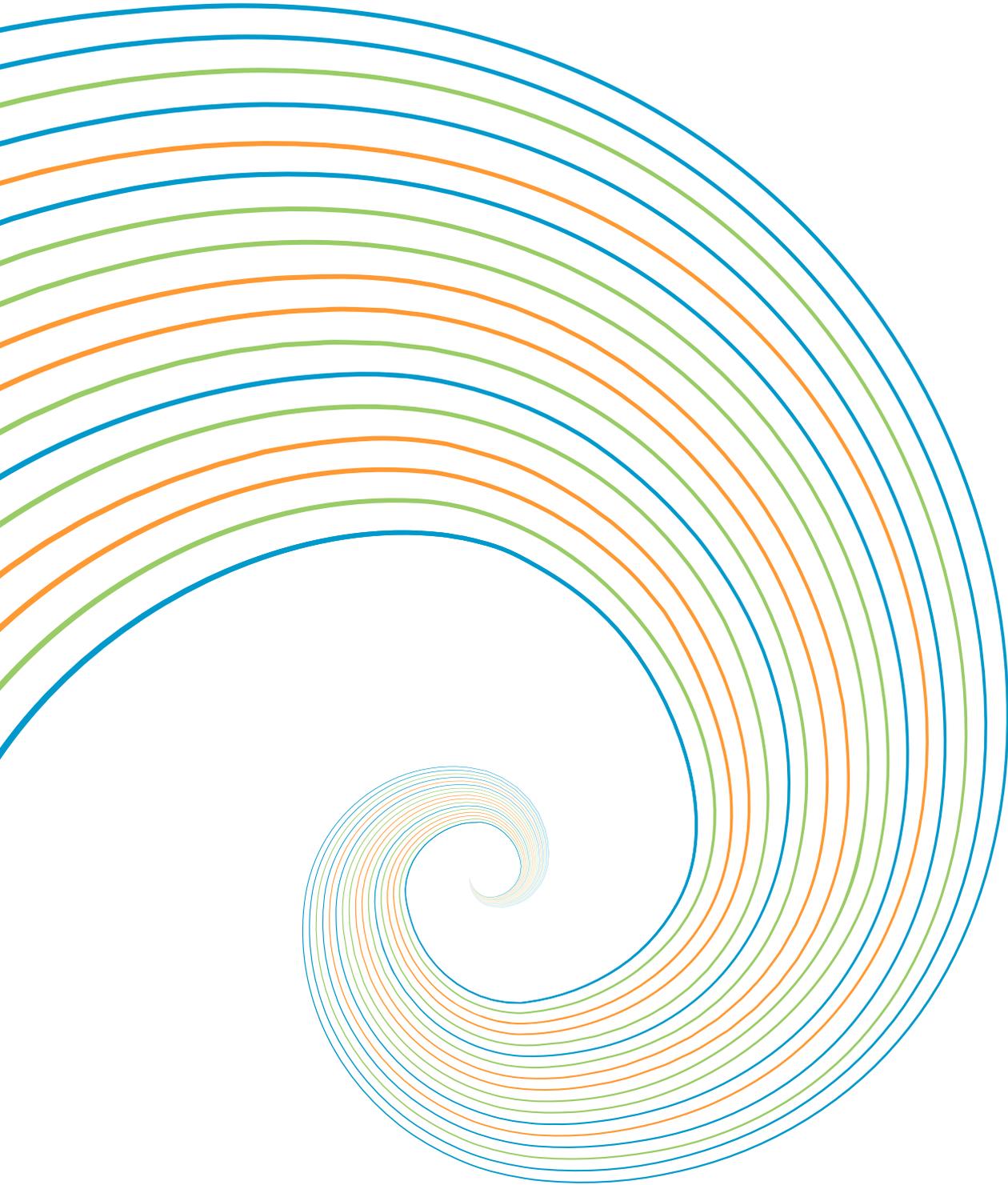


NEWSLETTER

october 2018



AISA INTERNATIONAL NGO

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AISA INTERNATIONAL NGO GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2018

It's in a collaborative and constructive atmosphere that the General Assembly of 2018 took place, on the 25th and 26th of August in Cannes (France) and in the presence of its Honorary President Sheikh Khaled Bentounes¹. The Assembly discussed the exercise of 2017's activities.

