

# Green Pilgrimage Network Meeting

## Faithful Pilgrims



## Green Pilgrimage Network

Trondheim, Norway, July 26 – 28, 2013

# DELEGATE BIOGRAPHIES

## **GUESTS OF HONOR**

Ms **Rigmor Aasrud** is the Minister of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs in the government of Norway. She belongs to the Labour party and has a long career in politics behind her. She was a member in Gran municipality council from 1983 to 1991 before becoming mayor of Gran in 1995, a position she held until 2005. During large parts of this period she also served as a deputy representative to the Storting (Norwegian Parliament) from Oppland County. When the current prime minister of Norway, Mr Jens Stoltenberg, assumed office in 2005 Aasrud was appointed State Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Care Services. She was appointed to her current position in 2009

Mr **Thorbjørn Jagland** is the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee. He has previously served as the Prime Minister of Norway, Minister of Foreign Affairs and President of the Storting (Norwegian Parliament). The Council of Europe promotes cooperation between all countries of Europe in the areas of legal standards, human rights, democratic development, the rule of law and cultural cooperation. A central point of his term in office is to build and increase a culture of living together in Europe, and broaden the interaction with Europe's neighborhood.

## **DELEGATES**

Dr **Husna Ahmad** OBE is the Managing Director of Green Pearl Consulting Ltd and the Secretary General of the World Muslim Leadership Forum. Dr Ahmad has an academic background in the legal and environmental field; with a wealth of experience in community development. She was the Group CEO of the Muslim inspired multi faith charity Faith Regen Foundation from 2006 until March 2013. She was awarded the Order of the British Empire [OBE] by HM the Queen in 2010 for services to disadvantaged communities. She has co-authored ARC's Green Guide to the Hajj; and authored the Islam and Water, the story of Hajjar. She is also ARC's Muslim Programme Officer.

Revd **Joanna Anderson** is a priest in the Anglican Church and is currently working for the Iona Community, a dispersed Christian ecumenical community working for peace and social justice, rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship. Joanna runs their visitor centres on the islands of Iona and Mull in Scotland. She has been part of the community for more than 30 years. Joanna has always had a deep love for the earth and earlier she and her husband had a smallholding together with another family, where they shared all the work and produce, growing their own vegetables and meat.

Ms **Britt Arnhild Wigum Lindland** works in the Diocese of Nidaros. She is an ordained deacon, but now works as a leader in the diocese administration for the section which works with theology, diakonia, education, culture and mission. She is a member of the diocese group working with "green congregations", sustainability and human rights. Britt Arnhild is a member of the conference organizing committee

Ms **Hana Atallah Al-Asa'd** is a project coordinator at Eco Peace / Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME). FoEME is unique regional organization that brings together Jordanian,

Palestinian and Israeli environmentalists to promote sustainable development and advance peace efforts in the Middle East. As a project coordinator, Hana works to advance cross-border cooperation through educating communities and decision makers as to the interdependent nature of water resources as a means to engage in peace-building activities. Her job mainly focuses on advancing Priority Water and Sanitation projects in the eight Jordanian communities. Hana is a civil engineer specialized in water resources and environmental engineering and graduated from Jordan University in 2011.

Professor **Chris Baines** is one of the UK's leading independent environmentalists and an award winning writer and broadcaster. He taught landscape architecture until 1986 and has particular expertise in the fields of urban regeneration, community engagement, environmental education and sustainable land and water management. He is best known to the public as a champion of urban ecology and wildlife gardening. Chris works as professional adviser to a number of major corporate clients in the house-building, water and ethical investment industries. He also advises the UK government and local councils on sustainability issues and he plays a leading role in the not-for-profit environmental movement. He is a national Vice President of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, President of the Association for Environment-Conscious Building and in 2004 he was awarded the RSPB's medal of honour. He was a keynote speaker at the 2011 launch of the Green Pilgrim Cities initiative in Assisi.

Ms **Mary Bellekom** joined ARC in 2010 and is the Education and Water Project Manager and the Finance Officer.

