

NEWS

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Contact: Virginia Swain, Director
Institute for Global Leadership

508-753-4172
E-mail: vswain@global-leader.org

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE BRINGS UNITED NATIONS TO WORCESTER

Worcester, Mass., April 6, 2007 – A leadership conference that explores new models for businesses, non-profits, government and philanthropy both here and worldwide will be held at the Beechwood Hotel on Tuesday, May 1, featuring Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, the United Nations' Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. Institute for Global Leadership (IGL) founder and director Virginia Swain also will present the leadership models she developed through the IGL.

Ambassador Chowdhury will receive the Leadership Life Service Award at a special presentation during the conference. *(For more information about Ambassador Chowdhury, see below).*

The conference, “New Leadership Models for Worcester, the United States and the World: A Call to Action,” is open to the public, with a special invitation to emerging and seasoned leaders. Starting with registration at 8:30 a.m., the day will include sessions on “The World Café,” “Mining a Defining Moment,” the luncheon presentations, and a book talk and signing of Virginia Swain’s memoir, *A Mantle of Roses: A Woman’s Journey Home to Peace*. A reception will conclude the day, which ends at 5:30 p.m.

“People who may not have thought of themselves as traditional leaders offer values, skills and experience that our world needs today,” says Swain. “To address the spiritual and moral crises of our time, we need effective leaders who represent the best of our humanity.”

The May 1 conference fee is \$120 for the day, including luncheon and reception. For reservations or more information, visit www.global-leader.org, or call 508-753-4172 by April 15th. Payment will be accepted by check, Visa or Mastercard.

Before and after the conference, Swain will be hosting seminars. “The Practice of Reflective Leadership,” will be offered at the Beechwood, April 28-29 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., “Writing a Mission Statement” on Thursday, May 2 from 9:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. and May 3 from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and “New Perspectives on Stress, Conflict and Diversity” will be at Clark

University, May 5-6 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuition for each course is \$395 with a \$25 materials fee. Also on May 4, Swain will schedule Mission Statement Consultations and Coaching.

These events are part of the fifth anniversary celebration for the Institute for Global Leadership, founded by Virginia Swain and established in Worcester in 2001 after she personally witnessed how the devastating events of September 11 and its aftermath demonstrated the need for new leadership models. The IGL provides confidential, compassionate and skilled guidance, consultation and training to help leaders and teams through change, challenges and crises. It recognizes all human beings, institutions, nations and multilateral entities for their uniqueness, need and capacity for transformation.

The IGL's leadership programs at the United Nations have operated under the Millennium Development Goals of the 190 Heads of State and the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), which under the leadership of Ambassador Chowdhury was passed by the General Assembly in 1999. It was inspired by the Nobel Peace Laureates.

About the IGL Leadership Life Service Award Recipient:

Before beginning his current position in 2002, Ambassador Chowdhury served as Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York from 1996 to 2001. He also served as Bangladesh's Ambassador to Chile, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela, as well as Bangladesh's High Commissioner to the Bahamas and Guyana.

During his tenure as Permanent Representative, Mr. Chowdhury served as President of the Security Council, President of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Executive Board and Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council of the UN in 1997 and 1998. He had served for more than 10 years as the Coordinator for the Least Developed Countries in New York. From 1990-1993, Mr. Chowdhury was the UNICEF Director for Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

Mr. Chowdhury was born in 1943 in Dhaka, Bangladesh and joined the diplomatic service in 1967. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Contemporary History and International Relations from the University of Dhaka. He has been a regular contributor to journals on peace, development and human rights issues, and a speaker at academic institutions and other forums. He also served as an Adjunct Professor at the School of Diplomacy, Seton Hall University of the United States.

Mr. Chowdhury is the recipient of the U Thant Peace Award and UNESCO Gandhi Gold Medal for Culture of Peace. He is an Honorary Patron of the Committee on Teaching About the UN (CTAUN), New York. In March 2003, the Soka University of Tokyo, Japan conferred on Ambassador Chowdhury an Honorary Doctorate for his work on women's issues, child rights and culture of peace as well as for the strengthening of the United Nations.

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