



July 2003



## Message from the Outgoing

*Agneta Bjorklund*

Dear CIF-friends,

Sitting down at my computer on one of the first summer nights in Stockholm to write this my last message to you as president of CIF-International's Executive Committee, I try to gather my thoughts and reflect a little on the years that I have been on the EC. It is nice once in a while to look back and dwell in memories and remember what has happened in those years.

When I was elected to the EC in Scotland in 1997 I had been a CIF member for six years after having attended my CIP program in Sam Diego in the summer of 1991. That experience meant so much to me that I promised myself to do whatever I could to repay the organization in whatever way I could. The year after I became involved in CIF-Sweden and in 1994 I was convinced by the elections committee of CIF-Sweden to become president. That meant going to the Board of Directors' meetings and getting to know the organization even better. I made many new friends at those meetings. In those days we were discussing the right to membership in CIF International, and Sweden - along with several other countries - had very firm views on this and I was the one to bring them forward on behalf of my branch. Long and lively discussions took place at those meetings. My commitment to CIF grew. Lots of fun, I thought, and before too long I found myself on the EC working with the exchange programs and being a liaison with the contact persons. And two years ago in Rome I was elected president.

The first important task during those first EC was to draft new statutes for the organization. We had long wonderful discussions on wordings and phrasing - great fun. It has taken us until now to finalize the registration of those statutes in Germany. By the time you are reading this I hope the whole process will be finalized, thanks to lots of work by our present secretary and to Gerhard Schmidt and Astrid Sehmer of CIF-Germany without whose help we would have been lost.

Doing EC work also means carrying out all kinds of practical tasks that belong to the running of an organization such as ours. We depend on everyone doing what we take on as we form each new committee. In the last few years that has become much easier due to the fact that we can communicate over the Internet. We can communicate quickly sharing each other's views on most issues.

Since I last addressed you in the World News some of us had a

wonderful conference in India. Due to the situation in the world at that time many refrained from traveling to Goa, we missed those of you who were not there! But those of us who could make it, Goa was a great experience with high professional quality and we enjoyed genuine Indian hospitality and the nice.

One of the most important issues discussed in Goa was the strategic planning I wrote about in my message in the January issue of the World News. In the hands of Dorothy Faller the BD and EC were taken through some sessions of great interest. Subcommittees were formed that are working to present written suggestions on a number of matters and they are to report to Dorothy and me before the end of July. I am looking forward to having some important material to hand over to the new EC in August.

A new executive committee was elected in Goa: Lambrini-Ninetta Zoi from Greece was elected president, Nuket Atalay of Turkey vice president, Zarin Gupta of India secretary, Mieke Weeda of the Netherlands treasurer and Leo Heikkilä of Finland and Nadine Rogue of France members-at-large. We are going to have a joint meeting of the old and new EC in London in the first week of August to hand over properly. I wish them great success in the coming two years. I will most probably be looking at an empty e-mail box when I turn on my computer. I want to thank each one of you for giving me the opportunity to work for you on the EC for six eventful and unforgettable years that have meant a lot of hard work, lots of fun and the possibility to make friends for life! See you in Bonn in the summer of 2005 - where the next conference will take place on the 25th to 30th of July!

**The Mission of CIF International (as decided by BD at the conference in India) is "To develop and share professional skills and enhance cultural understanding through exchange programs for social workers and related fields."**

## Speech given Ninetta Lambrini D. Zoi, Incoming President of CIF International

After the Second World War arose at different levels more initiatives than ever before pursuing peace on earth. But peace did not come. So, today, we find ourselves in confrontation with the horrible, nightmarish face of war and all its consequences: refugees, orphans, massive migration flows, extortions, trafficking and slave trade - the shame of the 21st century. Our earth's many wounds are still bleeding today!

Many more the bleeding wounds in peoples hearts caused by the war, the inequalities, the competition, the hostility, the injustice, the hate ... Are these wounds curable? Are they going to disappear one day?

Why despite all the efforts the wounds are increasing day by day all over the world? Until when, I wonder?

I dream, as I think dear departed Henry Ollendorf did, that people one day will realize at last, that they are mend to live all together as brothers and sisters.

I believe as Henry Ollendorf did and all who has contributed and promoted his ideas founding and keeping on running CIPUSA and CIF that dreaming is not enough; every single one of us has to take action to contribute to the realization of these dreams!

I believe CIP/CIPUSA and CIF throughout their existence have proved to be an excellent framework to facilitate and support individuals' aspirations and efforts by providing the learning experience of living and working together, with colleagues all over the world by providing opportunities of getting to know, appreciate and tolerate differences.

As many of you, coincidence and desire for learning brought me to CIF "Family"; in 1982 I participated to the German Programme ISP and in 1989 to the 4 months CIP in Scranton Pennsylvania.

Both experiences enriched my life and contributed a lot to my professional development.

CIF Hellas Fellows are my stronger professional network. In CIF "Family" I met colleagues who support each other and became best friends.

Since 1989 I am an active officer at my national CIF Hellas Branch as Treasurer, General Secretary and from 1996 till today President.

CIF provided for me the suitable framework to serve - to offer volunteer work and gain knowledge, skills, support, joy and fulfillment.

