive the success of organizational change projects. By integrating a DAP into change management strategies, organizations can overcome common barriers associated with the adoption of new technologies and ensure a smooth and successful transition to new ways of working.

For more information on implementing Change Management, reach out to the WHO Change Management Centre of Excellence (CMCoE) in IMT Project Management Office (PMO) at changemanagement@who.int. The CMCoE enables and supports WHO projects, providing tools, templates, and change management services. It is dedicated to researching the latest trends and technologies for effective change management.//

Infection prevention and control (IPC)

IN THE ONGOING MULTI-REGION CHOLERA OUTBREAK

During cholera outbreaks, health systems can become overwhelmed with patients presenting with dehydration, diarrhoea, and vomiting. The increased caseload and support needs for patients with cholera often result in health systems dedicating temporary onsite structures and wards (cholera treatment units) or repurposed standalone structures or tent hospitals (cholera treatment centres). Oral rehydration points placed closer to communities are also used for outpatient care to enable oral rehydration solutions distribution to persons with mild cases of cholera.

It is a major challenge for IPC to ensure that standard and contact precautions are applied and maintained during surges of patients excreting infectious body fluids. Despite temporary treatment areas being dedicated for the cohort-isolation of cholera patients, many patients with other forms of infectious diarrhoea are cared for in the same spaces, as laboratory confirmation for cholera is not often performed. The normal range of health care-associated infections (HAIs) remains a risk, and all strategies put in place must also mitigate a concurrent HAI outbreak occurring within treatment areas. An additional variable that can delay implementation of IPC systems and strategies is a near-constant need to train new staff and community-based volunteers, as surge staffing and high-turnover are frequently experienced during public health emergencies (PHE).

IPC must also ensure that any measure aimed at reducing transmission risk is not posing new risks to occupational health and patient safety. Without a careful approach to IPC that weighs the balance of infection prevention against potential harms, well-intended response measures can initiate additional risks of harm in health care settings. Some examples include; unmitigated exposure to chemical disinfectants, contaminated food and water distribution, and unsafe extended use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Mitigating faecal-oral transmission in health care facilities involves a combination of:

- Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructural components to reduce the risk of systemic introduction of waterborne infections in the water used for the health care facility, enable the sanitation and waste management systems for removal of infectious body fluids and contaminated items including sharps used in delivery of care, and enable the hygienic infrastructure for hand washing, cleaning, and showering to remove environmental reservoirs.
- Food safety management principles to reduce the risk of systemic introduction of foodborne infections in the food served in the health care facility.
- IPC standard and contact precautions to reduce the risk of direct or indirect transfer of pathogens causing HAIs in health facilities where patients with infectious diarrhoea are cared for. Ensuring each individual patient space is managed using hygienic practices for patient placement, hand hygiene, manual cleaning with soap and water followed by application of appropriate disinfectants, aseptic technique, linen and laundry management, medical device decontamination/reprocessing, and rational use of PPE.

COMBATING CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN ZAMBIA: COMPREHENSIVE INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL MEASURES NEEDED

In October 2023, Zambia faced a significant PHE with the cholera outbreak, primarily reported in Lusaka Province before spreading to other provinces. The situation was exacerbated by imported cases from neighbouring Malawi and Mozambique. By March 2024, the Zambia cholera outbreak had resulted in 22,481 cases and 724 deaths, reflecting a 3.2% case fatality rate.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AND LOCAL EFFORTS

The WHO Health Emergencies (WHE) programme deployed four IPC specialists from three levels of the organization (HQ, AFRO, WCO) to join



Effectively implementing IPC measures can significantly reduce the impact of cholera and other infectious diseases, safeguarding public health and saving lives.

the WCO incident management team to support the ongoing cholera response. This mission aimed at improving quality of care in temporary treatment areas and aligning the strategic efforts of various partners. Activities included partner coordination, developing SOPs, HCW training, supporting an MoH-led IPC monitoring tool, and developing educational materials tailored for cholera treatment centres and units.

Coordination and Partnership: Enhanced coordination through strategic IPC/WASH pillar meetings, collaboration with MOH and implementing partners, and the development of a community-integrated cholera response strategy improved the overall outbreak response.

Guidance and SOPs: The development of key IPC/WASH cholera response documents helped standardize response efforts and monitor progress. These included SOPs, IEC materials, and a weekly activity reporting tracker.

Training and Mentorship: over 500 health and care workers (HCWs) were trained in IPC standard and contact precautions across multiple provinces. This training was critical for ensuring that HCWs were equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to manage the outbreak effectively. Supportive supervision was provided in health facilities supported by WHO and collaborating implementing partners for IPC (MSF, Save the Children, United Kingdom Health Se-

curity Agency) on key components of standard precautions, including cleaning, hand hygiene, and rational use of PPE.

Health Facilities assessment: Assessments conducted using KoboTools Platform provided insights into the IPC practices at 41 health facilities.

CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Despite these efforts, several challenges remain, including limited practice of standard precautions, ongoing need for HCWs training, insufficient supplies, and inadequate WASH at some treatment centres. The IPC team recommended prioritizing training and on-site mentorship for all staff on IPC standard and contact precautions, provision of essential supplies to cholera treatment centres and cholera treatment units, integration of food safety management, and improvement of WASH infrastructure in health facilities. These actions are essential for enabling safe care environments to reduce risk of HAIs during the current outbreak and to prepare for future PHEs.

LESSONS LEARNED

The experiences and lessons learned from the Zambia cholera outbreak response underline the importance of a coordinated, well-equipped, and trained workforce to manage outbreaks effectively in health care systems. Effectively implementing IPC measures can significantly reduce the impact of cholera and other infectious diseases, safeguarding public health and saving lives.

CONCLUSION

The Zambia cholera outbreak emphasized the critical significance of infection prevention and control (IPC) measures in managing infectious diseases. The WHE IPC team, in collaboration with the Zambian MOH, Zambia National Public Health Institute and international partners, demonstrated how targeted IPC interventions, capacity strengthening, and strategic partnerships could effectively manage and mitigate the impact of cholera outbreaks. The lessons learned along with the strategic and technical recommendations from this mission will serve as valuable guidance for future outbreak responses, not only in Zambia but also in other countries facing similar PHE. //

New possibilities await at AidEx 2024

AIDEX AND DEVELOPMENT2030 RETURN TO PALEXPO IN GENEVA, HOME TO MANY UN AGENCIES, ICRC AND IFRC. REGISTER FOR YOUR FREE TICKET TO ATTEND ON 23-24 OCTOBER 2024

The 13th annual AidEx is one of the world's leading events for professionals in humanitarian aid and disaster relief, taking place on 23-24 October at Palexpo in Geneva. The event encompasses a dedicated exhibition and conference, which this year covers the theme of "Revitalising Humanitarian Assistance - How do we deliver better aid in conflict-affected hot spots?".

As the number of complex conflict areas continues to rise, the main agenda this year explores innovative approaches for more effective aid delivery.

"The challenge has never been greater, the need has never been more, but donor funds have never been more challenging." Says Louise Holden, Global Head of Partnerships at Visa Government Solutions. She explains that this is a vital theme.

AidEx is co-located with Development2030, a global event uniting international development actors in pursuit of sustainable development goals. Together, they bring aid, relief and international development professionals all under the same roof to explore the latest innovations, meet new suppliers, share experiences with peers, build meaningful relationships and continue the conversation afterwards.

In 2023, over 3000 participants attended from 94 countries including significant participation from UN agencies, the EU, Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, local and international NGOs, donors, foundations, government, and the private sector. Nancy Muindi, Program and Marketing Coordinator at Kickstart told us: *"If you want to meet mission-aligned organisations, AidEx is the right place."*

What truly sets AidEx and Development2030 apart is the diversity of experiences they offer. While the main agenda centres around a compelling theme, these events offer an extensive array of experiences that collectively shape one of the most diverse and inclusive gather-

ings of aid and development professionals on a global scale.

Attendees can immerse themselves in a hub of knowledge sharing, facilitated through case studies, interactive working groups, and engaging in peer-to-peer conversations. These dynamic formats ensure that attendees not only gain knowledge but actively participate in and contribute to the event's collective insight. We spoke to Emil Stub, organiser of the Denmark Pavilion at AidEx and Senior Adviser, Global Market Development for the Confederation of Danish Industry, to hear about his experiences at AidEx as a returning exhibitor: *"The fair has created a unique and informal meeting point between solution providers and aid, relief, and international development professionals, securing knowledge sharing and facilitating collaboration between the private sector, UN agencies and NGOs."*

THE START OF THE STORY

The AidEx story began in Brussels in 2011, when AidEx Managing Director, Nicholas Rutherford, noticed a lack of humanitarian aid and disaster relief events dedicated to bringing these senior professionals all under one roof. Given the growing interest in AidEx from the development community, we recently decided to launch another event devoted entirely to this related sector and to call it Development2030.

AidEx Nairobi, the satellite to AidEx in Geneva and focused on aid and development within East Africa, was launched in 2014 and returns for its next edition in 2025 on 11-12 June.

In 2023, AidEx and Development2030 moved to Geneva, Switzerland.

A FANTASTIC PLATFORM TO NETWORK WITH YOUR PEERS

There is a real appetite for a humanitarian and development event of this kind in Europe, and especially in Geneva, which, as Europe's meet-



ings capital provides the ideal environment for discussion, networking and showcasing trends for the enhancement of international humanitarian and development assistance.