Rev **Steinar Bjerkestrand** is Director General at Nidaros Domkirkes Restaureringsarbeider, where he is responsible for restoration, research and information of and about the Nidaros Cathedral. Before taking this position in 2011 he was Director of the Hedmark County Museum. He has also worked as a Chaplain in the Norwegian Royal Navy, as a Vicar and as an advisor to the Bishop of Hamar. Steinar holds a Cand. Theol from the Faculty of Theology, University of Oslo and was ordained priest in the Church of Norway in 1978. He has been working with development and renewal of the pilgrim routes in Norway since 1993.

Mr **Jan Bojer-Vindheim** represents the Green Party in Trondheim City Council, and is chair of the Committee on Urban Development within the council. Vindheim holds a Master Degree in Religious Studies, and has travelled widely to the holy places of many religions, including Laila, Jerusalem and Varanasi. He regularly publishes articles and commentaries on religious and inter-religious questions, as well as on such themes as sustainable energy, urban development and Kurdish politics.

Ms **Wendy Brawer** is the Founder and Director of Green Map. She has been an eco-designer, public educator and consultant since 1990. Wendy created the first Green Apple Map of New York City in 1992 and published the 5th citywide edition in 2006. Wendy initiated the global Green Map System in 1995 and continues to lead its development. She is founder of a small eco-design firm, Modern World Design, which focus on energy generation and waste reduction. She has taught at NYU, Cooper Union and presented at more than 50 universities and conferences.

Mr **Chris Cooling** works as an assistant in the International Section of Jinja Honcho (the Association of Shinto Shrines). He grew up on Vancouver Island amid the cultures of the West Coast First Nations. After graduating with a diploma in jazz he travelled the world and settled back in Montreal, Canada to pursue a degree in Environmental Science. With a deep interest in Asia he journeyed to Japan and studied Japanese while immersing himself in the traditional religions of the land.

Revd Canon Dr **Peter Doll** is a native of Washington, D.C., and graduated in history from Yale University. After working for two years as a financial analyst in New York City, he earned a doctorate in history from Oxford University and later a theology degree as part of his ordination formation. His ministry has included work as a parish priest, a university chaplain and his current role as a cathedral residentiary canon. He has published works in church history, ecumenism, liturgy and architecture.

Ms **Chantal Elkin** is the Wildlife and Forests Project Manager at ARC and helped to set up the Green Pilgrimage Network India Chapter.

Ms **Adriana Fernández** is the Director of Chapultepec Zoo in Mexico City. She holds a biology degree from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and a certification in Natural Resources Conservation from the University College London (UCL), UK. Before taking the position as Director, Adriana held various positions within the environmental sector and in the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Urban Development and Ecology.

Ms **Yolanda Ferro** is Marketing Responsible at Turismo de Santiago de Compostela municipal tourism board, where she has been working for the last 10 years, in the creation, promotion, communication and management of quality products for tourists. Apart from Tourism & Marketing Studies, she has a Bachelor Degree in History and Postgraduate in Communication. Her previous work experience is all related to culture and national and cultural heritage.

Ms **Victoria Finlay** is the Director of Communications at ARC with specific responsibility for EcoSikh and the Green Pilgrimage Network programme.

Councillor **George Freeman** was elected as a local authority councillor to Argyll & Bute Council in Scotland in 1999. Prior to being elected as a Councillor, his career was spent as a civil servant working for the United Kingdom Government in the field of Logistics. His local authority portfolio includes strategic housing and cultural issues. Councillor Freeman was appointed to the Board of Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park when it was created as Scotland's first National Park in 2002 and served until 2007. He was reappointed to the National Park Board in 2012. Councillors Freeman's electoral ward includes Loch Lomond and the community of Luss which became Scotland's Green Pilgrimage City at the launch of the Green Pilgrimage Network in Assisi in 2011. He has worked closely with the Luss community in securing a formal partnership between Luss and Argyll & Bute Council. George is also a member of the Church of Scotland.

Mr **Karen Grigoryan** is Mayor of the Armenian city Etchmiadzin. He was first elected Mayor in 2008 before he was re-elected in 2012. Before taking office as Mayor he held the position as Deputy Mayor, worked in the Department of Administrative bodies of the government of Armenia and served in the National Army. For his service he has been awarded with several medals. Grigoryan holds degrees from the faculty of Oriental studies and the faculty of Law at Yerevan State University.

