



# 10001 Seeds of Change

## INVITATION

*to participate and contribute*

*in in/formal interviews, dialogues and virtual conferences*

*at Earth-Day Equinox, UN-Vienna and elsewhere, March 20/21*

*and at the UNESCO - DESD in Bonn, March 27-April 3, 2009*

**Please note:** PLEASE READ more detailed information here: [Deutsch](#) - [English](#) This format is based on a stream of events going back to 1980, following an open, highly communicative „DaZiBao“ process - including participants' messaging activities, side-events, virtual conferencing [[www.p-n-w.net/events](http://www.p-n-w.net/events)], collections of Seeds of Change in the 1990's Viewletters [[www.benking.de/viewletter](http://www.benking.de/viewletter)], round-tables at international scientific, cultural and political events, and recent international initiatives like „100,001 diversities“ and „1,001 action for dialogue“ (2008).



You may wonder about the number 10,001. We held dialogues about „1,001 actions“ (1001 meaning „many“ in the Arab and Western world), and about 100,001 to represent unity in diversity for the UN-Biodiversity conference, CBD in Bonn, 2008. This year, with a focus on culture, we call it „10.001 Seeds of change“, symbolizing the diversity and richness of the concepts we have to deal with – focusing on potentials and challenges.

Numbers by themselves remain „empty“ and meaningless when not connected and contextualized. For people with a monologic, unipolar, dualistic mindset, even 2 or 10 appears (too) „many“, even frightening. But in Chinese culture, which uses different, even combined sign systems and concepts, a much higher conceptual richness and diversity is needed, and common. For them, „many“ means not 100, not 1,000 but 10.001. In a globalizing civilization, we should cherish the beauty and richness of natural and cultural expressions.

A broad range of partners, contributors and sponsors have been involved to support the development of „other“ conferencing formats in dialogue and deliberations for many years. A few long-term partners are mentioned above. Please visit the event website and study reference papers. We have the pleasure to kick-off this 2009 campaign at the UN in Vienna, celebrating the original Earth Day at Equinox, March 20, 2009.

**Please come back for updates and schedules in the on-line version of this invitation here:** [www.10001seeds.wordpress.com](http://www.10001seeds.wordpress.com) or the SymposiumBlog for side-events: [www.symposion.wetpaint.com](http://www.symposion.wetpaint.com)

**PLEASE NOTE:** This activity is continued at <http://10001-seeds.wordpress.com> <http://mindprint.tv>




## 1,001 Actions for Dialogue in 2008

In 2008, the Anna Lindh-Foundation campaign in 37 countries for ‘1001 actions for dialog’ was a great success. One of the concerted national events was in Weimar with the German Network which is also involved with this year’s follow up (documentations and references below).

### **Why 10.001 dialogs? Why not 1001 dialogs or maybe 1001+ ?**

In the Arabian culture, like in our Western Culture, 1001 stands for „many“. The magnitudes in our cultures are the same, have common roots. We have all heard about 1001 Nights, „alf-leila-wa leila“ in Bagdad.

But the concepts for variety and diversity in other cultures are different. In fact, for many people, more than 2, more than 5 or 10 - what we can easily count – already are „many“.

<p>The Chinese, long used to greater dimensions, consider 10,000 to be „many“, they write 10,000 miles – 10,000 books, say ‘a picture equals 10,000 words’!</p> 	 <p><b>Wan yen I hua</b></p>	 <p><b>Wan li wan shu</b></p>
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We therefore want to invite for something „extra“: ‘many and one’ pictures, words, expressions or signs. If interested, this series - within the United Nations publications – is focussing on the dialogue of civilizations, one contribution on Unity in Diversity (1998?) ... [\[more\]](#) [\[more\]](#) [\[more\]](#) [\[more\]](#)

Our intention is not only to collect „many“ - like many best practices, or jewels, but share them and empower people by having them see the commons in common Schemas or „Constructions“. Maybe call it common „frames of references“. And please follow the discussion on how and what kind of research “avenues” are “under construction”. [\[more\]](#)