These two events help professionals from the sector shape the future of aid and development as explained by Paul Green, UK Commercial Director, Key Travel: *“It’s a fantastic platform to navigate and network with your peers and people that are providing different solutions for the non-profit sector.”*

Set against the growing challenges faced by lower and middle-income countries, AidEx and Development2030 provide an opportunity for professionals to work together to build resilience and deploy budgets for a more sustainable future.

“A ONE-STOP SHOP” FOR THE A&D COMMUNITY

AidEx and Development2030 feature many networking opportunities and host high calibre speakers including Martin Seychell, Deputy Director-General, DG INTPA; Lanre Williams-Ayedun, SVP for International Programs, World Relief; Unni Krishnan, Global Humanitarian Director, Plan International; Alyoscia D’Onofrio, Vice President and Head of Technical Ex-

cellence, International Rescue Committee; Fati N’Zi-Hassane, Africa Director, Oxfam International; Dr Mohamed Abdi Warsame, Executive Director, Somali Red Crescent Society; Jennifer Poidatz, Vice President, Humanitarian Response, Catholic Relief Services; Pablo Bredt Torres, Team Lead - Humanitarian Supply Chain, USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, among others.

Headline sponsor of AidEx for 2024 is Stellar Foundation. The shared exhibition includes a wide range of products and services for the A&D sector. Exhibits include shelter, vehicles, medical and pharmaceutical, logistics, communications, W.A.S.H and financial services, as well as stands for the UN and not-for-profit organisations. Paul Burford, Deputy Director, Local, Faith & Transformative Partnerships Hub at USAID explains what the opportunity means for them: *“There’s a big opportunity here for us to be able to just connect with our implementing partners that are here, and also to learn more about what’s going on in the International Development world that we don’t always get to see.”*

Big name exhibitors include Toyota, UNHCR, Saudi Development Fund, Kuehne + Nagel, UNOPS, USAID, UK FCDO, Garmin, International Humanitarian City, Direct Aid, Western Union, Maersk,



Keynote at AidEx.

University of Birmingham, UN IOM, Greenshields Cowie and Key Travel to name but a few.

Benjamin Safari, Head of Supply Management Service at UNHCR, shares his thoughts: *"I think it's really important that anyone who is working within the humanitarian sector attends AidEx, because it's a one-stop shop for everything that we do, especially related to humanitarian relief items."*

The AidEx and Development2030 awards and ceremony, sponsored and hosted by Deloitte, celebrates stand-out individuals and all the latest innovations, helping to improve humanitarian aid and disaster relief processes on the ground. The awards ceremony takes place at the end of Day One and categories include the Humanitarian Hero Award, sponsored by UPS Foundation, the Aid Innovation Challenge and the SDG Programme of the Year Award. Nominations to submit a worthy person or initiative for any category of award are open now. Entries must be received by Friday 20th September.

The Duty of Care conference and pavilion at this year's AidEx, is being held in collaboration with International Location Safety and offers security managers, HR leaders, programming and operational staff a dedicated space to come together and discuss the challenges, solutions and the future of meeting integrated duty of care obligations and effectively supporting staff to work in challenging environments.

Similarly, the Innovative Finance side event is being held in partnership with Humanitarian Finance Forum (HFF) and provides insights into blended finance, opportunities and challenges in the broader humanitarian financing landscape.

By registering for AidEx and Development2030, visitors gain access to all side events and activities on offer. Visit www.aid-expo.com and www.development2030.com for more information. //

Until 25% discount
for all legitimisation
card holders*

*See garage conditions



1218 Le Grand-Saconnex
Tel: +41 (0)22 798 71 32
www.nouveau-salon.ch



NEW
Diplomatic Sales
on all models

Buy your Mazda and get it serviced at 185 Route de Ferney



hymne

Toute la **force de la nature**
dans un flacon.



N°1 Hercule

RYTHME VOS JOURNÉES

Des soins par la mycothérapie sous forme liquide.
Formulation exclusive à base de champignons adaptogènes.
Produit 100% naturel, élaboré en Suisse.

[HYMNE.CO](https://hymne.co)

Embracing Faith: The Christian Fellowship @ WHO

IN THE BUSTLING CORRIDORS OF WHO, AMIDST DISCUSSIONS ON GLOBAL HEALTH POLICIES, INITIATIVES, AND CHALLENGES, THERE EXISTS A SERENE HAVEN A GATHERING OF INDIVIDUALS UNIFIED NOT ONLY BY THEIR PROFESSIONAL PURSUITS BUT ALSO BY THEIR SHARED FAITH

The WHO Christian Fellowship was founded in 2020 around the peak of pandemic. It is more than just a meeting place; it's a fellowship deeply rooted in Christian values of love, compassion, and service. Every week, members gather virtually or physically, for 30 minutes of reflection, prayer, and fellowship. It's a time to set aside the demands of work and immerse oneself in spiritual renewal, drawing strength from both faith and community.

WHAT HAPPENS IN THESE WEEKLY MEETINGS?

1. Fellowship and Prayer

Central to the ideology is fellowship—a chance for members to connect on a personal level, share their joys, struggles, and prayer requests. Through heartfelt conversations and mutual support, bonds are strengthened, and a sense of belonging flourishes. Together, they lift each other up in prayer, interceding for individual needs, as well as for the well-being of the WHO, its leadership, and colleagues.

2. Words of Encouragement and Spiritual Nourishment

Inspirational messages and Bible verses are shared during meetings, offering guidance and solace in times of uncertainty. These words of encouragement serve as a beacon of hope, reminding members of their purpose and the importance of faith in navigating life's challenges.

3. Service and Outreach

The Christian Fellowship extends its mission beyond its weekly meetings, actively engaging in service projects and outreach initiatives. Whether it's volunteering at local shelters, organizing donation drives, or participating in

community health programs, members seek to embody Christ's teachings through acts of kindness and compassion.

4. Educational and Discussion Forums

Regular discussions and workshops delve into topics relevant to both faith and professional life. From ethical dilemmas in healthcare to exploring the intersection of faith and science, these forums provide a platform for meaningful dialogue and intellectual growth. The group also regularly participates in events organized by Geneva Connect (an NGO and a network of faith-based workplace communities) that connects Christian Associations from different workplaces and organizations around Geneva and provide them trainings, guidance, and support.

5. Interfaith Dialogues

Although rooted in the Christian faith held by its members, the Fellowship is also open to interfaith dialogue in the great United Nations tradition of inclusion and universality. We are keen to engage with colleagues of other faiths or those who hold no faith for rich conversations for the benefit of all.

WHAT BENEFITS DO YOU GET BY JOINING THIS FELLOWSHIP?

1. Spiritual Support and Growth

Joining the Christian Fellowship offers a unique opportunity for spiritual nourishment and growth. Through fellowship, prayer, and biblical teachings, members find strength, encouragement, and a deeper connection to their faith.

2. Community and Camaraderie

In the fast-paced environment of the WHO, the Christian Fellowship provides a supportive



community where members can forge meaningful relationships based on shared values and beliefs. It's a place where they can be themselves, find acceptance, and experience genuine fellowship.

3. Emotional and Mental Well-being

Amidst the demands of their work, members find solace in the refuge of the Christian Fellowship. The opportunity to share their burdens, receive prayers, and offer support contributes to their emotional and mental well-being, fostering resilience in the face of adversity.

4. Integration of Faith and Work

For many, faith is not separate from their professional lives—it's an integral part of who they are. The Bible says in Colossians 3:22-24, "Obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." The Christian Fellowship provides a space where members can integrate their faith into their work, finding inspiration and guidance in their daily tasks and interactions.

5. Impact and Service

Through service projects and outreach initiatives, members of the Christian Fellowship have the opportunity to make a tangible difference in the lives of others. By serving their community with compassion and generosity, they embody the values of love and service championed by their faith.

HOW CAN ONE JOIN THIS FELLOWSHIP?

The WHO Christian Fellowship is more than just a group fellowship—it's a testament to the power of faith, community, and service. In a world where the pursuit of health and well-being extends beyond physical borders, this gathering of individuals exemplifies the timeless values of compassion, empathy, and solidarity. As members of the WHO Christian Fellowship continue to journey together, they do so with a shared sense of purpose, bound by their faith and united in their commitment to making a positive impact on the world around them. If you are interested to join the Fellowship, you may contact one of the committee members below. //

CONTACTS

Chi Chi Ilonze, ilonzec@who.int
 Kevin Crampton, cramptonk@who.int
 Kingsley Awuku, awukuk@who.int
 Norman Sinappen, sinappenn@who.int

"Our love to God is measured by our everyday fellowship with others and the love it displays"
 Andrew Murray

Awakening your children's curiosity for more than 120 years

International French/English bilingual school from 3 to 19 years old



iil.ch

Work and succeed together



Institut International Lancy

 **Swisstranslate**
Words Without Borders

INTERPRETING

agency specialising in International Organisations

99%

satisfied customers

+ 3000

linguistic experts

+ 100

languages available

Visit swisstranslate.ch and discover all our services

Swiss Quality 



Rue du Jeu-de-l'Arc 15
1207 Geneva



WHERE COMPANIES BECOME BRANDS



BuxumLUNIC

BUXUMLUNIC.CH

Some Memories of our WHO Main Building

POEM



Proud architectural prize winner in 1960,
Designed by famous Swiss architect
Jean Tschumi,
Six years to build until its inauguration
And our staff moved in from
the Palais des Nations.