Let me briefly tell you what I do professionally, when I do not work as a volunteer. I am an employee of the Hellenic National Organization for Social Care since 1977. I am currently the Head of the Project Planning Section. Besides Social Work I have studied Business Administration and Languages English and German.

Since 2001 in addition I am a Postgraduate Student at the University of Applied Social Sciences Alice Salomon in Berlin and soon I expect to receive my MA on Intercultural Social Work and Conflict Management.

I have worked for the Council of Europe at 1994/95 Coordinated Research on "The initial and further training of Social Workers taking into account their changing role".

I am an accredited adult trainer and have also worked as a Practical Teacher at two different Schools of Social Work in Greece, as a Scientific Director and Curriculum Designer of vocational further training course, as National Coordinator of several European Union Projects, and as an Independent Evaluator of Projects appointed by the Hellenic Ministry of Social Welfare and Health.

Now it seems CIF International needs me to serve. I esteem it is the duty of every Fellow to serve the Organization, to add her/his contribution to the 50 years history, to make sure that future generations have at least equal if not better opportunities with the ones we had.

I am fully aware of the great responsibility to carry on the excellent work that my Fellows have done so far.

I am prepared to do my best with the support of my CIF Fellows of my CIF Hellas Branch.

Apart from enthusiasm and perseverance, the key to advancing human rights is what Merleau-Ponty (1967) called the "happiness of reflecting together". The social worker, grounded in the ethical principles of the profession, must engage in partnerships of empowerment, both locally and worldwide, with other groups, people, and cultures. And in my opinion this is what CIPUSA and CIF is all about!

Thank you very much for your attentive listening.

Together we Win, Divided we Fall...

Alone with a friend I could not find,  
Could we as social workers be that friend!

**MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR***Nüket Atalay***"A Challenge to Society is a Challenge for Social Workers.."**

This was a statement said by one of the keynote speakers at the CIF Indya Conference on Feb.03 in Goa. Our conference in India has left us with many good memories. Those warm February days (around 35 C) were filled with professional, cultural, social and personal treats. Just getting to Indya was a challenge. The USA was about to attack Iraq, we were all anxiously watching the news.. We could not tell when war would start, or if we would be able to return from the conference. Many CIFers cancelled their trip. Our Indyan friends worked hard, not only to prepare for the days ahead, but also to encourage us to come; and they made us feel more than welcome.

The conference was professionally satisfying, with the good lectures, interesting discussions, workshop and agency visits. It was also fascinating to be immersed to the Indian culture, to the Indyan way of life. The social events came one after the other; we rushed from the conference rooms to a boat trip, to banquets, to the flee market visits, etc. We did not have much free time, but with the Indyan Ocean so close, many participants made time to visit the beaches and swim in the Ocean. When time was short, the swimming pool at the hotel was refreshing and easily accessible.

There were times when we also took care of CIF business, with Executive Committee and Board meetings followed by the General Assembly. Our Statagic Planning Committee worked on clarifying the mission and vision of CIF International. I believe the work the Board members did with statagic planning should be considered to be a good start; to be continued in future meetings through making plans, taking steps and evaluating the outcome..

In short, we worked hard and had a very splendid time. We learned about India. We could not have a say in the political developments in the world, but we all certainly felt that Peace was needed more than ever, and that this would be our challenge as social workers; after all, isn't this what CIP/CIF is all about?

This issue of the WORLD NEWS brings you information about the conference in India, and the next one in Germany. We would like to share with you some of the highlights of our experiences. We hope the future of the world will be safer and more people will join us and make CIF the big family we should like it to be .

**The General Assembly at GOA-INDIA decided to pass a resolution suggested by CIF-Sweden to be sent to the President of USA. The message was sent on March, 2003.**

**COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP (CIF)**

To the President of USA, Mr. George Bush  
Washington DC, USA

**CALL FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE IRAQ CONFLICT**

CIF (Council for International Fellowship) is a worldwide organization of Social Workers, Youth Leaders and Special Educators from 28 affiliate countries around the world. CIF is registered in Germany and has among its primary objectives the promotion of international peace and understanding through interaction, exchange of ideas and experiences.

CIF organizes a bi annual conference where members assemble to deliberate on topical issues to enrich their knowledge and experience base through sharing and debate on issues of social relevance. At its most recent conference in Goa, India, the issue of a peaceful resolution to the dismantling of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq was high on the agenda.

CIF does not defend the totalitarian regime in Iraq and believes that the declaration, dismantling, and destruction of, weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, as called upon by the UN, is in the interest of global peace. We, however, strongly believe that given the diplomatic, economic and political clout of the international community, it should be possible to resolve the key issues through peaceful and diplomatic means which do not endanger innocent lives. The raison d'etre of the formation of the UN after the destructions experienced in the last World War was to find peaceful solutions to conflict, using debates and pressure from the international community. A war will only worsen the situation, spread to other countries, lead to mass suffering and loss of lives, and what is feared, increased terrorism, and violence. CIF also asserts that the issue of leadership of Iraq should be left to the people of Iraq to decide.

We strongly urge the US government and its allies to desist from war and focus its strengths on diplomatic solutions while strengthening the efforts of the weapons inspectors in Iraq.

Resolution passed February 28, 2003 by the General Assembly of CIF in Goa, India.

