Lectio Magistralis
2009 Matteo Ricci International Award

The United Nations University: For a Dialogue between Cultures
Milan, 27 October 2009

Prof. Dr. Konrad Osterwalder
United Nations Under-Secretary-General
Rector, United Nations University

Opening & Reflections

Father Giuseppe Pittau
Matteo Ricci Award 1999

Fra’ Andrew Bertie
Matteo Ricci Award 2006

Father Gianpaolo Salvini
Matteo Ricci Award 2008
Matteo Ricci (1552-1610)

Dicionário Português-Chinês
葡汉辞典 (Pu-Han cidian)
Portuguese-Chinese dictionary
A Common Mission

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Agostino Gemelli

Food Shocks 2007-2008

UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Food Price Index

1. Geometric average of commodity group price indexes, weighted with the average export shares of each of the groups for 1998-2000, in total 55 commodity specialties considered by FAO commodity specialists as representing the international prices of the food commodities are included in the index.
The Meaning of Dialogue

Alberto Manguel

“Our life is never individual, it is endlessly enriched by the presence of the other, and consequently impoverished by his absence.

In our search for structures within which we can be with one another, we may have ended up with societies from whose benefits we all seem destined to be excluded.

Disregarding the abuse of human rights for the sake of economic partnerships, allowing the devastation of the planet with the excuse of ever-increasing financial benefits, refusing to adopt scientific solutions because of superstitious beliefs: all these things allow such partnerships, profits, and beliefs to override the responsibilities we have toward each other, toward ourselves individually, and toward the world.”
The Meaning of Dialogue

“The more the interdependence of peoples increases, the more the necessity of the United Nations becomes evident. The need to have an organization capable of responding to the obstacles and increasing complexity of the relations between peoples and nations thus becomes paramount.”

Our Responsibility to Sustainable Global Development

“Justice is the first virtue of social institutions, as truth is of systems of thought. A theory however elegant and economical must be rejected or revised if it is untrue; likewise laws and institutions no matter how efficient and well-arranged must be reformed or abolished if they are unjust.”
Human Perspectives

The Limits to Growth (1972)
Club of Rome

Successful Global Partnerships

UN Year of Microcredit 2005
Banco do Brazil Microcredit Project Site
2008 Inspection Visit
Smallpox (- 1979)

Solar Water Disinfection (SODIS)
The SODIS Method

How does it work?

1. Wash the bottle well the first time you use it.
2. Fill the bottle with water and close the lid well.
3. Expose the bottles in the sun morning to evening for at least 6 hours.
4. The water is now ready for consumption.

SODIS: An Emphasis on the Role of Education
Current Research and Training Centres and Programmes

Current and Upcoming Research and Training Centres and Programmes

UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY
Capacity Development Locations

Research and Capacity Development Locations
The Spirit of Dialogue

“It is easy enough to say that man is immortal simply because he will endure: that when the last ding-dong of doom has clanged and faded from the last worthless rock hanging tideless in the last red and dying evening, that even then there will still be one more sound: that of his puny inexhaustible voice, still talking.

I refuse to accept this.

I believe that man will not merely endure: he will prevail. He is immortal, not because he alone among creatures has an inexhaustible voice, but because he has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance.”

William Faulkner