There were offices in modules
throughout each floor,
Size depended on grade and each had a door,
With windows for all, not just the elite,
ADsG had private loos attached to their suite!

The DG and DDG on level seven
had the best view
Of Geneva, the lake, alps, Mont Blanc too,
But this panorama used to be for all
on level eight
In the restaurant for lunch, it was just great!
Special events there bring memories
before our eyes
Of awarding DA Henderson
the “low bell” prize
For his leadership in smallpox eradication,
The jewel in the crown of our Organization.
But, sadly, kitchen leaks led
to the restaurant's doom
And it was moved out in the grounds
near the EB room.

Many past appreciated services
now spring to mind,
E.g. the trolley pushed by M^{me} Henri, so kind
To bring coffee, tea and croissants
to our office door,
And huissiers to deliver/collect
our post on each floor.
On the first sous-sol, many services
helped us through
With a bank, a post office,
and a Naville kiosk too
On the rez-de-chaussée near
the telephonists' room
Who received/placed our calls,
ere the days of mobiles and Zoom!
The Economat was there to meet
our supply need,
And the Registry staff who classified/filed
every deed.
A library and a cinema we also recall,
And even a special anniversary ball
One evening held below
the rez-de-chaussée,
Good fun with colleagues to dance
the night away.

Many memories of our main
building from days of yore,
But after this three-year renovation,
what lies in store?

//

WHO moves into its own
building in 1966,
the marble staircase
in the great reception hall.



TEXT SUE BLOCK TYRELL
PHOTO JEAN-PHILIPPE CHARBONNIER, WHO

Death Literacy as a Vital Component of Public Health Education

NOTHING IN LIFE IS GUARANTEED EXCEPT TAXES AND DEATH

You've probably heard some form of this quote throughout your life. This is our collective reality. Everyone, at some point in their life, is going to die or will experience the death of a loved one. This truth is often pushed aside and actively ignored by most. There is an unspoken hope that one might slip through death's grip - stumble upon the fountain of eternal life - and escape its inevitability. However, the truth remains: no one can escape death. Some may delay their arrival and prolong their lives, but ultimately, everyone meets the same end. So why do we collectively choose to avoid discussing this shared experience that binds us all together?

To enhance our ability to navigate public health effectively, we need to become better acquainted with our relationships to death, dying, and grief.

THE LANDSCAPE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Public health has evolved dramatically over the last several years. Faced with unprecedented global challenges, it has become apparent that traditional approaches to public health practices, methodologies, and priorities need revision.

As societies grapple with complex health issues ranging from pandemics to chronic diseases, there's a pressing imperative to navigate healthcare more holistically and inclusively. This necessitates a shift in how we address health concerns, moving beyond disease management to embrace a more nuanced understanding of well-being. Central to this transformative journey is recognizing that death literacy - understanding mortality, grief, and end-of-life care - is a foundational pillar of public health education. When we equip healthcare providers (HCPs) and the general public with the tools and knowledge to navigate these topics, we can create long-lasting changes in how we approach health, encourage empathy, and support our communities from within.

WHAT EXACTLY IS DEATH LITERACY?

Originating from research by the Caring at End of Life research team at Western Sydney University, Death Literacy can be defined as acquiring knowledge regarding death systems. This encompasses exploring societal responses to death and navigating end-of-life and death-care options. Research indicates that communities with higher death literacy indices exhibit reduced levels of anxiety surrounding death. This understanding fosters self-awareness and reassurance, particularly beneficial in the COVID-19 pandemic, where heightened death anxiety has increased psychological distress. Cultivating death literacy is imperative for equipping both public health professionals and the general populace with essential skills.

GRIEF: THE CONSTANT COMPANION OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

Throughout the pandemic, healthcare systems worldwide faced unprecedented strain, with some reaching the point of collapse due to escalating demands. Shortages of essential supplies, overwhelmed and depleted staff, surges in patient numbers, and prolonged appointment wait times were among the myriad of issues contributing to the strain on these healthcare systems.

During this time, HCPs encountered death and grief on a scale unrivalled in modern history. Compounded by the systemic issues mentioned above, it's notable that HCPs do not receive mandatory formal training in death, loss, and grief as part of their education.

HCPs frequently operate under the notion that their primary goal is to save every patient, leading them to perceive death as a personal failure. When faced with situations where they cannot save a life or cure a condition, HCPs often feel at a loss for words or actions. This can significantly impact their mental well-being and po-



tentially affect their ability to care for future patients. Throughout the pandemic, HCPs were confronted with exceptional levels of death and grief. The toll of experiencing such profound loss without adequate training or support is unimaginable, leaving lasting effects on their overall well-being.

THE AVOIDANCE OF GRIEF IN EVERYDAY LIFE

As a society, we've collectively heightened our cultural fixation on anti-aging, coupled with endless distractions that steer us away from acknowledging the inevitability of death. Obsessions with productivity, relentless advertising, and consumer therapy perpetuate a cycle of anxiety and diversion, fostering the illusion that elaborate skincare routines and consumerism can stave off our mortality. Youthfulness is equated with vitality and happiness, creating a \$27 billion cosmetic industry in the US alone, where fillers and botox become as routine as teeth brushing.

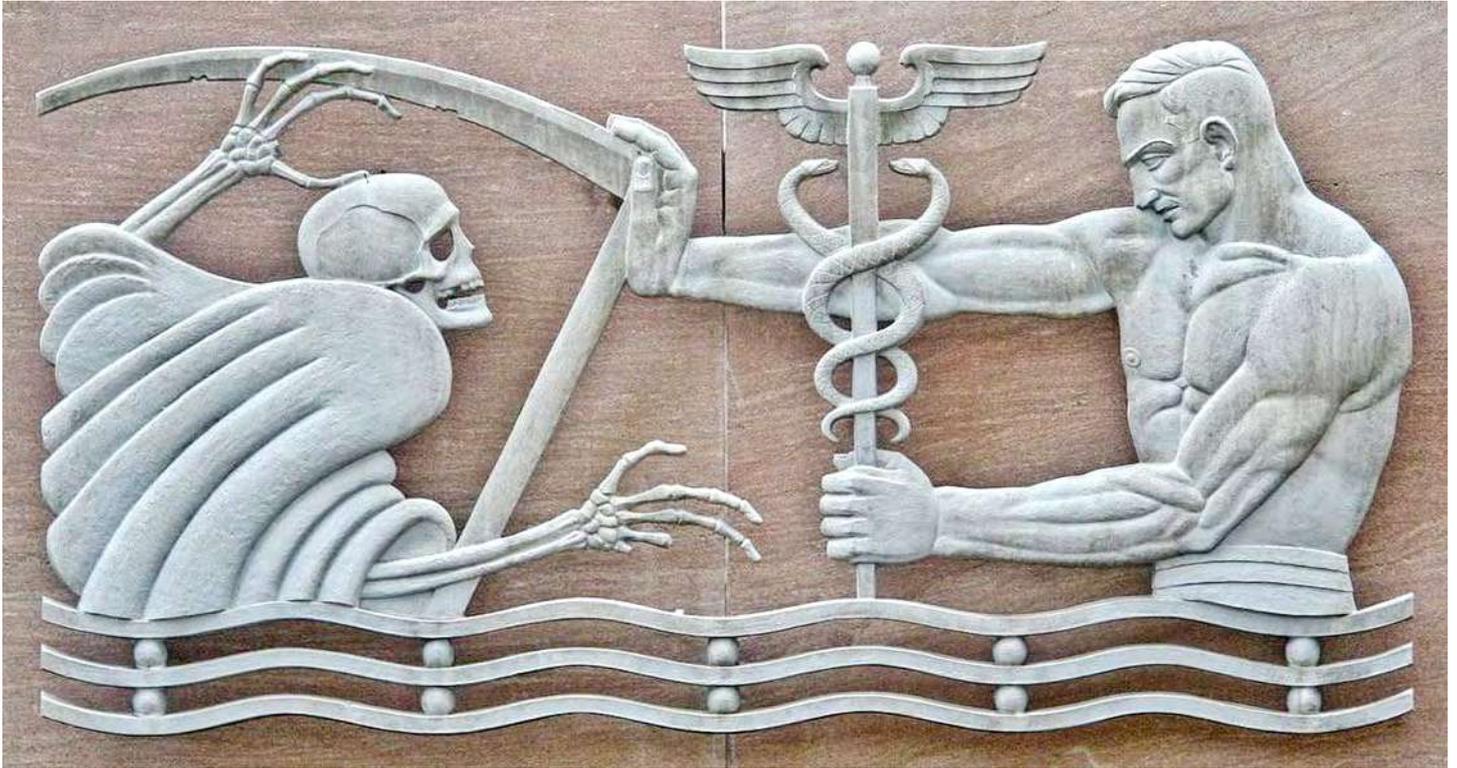
This obsession with youth extends beyond Hollywood elite to individuals with excess cash, like the 45-year-old tech CEO aiming to “make death optional” by spending \$2 million annual-

ly on medical procedures. Regular blood transfusions from younger people, including his son, and strict diet and sleep regimens are part of his effort to reverse aging.

The absence of death literacy and death-related discussions significantly impacts how individuals navigate the practical aspects of end-of-life care. This avoidance is evidenced by the fact that 60% of Americans have not communicated their end-of-life wishes. Moreover, even fewer individuals who have experienced severe illness have engaged in discussions with their doctors about end-of-life care. This lack of communication frequently results in tensions within families, increased healthcare costs, and patient dissatisfaction regarding treatment and support options.