Professor **Fan Guangchun** is the chair of Daoist Studies and director of the Center for Religious Studies at Shaanxi Academy of Social Sciences. He is also a visiting professor at the Northwest University and Sha'anxi Normal University. He has dedicated his life to the practice and study of Daoism. His publications include the History of Daoism in Northwest China, which is the first comprehensive regional study of Daoism. Since 2006, he has been actively participating and promoting cooperation between ARC and Louguantai, launching a number of conservation projects among Daoist temples with considerable success.

Ms **Mari Haugen** is the leader of Trondheim Interfaith Council, an organization that serves as a meeting place and arena for dialogue between representatives from the various faiths present in Trondheim. Mari herself belongs to the Bahá'í community. She works as a teacher at a local high school and holds a master degree in English literature, as well as degrees in pedagogy and religious studies. Besides her teaching position and role as leader of the interfaith council she has over 30 years of experience as a conductor.

Ms **Alison Hilliard** is Deputy Secretary General of ARC and co-ordinator of the Green Pilgrimage Network. She began working for ARC in 2004 based in Ethiopia, pioneering new projects with ARC, the World Bank and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Addis Ababa. Before joining ARC she was a BBC journalist for many years; her roles included presenting weekly flagship religious current affairs programme Sunday for BBC Radio 4 as well as the World Service's sister programme. She was Israel correspondent for World Service Religion in the mid 1990s, making award-winning documentaries in the Middle East.

Rev **Katsuji Iwahashi** is Chief of the International Section of Jinja Honcho (the Association of Shinto Shrines). After graduating from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies with BA Japanese studies, he obtained his MA Shinto studies at Kokugakuin University and MA Studies of Japanese Religions at SOAS University of London. His dissertation was about "Modern History of Shinto shrines and the Relationship between the Government and Shinto shrines". He joined in Jinjashimpo, a newspaper specializing in Shinto and Shinto shrines, in 1999 as a reporter, and became a staff member of Jinja Honcho in 2003. Mr Iwahashi's career as a Shinto priest started in 1992 when he was 22 years old.

Mr **Håkan Jakobson** is the Deputy President of Vadstena town council. He is recently retired from a long career in the Swedish school sector. After graduating with a MA from Uppsala University in 1969 he worked as a teacher in upper secondary schools across Sweden, where he mainly taught Swedish and history, as well as English and German.

The Very Rev **Ragnhild Jepsen** is the Dean of Nidaros Cathedral. She has previously been a member of the Church of Norway's Council on Ecumenical and International Relations and of the Church of Norway's Theological Commission. She has worked with liturgical issues and has been a member of two committees working with hymnbooks. Since 2005 she has

regularly held shorts meditations on Norwegian Broadcasting. In her work at the Cathedral she is concerned about the meeting between past and present, and how history and contemporary life interact with the people who seek the church and makes the Cathedral relevant for our lives today.

Mr **Ning Jianjun** graduated in Xi'an Academy of Art. He is dedicated to the management and research of culture tourism, and participated in the management of Xi'an Tang Paradise, Famen Temple, and Louguan Daoism Culture Exhibition Area. Since 2010, he has been actively working with the ecological city planning of Louguan, Zhouzhi.

Ms **Kong Jinxiu** is a conservation volunteer at Shaanxi Daoist Association and Louguan Temple. She participated in the Daoist Ecological Workshops in Taibai Mountain, the Huashan Ecological Forum, and the Maoshan Ecological Education Forum. She also attended the first GPN meeting in Assisi.

Rev **Jens-Petter Johnsen** is the Director General of the Church of Norway's Church Council. The Church Council is the preparatory and executive body of the General Synod, with is the highest representative body in the Church of Norway. Before being appointed as Director General Johnsen served as Secretary General in the Christian student organization NKSS and as Chairman in the joint council for Christian organizations within the Church of Norway. He has also served as a chaplain and a parish minister. On behalf of the Church of Norway Johnsen received an honorary award in 2008 due to the Church's efforts in preventing a global environmental crisis.