More than 50 participants coming from different countries in Europe (France, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands and Switzerland) came in order to attend several thematic workshops, to participate in the formation of the new Board of directors, and more generally to attend the discussion on the diverse actions and the ongoing and future projects within AISA International NGO and/or in partnership with other civil society actors.

This General Assembly also permitted the present members to get to know each other, exchange and experiment, in a living way, the synergies provided by the method of the circle of qualities and virtues awareness (CEQV in french).

The new elected Board of directors will examine the

1 <https://www.cheikh-bentounes.com/cheikh-bentounes>
2 [16mai.org/](https://www.16mai.org/)

procedures for monitoring concretely the collective work undertaken during this General Assembly in order to combine, over time, the contributions and knowledge of each participant and to continue the collaboration in a positive team spirit.

Indeed, if several projects are coming into view, aiming to promote the reconciliation of the Human family, the fact remains that it's only by mobilizing all stakeholders, involved and united in accordance with human diversity, that tomorrow's challenge will become a tangible reality. Undoubtedly, the involvement of youth - tomorrow's hope for humanity - will be decisive for achieving our objectives.

Finally, on behalf of the entire AISA International NGO team, we want to thank each one of you for participating, directly or indirectly, to the implementation of 2017's activities of AISA - including the proclamation by the UNO of the International Day of Living Together in Peace (JIVEP² in French) - and for enabling the success of the General Assembly of 2018.

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Living together is working
together...also within
AISA NGO

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Working with and for the young

I. PARALLEL THEMATIC WORKSHOPS

As an introduction to the workshops, an interesting feedback on the 70th conference of the CIEAEM³, entitled “Mathématiques et Vivre Ensemble - Processus Social Principe didactique” (Mathematics and Living Together - Social Process and Didactic Principle⁴) was shared with all participants, in a spirit of sharing and hope in the future.

This conference, which purpose was to examine the relationship between Mathematics and Living Together in order to develop and promote a cul-

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Doing Mathematics is giving the same name to 2 different things.

Henri Poincaré, a famous 18th century French mathematician

ture of peace, rallied an important international academic community, including 29 universities from 25 countries and many that were located in Algeria. An important number of teachers and inspectors, actually more than a hundred, also responded to the call.

3 The international commission for the study and improvement of Mathematics teaching

4 The record of this conference (from 15 to 19 July in Mostaganem) is available on the website : <http://djana-tualarif.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/CR-MathVivreensemble-FR.pdf>

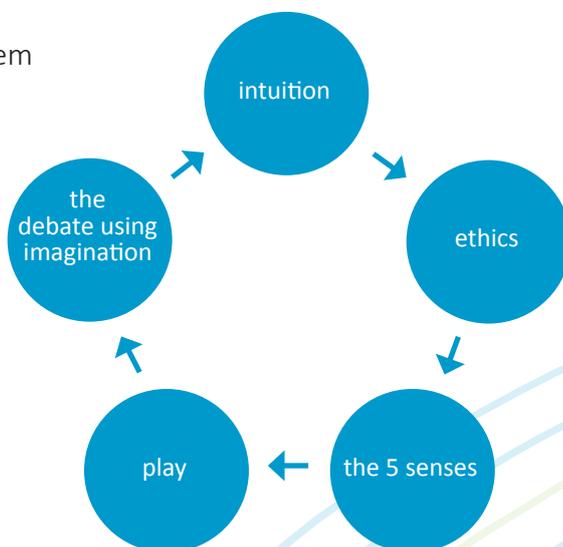
The event was a great success and provided a glimpse into new opportunities such as the establishment of a chair devoted to the education for a culture of peace within the University of Mostaganem, the programming of future meetings and training cycle, and the development of education projects based on ethical, moral and spiritual values in order to define the supports to be used, develop the required methodology and pedagogy that will give the children back the taste for Mathematics in the Living Together in Peace.



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Training for the Dar Essalem



In conjunction with this conference, the development of schools of peace (Dar essalem) in Algeria was also presented. These private schools, linked with “la Fondation Méditerranéenne du Développement Durable (Djanatu Al Arif⁵)” (the mediterranean foundation of sustainable development) and contracted by the government are still awaiting programs and plans for peace education. They represent a wonderful experimental field for new pedagogies, of which the culture of peace.