Many people are uninformed about managing their own end-of-life journey and that of their loved ones. This avoidance is evident as 60% of Americans have not communicated their end-of-life wishes, and even fewer with severe illness have discussed end-of-life care with their doctors. This lack of communication often leads to family tensions, increased healthcare costs, and patient dissatisfaction regarding treatment and support options.

Keeping Away Old Age, Julian Hoke Harris, 1959
(Old Fulton County Department of
Health and Wellness building).



A PATH TOWARDS HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

HCPs deserve comprehensive training and ongoing support to effectively address end-of-life care and bereavement support and navigate their own grief journey. This includes education on communication skills, advanced care planning, palliative care, and grief counselling. Such resources foster a more compassionate approach to patient care and provide essential support for HCPs.

When communities openly discuss these topics, we foster a culture of understanding, empathy, and support, recognizing the need for systemic changes in our work culture, social structures, and values. We prioritize well-being over busyness, connection over competition, and compassion over productivity. Initiating these dialogues addresses the social determinants of health that contribute to disparities in health outcomes, tackling systemic inequities such as limited access to healthcare, socioeconomic factors, and cultural barriers.

This shift improves access to end-of-life care services, trains HCPs in cultural competency and sensitivity regarding end-of-life and bereavement care, and reduces stigma surrounding death, dying, and grief. To foster this understanding, we must initiate change at the grassroots level within our communities by establishing safe and supportive environments where individuals feel comfortable sharing their experiences, asking questions, and seeking support.

Advocating for dialogue and transparency surrounding topics of death, dying, and grief yields benefits that extend to the entire community. Embracing death literacy as an essential component of public health education can alleviate the adverse effects of poor health outcomes and cultivate a society better equipped to navigate the complexities of human existence with dignity and compassion, fostering healthier, more cohesive communities. //

*Keeping Away Death, Julian Hoke Harris, 1959
(Old Fulton County Department of Health and Wellness building).*

CAUDALIÉ

New
Vegan
Collagen⁽¹⁾

98%
Firmer skin
after 3 weeks⁽²⁾



AVAILABLE AT SAFI SHOP

(1) Fragment. (2) Clinical study: % of satisfaction, 44 volunteers, 18 days.

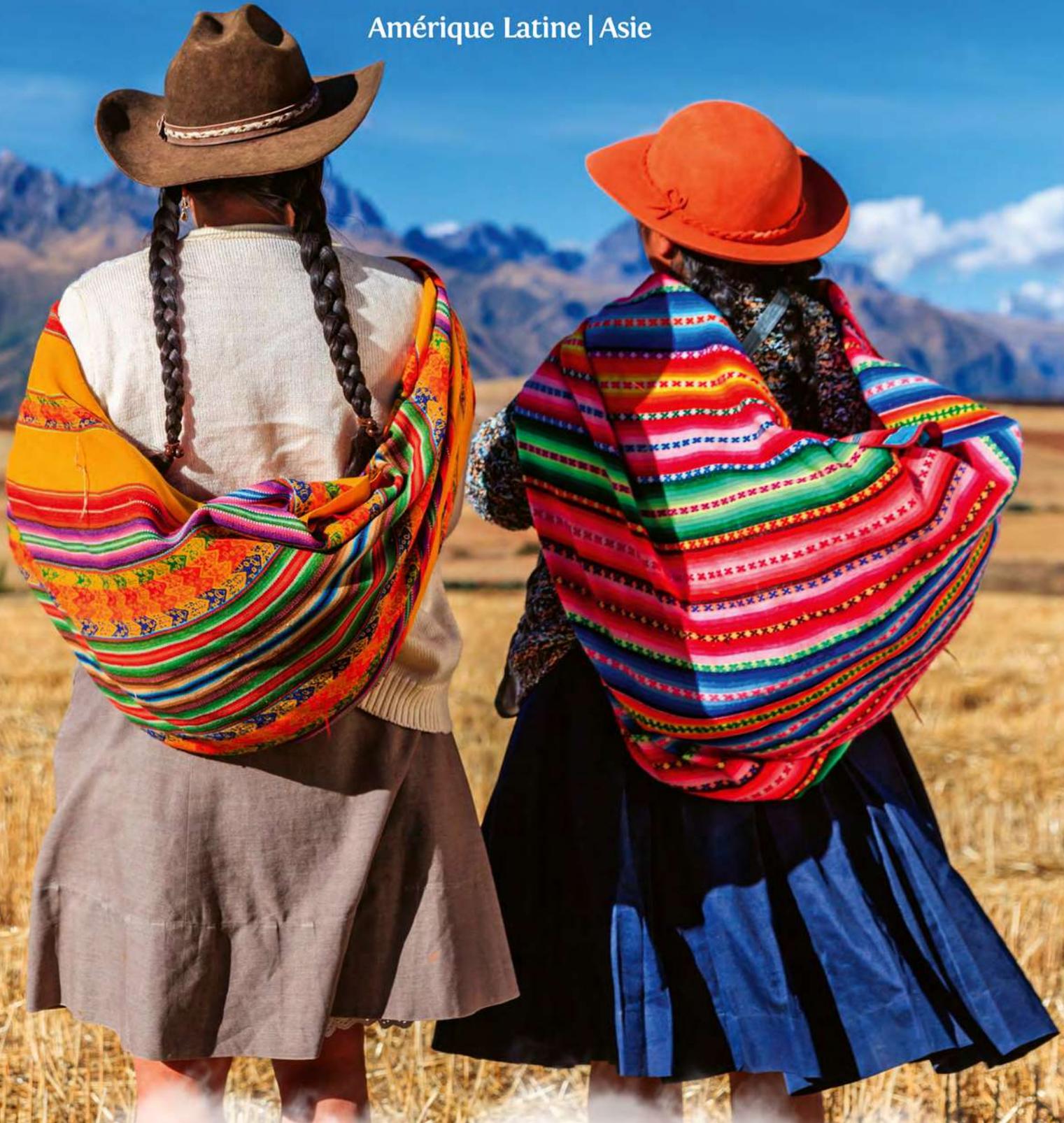


Altiplano



VOYAGE SUR-MESURE

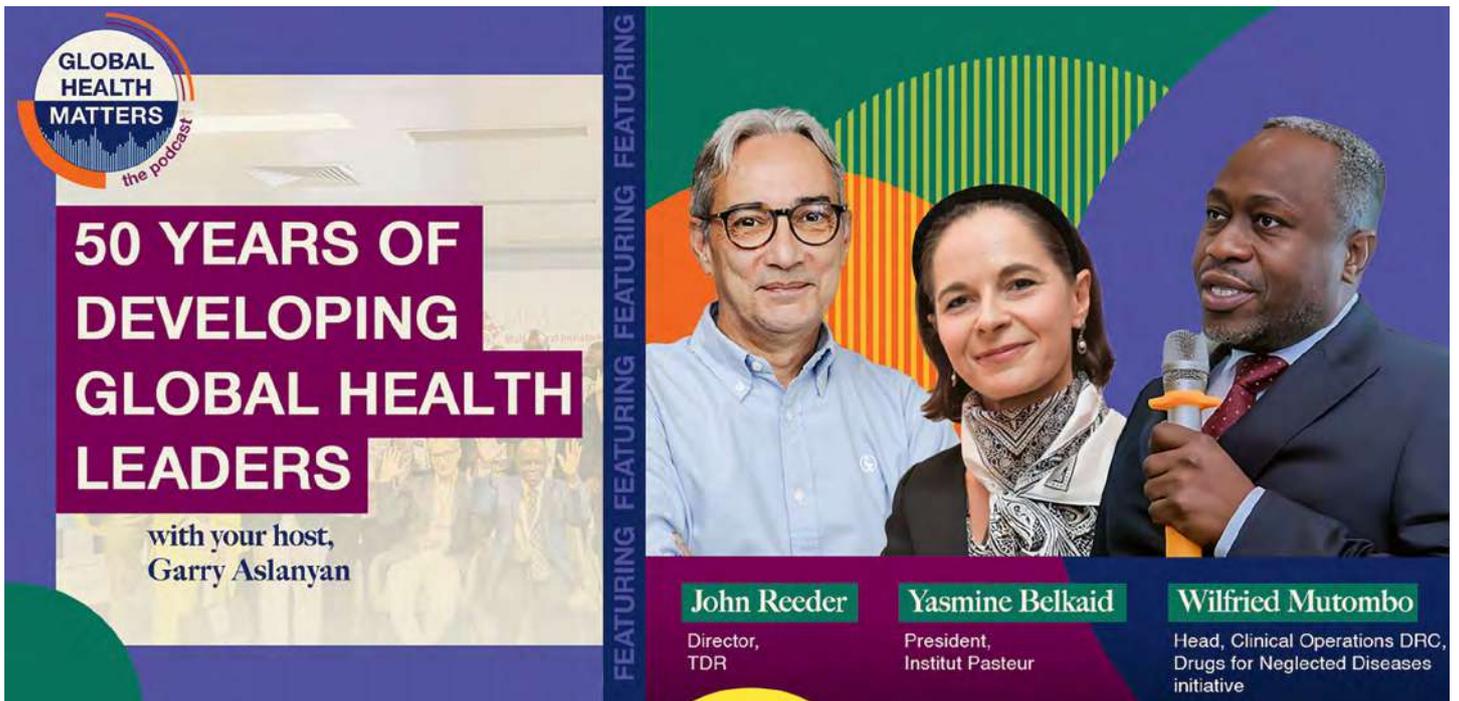
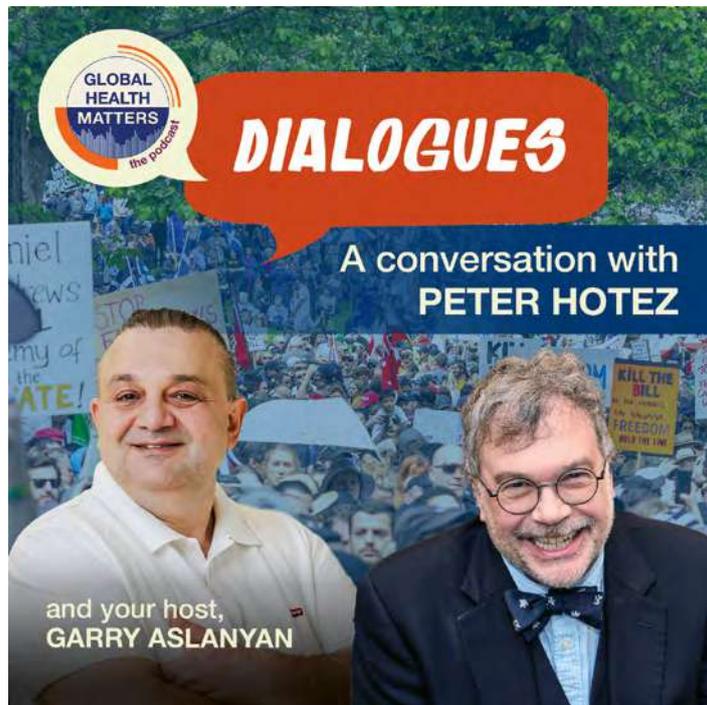
Amérique Latine | Asie