Ms **Nerys Jones** is an applied biologist and landscape architect with around 30 years' experience of practical environmental regeneration in the public, private and voluntary sectors. She works as a freelance consultant, specializing in a strategic approach to green infrastructure. She has been particularly involved with the development of urban forestry in the UK and is internationally regarded as a leader in the field. She established the UK's first specialist urban forestry unit and was the Chief Executive of the National Urban Forestry Unit (NUFU) from 1995-2005. NUFU worked to promote awareness of the benefits of urban trees and woodland, to provide technical support to other organizations and helped to establish new urban forestry programmes in many towns and cities across the UK. She has also worked as an advisor to the UK government, the United Nations agency, the Food and Agriculture Organization and she is an active member of the European Forum for Urban Forestry.

Mr **Abdalla Kamwana** is Vice Chairman in the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM). He's been part of the organization – which is an umbrella body comprising all the Muslim organizations, societies and mosque committees and groups in Kenya – since 1990. In addition to his official duties as Vice Chairman he works as a programme manager and has been in charge of donor funded programs related to governance, democracy and education. He is trained as a teacher, but also holds a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Master in Education and Leadership Management. In addition to his work at SUPKEM he has taken on several external assignments, among others as a member in the National Task force which was mandated with the role of realigning the Kenyan education sector to the new constitution of Kenya.

Ms **Fiona Kanter** is Director of International Relations & Strategic Project Development for Green Pilgrim Jerusalem and is the Producer of the First International Jerusalem Symposium on Green & Accessible Pilgrimage, coordinating all its accompanying musical and cultural events, amongst which the Cool Globes public art exhibition on the Mamilla Esplanade and the first ever solar-powered eco-cinema screening on the Old City Walls of Jerusalem.

Ms **Gunn Karlsaune** is the Diocesan Director in the Diocese of Nidaros. She was committee member of Nidaros Pilgrim Center in 2012 and Head of Administration in Nidaros Cathedral and Our Lady's Church from 1996 until 2008. She has her education within Economy, Administration and Leadership.

Dr **Nader Al Khateeb** is the Palestinian Director of Friends of Earth Middle East (FoEME). FoEME is the only regional organization with offices in Palestine, Jordan and Israel. He has more than 30 years of experience in the water and environmental sectors. Nader received the Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship in 2009 and the Aristotle Onassis Prize for the Protection of the Environment in 2010 together with the Israeli and Jordanian Co Directors in FoEME. Dr. Khateeb has been chosen by Time Magazine as one of the top 10 world environmentalists twice, first in 1999 and again in 2008.

Mr **Rune Kjenstad** is an advisor to the Chief City Executive's Staff in the Department for Cultural Affairs and Business in Trondheim Municipality. Rune attended the first Green Pilgrimage Meeting in Assisi and is a member of the conference organizing committee.

Mr **Hajime Komawaza** is director of Jinja Honcho's (the Association of Shinto Shrines) PR department. Before his current position he was director of the External Affairs department and the Edification department, both in Jinja Honcho. Before joining Jinja Honcho in 1989 he worked as a Shinto priest at Obihiro Jinja in Hokkaido. Komawaza holds a degree from Kokugakuin University.

Dr **Nanditha Krishna** is a historian, environmentalist and writer based in Chennai. Nanditha has a Ph. D. in Ancient Indian Culture from Bombay University, where she was a Heras scholar. She is the Director of the C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation and Founder-Director of its eight institutes, including C.P.R. Institute of Indological Research; Shakunthala Jagannathan Museum of Folk Art, Kanchipuram; and C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre (a Centre of Excellence of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India) which has restored 52 sacred groves in South India. She is an active author as well as a Professor and Research Guide for the Ph. D. programme of the University of Madras. For her work she has received several national and international awards.

Mr **Emani Kumar** currently serves as one of two Secretary General's for ICLEI Worldwide and also as Executive Director for ICLEI's South Asia office. He has more than 15 years of professional experience on issues related to climate change policy and planning, local governance, renewable energy and energy efficiency, social accountability, systems management and auditing. Apart from overseeing strategic development for ICLEI's South Asia Office, Mr Kumar co-ordinates various initiatives such as the Urban Climate Project, Asian Cities Adapt, and several others. Mr. Kumar started ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) India campaign in August 2001 and served as Director, CCP South Asia till August 2005.

