



Founding Editor: F. de P. Hanika †. Editor: R. Trappl. Editorial Assistant: M. Schulte-Derne. International Federation for Systems Research, Hofstrasse 1, A-2361 Laxenburg, Austria.

THE INSTITUTE FOR CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND PEACE DEVELOPMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Institute for Conflict Management and Peace Development will be a major organizational component of the University for Peace, collaboratively designed and developed with the International Systems Institute. Its purpose is to facilitate the learning and practice of conflict management and peace development on a scale from local to global.

The Institute is being designed as a global based learning system, including a coordinating center at the University's headquarters in Costa Rica and an international network of educational institutions/agencies and research organizations.

As a learning system, the Institute will offer a set of complementary programs whose objectives are to:

- nurture global consciousness
 - systems thinking and practice
 - creative and nonviolent conflict management
 - peace development
- facilitate the participative design and implementation of peace development systems.

These programs will address a range of social contexts, from the family, youth and community, to the organizational, interorganizational, and international levels. Program functions include participative design, cooperative learning, capacity and capability building, and information dissemination. In combination, the Institute's programs will provide the necessary elements for an integrative learning and action system for peace development.

An interdisciplinary staff of the Institute, along with members of the International Systems Institute, will facilitate the participative design and development of programs in various cultural and social settings. The aim is to empower representatives of the Institute's network of educational systems, and future learners/clients, to collaboratively design, implement and manage a program appropriate to their specific context. The global range of beneficiaries will include:

- The Institute's network
- Youth and families
- Community and marginal groups
- Students in formal educational settings
- Personnel of human activity systems from local to global

RATIONALE

Differences of values, assumptions, beliefs and purposes are inherent and inevitable among human beings and their systems. Given our present limited level of consciousness as a species, which includes individualism, competitions, materialism and hierarchism, conflict over differences is a habitual process of social interaction.

As we approach the end of the 20th century, conflict situations are increasing in complexity, persistence and potential for violence at all levels of our interconnected social systems. However our social awareness, adaptive behavior, and ability to creatively manage conflict situations, remains underdeveloped. While threat, coercion and violence are devisive and life-destructive, many existing processes and arrangements to resolve conflicts peacefully are reactive, reductionistic and ineffective. Individuals and social systems, worldwide, lack awareness and competences in wholistic approaches to integrating differences, building cooperation, and designing peace development systems.

Systems inquiry, guided by global consciousness and wholistic thinking, has demonstrated the capability of effectively managing complex and large-scale problem situations. Peace development competences, emphasizing systems thinking, nonviolence, participative design and consensus-building can be learned and applied at all levels of human activity systems.

A global based learning system for conflict management and peace development can contribute greatly to the improvement of our evolving human condition. The establishment of interorganizational arrangements, across cultures, is required for sharing educational resources and facilitating learning at all levels of society. The University for Peace provides the institutional and international context for such a global based education system. An Institute for Conflict Management and Peace Development, an educational arm of this University, will serve as the vehicle for peace development learning.

PROGRAMS

Family Peace Development

The purpose of this program is to explore and promote various cultural approaches to maintaining and enhan-