Place du temple 3, Carouge | 022 342 49 49
www.altiplano-voyage.ch

Podcasts

THE GLOBAL HEALTH MATTERS PODCAST PROVIDES A FORUM FOR DISCUSSING THE MOST IMPORTANT GLOBAL HEALTH TOPICS OF THE DAY



La perle de l'Atlantique

MADÈRE 1/3

« Île de l'éternel printemps », « île aux mille couleurs », la « huitième merveille du monde », le « dernier paradis »... autant de noms évocateurs et hauts en couleur pour résumer les qualités joliment préservées de l'île de Madère, ce petit joyau flottant posé au cœur de l'océan Atlantique, à 950 kilomètres des côtes du Portugal dont il dépend.

L'omniprésence et l'exubérance des fleurs à Madère lui ont également valu le surnom « *d'île aux fleurs* ». Elle est scindée entre un versant sud aride et ensoleillé, une côte nord humide et luxuriante et des sommets acérés qui s'élèvent en son centre. Son charme tient aussi à ses villages accrochés à flanc de montagne et à sa douceur de vivre sans pareille. Un dépaysement total à quelques heures de chez nous que propose « Allibert Trekking », le spécialiste des randonnées, trekkings et expéditions dans le monde entier depuis plus de 40 ans.

L'archipel de Madère fait partie de la Macaronésie, ensemble géographique qui comprend également les Açores, les Canaries et les îles du Cap-Vert. Situées en zone subtropicale, à 600 km du Maroc dont elles sont à la même latitude, ces îles bénéficient d'un climat très doux toute l'année. D'origine volcanique, l'archipel de Madère est composé de Porto Santo, une île quasiment plate dont l'attrait principal est sa grande plage de sable blanc, des îles Desertas et Selvagens (réserves naturelles scientifiques) et de l'île de Madère, d'une superficie de 750 km² et qui constitue 90% des terres de l'archipel. Son climat tempéré, sa végétation luxuriante et ses paysages remarquables en font une destination touristique de renommée, très appréciée par les amateurs de randonnée pédestre. Les plaines verdoyantes y côtoient les escarpements des montagnes volcaniques et les sommets vertigineux. Avec sa végétation foisonnante, Madère porte bien son nom « *d'île aux fleurs* » : camélias, bougainvillées, azalées roses, oiseaux du paradis, mimosas, jacarandas et amaryllis y fleurissent à tour de rôle, embaumant le pays d'un parfum différent au fil des saisons.

UNE ÎLE PROSPÈRE

La richesse de l'île de Madère, c'est « *Dame Nature* », et il est inconcevable de ne pas l'apprécier à sa juste valeur en parcourant les innombrables chemins de randonnée qui longent ses côtes, s'attaquent à ses plus hauts sommets ou suivent les 3100 km de levadas, ces canaux d'irrigation caractéristiques de l'île. En plus de sa fabuleuse beauté, de ses paysages fascinants, de ses montagnes aux points de vue à couper le souffle et qui permettent d'admirer de magnifiques couchers de soleil, on est séduit par ses villages pittoresques, ses traditions, sa gastronomie, son vin et l'accueil chaleureux de ses habitants.

Son authenticité et son extraordinaire charme, Madère les doit à sa découverte tardive. Aussi invraisemblable que cela puisse paraître aujourd'hui, la première expédition sur l'île effectuée par l'explorateur portugais Joao Gonçalves Zarco ne date que de 1419. L'île est déserte, d'épaisses forêts recouvrent ses versants abrupts et les marins la baptisent « *l'île du bois* ». Dès l'année suivante arrivent les premiers colons portugais qui façonneront cette terre inhospitalière en terrasses sillonnées de canaux d'irrigation et parcourues de sentiers vertigineux. Il fallait, dans ce relief escarpé, dégager des surfaces pour accueillir des plantations de canne à sucre, vignes et bananiers, les trois cultures à l'origine de la prospérité économique de l'île. Ce travail pharaonique a porté ses fruits. Dès le début du XVI^e siècle, Madère exporte du sucre dans toute l'Europe et, un siècle plus tard, l'excellent vin de Madère est si réputé qu'il fait l'objet d'un accord commercial avec les Anglais qui, peu à peu, prendront le contrôle de toute la production.

A partir du XIX^e siècle, c'est à son climat que Madère doit son essor économique. Attirés par ses vertus thérapeutiques, des centaines de voyageurs malades et fortunés viennent respirer l'air de Madère. Intellectuels, aristocrates et politiciens envahissent les rues de Funchal, la capitale. Des dizaines d'hôtels sont édifiés, le tourisme, la plus grande richesse de Madère, est né.

L'ascension du Pico Ruivo, plus haut sommet de Madère qui culmine à 1862m, offre des paysages époustouffiants.



Au sud de l'île, la falaise qui surplombe le village de Paul do Mar tombe à pic dans l'océan.

SAVOIR +

Allibert
Trekking



Madère est une île assez petite: la route côtière en fait le tour - 175km - en moins de 4 heures en voiture. Mais elle concentre une étonnante diversité de climats et de paysages.

Aujourd'hui, plus de 250000 personnes habitent sur l'île, dont la moitié a choisi la municipalité de Funchal pour y vivre.

QUAND LA TERRE SE MIT À TREMBLER

Il y a environ 20 millions d'années se créa un point chaud dans la croûte océanique à 3000m de profondeur. Ce point chaud était en fait une fissure qui laissa jaillir la lave et c'est ainsi que commença à se former un volcan sous-marin. Après plusieurs millions d'années d'accumulation de matière volcanique commença à émerger l'île de Porto Santo. Avec le mouvement des plaques tectoniques, Porto Santo se déplaça vers le nord-est et c'est bien après, il y a 5 millions d'années, que Madère pointa ses volcans hors de l'eau. Des phases successives d'intense activité et d'accalmies volcaniques vont ensuite façonner l'île. La première phase de construction aérienne sera la formation de la cordillère centrale de l'île dont le plus haut sommet, le Pico Ruivo, culmine à 1862m. Il est suivi de près par le Pico das Torres (1851m), puis par le Pico do Arieiro (1818m).

A cette période, les volcans, principalement de type explosif, éjectaient des roches pyroclastiques composées de lapillis, de bombes volcaniques et de cendres. Lors de la deuxième phase qui débuta 2 millions d'années plus tard se sont édifiées les parties sud et ouest de l'île, mélange de coulées de lave intercalées avec des couches de différentes roches pyroclastiques. C'est également à ce moment que se sont formées les achadas, hauts plateaux proches du littoral qui servent aujourd'hui à l'agriculture et à l'élevage. A cette époque sont aussi apparues les premières plantes de la forêt primaire que l'on peut toujours observer de nos jours. La troisième phase - où l'on trouvera en majorité des volcans effusifs émettant des coulées de lave fluides - verra s'ériger les hautes falaises basaltiques du nord de l'île ainsi que celles bordant l'immense haut plateau de Paul da Serra. Le plateau d'Achada do Teixeira dominé par le Pico Ruivo se formera par la suite et, enfin, il y a 6450 ans, prendra fin la dernière phase. Elle donnera naissance à quelques volcans autour de Funchal et de Porto Moniz ainsi qu'aux splendides grottes de Sao Vicente composées de 8 tunnels de lave.

L'érosion et la pluie ont ensuite modelé le relief intérieur de Madère. Quant à la puissante houle de l'océan Atlantique, elle a façonné ses côtes, transformant les pentes douces en falaises qui constituent près de 80% du littoral. Un tiers d'entre elles dépassent les 100m de haut, et Madère peut même s'enorgueillir de posséder la deuxième falaise maritime la plus haute du monde: le Cabo Girao qui s'élève à 580 m sur la côte sud.