Rev Dr **Charles Kwanya** currently works for the Conference of the Bishops of Kenya as National Executive Secretary for the commissions of Pastoral and lay apostolate, commission for Ecumenism and the commission for interreligious dialogue respectively. He coordinates and represents the Catholic Church on environmental initiative programs in partnership with ARC. He was ordained a deacon in the Catholic Church in 1999 and also holds a PhD in Missiology (Practical Theology) with specialization on religious studies from Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome.

Rev **Berit Lånke** is the Director of the National Pilgrim Centre in Trondheim. The National Pilgrim Centre is a newly established organization responsible for managing and coordinating the government led effort of increasing pilgrim related activities and structures in Norway. Berit has a MA in Theology and she has been engaged in pilgrimage in many years. She is an ordained minister of the Church of Norway and has been working as a parish pastor for 25 years. Among other posts she has served as the project manager for the 12th General Assembly of the Conference of European Churches and of the European Pilgrimages 2000 project.

Rev **Ola T. Lånke** is the Chairperson of the Diocese of Nidaros. He is also Mayor of Rennebu Municipality, a small town just south of Trondheim. Ola has a long career in politics behind him. He was Chairman of the Young Christian Democrats, the youth wing of the Christian Democratic Party, in the late 1970s before serving as a member in Trondheim's city council from 1991-1993 and as a MP in the Storting (Norwegian Parliament) from 1993-2009. Ola is an ordained minister and has worked as a priest in between his political positions. He has also worked as an advisor to the Minister of Church and Cultural Affairs, Government of Norway.

Ms **Silvia Lecci** is project manager in the European Association of the Via Francigena, where she carries out activities relating to strengthening the multi-level and multidisciplinary governance of the Via Francigena pilgrim route on a European scale. She also coordinates European projects in the Euro-Mediterranean area aiming to enhance the links among cultures and peoples along those routes that once connected Europe to the Silk Road. From 2007 to 2011 she worked within the framework of the Council of Europe Cultural Routes Program, first at the European Institute of Cultural Routes in Luxembourg and then at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. She has a degree in Foreign Languages and Literatures – Institutional and Historical specialization from the University of Lecce, and a post-graduate master's degree (MA) in Public and International Governance. She also holds a certification as Expert in tourist-cultural development activities.

Ms **Maruxa Ledo** is the Managing Director of Turismo de Santiago de Compostela, a municipal agency belonging to Santiago de Compostela City Council. The agency is responsible for managing the city's entire tourist policy including foreign promotion, the creation and management of tourist products, running municipal tourist information offices and promoting initiatives centered on congress tourism, marketing and tourist quality. Ledo has an international MBA as well as degrees in economics and international trade.

Ms **Reyes Leis** is the Deputy Mayor and Tourism Councillor of Santiago de Compostela. She is in charge of the tourism policy of the city, which is the administrative, social and

commercial capital of the autonomous Community of Galicia, and declared World Heritage City by UNESCO due to its position as final destination of the thousand-year-old pilgrim route, the Way of St. James. She holds a degree in political science and public administration and a master of communication from the University of Santiago de Compostela (USC).

Rt Rev Dr **Martin Lind** became Bishop of the Diocese of Linköping in the Church of Sweden in 1995 and retired in 2011. Before that he served, among other positions, as assistant professor of systematic theology at the University of Lund and professor at the faculty of Tamilnadu Theological Seminary in Madurai, India. From 1991-2006 he had the chair of the research council of the Church of Sweden. He became doctor of theology in 1975 with a dissertation on "Christianity and National Socialism" and he has since then been committed to work against racism and political oppression. Throughout his career he has been preoccupied with pilgrim related work and contributed substantially to the foundation of the Pilgrim Centre in Vadstena, the first of its kind in Sweden after the reformation. In 2011 he wrote a pilgrim theology called "Salt, bread and wine", printed in several editions in Swedish and translated to Danish.

Ms **Leonor Lindner** is a member of the Board of Valley Foundation, a non-profit foundation which aims to enhance social and technological innovation in the water sphere. She's also a corporate lawyer and has been active as General Council/Corporate Secretary with corporations in the Netherlands. At present she is member of the Supervisory Board of Directors of several Dutch companies.

