



World Council of Churches
Conseil œcuménique des Eglises
Consejo Mundial de Iglesias
Ökumenischer Rat der Kirchen

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Geneva, 30 September 2010

Dear Rev. Takeyasu Miyamoto and Rev. Keishi Miyamoto, honoured guests and friends,

It is my great pleasure to congratulate the Arigatou Foundation on the occasion of its 20th anniversary. Although I cannot be there with you personally, I am happy that WCC president, Rev. Dr. Ofelia Ortega, can represent me and the World Council of Churches on this joyous occasion.

The World Council of Churches is a fellowship of 349 church bodies representing the Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant families of the Christian faith. Churches that belong to this fellowship are found in 110 countries around the world. Our churches have in their communities' large numbers of children some in stable situations and others in various sorts of situations of crisis. Recalling the words of Jesus Christ, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs' (Matthew 19:14) most churches seek to diligently serve the needs of children both within their congregations and in their villages or neighbourhoods, and advocate on their behalf.

The good work of Arigatou International on behalf of children everywhere is to be heartily commended. Your mission of supporting the work of UN agencies to begin and sustain initiatives to secure the rights of children is admirable and worthy of our support. Over the past 20 years you have demonstrated your capacity to deliver on the commitments that you have made.

I am also grateful that you do this work in an interfaith context. This provides an opportunity for many religious communities to partner with you. Indeed, your initiatives such as the Global Network of Religions of Children, Ethics Education for Children and the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children are important initiatives in today's world.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate Myochikai on its 60th anniversary. Myochikai has become "a ray of light that permeates the world with unconditional love and mercy for every person, and by doing so, to contribute to world peace" – in the words of Rev. Mitsu Miyamoto. As a

pioneering woman she was able to found and lead this Buddhist movement. I am grateful for Myochikai's strong support for various peace initiatives including the World Conference on Religions for Peace, with which WCC also works closely.

On behalf of the fellowship of churches of the World Council of Churches, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for the future,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Olav Fykse Tveit". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit
General Secretary