La ligne formée par les crêtes qui se dessine depuis l'ouest à de la pointe de Tristao - proche de Porto Moniz - à la pointe de Sao Lourenço, à l'extrême est, coupe ainsi l'île en deux versants bien distincts.

LE GRAND TOUR DE MADÈRE

L'aéroport international de Madère Cristiano-Ronaldo est en vue. Implanté à une quinzaine de kilomètres de la capitale, il a été renommé en 2016 en hommage au quintuple «*Ballon d'or*» natif de Funchal. Suivant la météo, les conditions d'approche de la piste coincée entre mer et montagne peuvent s'avérer difficiles, voire périlleuses, et les pilotes doivent être spécialement entraînés pour pouvoir poser leur avion à Madère.

Atterrissage réussi, nous regagnons Santa Cruz, paisible bourgade toute proche où nous attend Rodrigo, notre guide, qui sera chargé de nous faire vivre la passionnante découverte de son île: imaginées par «Allibert trekking», deux semaines de randonnées sur les sentiers côtiers surplombant l'océan, le long des plus belles levadas, de la pointe de Sao Lourenço à la côte ouest en passant par la spectaculaire et sauvage côte nord, les picos du centre et la côte sud ensoleillée, sur le plateau Paul da Serra, sur les crêtes montagneuses et leurs sommets, pour finir en beauté à Funchal. //

[Aventure à suivre dans le prochain numéro du newSpecial!](#)

A l'extrémité est de Madère, la presqu'île rocheuse de Sao Lourenço avec ses falaises abruptes aux mille couleurs.



Le plateau de Paul da Serra est accessible après une ascension dans la laurisilva, forêt primaire classée au patrimoine mondial par l'Unesco.



Songs for mother nature: Art meets Poetry

A TIMELY PUBLICATION THAT COMBINES ART AND POETRY TO PAY REVERENCE TO NATURE AND ITS INTRICATE RELATIONSHIP WITH ALL FORMS OF LIFE

LEARN +

Promotional video



Contemporary Amazons and Art



Evelyn's website

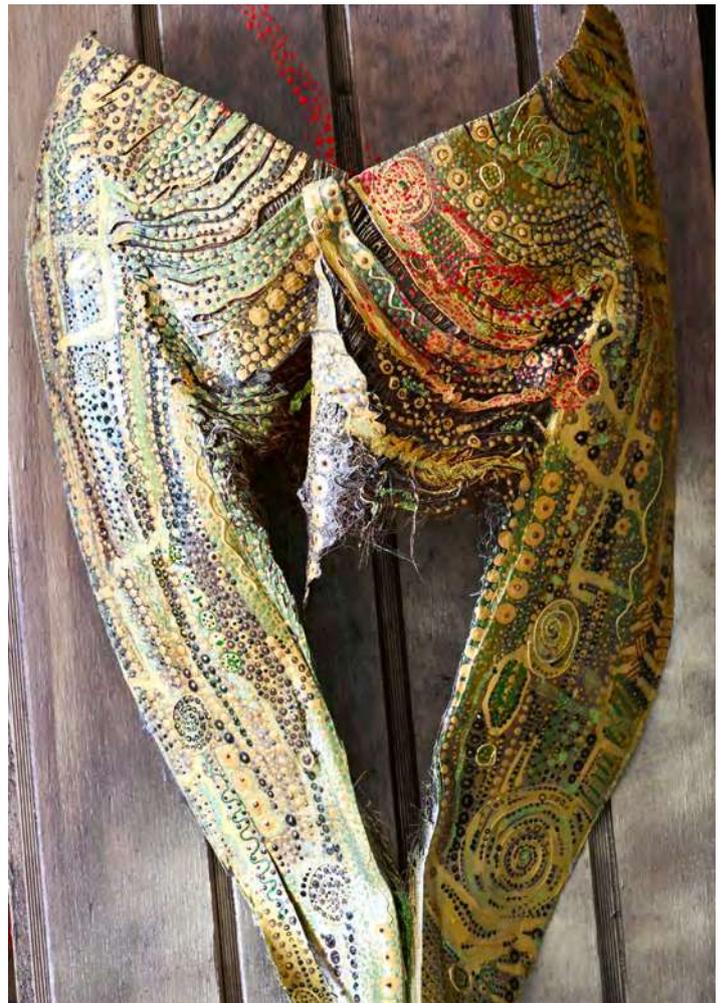


It was a special moment when we held our book *"Songs for Mother Nature"* in our hands: a joint dream had come true. The work of several months to put together photos of pieces of art created by Evelyn (under her artist name: e.wasserhase), including amazing close-ups, and poems written by Maged to show reverence to nature and illustrate that all humans are part of the amazing universe around us, had carried fruit.

As professionals with long careers at WHO (and elsewhere), our work was always related to various fields of environmental health. This work was more of a practical nature, identifying issues and proposing actions. But we both had another side to us: a fascination by the beauty of nature, and a deep reverence for the energy around us.

Following her early retirement, Evelyn rediscovered her passion for art. As she was clearing the churchyard for her mother's funeral in a little Spanish town, her eyes were captured by pieces of eucalyptus tree bark. She took them home and used acrylic paint her mother, who started painting at the age of 70, had left behind, and her new journey began. When we moved to Portugal and Spain, Evelyn started collecting pieces of natural material that would have been burnt or binned otherwise, such as palm bark (fronds), palm branches or leaves, or eucalyptus tree bark. She developed her own technique of painting, which is influenced by aboriginal art, but distinct in terms of depicting her own visions, without treading into the sacred field of aboriginal dreaming. The flow of ideas and the variation of techniques and styles have been overwhelming.

Whenever Evelyn paints, she is fully absorbed with her work, losing the sense of time completely. She had several exhibitions and vernissages in Portugal and Spain. Her work is inspired by her practice of energy work, meditation and yoga, but also relates to her background in Psychology.



Maged, while still fully involved in science, rediscovered his love for poetry. In fact, he always had a fascination with languages (including dialects), philosophy, history and music. When daughter Lena started writing her own songs a few years back, he felt an urge to write again (and not just scientific papers or reports). After a meditative breath session with Lena and her then teacher (Lena is now a fully certified breath trainer herself), he wrote a song about stages of his life, for which Lena wrote the music. Recently, a new song, *"My daughter"*, written by both, has been recorded and will be part

"Red ants" from palm bark (fronds) reminds of the Earthen colours from the outback as well as of the fragile equilibrium between nature and insects.



"Black river" (Acrylic on palm leaf): An allegory on the river Nile, which used to bring fertile soil with the flooding every year until humans blocked its run.

of Lena's upcoming album "*Ways of the Dreamer*". The first poem Maged wrote after the first song. From then on, and often after meditation or upon waking up, lines started resonating in his mind and he felt the urge to write. Other poems were directly inspired by Evelyn's work and joint discussions about the emergence of her pieces.

The idea for our book emerged during the first exhibition of Evelyn's art in Estepona, Spain, early 2023. We posted four poems corresponding to four of the many pieces exhibited and added a literal Spanish translation. The reactions to this combination of art and poetry appealed to many of the visitors of the exhibition. The seed was planted, so we started exploring ways to put a book together that would combine our work and highlight the synergy between art and poetry. We also wanted to demonstrate our deep soul connection and send a message to everyone that we need to love and appreciate nature, that humans are part of the universe and, as such, they have a responsibility for the environment. Not less importantly, we wanted to sensitize readers to the fact that much is beyond what our five senses can readily conceive.



"Joy" from palm bark (fronds) shows explosions of joy and passion for life.

We compiled the pieces for our book and got in touch with a publisher, Author Writer's Academy, who gave us good advice, finalized the layout and published the book for us on Amazon. They also produced a promotional video for the book and launched it for us. Daughter Lena supported us with advice and suggestions for the layout, and her music is used as a background for the promotional video. She also features in the book with her own page to highlight the connection of art and poetry with the third dimension: music.

We are truly hopeful that our book will, indeed, contribute to enhancing the understanding and love for nature, for all beings, and our universe by taking every reader on a spiritual journey to discover what lies beyond. The publication is available on Amazon.

Note: Evelyn's first exploratory publication is entitled *Contemporary Amazons and Art*. It is a play with the femininity of the art pieces owing to their much-interpreted shapes. //



GENÈVE
3 > 13 octobre
2024

Programme sur
www.societe-chopin.ch

CHOPIN

FESTIVAL

Organisation : Société Frédéric Chopin Genève



Nicolas Lehr



Honour and glory

HONOUR AND GLORY ARE ATTRIBUTES OF LIFE AND SHOULD NOT BE HIJACKED FOR THE MILITARY

At the grave of Erich-Maria Remarque in Ronco/Ascona.



TEXT & PHOTO
ALFRED DE ZAYAS, UN SOCIETY OF WRITERS

Human beings want to believe in values. We need to believe. As young women and men, we need role models, good examples, heroines and heroes to admire, noble ideals to pursue - a moral compass. When we are not so young, we still cherish values, always in search of meaning in life, endeavouring to make sense of our immediate environment, of the world at large. As children of our time, we rely on pre-conceived ideas and cultural paradigms.

