This conference marks the twelfth in a series of conferences on how businesses can contribute to the creation of peaceful societies. To date, ten of these conferences have focused on a variety of secular actors ranging from business, government, academic, and NGOs. Although religious institutions can be classified within these categories, their role has not been integrated into this discussion. Yet, it is undeniable that one of the most formative moral resources for individuals around the planet is religious and that religion both has the history and capacity to exacerbate conflict and to stop it.

This conference is designed a workshop to foster conversations that explore the connections between religion and peace, peace and business, and religion and business. In Fall 09, a similar conference focused on these issues within the context of the Abrahamic traditions. This Summer 2010 workshop will focus on spiritual traditions historically rooted in Asia. As has been a model for these workshops, the idea is to hold two or three workshops as individuals safely and creatively explore possibilities with an aim for a larger, more public conference with more developed papers and presentations. In the iteration of this topic’s sequence, the aim would be for this and other workshops to engage a variety of religions and their work with business and with peace and for these workshops to culminate in a large, public conference in Fall, 2011. During this time, there would be ongoing research among conference participants.

The following is a draft of an expected workshop agenda. None of the individuals indicated have confirmed their appearance. At this point, few even know about the workshop itself, although they do know of the leadership of ICR in this field and most of them know that a conference of these type is being actively considered.

The goals of the conference are (1) to begin a networking process among the participants so they can develop their knowledge through dialogue; (2) to explore new ideas in a supportive context prior to their dissemination publicly; (3) to expand the content and the context of the topic, and (4) to provide the impetus for research, empirical and/or conceptual with an aim at delivering such papers in 2011. That delivery would likely follow a model of the 2008 Peace Through Commerce conference in which there was (1) a major, public conference held in Washington, DC, (2) a “replay” of the conference in an eConference format that would expand the reach of the research and perspectives developed, (3) a book or a special academic journal issue, and (4) possible development of other teaching and outreach materials.

The conference will be lead by Timothy L. Fort, PhD, JD. He is the Executive Director of the Institute for Corporate Responsibility and holds the Lindner-Gambal Professorship of Business Ethics at George Washington University. He is the author of three books on the topic: The Role of Business in Fostering Peaceful Societies (with Cindy Schipani, published by Cambridge University Press in 2004),
Business, Integrity & Peace (Cambridge University Press, 2007), and Prophets, Profits, and Peace (Yale University Press, 2008). His PhD is in Theology with a Business cognate from Northwestern University, where he also received his JD. His MA (Theology) and BA (Government) are from the University of Notre Dame. He has developed partnerships with the United Nations, the U.S. State Department, and the World Bank on the implementation of his scholarship in these organization’s efforts. He also has partnered with more than a dozen other academic, business, and NGO organizations to collaboratively support the work of business and peace.

AGENDA

June 24

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 Registration and Refreshments

9:45 – 10:15 Welcome

Welcome: Conference/Topic Overview:
Timothy L. Fort, ICR, GWU, (Confirmed)

10:15-11:30 Panel Session: Business & Peace₁

Marc Lavine: University of Massachusetts (Confirmed)

Michael Jarvis: World Bank Institute (Confirmed)

11:30-11:45 Break

11:45-1:15 Luncheon

Michael Santoro, Rutgers University (Confirmed)

1:15-1:30 Break

1:30-2:45 Religion & Business₁

Rev. David Lowry (Confirmed)

2:45-3:00 Break

3:00-4:15 Panel Session: Religion & Business₂

Prakash Sethi, CUNY (Confirmed)

7:30-8:30 Virtual Session: Religion & Peace₁ via Internet Link
Yamashita Shinji, Tokyo University (Yasunobu Sato, Tokyo University (Confirmed)
June 25

8:30-10:00   Continental Breakfast

10:00-11:15   Panel Session: Religion & Peace
Susan Heyward, United States Institute of Peace (Confirmed)
Kishor Trivedi, Duke University (Confirmed)

11:15-11:30   Break

11:30-12:45   Panel Session: Business & Peace
Viva Bartkus, University of Notre Dame (Confirmed)
Bob Sicina, American University (Confirmed)

12:45-2:15    Luncheon and Wrap Up Session
Timothy L. Fort (Confirmed)