Agneta Björklund, President of CIF-International  
Dear CIFers,

**CONFERENCE OVERVIEW FEBRUARY 2003 GOA,INDIA***Punam Sachdev, CIF Chief Reporter*

It has been 5 days of wonderful impressions. The conference was inaugurated at the hands of His Excellency, the Governor of Goa - who lauded the excellent work done by social workers in various fields and he motivated them to continue the good work.

Eminent speakers were invited to speak. The keynote address was presented by Dr. Purnima Mane who enlightened all present about Henry Olendorff - the founder of CIP-the organization which was responsible for the birth of CIF. Dr. Purnima went down memory lane as she reflected upon her family life and how despite being physically distanced remained mentally and emotionally close. Her talk on myths and realities of families was an eye-opener. With great ingenuity she encouraged social workers to appreciate the nuances and work with its multifarious forms and dimensions that could benefit our clients.

The second speaker - Dr. Armaity Desai - dwelt upon the factors affecting the family- such as - the effects of new technology, effects of liberalization and globalization, migration, disasters etc. She urged social workers not to remain single method oriented workers but to integrate various groups of skills to work on the problems which are multifaceted.

On the 2nd day the sociologist - Dr. Kamala Ganesh- spoke on the structure of the family. Dr. Kamala highlighted upon some of the academic areas which deal centrally with family and family relationship. She also touched upon the Indian dimension of a joint v/s nuclear family and violence and the family.

Later the participants broke into 5 working groups:

**Group I - Topic: Health and family social work**

Speakers: Ms. Assumption Fernandez and Mr. Masaimichi Sakamoto

**Group II - Topic: Democratizing family relationships and role of social workers**

Speaker: Group discussion Chairperson: Neela Dabir

**Group III - Topic: Social work with families affected by societal changes, systemic crisis and natural disasters**

Speaker: Shriley Warland Chairperson: Dr. Geeta Shah

**Group IV - Topic: Alternate family structure Speaker: Monica Chairperson: Geeta Patil****Group V - Topic: The family and social work Speaker: Dr. Manju Mohan Mukherjee**

A lot of interaction was witnessed and it was evident that everyone enjoyed the sessions, though they felt they needed a detailed insight into the Indian perception. Some points discussed came quite as a surprise to the group in the research done in Japan on the rate of abuse which was higher by real mothers than stepmothers. A group member was at a loss as to how he would be able to help the discharged individuals from the deterioration centre to be accepted by the family. The entire group came forward with brilliant solutions. The discussion around disability issues resulted in suggestions in main streaming them into the society. Subsequently, workshops facilitated by learned people were held.

**I - Re-reading media Ms. Anjali Montecro****II - Spirituality and alternate healing methods for social work practitioners Dr. Niranjana Gokarna****III - Reaching out to children living with substance abuses Dr. Gita Shah**

Delegates took a keen interest in these workshops and were actively involved in the discussion. A lot of personal experiences were shared and several clarifications made.

On the 3rd day participants visited agencies which were carefully chosen. The delegates returned gratified and fascinated. A close interaction with the clients of different agencies gave them an experience of the prevailing social work practices, problems and challenges in India.

On the 4th day - Dr. Lina Kashyap spoke on Asian Families in Transition- Implications for Social Work Practice. Dr. Kashyap and the former speakers reiterated that modernization is one of the major factors affecting families in the 21st century. Some of the sub-topics discussed were -

Characteristics of traditional Asian societies, modernization of Asia, effects of social change on status of women, marriage practices etc. She deliberated the need for social workers to play a major role by reaching out to those hard-to-reach families. She thus urged the social workers to get out of their offices and reach out to those most in need. Questions were asked to which most convincing answers were given.

Subsequently, once again the delegates broke into their earlier working groups:

**Group I - Topic:** Speakers: Group discussions Chairperson: Ummehani Nagarwala

**Group II - Topic: Speaker:** Group discussions Chairperson: Neela Dabir

**Group III - Topic: Muslims in the USA and India Speaker:** Munira Merchant

**Group IV - Topic: Speaker: Group discussions Chairperson:** Geeta Patil

**Group V - Topic: Speaker:** Dr. Manju Mohan Mukherjee

A volatile discussion was reported in some groups, where groups concentrated on commonalities rather than the differences.

The latter part of the day participants attended workshops. The topics for the workshops seemed so interesting the delegates were in a dilemma which to choose. The workshops dealt with:

Dance Therapy - the facilitator being Ms. Tripura Kashyap

Art Therapy - Oihika Chakravarty

Yoga for Social workers - Ms. Jayshree Patwardhan

Humour in Theatre - Dr. Mohan Agashe

The workshops proved to be a great success as all came out feeling relaxed and in a state of euphoria, as if they had been provided therapeutic treatment. It was great to see participants share their experiences with each other.

On the 5th and final day, Dr. R.R. Singh, the Director of TISS. Spoke on "Challenges to Social Work in the 21st Century". He enumerated and elaborated upon some challenges in the 21st century, viz., co-existence for survival, disaster management- virtual relationships etc. and felt that the challenges were actually not new but a spillover from the last generation. The emerging concerns Dr. Singh felt were related to gender justice, equity, human rights, family support services, changing family forms etc. He asked the audience to ponder whether high technology had actually accelerated human relationships. Dr. Singh had the delegates rapt in attention. Key social problems of the modern world cannot be analyzed intelligently.