Honour and glory are lofty concepts meant to evoke noble sentiments like solidarity: *unus pro omnibus, omnes pro uno* (one for all, all for one), accompanied by a conviction that we are part of the larger universe, members of the family of living creatures, animals and trees - and eight billion other humans: *Seid umschlungen Millionen, dieser Kuss der ganzen Welt* (Be embraced you millions, this kiss to the entire world! Schiller, *An die Freude*)¹.

Pride in our homeland, in our culture and heritage is a positive attribute; it is healthy and necessary. We should nurture this feeling of iden-

tity, because it makes us more human, more integrated into our communities. We should know our own history - the good and the bad. Only when we acknowledge the errors of our ancestors can we advance and strengthen our civilization.

Alas, good values like national pride can be instrumentalized for ulterior purposes. All too often the noble concepts of honour and glory have been hijacked and linked to a misanthropic cult of violence and blood. For millennia the political and intellectual leaders of our societies have deliberately amalgamated honour and glory with military "virtues", and nurtured a culture of domination, a glorification of war and dying for one's country. From Horatius we remember the "old lie", that *sad maxim dulce et decorum est pro patria mori*² (it is sweet and proper to die for one's homeland). But, should we not instead live on and contribute to the common good? Paradoxically, honour and glory are sometimes associated with great killers like Alexander "the Great", Julius Caesar, Napoleon, whom we are supposed to admire. Our western "civilization" continues to pursue this toxic indoc-

trination in schools, universities, and the media. Cities and towns are full of war memorials and statues to generals and admirals. The *Zeitgeist*, groupthink, and peer pressure continue to pay tribute to military feats, battles, “victories”. We are expected to feel “patriotic” about old and new wars.

Personally, I feel empathy and compassion for all those young persons who died in needless wars – the soldiers, medics, volunteers and the hundreds of thousands of civilians who have lost their lives through terroristic bombardment of population centers, schools, hospitals. Yes, we should pay tribute to the devotion, constancy, self-sacrifice, heroism of victims of armed conflict. But we must also ask why politicians chose war over diplomacy, violence over dialogue, intransigence over compromise.

Rather than erecting war memorials, it would be healthier to ensure that conflict-prevention works, that diplomacy has the tools to outsmart primitive nationalism. It is easy to say that “war must be banned”, but this will not happen until we have a change of mindset, until we abandon our fascination for war, drones, missiles, nuclear bombs. As Oscar Wilde once wrote:

*“As long as war is regarded as wicked, it will always have its fascination. When it is looked upon as vulgar, it will cease to be popular.”*³

I would paraphrase: As long as honour and glory are associated with war, there will be war. A paradigm change is needed. We should learn to celebrate those human traits that manifest the divine – human creativity, philosophy, art, music, architecture, engineering, medicine. We should erect monuments to the peacemakers – not to the power brokers who profit from the business of war, not to the over-decorated generals who manage the slaughter of youngsters brainwashed into believing that it is honourable to kill other persons in the name of “patriotism”. True patriots honour life, not death. Patriotism means concern for the welfare of people everywhere, keeping them out of harm's way. Wars destroy the future of generations. We need a Global Compact on Education for peace and empathy.

The noblest form of civic responsibility is pacifism, a commitment to prevent conflict, refrain from provocations, address grievances, craft solutions, a durable *modus vivendi*. Let us reread Wilfred Owen's *Anthem for Doomed Youth* and see how relevant it is today in the context of the wars in Ukraine, Gaza and elsewhere.

*“What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?
Only the monstrous anger of the guns.
Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle
Can patter out their hasty orisons.
No mockeries now for them; no prayers nor bells;
Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs,
The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;
And bugles calling for them from sad shires...”*⁴

Let us also reread Erich-Maria Remarque's anti-war novel *All Quiet on the Western Front*. I recently visited Remarque's grave in Ronco, from which opens a peaceful panorama over Lago Maggiore.

As a teenager I read Remarque during the Vietnam war. I identified with Paul Bäumer, the young German soldier: “We are not youth any longer. We don't want to take the world by storm. We are fleeing from ourselves, from our life. We were eighteen and had begun to love life and the world; and we had to shoot it to pieces”⁵

When I reread the novel as an adult, I understood the enormity of the crime committed by politicians against our youth, the monstrous irresponsibility of intransigent militarists who continue to sabre-rattle, provoke, escalate, aggress. It is not the people who want war – in Vietnam, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Sudan, Ukraine and Gaza. Peoples worldwide want peace through negotiation. But we witness the continuing failure of diplomacy and the prevalence of the military-industrial-financial-media complex that wants more wars and profits from them. War propaganda is omnipresent, although it is specifically prohibited in Article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights⁶.

At the end of the novel, Paul is killed, in October 1918, a few weeks before the armistice: “*Im Westen nichts Neues*” – all is quiet on the Western Front, reads the situation report. Paul's face displays a calm expression, “as though almost glad the end had come.” Literature offers us many positive lessons. But our politicians do not want to learn. No, there is no honour and glory in war. Only slaughter. //

1 https://archive.schillerinstitute.com/transl/schiller_poem/ode_to_joy.pdf

2 Horatius, *Odes III, 2,13*.

3 *The Critic as Artist (1891)*,

<https://www.online-literature.com/wilde/1305/>

4 <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/47393/anthem-for-doomed-youth>

5 *chapter five (Arthur Wheen translation)*

6 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights>

Le col de l'Ofen

COLS ROUTIERS DE SUISSE (13)

TEXT & PHOTO
CARLA EDELENBOS, UN SOCIETY OF WRITERS

La route du col de l'Ofen (en romanche *Pass dal Fuorn*) dans le canton des Grisons relie Zernez à Müstair et est la seule route qui traverse le Parc National Suisse. Le col même se trouve juste au-delà de la frontière du parc. Depuis Zernez, à 1473 mètres d'altitude, la route continue sur 21 kilomètres pour arriver au col à 2149 mètres d'altitude avec un dénivelé moyen de 3.1%. Depuis le col vers Müstair, à 1375 mètres d'altitude, la route ne fait que 14 kilomètres et devient donc un peu plus raide, avec un dénivelé moyen de 5.6%.

Le nom du col vient du latin *fundaria* qui signifie «*fonderie, haut fourneau*». Entre le 14^e et 17^e siècle, la région était le lieu d'une intense activité minière. À partir de 1332, plusieurs tunnels, d'une longueur totale estimée de 14 kilomètres, furent creusés pour extraire du fer qui fut ensuite traité dans les fonderies. Les ruines de ces fours sont encore visibles depuis les sentiers avoisinants. Après avoir abattu des arbres de la forêt dense de l'époque, pour alimenter les fours, des bâtiments destinés aux mineurs furent construits pas loin du col, sur l'actuel Alp Buffalora.

Le col forme la connexion entre la Basse-Engadine et le Val Venosta dans le Tyrol du Sud et est emprunté depuis la préhistoire. L'importance stratégique de ce passage a certainement été l'une des raisons importantes de la création du couvent de Müstair vers l'an 800. Ce couvent, reconnu patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO depuis 1983, aurait été fondé par Charlemagne, comme en témoigne sa statue dans l'église, et n'a pas cessé d'être un lieu de dévotion, accueillant aujourd'hui encore un couvent bénédictin de sœurs. L'église du couvent contient le plus important ensemble de peintures murales en Suisse, datant d'autour de l'an 800. Comme elles avaient été recouvertes assez rapidement après leur création, elles étaient en assez bon état à leur découverte en 1894 et ont bénéficié depuis des mesures de conservation et restauration. Dans une tour médiévale à côté du couvent se trouve le musée qui organise aussi des visites guidées.

Au Moyen Âge d'illustres personnages ont franchi le col, comme Frédéric II (souvent nom-



mé *stupor mundi*, dernier empereur de la dynastie de Hohenstaufen), en 1212 en route d'Italie vers Mayence en Allemagne, pour y être couronné roi des Romains. Sigismund, élu roi des Romains en 1411, passait le col en chemin de l'Italie vers Coire en 1413.

Comme le col faisait partie d'un passage stratégique, il a vu passer plusieurs armées, par exemple pendant la guerre de Souabe (aussi connue comme guerre de Suisse et même guerre d'Engadine). Ce conflit entre la Confédération suisse et les Habsbourg et leur allié la Confédération souabe, a duré de janvier à septembre 1499 et concernait les droits de souveraineté dans les Grisons, en particulier dans la Basse Engadine et la vallée de Müstair. Pendant la guerre de trente ans, la région fut le théâtre de troubles dans les Grisons qui ont duré de 1619 au 1639. Les puissances belligérantes européennes voulaient contrôler les cols pour empêcher leurs ennemis de les emprunter et à cette fin essayaient d'influencer la politique grisonne, avec comme résultat des divisions profondes dans le pays. Des conflits religieux entre protestants et catholiques renforcèrent

La route du col passe par le Parc National.

SAVOIR +

Parc National Suisse



Hotel Sùsom-Givè



Patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO



Les 100 ans du bouquetin dans les Alpes suisses



encore la division et la région fut en proie à un grand chaos qui se termina seulement avec le traité de Milan de 1639. La dernière fois que le val Müstair et l'Ofenpass ont été le théâtre de combats militaires, était entre 1799 et 1801, lorsque les troupes françaises de Napoléon occupaient les Grisons.