*The central idea of this activity is to keep the 1001 dialogues campaign alive, help it bear new fruits and create lasting effects by harvesting and disseminating the best and brightest seeds collected over the years.*

### **How to sustain and expand 1001 dialogues?**

Some central issues around Open-Forum Dialog, Deliberation and Decision Cultures (DDDC) / SDDP (explained later)

- Do we need rules? Which rules and frames ? What expectations in an “attention and access world“ ?
- May people with an “Eminency” or “Celebrity” credit talk as much and loud as they can while expecting others to listen passively? Some “talkers“ seem to believe in this.
- Do you pitch and then leave the stage, market or bourse, or do you engage in meaningful dialogue with the assumption that you very well might be wrong and can learn from others? [\[more\]](#) [\[more\]](#)

Here are just some opening questions to listen and learn from the experiences and visions of others:

- Are you ready to engage in meaningful, compassionate, attentive, empowering and co-creative dialog and deliberations?  
 - Do you believe in counting down the Top Five problems and then throw money at their „solution“? - Are you ready to check and analyse roots and drivers of causes? - Do you recognise a major task of capacity building to find solutions that truly match the complexity of the challenges and are situated in known context? - Do you believe that it is enough to follow a list of action items from management books? - Do you believe Gestalt-competences include awareness of ends, means, and how-to’s where you discuss the frame and include orientation, meaning and sense-making, learning to dance with all needed competences, including all senses and intelligences for properly grounded and lasting actions?

We have organised such deliberation and empowerment side-events for many years. See outcomes, formats, and the merging of virtual conferencing with authentic dialog experiments at these sites:

[www.open-forum.de/backgroundpapers](http://www.open-forum.de/backgroundpapers) and [www.p-n-w.net/events](http://www.p-n-w.net/events)

# **THE VALUES, MERITS, and CONDITIONS** **of in/formal, invited, and surprise, real and virtual dialogues**

## **What is it about?**

We invite Participants and Delegates, Stakeholders and Risk-takers on-site and via tele-conferencing worldwide to share and build new relations between the best and brightest ideas and best practices across disciplines. Please visit this Blog where this is explained in greater detail and where we collect the “Seeds”: [www.10001seeds.wordpress.com](http://www.10001seeds.wordpress.com)

## **How does it work?**

We bring these ideas into fruition in open-format dialogues and air the results in different media. Through radio stations, the internet, newsrooms and traditional media.

## **Who participates?**

Personal invitations go to special and honorary guests, users, drivers, stakeholders, risk takers, policymakers and the public in various formats in and „around“ the „Negotiations“ and „other“ events.

## **History?**

There is a tradition to do side-events around local and international events: [www.p-n-w.net/events](http://www.p-n-w.net/events)

## **When?**

On invitation during a period of 2 weeks including the Earth Day in March und the DESD summing-up events April 4. We have collected content, will screen the results at the DESD events, check informal sideline talks in the lobbies and hotels, and invite anyone to report and propose issues and topics to: [heiner@benking.de](mailto:heiner@benking.de) and [eric@pnyv.org](mailto:eric@pnyv.org). Access to virtual conference rooms, detailed instructions and time-slots will be made available, see the links on the front-page.

## **How to enhance dialogue, listen and empower, locally and globally:**

We have collected, experimented on and developed new and old, structured and open Dialogue Formats. Have a look at: [www.open-forum.de](http://www.open-forum.de) and [http://www.open-forum.de/transcultural\\_dialogue.htm](http://www.open-forum.de/transcultural_dialogue.htm)

## **One very special dialog format: Magic Round Table's:**

Here are the rules: Each person is given an equal number of beads, stones, or other tokens representing equal units of time. The total meeting time is divided into units matching the distributed tokens, thus valuing them. Each member then introduces her/himself, and if so desired, offers a topic for discussion. Members then give tokens to others whose topics they want to have introduced for discussion. The "voting or encouraging" continues as topics generate more or less interest; and as others join in the discussion, they can receive tokens as encouragement to continue with their line of thought. This open, transparent format can encourage inhibited people to participate and minimise domination by authoritative types. In case of unexpected changes in meeting duration, the tokens can be re/devalued inflated/deflated to match the remaining available time.