Mr **Simon Loveland** works for Trondheim Municipality's Environmental Team and is a member of the conference organizing committee. His main areas of responsibility for the municipality are greenhouse gas accounting and climate change mitigation, and he is project leader for Trondheim's Cities of the Future programme. Simon graduated from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) with a Masters Degree in Industrial Ecology in 2012, and has previously worked in communications in the UK.

City Councillor **Geirmund Lykke** has been working with environmental issues in the city administration for 18 years. As a politician he has been Group leader for the Christian democrats of the County council for 12 years, and six years in the City council. He also serves in "Formannskapet"; the second highest political body in the municipality. He is a Member of the Board of Nidaros Pilgrim Centre since 2009. His experience as a pilgrim is three weeks walk to Santiago de Compostela and to Trondheim. He was a participant in the first meeting of Green Pilgrimage Network in Assisi in 2011.

Ms **Unn Lindgard Madsø** has been Chancellor of the Catholic Church in Trondheim Diocese since 2011. The office of chancellor is central to the Curia in Trondheim Diocese. The responsibilities cover a wide field. Unn administers the office for the bishop jointly with the Vicar General. Her responsibilities include the staff in the diocese, she is in charge of finances, wages and salaries for all priests and other employees and she looks after buildings and property of the diocese.

Malam **Yassin Maisikeli** is Advisor on Science & Technology & Coordinator Environmental Action Plans in the Qadiriyyah Sufi Movement in Nigeria. He is trained and educated as an Electronics & Communications Engineer and also does IT consulting in addition to his

position as Advisor in the Qadiriyyah Sufi Movement. He has published two books, where two of them are translations on works on Sufism to Hausa language and the last one is a Hausa translation of *Green Hajj & Umrah Guide*.

His Grace Bishop **Hovakim Manukyan** currently heads the Inter-Church Relations Department of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, Armenia. He is also a lecturer on the History of the Universal and Armenian Churches at Gevorgyan Theological University. Bishop Hovakim has studied in Switzerland and in Denmark and holds a PhD in Theology from Moscow Theological Academy. He was ordained as a monk in 2001 and as Bishop in 2010. He also holds the rank of Archimandrite. From 2004-2009 he was a member in the Church and Society Commission of the Conference of European Churches (CEC), and member in the Central Committee of the same organization in 2009. He is the Ecumenical Officer of the Armenian Church to the World Council of Churches, and since 2005 a board member of the Armenia Inter-Church Charitable Round Table Foundation. He is the author of a number of scientific, public and apologetic articles.

Ms **Pippa Moss** is the Personal and Events Assistant at ARC. She has been involved in the planning of this meeting and also helped to organize the launch of the Green Pilgrimage Network in Assisi in 2011.

Mr **Sami J.A. Mura** is a member of Bethlehem City Council and represents the city of Bethlehem and its Mayor, Ms Vera Baboun.

Dr **Karen Nazaryan** is the Executive Director of the Armenia Inter-church Charitable Round Table Foundation. Here he is responsible for fundraising, the implementing and monitoring of programmes and capacity development of staff and partners, including the fields of nature protection and ecology. Dr Nazaryan got his PhD in Biology in 1978 and is Doctor Scientiarum and Professor. Upon receiving his PhD he started his career in the Research Group of the Laboratory of Organ Specific Proteins, Institute of Molecular Biology, Armenian National Academy of Sciences. The same year he was elected head of the Research Group. In addition to research in his home country he has done research in Switzerland, Spain, the US and in several other countries. Dr Nazaryan has been, and continues to be, a member of several boards and committees, both in Armenia and abroad. Most notably he has represented the Armenian Apostolic Church in several World Council of Churches (WCC) assemblies and is currently on the Board of World Vision Armenia and an Executive Committee Member of the Action for Churches Together (ACT).

Ms **Maja Nijessen** has an educational background in Political Science and trained as a professional musician. She is currently working on what she like most: text writing. As a freelance textwriter/editor Maja works for WWF Netherlands and the Dutch Forestry Council, among others. Maja's most inspiring and dear project at the moment is the book she is writing on behalf of Mr Allerd Stikker of the Ecological Management Foundation (EMF). They are documenting the story of ARC's project in China with the Daoists, to which Mr. Stikker has contributed. It is the incredible story of how an ancient, timeless philosophy has helped to create ecological awareness and found its way back to its roots in Chinese society.