I would like to quote the last line of the poem - "Alone with a friend I have not found". Could we as social workers be that friend?

Our next speaker was Mrs. Rina Ray- Secretary and Commissioner, Women and Child Development. She made her talk very interesting by quoting anecdotes from her personal life. She gave a detailed report on the work done in Goa for children and women. Her strong determination to bring about positive changes in relation to children and women is remarkable. 2003 has been declared the year of the child in Goa and

they are determined to make it the best state for children in India. Finally, her vision and dream to work out models which would work in the socio-cultural set up of India will certainly ring her accolades. Her in depth knowledge and work in diverse fields has given the participants an extremely open and realistic view about the conditions prevailing in India.

The CIF is a global family and I hope it extends further in the years to come and continues to work with equal zest and vigour. I wish CIF all the best. I also take this opportunity to thank all the eminent speakers and facilitators for sharing with us their profound knowledge they have gained. Let me of course not forget to thank all the participants for being so enthusiastic. Thank you.

**Note from the editor:** *CIF India has given us a wonderful opportunity to enjoy their culture through the conference in GOA. We cannot cover all the lectures, messages and workshops in one issue of the World News. In our next issue in Jan 2004, we will continue to give some highlights from this conference.*



***It isn't enough to talk about peace, one must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it.***

Eleanor Roosevelt, quoted from the Olive Branch ,  
CIPUSA e-newsletter May 1, 2003



### "The Art of Living; Right"

The workshop demonstrated the ancient art of living advocated by the yogins thousands of centuries ago. This art is **still** applicable to our modern times and culture as it describes the basic meaning and purpose behind our daily existence. The philosophy, the spiritual and the practical ways to achieve these is laid down in an easy to understand step by step guide on the basis of Patanjali's Yoga System. This **holistic system is multi-dimensional** in its approach enveloping all the aspects of our life; physical, mental, emotional, moral, social, economical and spiritual, teaching us to maintain a well-balanced life, thus making life wholesome.

Workshop was conducted by Dr. Sashidharan, teacher of philosophy, practitioner and teacher Yoga at The University of Mumbai (Bombay).

### Message from Ylse Hoffman, President of CIF

**THE 2005 CONFERENCE** with the title "**Building Bridges For Peace And Understanding**" will be held in Bonn-Bad Godesberg, from 25.7. - 31.7.2005.

Bonn is located in the Rhine valley; it can be easily to be reached either by rail or plane through 3 international airports (Köln, Frankfurt or Luxemburg)

The conference will be held at a three-star Hotel with single and doublerooms for 300 people. The house is comfortable for wheelchairs. All dietary needs can be taken care of. The price right now must be set for \$ 600 but we try hard to decrease this amount with sponsoring and so on CIF Germany will offer plans for pre and posttours in Germany.

More detailed informations (like early booking informations) will be given as soon as possible.

Information will be updated on our homepage:

[www.cif-germany.de](http://www.cif-germany.de)

### IMPRESSIONS FROM GOA, INDIA.

*Raul Kivi, Estonia*

In autumn 2002 when my CIF-Estonia branch-mate Valter encouraged me to represent our organization in Goa, I was hesitant to make a decision. All those trip arrangements, money to find, documents to prepare... Wouldn't it be easier to stay at home and join some local meetings on proper time, I thought.

I filled an application for conference grant but wasn't very sure if I can afford the trip. Somehow, though, things settled and I proved to be in a flow heading to one direction - Goa. I got the grant, my former host family was glad to give me lodging in Helsinki, my girlfriend encouraged me to go... Final steadiness came when I read a book where 2 Estonian girls described they joyful and crazy summertime in Ibiza. Then I was done, ready and willing to go, anxious to new experience. All that prelude reinforced my opinion - one should always be ready and prepared (at least) both opportunities that fortune presents...

The trip was exciting to me from the very start. My first flight ever, 10 hours included one transfer. From my Finnish host family I got some good advices about travel. For example, chewing-gum can help to avoid locking the ears during planes lift-off. Above the clouds it felt like tending to infinity over the endless snowfield. And the night, gliding over cloudless sky... Those illuminated streets of the cities looked like glowing lava emitting from slitted ground.

During the trip I was in touch with various things - big airports, check-ins, short lines and long lines, worries about luggage, European management in Frankfurt and bit weary attitude in Mumbai etc. I used my waiting time in lines by reading or making notes about surroundings.

Mumbai was the first place I touched the Indian ground. Not a small city, just 20 times more inhabitants than in whole Estonia. City greeted me with warm air, thick with specific smell. Next excitement was five taxi drivers jumping on me after leaving the airport. The most purposeful guy got me and soon I headed to local airport. I thought I did a good trade, bargained the price down from 1900 rupees to 600 rupees (i.e. \$13). Later I figured out, that the right price was about 150 rupees (\$3)! I'm not feeling deceived a bit, because the 15 minute ride through Mumbai was quite an excitement. Left-hand traffic, untraditional vehicle, top speed, densely used horn, minimal spacing...

In the plane from Mumbai to Goa I sat next to Swedish family, who were having a vacation in India. After landing and getting my luggage

I met them again and realised we (and some more people) are going to conference together. Another little surprise.