The 6 schools of Peace are for children who are plus or minus 4 to 7 years old. At this age, the pedagogy of the culture of Peace is based on the sacredness of life. The proposed activities allow the children to question, discover, taste, experiment, develop and live several aspects: the sacredness (unity) of life, intuition, ethics, the 5 senses, play, the debate using imagination. The teachers and educators of



these schools of Peace could receive a first training which will lead to others.

In Holland, the project of the House of Peace⁶ - who was very well received by the public - continues to grow and develop. This project is based upon the originality of its alternative and innovative pedagogy of Peace.

The role of AISA International NGO is to provide guidance and a method to elaborate a real program on how to educate people in the culture of

5 <http://djanatualarif.net/>

6 <http://www.aisanet.nl/>

SCHOOLS OF PEACE (DAR ESSALAM)

RELIZANE, school Ruh Wa Rayhan

2 years of existence, 140 children

RELIZANE, school Dar Essalam N°2

1 year of existence, 50 children

RELIZANE, school Dar Essalam de la Zawiya

ZEMOURA, school Dar Essalam

18 children since april 2018

CHERAGUA, school Dar Essalam

more than 84 children

HASSI BEN OKBA, school Dar Essalam

18 children, 3 trainee teachers

Peace and the living together, from primary school to University. Its role is to show ways to work, centered on universal values and for the benefit of children, youth, the Human being, and Humanity in its unity and diversity. And to achieve that goal, the implication of several stakeholders is needed. The circle, thanks to its universal dimension, presence in all traditions and the sacredness of life it symbolises, is a precious and useful tool that serves this project. The basic rules of the CEQV (circle of qualities and virtues awareness), which total number is 10, will facilitate its smooth functioning. These rules will be submitted to all the stakeholders, the adults but particularly to the children, and will be adapted to the condition of the young.



Workshop 1 - Together, how can we develop the teaching of Peace?

The association *Thérapie de l'Âme* (therapy of the soul), a partner of AISA NGO, organised a common workshop (TDA-AISA) dedicated to the implementation of pedagogic tools to teach the culture of Peace and the Living Together, following the concept of the CEQV⁷.

This workshop was created in the keeping with the axis 3 "Education, cultural diversity, social inclusion, and Living Together", finalized during the seminar "Living Together, the reconciliation of the Human Family", organized by AISA International NGO on 30-31 december 2017 in Cannes.

The workshop elicited a strong participation. It was divided in 3 parts, through entertaining and

- the first step enabled the participants to share, spontaneously and thoughtlessly, the words that are aconnected to the Culture of Peace and to reassemble them on a "talking wall";
- the second step consisted in selecting the key universal values related to the Culture of Peace;
- the last step reunited 4 subgroups, each one in charge of selecting a few key values and think of a way to implement them in the project "Pedagogy of the Culture of Peace".

The goals of this last step were to (i) provide pedagogic tools adapted to the children of 4 to 12 years old in the Schools of Peace located in Algeria and projected to open in Holland; (ii) integrate the culture of peace values in the various school subjects, the human relationships and in the environment; (iii) follow the model of the CEQV to organize the institutional functioning.

The majority of the participants expressed the desire to pursue this dynamic in order to develop the pedagogy of the hoped-for peace.

To join the team, send an e-mail to: ciselet@brutele.be



cooperative activities always following the spirit of the circle:

7 *Islam and the West : a plea for the Living Together*, Sheikh Khaled Bentounes, in collaboration with Bruno Solt, Editions Jouvence, 2018.

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In other words, if we want to set up a way to teach peace, we must move ourselves (...), we must work toward this goal and develop the culture of peace through play. We must cultivate children's imagination and their creativity to educate them. Let's not forget that the Prophet Muhammad was a great peadagogue. He divided childhood and adolescence into 3 parts, in a hadith that it would certainly be profitable to follow: "Play with them for 7 years, educate them for 7 years, be their friend for 7 years"

Sheikh Khaled Bentounes

Workshop 2 - International Day of Living Together in Peace (IDLTP): 2018 celebrations and prospects

A workshop was dedicated to the general report of the very first celebration of the IDLTP in 2018 and its future prospects. The attention was drawn to the excellent work performed by the many dedicated volunteers, in partnership with different stakeholders, to promote, at various levels (local, regional, national and international) this IDLTP.