Mr **Arild Nybråten** is the Chairman of Trondheim Joint Church Council. He retired from his professional career three years ago after many years at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). At NTNU he worked as a Computer network professional and Chief Information Security Officer.

Mayor **Rita Ottervik** is a Norwegian politician for the Labour Party and has been mayor of Trondheim since 2003. Before being appointed mayor she served as City Councillor and as a member of the County Council. She worked as a political adviser to Prime Minister Thorbjørn Jagland when he was in office from 1996-97. Before her various positions in the Labour party she was engaged in the Worker's Youth League, Norway's largest political youth organization.

Dr **Arvind Padhee** belongs to the Indian Civil Service (IAS Officer of 1996 batch). He currently holds the position as the Revenue Divisional Commissioner in Cuttack, state of Odisha. He is also the Chief Administrator of the famous 12<sup>th</sup> Century Shrine, Sri Jagannath Temple at Puri. The temple receives several million visitors each year. Arvind has a Ph. D. from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi and MPA from University of Birmingham (UK). He has previously served as Collector & District Magistrate in a number of Districts in Odisha.

Mr **Martin Palmer** is Secretary-General of ARC, a non-governmental secular organisation founded by HRH The Prince Philip in 1995, which assists 11 world faiths in developing environmental and conservation projects worldwide. A theologian, author and environmentalist, he is a regular contributor to BBC radio and television programmes, and his work on sacred sites worldwide has won awards. He is the author of over 20 books on religious topics such as Faith and Conservation, Travels through Sacred China and The Atlas of Religion, and is also a renowned Sinologist; his translations include Dao de Jing, Zhuangzi and I Jing, as well early Christian texts in Chinese.

Mr **Gopal Patel** is Project Manager for the Bhumi Project, a worldwide Hindu response to the environmental issues facing our planet. The initiative is facilitated by the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, in partnership with the Alliance of Religions and Conservation. The Project is active in Africa, America, Europe and India. The Project aims to educate, inspire, inform, and connect Hindus interested in service to Mother Earth and to build a base of global partners and friends who encourage best environmental practice. Current activities include encouraging Hindu temples to adopt environmentally-friendly practices, working to address environmental challenges at Hindu holy sites, and awareness raising programmes with communities and young people. In 2012 Gopal spent 6 months in India to help establish the Indian chapter of the Green Pilgrimage Network.

Rev **Andrew Patterson** was previously minister of Portobello Old Parish in Edinburgh. He is recently retired and now holds the position as Minister Emeritus. He studied at St Andrews and Edinburgh Universities. As a younger man he worked in forestry, organic horticulture, and as a history teacher. He was elected to Dumfries and Galloway Council in 1995 and was involved in the creation of Scotland's Booktown at Wigtown. He was the founding convenor of the Whithorn Pilgrimage Trust which redeveloped pilgrim routes to the cradleland of the Christian faith in the north of the island of Britain. He is the author of 'A Way to Whithorn', a

guide to the pilgrim routes of western Galloway; 'A Celtic Saga', a history of the early church in northern Britain, and 'A Planet through a Field of Stars', the account of a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela.

Revd Canon **Caroline Pinchbeck** is Director of Communities and Partnerships Framework in the Diocese of Canterbury. The framework undertakes to address various issues faced within the local community. The portfolio of the diocese's work is broad and covers church buildings, spiritual tourism, environmental, rural, ecumenical, worldwide partnerships, and more. In all their work they seek to develop partnerships, both religious and secular, which enables stronger engagement and sustainability of the work at the grassroots level.

Councillor **Beric Read** is a council member of St Albans City & District Council, UK, with special responsibility for community engagement and localism. He has been a local councillor since 2002. He was Deputy Mayor 2010-11, during which time he undertook to sleep outside on a winter's night to raise money for homeless people. A keen mountain trekker he also completed the 180-mile Hertfordshire Way walk to raise funds for local forest conservation.

