

Alternative Nobel Prize Laureates Conference



Welcome Pack

Welcome

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this open event on the occasion of Right Livelihood Award Laureates from Africa and the Middle East visiting Cairo.

This short pack provides you with information about the Heliopolis University, the host of this public day, as well as background on the organisers: SEKEM, The Right Livelihood Award and Church of Sweden. You will also find biographies of the Right Livelihood Award Laureates participating and today's agenda. There is an open network wifi and we will be tweeting with #Cairo2014 for your convenience.

We hope you find that today is an opportunity for lively discussion, exchanging innovative ideas, networking and promoting practical solutions to global problems.

Welcome!



Prof. Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish
President of SEKEM



#Cairo2014



Introduction to the Heliopolis University

Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development (HU) pioneers the introduction of students and the community to sustainable development and aims to develop social entrepreneurs who are able to face and overcome tomorrow's challenges through innovation, collaboration and technology. Education at Heliopolis University goes far beyond the classroom, as students are empowered to be champions of sustainable development in a trans-disciplinary approach to education through teaching, research and practice.

Heliopolis University was founded in 1999 by Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish, to educate young people in the spirit of sustainable development in all four dimensions of life.

For more information about the University of Heliopolis: <http://www.hu.edu.eg>



Introduction to SEKEM

SEKEM

The name SEKEM comes from an Ancient Egyptian word for “vitality of the sun”. Founded in 1977 by Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish. The organisation aims to bring about cultural renewal in Egypt on a sustainable basis. It has grown over the years into a vast enterprise, including biodynamic farms, trading companies, a medical centre, a community school, a vocational training centre and a college and research centre. SEKEM companies ensure transparency in the production, distribution and consumption of their goods, working to ensure fair and secure prices for farmers. A role model for sustainable development, in 2003, SEKEM and Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish received the Right Livelihood Award for integrating commercial success with the promotion of the social and cultural development of society.

For more information about SEKEM: <http://www.sekem.com>



Introduction to the Right Livelihood Award



The Right Livelihood Award was established in 1980 to honour and support those “offering practical and exemplary answers to the most urgent challenges facing us today”. It has become widely known as the ‘Alternative Nobel Prize’ and there are now 153 Laureates from 64 countries.

The statutes of the Foundation mandate it to present the Right Livelihood Award, to disseminate the work of the Laureates and to support their work. This makes the RLA different from most other Awards, since the actual Award ceremony is only the start of the relationship between the Laureate and the Foundation.

This public day is part of a regional conference for African and Middle Eastern Laureates, the second in a planned sequence of regional conferences. This is the latest in a series of initiatives in which the foundation has engaged with African and Middle Eastern Laureates.

In 2012 a Right Livelihood Award delegation undertook a solidarity visit to Jacqueline Moudeina (RLA Laureate 2011) in N'Djamena, Chad, as a measure of support to demand that she and her colleagues be provided with adequate protection and security to continue their important work. Earlier this year, in April 2014, the Right Livelihood Award Foundation financially contributed to strengthening to security of Dr Denis Mukwege (RLA Laureate 2013) and the Panzi Hospital in Bukavu, DRC. The Right Livelihood Award Foundation also established two Right Livelihood College Campuses, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, and The University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

For more information on the Right Livelihood Award: <http://www.rightlivelihood.org>



Introduction to Church of Sweden



Church of Sweden is the largest Christian church in Sweden. Until the year of 2000, it held a position as State Church. It is known for its liberal position in theological issues. They work together for theological reflection, Christian unity and interfaith understanding, and a mutual sharing of faith and life. All work is based on a rights-based approach and support to people's own struggles for the right to food, sustainable livelihood, security, education and health. They also operate from a community-based psychosocial approach. The Church of Sweden's international advocacy work targets those with economic and political power in Sweden, the EU and the UN.

For more information about Church of Sweden's international work: <https://www.svenskakyrkan.se/international>



List of Participants

Right Livelihood Award Laureates



Raji Sourani, Palestine (RLA, 2013)

A human rights lawyer based in the Gaza Strip, Raji Sourani established the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights to document and investigate human rights violations committed in the Occupied Territories, and has defended countless victims before Israeli courts.



Dr. Hans R. Herren, BioVision, Switzerland (RLA, 2013)

The Swiss agronomist/entomologist Dr. Hans Herren is one of the world's leading experts on biological pest control and sustainable agriculture. Herren assists farmers in Africa to combat hunger, poverty and disease through ecologically sound agriculture with his Swiss-based Biovision Foundation. With his theoretical and practical work, Herren has proven that an agriculture anchored in agro-ecological principles can nourish a world with a growing population and changing needs.