On February the 23th, at 7 a.m. I reached our hotel. Check in was easy, got my room. I put my things aside, took my camera and went to breakfast. I really don't remember when I had my breakfast outside last time, maybe it was in summer camp year ago. But sure the last time it wasn't this spicy. Hot start to the hot day. I felt bit surreal - I hadn't slept for a while, it was totally different climate, various things I saw for the first time, curiosity, excitement... It's not bad feeling if you start some adventure, but not the best in the beginning important day full of Board of Directors Meeting. I found myself couple of times flinching awake. That evening we were invited to dinner with the E.C. Members and BD of CIF India. It was in the backyard of one hotel. Band was playing some smooth tunes in the small stage, meal was ready to come, people relaxed.

Monday, 24th February I registered officially as participant of the conference and got at the nicely prepared packet (shoulder bag, documents case, programme, silver coin with neckband, key ring). CIF-India had really thought all through - Smooth arrangement during the conference is something I really appreciated. Following the conference I got new ideas not only about arranging exchange programs, also wise hints how to organise meetings and receptions for guests.

It was rare to find free time during the conference and I used it to check out the sea. I visited some shops on my way to beach, adjusted to the dealers on the sand, and couldn't decline some "very-good-price" offers. Water in the sea was saltier than in Baltic Sea and very warm. That's the beach I'd like to visit some more...

On the first days in conference the Executive Committee affirmed that CIF-Estonia is officially accepted as a branch of CIF International. Thank you - branches of Finland, Sweden, Latvia, Lithuania and all other good people for supporting us finish our first steps in the CIF way.

Then it was time to get ready for Inaugural Programme at Kala Academy, Panaji. I noticed interesting cooling system in bus - just row of big ventilators in the ceiling. Road to Panaji was almost usual - lots of scooters, continuous honking, palms, ruddy ground, some cows strolling around, people just sitting near the road or performing their common activities.

Indian lady who was sitting next to me was interested in the social problems in our country. At her attitude I understood, that comparing to India, Estonian problems are quite piddling. She could be right, if she

means that we have set up and applied fundamental principles in every field of social work already. Children, disabled people, elderly people, retired people etc - for every group there are certain measures to help them cope. Am I right, that this kind of principles does not cover all the nation in India and some groups can't get social support at all in case of coping problems?

At the Kala Academy we gathered for a group photo. I counted 138 CIF participants, contributors, family members etc. During the inauguration ceremony there were speeches, arrival of the governor, lighting the candle - all as planned in the programme. I wondered who was one funny looking fellow circling around the governor, his hat made me guess that he is some kind of buffoon or astrologist or something like that. I still don't know who he was.

This program was really cool, both dance drama and fusion music was emotionally gripping and performed very professionally. When we were going back to Kamat Holiday Villlage, it was late evening outside and nothing much to look at the bus window. Still, this kind of short drives gave good opportunities to get in touch with different participants and have interesting exchange of views.

Tuesday arrived after another warm night. My plans to join some working group failed earlier; when we decided continue our work in Board Of Directors meeting on strategic planning. Significant event in the evening was tea in the residence of His Excellency, The Governor of Goa. Governor has really big and beautiful mansion with well-maintained yard. Our Hotel was nice, with air conditioning and pool. Reception was always kind to answer the questions and make necessary arrangements (rooms, tickets, transportation, tours etc.) and the man guarding the gate was always interested how I'm doin'...

Talking about schedule - first days I tried to be in every place on exact time, as mentioned in programme. Later I saw that there is no need for that kind of punctuality, things were arranged considering tardy participants also. Or maybe it is the Indian way to reckon with participants not used to hurry in unusual heat. It seems to me, that Indian people live more in present moment and are not so much worried about tomorrow like the western people. It was good to feel this attitude during the conference week also. By not worrying about things that can happen, you can concentrate more on current issues. Sure it must be balanced, just believing in fortune and not planning the future can make some people passive and cause things to be undone also.

On Wednesday it was hot. Most of the time we spent in buses

driving to visit agencies. We visited 2 workshops - pottery and coconut workshop. Both were established to help unemployed people and bring some more stability to their lives. Mostly women worked there. We got some nice souvenirs from workshops and they had a really good turnover on that day. We even used a public transportation. In the evening there was a boat trip, another nice event. Band was playing some reggae music and chart hits, people were overcome by dance fever.

Thursday, 27th February was another busy day I couldn't join the working groups again. It was important to me to participate in exchange programs coordinators meeting. Branches gave good overview of their exchange programs and pointed out key issues to deal with.

Then, in the hotel yard, was the public introduction of persons willing to be candidates to the position of great responsibility - president of the EC. Ulla, Abdullah and I, three grantees helped auction committee to sort things donated by participants and put them out.

Friday was started with plenary session, there was 2 lectures - Challenges to Social Work in the 21st Century and Government Policies for Women and Children. Lectures consisted both global and individual approaches and audience showed up their interest asking and pointing out some key issues.

After short interval people gathered again, it was time for the General Assembly-GA. Participants were introduced to latest statistics - how many branches are there, how many members, what is the monetary situation of organisation etc. German branch made a little surprise for everybody, giving out paper-made boats, filled with sand and flagged. That was the invitation to next conference.