The participants have, one by one, presented the events organized by AISA in different towns of different countries in Europe that have all been a great success. The partnership established with various associations and institutions as part of this celebration proves that the IDLTP is a shared concern and that, by implicating the whole of society in this process, the objective of reconciliation of the Human family can be fulfilled. The IDLTP was celebrated in many countries all over the world. The events organized in this occasion of which we were informed were compiled in the calendar of international events (available on the website : http://16mai.org/?page_id=675).

In the medium and long term, efforts will be focused notably on a way to convey and develop the IDLTP as an educational tool used to promote the culture of peace, particularly in the education sector. The IDLTP is only just beginning to reveal its potential for human kind and to reconcile the Human family.

Our Message is Hope
Our Way Peace
Our Choice Living Together



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*Peace and Living Together are my greatest wishes.
Let's restore bonds of fraternity and be contributors to Peace.*

Sheikh Khaled Bentounes

Workshop 3 - Forum on Peace in Paris¹

Inspired by the model and the success of the COP21, the Paris Forum on Peace will take place from 11 to 13 of november 2018 in Paris. This Forum, which will bring together all the actors of the government, has the vocation to be a place to exchange experience and the search of innovative innovative solutions in favor of good governance. The focus will mainly be on the initiatives of civil society on the matter.

1 <https://parispeaceforum.org/fr/>

As a result of the collective decision, taken in compliance with the rules of the circle, a workshop dedicated to this Forum has been set up, after the information was communicated to the members on the first day of the General Assembly. Thus, the participate could exchange and debate on the opportunity and way to involve AISA NGO in this Forum, through the values represented by the IDLTP.

II. PROJECTS AND VARIOUS MATTERS

➤ OPTICOM Project

In order to optimize internal communication within AISA International NGO, an internal communication and collaboration platform (intranet) named OPTICOM (Optimization of the Internal Communication) is being developed by the communication department of the Association.

This platform includes many functions, according to specifications in conjunction with the AC, this platform aims to:

- facilitate the internal communication between the members of the Association;
- promote a fluid and transparent flow of information between the different levels (regional,national and international);
- avoid the use of e-mails to communicate internally (push principle) and promote the use of shared information (pull principle);
- facilitate the archiving and the search of official information.

Since its launch in april 2017, this project has taken about 60 days of work to each devoted person⁸. If up to 70 % of its fonctionnality of first priority have been developed to this day, the fact remains that the multilingual translation of this tool, which would reflect the linguistic diversity of its active members is the biggest challenge for the mid-term.

In the shorter term, the next steps of the project will be:

- the assessment of the financial costs;
- testing the prototype;
- the preparation of the tool testing phase (test group, training for the test...);
- testing the prototype, reporting bug or errors and fixing them;
- the preparation of the first online launch of OPTICOM, which should be operational by 1 January 2019.

➤ Partnership between AISA International NGO and “Fondation Islam de France” (foundation of Islam in France)⁹

This partnership is built around the travelling exhibit *“Emir Abd el-Kader: a man, a destiny, a message”* and targets mainly a young audience. It aims to, inter alia:

- Present the young a positive version of the History of Islam in France through the heroic tale of an Islam warrior who fought a colonizer, and who was at the same time a defender of the Islam of openness;
- Present an often unacknowledged episode of History : the friendship and mutual esteem that linked the Emir Abdelkader to the Duke of Aumale and the Emperor Napoleon III;
- Present young French people and the public at large the life of a wise man of Islam who has earned a solid reputation for his pursuit of moral greatness and humanity at the service of the dialogue of civilizations.

Almost 600 persons have already been able to attend this exhibit and welcome it at “la Foire musulmane de Paris” (the Paris Muslim Salon)

8 A total effort of 180 days is estimated.

9 <http://fondationdelislamdefrance.fr/>

at le Bourget. Other public events (conferences, seminars...) are in progress and will be held this year (2018) as part of this partnership..

➤ Fundraising approach

Identified during l'université d'automne 2016 (the University of Autumn) of AISA International NGO, the need for a fundraising training has for objective to increase significantly the means of action of the Association, for the dissemination of the culture of Living Together in Peace.