Jusqu'à la seconde moitié du 19^e siècle, il n'existait qu'un chemin rudimentaire pour le transport des marchandises. Afin de garantir l'ouverture du col en hiver, la commune de Zernez avait trouvé une solution simple: chaque année, cinq maisons étaient désignées pour garder la route ouverte. En échange, elles recevaient le monopole du transport pour toutes les expéditions. Dès 1864, un service postal régulier fut établi pour le transport de personnes qui, en été, passait trois fois par semaine entre Zernez et Müstair et retour. Avec le soutien de la Confédération, qui considérait le passage d'une importance stratégique, la route fut aménagée de Zernez jusqu'à la frontière, à l'est de Müstair entre 1870 et 1872. Des cars postaux desservent la route depuis 1922. Une fois, il y a une dizaine d'années, quand nous avons fait une randonnée pédestre dans le parc national, nous sommes arrivés à la route un peu avant le col, et le car postal est arrivé 5 minutes après: un service tout à fait exceptionnel!

Le Parc National Suisse fut créé déjà en 1914 et est la plus grande surface de nature sauvage protégée en Suisse, comprenant 170 km². Il est traversé par 100 kilomètres de sentiers balisés – mais attention, les chiens, même tenus en laisse, n'y sont pas admis ! La nature y est strictement protégée, et la faune et la flore évoluent librement, sans intervention humaine. Parmi les animaux cherchant refuge dans le parc, il y a des bouquetins, que nous avons pu admirer pendant nos randonnées. On peut aussi observer des marmottes, des chamois, des cerfs, ainsi que l'aigle royale et le gypaète barbu. Le passage des ours, des lynx et des loups y est aussi attesté. On dit que, une fois la saison de chasse ouverte aux alentours, la faune sauvage se réfugie dans le Parc National où la chasse est interdite. Les animaux ne sont pas bêtes!

Côté flore, nous avons vu un alpage plein d'edelweiss à quelques pas du col, et le parc abrite quelques espèces de fleurs très rares, comme le sabot de Vénus, étonnante orchidée strictement protégée. Avec une telle flore, pas étonnant de pouvoir aussi admirer des papillons merveilleux, comme l'aurore (*anthocharis cardamines*), le vulcain (*Vanessa Atalanta*), l'apollon (*parnassius apollo*), le papon du jour (*aglais io*), etc.!

L'histoire du bouquetin suisse, cet animal qui est le symbole de la montagne comme l'edelweiss l'est pour les fleurs, est passionnante. Selon le site du Parc National, le bouquetin avait disparu des Grisons en 1650. Etant peu farouche et ses produits ayant la réputation d'avoir un effet curatif miraculeux, il a été chassé jusqu'à sa quasi extinction. Au début du 20^e siècle, il en existait seulement quelques rescapés en Italie, au Grand Paradis dans la vallée d'Aoste, où ils furent scrupuleusement protégés par les gardes-faune – pour permettre au roi Vittorio Emanuele le plaisir de partir en chasse. Au début du 20^e siècle, la Suisse a voulu réintroduire l'espèce, et en 1905, à l'occasion de l'ouverture du tunnel du Simplon entre Valais et Piemonte, le président de la Suisse demanda au roi sa coopération. Cette demande fut malheureusement rejetée par Vittorio Emanuele, ce qui a poussé des Suisses passionnés à chercher à obtenir illégalement plusieurs bouquetins. En 1906, les 2 premiers cabris vivants emportés par des braconniers passèrent en fraude le col du Grand Saint-Bernard, d'où ils furent transportés à St. Gall, où un parc animalier était prêt à les recevoir dans les meilleures conditions. En 1911, avec l'aide de la Confédération, les premiers bouquetins furent libérés dans un district franc du canton de St. Gall. À la demande de l'administration du Parc National, des bouquetins furent relâchés en 1920 près de Zernez. Ce trafic a continué jusqu'en 1939, et a permis d'introduire une centaine de bouquetins en toute la Suisse. Dans le Parc National vivent actuellement environ 300 bouquetins.

Il existe la possibilité de passer la nuit dans le Parc National. La Chamanna Cluozza, construite en 1910, n'est accessible qu'à pied, en environ trois heures et demie depuis Zernez. Elle se trouve au milieu du val Cluozza qui a servi de base pour la création du Parc National. En 1909, la Ligue suisse pour la protection de la nature, aujourd'hui Pro Natura, loua la vallée afin de la préserver. Des négociations se poursuivirent en vue d'élargir le territoire et après une visite d'une commission parlementaire en 1913, le Parc National a vu le jour en 1914.

A côté de la route qui traverse le parc, l'hôtel restaurant Parc Naziunal il Fuorn accueille des visiteurs dans un peu plus de confort. L'auberge date de 1489, et ses origines sont fortement liées à l'activité minière autour du col. Sur le col même, il y a une autre sympathique auberge qui accueille les voyageurs. Ces trois logements forment les points de départ de plusieurs randonnées pédestres qui permettent de découvrir cette belle région civilisée et sauvage à la fois. //

HAIR LOSS SOLUTION HERE



DISCOVER MORE CLINIC: REVOLUTIONIZING PRP HAIR TREATMENT IN SWITZERLAND

In a world where hair loss is a common concern for many, MORE Clinic stands out by offering accessible and innovative hair restoration solutions. Specializing in PRP (Platelet-Rich Plasma) treatment, MORE Clinic, with its two locations in Geneva and Lausanne, is on a mission to democratize hair care in Switzerland, providing high-quality services at competitive prices.

WHAT IS PRP AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

PRP, or Platelet-Rich Plasma, is a natural and non-invasive treatment that uses the patient's own blood platelets to stimulate the regeneration of hair follicles. The process involves drawing a small amount of blood, which is then centrifuged to separate the plasma rich in platelets. This platelet-rich plasma is injected into the scalp, where it promotes hair growth, strengthens existing follicles, and improves overall hair quality.



A UNIQUE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

At MORE, the customer experience is paramount. The clinic's modern setting, combined with a calming atmosphere, ensures optimal comfort during each visit. The staff, under the medical direction of Dr. Ian Low, is highly qualified and bilingual, speaking both English and French, ensuring smooth communication with all patients.

WHY CHOOSE MORE?

By choosing MORE Clinic, you're opting for cutting-edge hair treatment in a warm and accessible setting. Whether you're in Geneva or Lausanne, our team is ready to welcome you and support you on your hair restoration journey.

LOCATIONS



Geneva



Lausanne

SENEY OKBAZGHI'S VISION: A PERSONAL JOURNEY

The creation of MORE Clinic stems from the personal experience of its founder, Seney Okbazghi. After experiencing hair loss himself, Seney tried PRP treatment and was amazed by the results. However, he realized that this effective treatment was largely inaccessible and not widely known. Driven by a desire to make PRP more accessible to everyone, he decided to establish MORE Clinic, aiming to fill this gap in the market.

MORE.



Rédacteur en chef
Editor-in-Chief
 Garry Aslanyan, WHO

Comité de rédaction
Editorial Committee
 Marko Stanovic, UNCTAD
 Ling Jiang, WHO
 Yulia Lemenez, UNDP
 Ivana Knezevic, WHO
 Phillippa Biggs, ITU
 Kevin Crampton, WHO
 Eric Carlson, ILO
 Samantha Pegoraro, WHO

Régie publicitaire
Advertising agency
 BuxumLunic SA
 +41 79 560 48 28
 v.mani@buxumlunic.ch

Conception
Design
 buxumlunic.ch

Tirage
Printing
 5000 exemplaires/copies

MESSAGE DU COMITÉ DE RÉDACTION

Aimeriez-vous partager votre opinion avec nous au sujet de newSpecial et de son contenu? Nous serons toujours ravis de lire vos réactions. Les réponses intéressantes, parfois même ingénieuses et constructives seront publiées dans le magazine. Souhaitez-vous soumettre un article, un sujet? Vous pouvez nous contacter quand vous le souhaitez.

Adressez vos commentaires à:
 Garry Aslanyan - newSpecial
 OMS, 20 av. Appia
 CH-1202 Genève
 Suisse
 info@newspecial.org

Au service du personnel des organisations internationales de Genève depuis 1949.

Le magazine newSpecial est publié par l'Association du personnel du siège de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS). Les opinions exprimées dans newSpecial sont celles des auteurs, et non forcément celles de l'ONU, de l'OMS ou de ses agences spécialisées. La parution de ce magazine dépend uniquement du support financier de la publicité prise en charge par une régie.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Would you like to share your opinion about newSpecial and its contents? We will be glad to hear from you. The most interesting, relevant, or even ingenious responses will be published in the magazine. Should you wish to submit an article or a subject, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

Send your thoughts to:
 Garry Aslanyan - newSpecial
 WHO, 20, av Appia
 CH-1202 Geneva
 Switzerland
 info@newspecial.org

Serving the people of international organizations in Geneva since 1949.

The newSpecial magazine is published by the Headquarters Staff Association of the World Health Organization (WHO). The opinions in newSpecial are those of the authors, not necessarily those of the United Nations, the WHO or its specialized agencies. The publication of this magazine relies solely on the financial support of its advertisers.



A STRATEGIC LOCATION IN THE HEART OF THE QUARTIER DES NATIONS

Bright, flexible spaces for optimum working comfort.

Pregny Park Center offers over 3,260 sqm of Office space ranges from 610 sqm to 760 sqm, with immediate access to various mobility infrastructures.



JAGUAR LAND ROVER
GLOBAL DIPLOMATIC SALES

DEFENDER



As an employee of an accredited international organisation
you may qualify for preferential pricing.

Visit [jaguarlandroverdiplomatic.com](https://www.jaguarlandroverdiplomatic.com) for more information.



Learn More