## **Who takes part?**

Invited Keynoters and Delegates, - but honouring the principle of Open Space: “who is there are the right people“ – thus opening space for unexpected high quality contributions from creatives across disciplines and nations. As we do it locally and through virtual conferencing many voices meet and learn from each other, co-create, empower and enlarge visionary, solid and lasting concepts or question the status quo in search for positive ends.

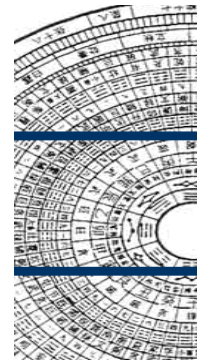
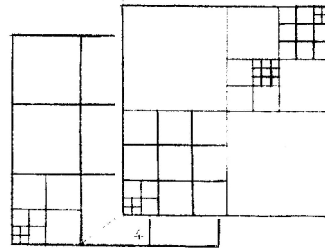
## **Who is in charge?**

Many people get invitations & make invitations; stay tuned and come back later.  
Do you have more questions? Visit [www.p-n-w.net/10001](http://www.p-n-w.net/10001) and do not hesitate to contact us.

## Some Ideas behind Polylogue and Shared Order Schemas (Covenants): informal, trans-disciplinary & multi-cultural...

To collect not only visions and applications, but set them into context and further practice.

To make these treasures available in various contexts, - think of order schemas in our traditions, and about combining and expanding such schemas. [www.9-d.org](http://www.9-d.org)



- Magic Square and Kosmos of the Chinese morphing schemas and signs [\[more\]](#)

- House of Wisdom بيت الحكمة Bait al-Hikma [\[more\]](#)

- Oikos – Ecumene – Ecludomy : „Western Schemas“ [\[more\]](#) [\[more\]](#)  
[griechisch](#) κόσμος, [Kosmos \(Humboldt\)](#), regardig the needed Agora see: [\[more\]](#) [\[more\]](#)

- and traditional order schemas like „Wheels“, grids or other “Schemas”... or explaining living metaphors like tree, house, landscape – see: [\[more\]](#) [\[more\]](#) [\[more\]](#)

Let us try to bridge such “orders” of „wisdom“ wheels or grids, and improve and adapt, modify, merge and morph them towards new models, new shared imaginations and orientations for better addressing the ever faster emerging global challenges.

### What is behind such broad complex challenges?

- Not just searching but finding and sharing
- Building Commons towards many interwoven and dancing covenants
- Help to overcome ignorance, isolation, neglect, power-plays of self-selected fews...
- Come to develop meaningful constructions and actions.
- Cultivating differences, beauty and harmony in many cultures, traditions, languages, futures,...
- The search for contextualisation and deliberations [\[more\]](#)

### Poetic Reminiscence: as collected for UN-Climate Summit 1995 (pls. see online version) [\[more\]](#)

*”Planet Earth once was a place of remarkable beauty. Early explorers returned home full of awe of the variety that nature had graced the various continents with, and achieved ecological balance in so many ways. But explorers were followed by settlers who tried to enforce their habits on the new areas while exporting away vast quantities of anything novel they found back to their home countries. Over short time, people succeeded in destroying natural systems to such an extent that these systems were no longer able to function in the stable way that humankind needed for common and secure futures. Gradually the worries expressed by those who could see the dangers filtered through all levels of society and governments were forced to take notice. Early attempts to convene globally for solving the problems, however, quickly showed that current perceptions and structures for meetings made it practically impossible to truly exchange ideas, let alone agree on courses of action. A growing number of people realized that humans would have to solve the problems of communication and blinkered thinking, and learn to accept other talkers and listeners as equals, before the problems of world balance and sustainability could be addressed. Here are some of their thoughts on the matter.”*