So, next conference will be in Bonn (Germany), year 2005, July 25th. The conference theme will be "Building bridges of Peace and Understanding"

After the GA we had the banquet dinner, I saw contrasts at that last I was told earlier - richness and poorness side by side. The banquet was held in luxurious Taj Holiday Village but just behind the wired net there was something that looked very much like a slum. I thought again - is it appropriate to have an expensive party when people outside maybe just starving... I comforted myself -we are trying to affect to the decision-makers so they are starting to improve the welfare system and then maybe more help reaches to the poor people also. And for our work we need certain conditions. Then again - do the conditions for holiday have to be such expensive? Happily my thoughts

were interrupted by action - we started to prepare the final stage of the auction. I couldn't resist to enjoy my work, the point wasn't selling but more like making people feel satisfied. Same in social work, isn't it? And when person is happy the he/she is kind; and kind people a willing to buy. Somehow this approach worked...

The auction ended, food line was open. Band tuned their instruments, ready for dancing. Before the dance participants got another chance to show their good will. Four men had volunteered to offer themselves as precious dance partners and spectators could outbid each other to dance the appealing one. Income went to CIF of course. I reminded myself about my right to have some fun and equal rights of both sex and joined the bidders. Abdullah didn't expect something like that to happen but bore the situation bravely. Don't know why he didn't stay for second dance. What's gone that's gone I thought and turned to nice Indian ladies in the front desk. (Maybe they had already forgotten the principle from school - sitting in the back row increases the chance to avoid unnecessary attention). None of them was very keen on idea of dancing, but I managed to move one of them to the dance floor.

Saturday, sad day, travelling back on train. I reached to Helsinki in Sunday about the midday, -100 C and sunny sky greeted me. Breathing was much easier than in India, air wasn't so rich. I shared my first experiences to my Finnish host family and took part of their traditional generation meeting. Soon it was time for boarding the boat to Estonia. That's the same sorry feeling when I left India - too little time to get really familiar...

There were some principal differences in India - clothes, traffic, heat, attitude etc. System was still the same - streets, shops, hotels, schools, business, people trying cope with their lives... etc. But I can't get rid of the feeling, that I visited another planet. Planet full of undiscovered and unmaintained treasures, it's natives above all.

Short time after my travel I got unusual invitation - teacher from Jõõpre Elementary School invited me to lecture about my work and my trip to India. Sure I accepted it, that's another way to spread the CIF experience.

Now I'm thinking 'bout next trip to India - to the country where time flows slow, but days are still short...Until then I will remember India by looking about 200 photos I made in there. Some of them are available to you at the web; address is

<http://www.parnu.ee/raulpage/cif/goa/index.html>

**MY EXPERIENCE AS A CONFERENCE PARTICIPANT!***Abdullah Karatay, Turkey*

Even though I previously attended two CIF Programs (Finland and Scotland), going to a conference in India was a different feeling and I was very excited about it. This would not have been possible without the support I got from CIF International.

I was there instead of the President of CIF Turkey and because of that I attended the official meetings and had less time for activities of the conference, program, seminars, presentations, etc. The theme of the Conference "The Evolving Family in the 21st Century - A Social Work Challenge" was selected very appropriately, because family as protective institution will be more important especially for social workers while the modernity crisis create more problem for marriages and children in need of protection. It seems that the globalization and current policies will create more problem especially in developing countries like India and Turkey; so to support families and to help them to keep their cohesion will be very crucial for us.

I would like to say that CIF India worked very hard, and in spite of war clouds, organized a good program with all its dimensions and details. Thanks to all friends.

During the program, I had the opportunity to visit some agencies in Goa and then in Mumbai. I enjoyed visiting the street children's project run by Zarin Gupta in Mumbai. It was also interesting for me to get information about Child line, which is also a part of my job in my country.

Personally, it was extraordinarily nice for me to get a chance to sun bathe on the nice beach of Goa and swim while it was raining and snowing in Istanbul; to meet my Finnish friend Leo after ten years, and refresh my Scottish memories with Scottish friends, as well as meeting 'experienced' personalities of CIF world family!

Lastly, I want to express my thanks to CIF International and especially to the 'expert' treasurer Mieke Weeda, for her help and warm e-mails. Now I realise the importance of this grant; it is a very good way for solidarity between CIF members in different situation all around the world and I hope during the future conferences, we will raise more money and get together with more social workers and/or other professionals.

**Dear members of EC,**

I wanted to cordially thank you for the conference grant, which enabled me to participate in the wonderful Goa conference. I liked the conference very much; we had fruitful discussions, and certainly had a good time. This being my first CIF International Conference - it left in me very positive impressions, it was nice to meet many new CIF friends from other countries and get inspired for the work in the national branch. Thank you very much for this opportunity!

*Best regards, Ulla Zumente-Steele, CIF Latvia, March 2003*

**MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER***Meike Weeda, Treasurer of CIF International***Conference Grants Goa 2003**

For the Conference in Goa, India the EC approved six grants. A positive balance carried forward from former years and the generous support from some National Branches made it possible to not only approve grants for the Conference fees but also towards travel costs to all grantees. In the end only three of the six grantees were able to participate in the conference. They came from Estonia, Latvia and Turkey. Three grantees had to cancel at the last minute: they were from Czech Republic (visa problems), Nepal (personal reasons), West Bank/Gaza (advised not to travel due to threat of war). Due to these cancellations we have again unspent grant funds which will be reserved for the Conference in 2005.