This process has mobilized a project team, motivated and managed by a fundraising professional in charge of the training since april 2017. Several work sessions, requiring cooperation, have mobilized all the members¹⁰: identification and prioritization of the projects, collective work on the vision, missions, values, strategic lines, impacts and goals of the Association. This work resulted in the

¹⁰ In total, 3 sessions open to all the members and some 10 work sessions with the project team were held since the start of the training.

writing of a donor speech and a data sheet specific to AISA International NGO.

Right now, this donor speech is being tested among the entourage of AISA NGO for its finalization in Autumn 2018. The next step will be the elaboration of the business model of different projects, before the launch of a fund-raising campaign in the first quarter of 2019.

Almost 30 participants among the members of different countries (Germany, Belgium, France and Switzerland) have brought their contribution to this day. To join the team, send an e-mail to : nadia.mimouni@aisa-ong.org

III. STATUTORY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

➤ Presentation of the activity and financial report of 2017



These documents have been the subject of exchanges and constructive discussions prior to their adoption by the majority of votes. Diverse observations and questions were asked and made by the participants, and concerned the need to, in the future:

- share the reports with the general public (and the other communication supports), beyond the members of AISA, and integrate the general vocation of the Association, its diagram and mode of operation, spiritual specificity through, inter alia, the promotion of the circle of qualities and virtues awareness (CEQV) as a method of collective work, proper to the Association;
- take full account, in the financial statements, of the number of volunteer hours achieved, in order to improve the correspondence between the reported extent of activity on one hand and the resources required for their achievement on the other hand. This valorization of volunteerism is essential to faithfully report the patrimonial reality of the Association. In this sense, the writing of a report specific to volunteerism and skills valorization would be very valuable and profitable for the Association;

- take into account, in the financial statements, the insurance contracts concluded by the Association;
- apply for public benefit status for AISA (cf. recognition of AISA Holland and AISA Germany). A call was made to the national AISAs;
- have an updated English version of the Association's website.

➤ Other issues

Other observations have been made, notably about:

- the need to consider the existence of a platform dedicated to sufi spiritual songs (Samâa), proper to the Association;
- the adoption of a financial management tool well suited for associations acting on a proposal and with the help of the appropriate internal department;
- the implementation of the resolutions taken in Cannes and their articulation at the International level (AISA International NGO) and national level (National AISAs);
- the need to reflect on the implementation of a grant or other financial supports (ex.: introduction of a budget specifically dedicated to the young) to enable young people in financial difficulty to attend the seminars and future events of the Association;
- the need to take into consideration the voice of youth in the collective work of AISA NGO, by involving them in the preliminary discussions, the working meetings based on the CEQV and in concrete projects.

➤ Extraordinary session : proposal and vote on the modification of the statutes of AISA International NGO

This modification proposal, adopted unanimously, aims to enhance the exterior visibility and credibility of the Association, by inserting in article 4 precisely, the UNESCO declaration formulated during its 37th General Conference: *"The Sufi order, founded by Sheikh al-'Alâwi has made the promotion of inter-religious dialogue its priority. The order shows how to better serve mankind; how to harmonize and beautify the world. It accepts and validates all that can bring humans material comfort, but always in close relationship with the inner dimension and in constant balance with the sacred and the profane. The order counts on the loving brotherhood of men. It encourages, indeed, not to reject rationality at the expense of spirituality and not to shut oneself into an overcautious religiosity."* (191 EX/32, 17 april 2013, p. 2).

➤ Election of the new Board of Directors and various matters

In total, seven persons (Belkacem Amarouche, Souad Atrous, Mohamed Chetouane, Hamid Demmou, Nadia Mimouni, Driss Rennane) among the national delegates have submitted their candidature, accompanied by a motivation, for the office of director of AISA International NGO. Among these 7 persons, six were part of the previous mandate.

Before the vote from the delegates, questions, reservations and concerns were shared during a lively and constructive discussion, notably on the following matters:

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 Transmit know-how to the young...
 but also and more importantly learn from them.

- the need and urgency to work on improving the Association functioning, both at the internal and external level (partnerships,...);
- the importance of encouraging a higher number of candidatures for the office of Director and particularly those of the national delegations that were absent during the GA and women's, in order to ensure the international representativity and diversity of the members and the active and effective participation of women;
- the importance of mobilizing the skills and talents of the members;
- the need to adopt measures to safeguard the independence of the Association;
- the proposal to create, within the Association, a Council of the Wise.





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