Jacqueline Moudeina, Chad (RLA, 2011)

Lawyer and President of the Chadian Association for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights who has worked fearlessly to bring the former Chadian dictator Hissène Habré (1982-1990) to justice. At the same time, she works on a wide range of human rights issues concerning contemporary Chad.



Nnimmo Bassey, Nigeria (RLA, 2010)

Trained as an architect, Nnimmo Bassey is now one of Africa's leading advocates and campaigners for the environment and human rights. Bassey has stood up against the practices of multinational oil corporations in his country and the environmental devastation they leave behind, destroying the lives and ignoring the rights of the local population.



Matron Sr. Tenadam Bekele Wolde, repr. of Dr. Catherine Hamlin's Fistula Hospital, Ethiopia (RLA 2009)

For over fifty years, Catherine Hamlin and her husband Reginald have treated obstetric fistula patients, thereby restoring the health, hope and dignity of thousands of Africa's poorest women.

Together with her husband, she built a hospital in Addis, where women are treated free of charge. Sr. Tenadam Bekele has worked with Dr. Hamlin for more than 25 years and is now the Matron of the hospital.



René Ngongo Mateso, Democratic Republic of Congo (RLA, 2009)

The Congo rainforest is under grave threat from the aftermath of war, population pressure and corporate exploitation. Since 1994, including throughout the civil war from 1996-2002, René Ngongo has engaged in popular campaigning, political advocacy and practical initiatives to confront the destroyers of the rainforest and to help create the political conditions that could halt its destruction and bring about its conservation and sustainable use.



Jumanda Gakelebone repr. Roy Sesana and the First People of the Kalahari, Botswana (RLA, 2005)

Activist for the rights of his people. In the 1980s, rich diamond fields were discovered in Central Kalahari Game Reserve. Between 1997 and 2002 almost all Bushmen were removed from their homes and driven to eviction camps outside the reserve. Banned from hunting and forced to apply for permits to enter the reserve, they are now on the brink of extinction. Despite some victories in court, guaranteeing their right to return to their ancestral land and to hunt, they are still routinely arrested and abused.



Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish, Founder and President, SEKEM, Egypt (RLA, 2003)

1977, Dr. Abouleish established a comprehensive development initiative, called SEKEM, meaning "vitality of the sun", including biodynamic agriculture, health care as well as educational and cultural preservation initiatives. SEKEM has grown to become a nationally and internationally renowned initiative for sustainable development.



Helmy Abouleish, Managing Director, SEKEM, Egypt (RLA, 2003)

As Managing Director of the SEKEM Group in Egypt, Helmy Abouleish is a recognised leader of sustainable change in Egypt, the Arab world and beyond; driving many initiatives for sustainable development, mainly in the fields of Organic Agriculture, Social Entrepreneurship and Responsible Competitiveness.



Guillaume Harushimana, Centre Jeunes Kamenge, Burundi (RLA, 2002)

Centre Jeunes Kamenge (CJK) is a place where young people can come and, through shared activities, learn to live together in friendship and mutual respect. In the field of education CJK's courses cover subjects from mathematics to various languages. Training is offered in a broad mix of subjects: computing, typing, sewing, hairdressing, human rights and the Highway Code. There is also a literacy project, as well as projects on AIDS, peace and reconciliation.



Legborsi Saro Pyagbara, repr. Ken Saro Wiwa and The Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People, Nigeria (MOSOP, RLA 1994)

President of MOSOP, a mass-based umbrella social movement of the indigenous Ogoni people, initiated by the author Ken Saro-Wiwa in 1990 as a step in the struggle against the degradation of their lands by Shell in Nigeria and with the mandate to campaign non-violently to promote democratic rights for the Ogoni and for Shell to immediately engage in environmental impact assessments of their past activities and raise their standards to best practice. After a trial in 1995, described by many as judicial murder, Ken Saro Wiwa and eight colleagues were hanged.



Nomewende Joël Ouedraogo, Burkina Faso, Fédération Naam (RLA 1990)

Son of Bernard Lédéa Ouédraogo (RLA 1990), Nomewende Joël Ouédraogo is the executive director of Fédération Nationale des Groupements Naam (FNGN) and responsible for coordinating the activities of the 14 FNGN Support Units. Fédération Naam is built upon a traditional village body called Naam, which were composed of young people and had highly developed cooperative characteristics. The Naam groups have a broad range of activities: they grow, build, manufacture and trade. They've created cereal banks, mills, dams and wells. In addition they have established credit banks and constructed cellars for preserving the potatoes they grow.