**Auction Goa Conference**

In the last World News we made the request to really think about what to bring for the CIF Auction - not too much, not too big, not too heavy. In Goa we ended up, as usual with a variety of items from the different countries that were represented in the conference. CIF India had thought hard about how to deal with the 'auction challenge'. In addition to the usual silent and loud auctions and the raffle, they organised a Bingo and also managed to sell some dances with carefully selected CIF members. The Auction Committee, with the help of a good number of volunteers from CIF India as well as the grantees, did a great job taking in the items, pricing them, displaying them on the tables and assisting the sale and collecting the money. The Loud Auction had to be done in 2 phases, as the non-CIF guests of the hotel were not that pleased with our enthusiastic and loud announcements.

All in all a great job was done with a good outcome. Despite the lesser number of participants and the competition we had off all the shops and markets around we gained a nice profit for CIF International. Through the Auctions, Raffle, Bingo, sale of CIF pins and the Dance we made a total of US\$ 1615.

In addition, for the Goa Conference it was the first time that we implemented the Board decision to add US\$ 5 to all future conference fees for CIF International. With this added, the total net profit of the Goa Conference for CIF International was US\$ 2155.

Thanks to CIF India and all the participating members it brought not only a great professional and CIF experience, but also the traditional extra income for CIF International, which allows us to continue. It again shows that a Treasurer should not worry too much. Many thanks to all ...

**THE CIF THE NETHERLANDS EXCHANGE PROGRAM 2002***Pantelis J. Katzolis - Greece*

As a Psychiatric Social Worker, I always wanted to get professional experience abroad. I wanted to get familiarized with the social and cultural conditions in another country. The international exchange program of CIF Netherlands offered me the opportunity to make my wish a reality.

The program was an exceptional experience for me at educational and professional level as well as socially and culturally. Its structure gave me the chance not only to participate in the professional and clinical procedures of the social and psychiatric services, which I visited, but also to get to know the way of thinking and the mentality of the Dutch society and people.

Educationally, I was given the chance to get in touch with other professionals who work in the same field with me, to exchange experiences and ideas with them and realize how they cope with various problems that often I also come across in my professional life. Moreover, I had the opportunity to see how various social policy schemes are implemented in the field of the Provision of Mental Health Care in the Netherlands and make comparisons with similar ventures in my country.

The knowledge and experience acquired by participating in this C.I.F. exchange program was inter alia utilized as educational material back home for Social Work students as well as for the other professionals at my agency, in the form of lectures and presentations on Psychiatric Social Work topics.

The fact that exceptionally contributed to the success of my exchange program was the immaculate hospitality and the warm and friendly attitude of the host families. This fact proved how important the host families are for a successful CIF Program.

Being part of the participants' team, even though our group was very small, it was also an exceptionally profitable experience. We had the chance to exchange information and ideas concerning our countries and societies as well as our agencies and professional knowledge and experience.

Judging by my experience in the Netherlands I can, without any hesitation, say that the CIP - CIF Programs have a lot to offer to social services professionals, both educationally and culturally. I would like to thank CIF Hellas for giving me the opportunity to have such a wonderful experience, CIF The Netherlands for a well-organized program and their friendly attitude, as well as my agency - the Psychiatric Hospital of Attica for their overall support including financial aid, enabling me to participate in the program.

**CIF KENYA EXCHANGE PROGRAM EXPERIENCE, 2003***Clare Brown, United Kingdom*

In March 2003, I was lucky enough to be able to participate in the CIF Kenya program with Monica and Karin from Sweden. Members of Kenya committee who met us at the airport took us on a brief tour of Nairobi city centre before driving to Nakuru, went on a bus tour of the town, including a short stop at the spectacular Menengai Crater.

A day and a half was then spent on a very well organised and stimulating orientation programme. Papers were presented on Kenyan culture, politics, economics, the structure of social services and the challenges facing social workers. The participants were asked to talk a little about our own work. It was good to share ideas with other workers and I was struck by how many social work concepts and ideals are truly international.

Participants stay with each host family for two weeks. My hosts, the Mitalo family, were incredibly kind and made me feel thoroughly at home. When I went out, they accompanied me by matatu until I got used to Kenyan public transport. They invited me to attend church with them and, the next weekend, took me to visit their family who live near Lake Victoria. During my stay we also visited Lake Nakuru National Park and Hyrax Hill, a local archaeological site.

Monica and Karin were to spend 4 weeks with social workers employed by the Nakuru County Council and the Anglican Church respectively. The committee had agreed to accept me for a two week programme because of problems getting time off work. It was decided that I would visit a variety of different agencies in order to build up a better picture of the way in which services are structured. I spent a time in a school for children with learning difficulties, in a "rehabilitation centre" for young people with physical and mental disabilities, and in a girls' probation hostel and at the county council's social work office. I also had the opportunity to visit a solicitor who works with children who have been abused or abandoned by their carers.

I was very impressed by the dedication of Kenyan social workers; they have a very limited number of resources to work with in comparison to workers in the UK and their work with individuals and communities is often frustrated by social and environmental circumstances beyond their control. In spite of this, the workers I met were enthusiastic about their work and committed to their ongoing professional development.

I thoroughly enjoyed my stay and feel I have learnt a lot from it. It is unfortunate that there were only three participants this year, because the CIF committee have put a lot of thought into creating a flexible programme that meets the needs of individual applicants. I highly recommend the programme to any social worker who would like to find out more about the work done by our colleagues in Kenya. Thank you to all at CIF Kenya - let's hope there are lots of applicants next year!

<b>CIF/CIPUSA International Exchange Programs 2004</b>							
Country	Length	Dates	Deadline <sup>2</sup>	Language	Registr. fee	Support by	No of Particip
Austria + Hungary <sup>3</sup>	4 weeks + 10 days	30 <sup>th</sup> Apr 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Dec 1st	Eng, German if possible	350 Euros Hungary \$120	Dom travel	4 - 6
Finland	6 weeks	Apr-Jun	Dec 1st	English	No fee	Dom travel + allowance	7 - 8
France	8 weeks	2 <sup>nd</sup> May 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Dec 1st	French	\$1000 <sup>4</sup>	Dom travel + allowance	12 - 15
Germany <sup>5</sup>	8 weeks	Sept-Nov	March 1st	German	No fee	Allowance	12 - 15
Greece <sup>6</sup>	4 weeks	19 <sup>th</sup> April 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Dec 1st	English, Greek if possible	400 Euros	Dom. travel	6-8
India	10 weeks	Nov-Jan	March 1st	English	\$650	Dom. travel	10 - 15
Israel	3 weeks	13 <sup>th</sup> April 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Dec 1st	English	\$250	Dom. travel	2
Italy + Slovenia	4 weeks + 1 week	Sept-Oct	March 1st	English, Italian if possible	\$200	Dom. travel	4
Kenya	4 weeks	5 <sup>th</sup> to 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Dec 1st	English	\$365	Dom. travel	6-8
Netherland	4 weeks	April	1st Dec	English	75 Euros		3-4
Norway	4 weeks	May-June	Dec 1st	English	No fee	Dom travel allow	7-8
Scotland	6 weeks	15 <sup>th</sup> May 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Dec 1st	English	No fee	Dom travel	6 - 8
Sweden	6 weeks	16 <sup>th</sup> Apr 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Dec 1st	English	No fee	Dom travel	8 - 12
Turkey	4 weeks	May-June	Dec 1st	English	\$300	Dom travel	4 - 6
CIPUSA	4,12 or 18 months	Anytime	None	English	Variable	Allowance/Housing	Open

1. Dates/Details are subject to change from year to year.
2. Deadline is for applications from people living in countries without a national branch. In countries with national branches the deadline may be earlier.
3. Austria+ Hungary have a joint exchange programme; they also include Czech Republic every second year.
4. From countries where there is no support from the French embassy.
5. The German program is funded by the German government but planned and implemented by an alliance of welfare organisation/institutions.
6. Greece has a programme every other year. Next programme will be in 2006

**Do you want to know the roots of CIP and CIF?**

Then read the "Short History of the Cleveland International Fellowship in Germany".

You can order it by e-mail (info@cif-germany.de) or by letter (Gerhard Schmidt, Kreuzbergstr. 26, D-10965 Berlin). Costs (postage included): Euro 4. or 4 USD.

**IN MEMORIAM**

We heard from Lekan Oyewumi in Nigeria that Chief J.A. Abodunrin passed away. He was contact person and president of CIF Nigeria. May he rest in Peace.

Odilia Bode from Berlin died in January 2003. She was one of the first members of CIP and worked for the German Society for Supervision. May she rest in Peace.

**Paths**

Do not follow where the path may lead.

Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.

**For those of you who watch what you eat...** Here's the final word on nutrition and health. It's a relief to know the truth after all those conflicting medical studies.

1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
3. The Japanese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
4. The Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
5. The Germans drink a lot of beer and eat lots of sausage and fats, and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.

**CONCLUSION: Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English apparently is what kills you.**

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**Yesterday is History, Tomorrow is Mistery,  
Today is a Gift...**

**Learn from the mistakes of others. You cannot live long  
enough to make them all yourself.**

**To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others,  
use your heart.**

**If someone betrays you once, it is his fault;  
if he betrays you twice, it is your fault.**

**From the Internet**

**I**f we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like the following:

There would be:

57 Asians, 21 Europeans, 8 Africans, 14 from the Western Hemisphere, both north and south

52 would be female, 48 would be male

70 would be non-white, 30 would be white

70 would be non-Christian, 30 would be Christian

89 would be heterosexual, 11 would be homosexual

6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all 6 would be from the USA.

80 would live in substandard housing

70 would be unable to read

50 would suffer from malnutrition

1 would be near death; 1 would be near birth

1 (yes, only 1) would have a college education

1 would own a computer

.....  
When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for acceptance, understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent.

The following is also something to ponder...

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness... you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation... you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep... you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace ... you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If your parents are still alive and still married ... you are very rare,

If you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you, and furthermore, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read at all.

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## WEB NEWS

National Branches are building their Webs. Some countries have well running web sites. We hope you will visit them.

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[www.cipusa.org](http://www.cipusa.org)  
[www.cif-germany.de](http://www.cif-germany.de)  
[www.cifitalia.it](http://www.cifitalia.it)  
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