Ms **Helena Rey** has been working in UNEP's Division of Technology Industry and Economics since 2005. She is responsible for the development and implementation of sustainable tourism related projects within UNEP, notably on climate change and resources efficiency. She is responsible for the implementation of the Green Passport Campaign in 7 tourism destinations. She is also the financial and administrative manager of the Global Partnership for Sustainable tourism. Ms Rey has more than 13 years experience working as a project manager in South America, Africa, Europe, and Central America. She holds a Master of Science in Environmental Management at University of Sunderland, England, and Engineering degree in Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Parana, Brazil.

Mr **Per Rosenberg** is presently working with energy and environmental issues at the Church of Sweden, diocese of Linköping. He has a background in ecology and environmental sciences and has a degree from the University of California at Davis. He has worked many years in the environmental NGO community. He has held positions as forest officer, Head of the European forest programme and Director of the Global Forest and Trade Network at WWF-International (World Wide Fund for Nature). Per Rosenberg has also been the Executive chairman of the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (Svenska Naturskyddsföreningen). Mr. Rosenberg has always had a strong interest in the interface between science and religion and has in previous positions taken part in ARCs work on forest certification and sacred forests.

Mr **Michael Shackleton** is a special advisor to ARC on Japanese religions. He is an anthropologist and the Director of International Cultural Studies at Osaka Gakuin University in Japan.

Rev Dr **Dane Sherrard** has been a minister of the Church of Scotland for forty-two years, serving in several different communities in Scotland and in Genoa, Italy with seafarers and an ex-patriot community. His local congregation in Luss has a pilgrim tradition stretching back 1500 years. Under his leadership, Luss Church runs an international youth programme which brings young people together from around the world to build pilgrim pathways on church land on the banks of Loch Lomond and works with youngsters from secondary

schools and from disadvantaged backgrounds in Scotland. Doctor Sherrard conducts weddings for couples from around Scotland and from more than forty different countries each year.

Bishop **Tor Singaas** is the Bishop of the Diocese of Nidaros. Singaas was ordained as a minister in 1978 and started his career as a substitute minister in Høybråten, Oslo. Already the same year he was assigned to permanent positions in the Diocese of Nidaros, where he has served since. Before he was consecrated as Bishop in late 2008 he was Dean of Byåsen deanery in Trondheim.

Ms **Wen Sihui** is Operations Supervisor in the Confucius Cultural Communication Center. Her main duties include developing and running the website of Beijing Confucian Temple and the Imperial College. She's also responsible for promoting the development of modernization and digitalization of Chinese traditional culture sites and engages in multiple activities of international cultural communication.

Mr **Steinar Skomedal** works in the administration of the Diocese of Nidaros, where he is leader for the HR and administrative section.

Ms **Britt Arnhild Wigum Lindland** works in the Diocese of Nidaros. She is an ordained deacon, but now works as a leader in the diocese administration for the section which

Master **Zhu Shizhong** is the Deputy Chair at Shaanxi Chang'an Daoist Association. He has worked in the organization since 2000, after working for the Maoshan Daoist Association since 1987. He became involved in conservation work in 2004, as a volunteer, and has participated in the Ecological Workshops in Shaan'xi, the Huashan Ecological Forum and Maoshan Ecological Education Forum.

Mr **Ravneet Pal Singh** currently serves as Project Manager in the organization EcoSikh in India. He has been instrumental in many EcoSikh activities and events during his three years in the organization; the celebration of Sikh Environment Day March 14 2013, which involved over 1200 organizations and educational institutions; the launch of the Indian chapter of the Green Pilgrimage Network and engaging the city of Hazur Sahib Nanded in the network as well as launching the Eco-Amritsar in June 2012. Right before coming to Trondheim Ravneet arranged the Amritsar Foundation Day. Ravneet is a graduate in Agricultural Engineering from Punjab Agricultural University.

Dr **Rajwant Pal Singh** is the Washington-based chairman of Sikh Council on Religion and Education (SCORE), a faith-based non-profit organisation dedicated to creating awareness of the Sikh religion and the Sikh people in US and abroad. Dr Rajwant is also president of EcoSikh, which he was instrumental in setting up as a Sikh response to the threats of climate change and the deterioration of the natural environment. He was the first Sikh president of the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington, which brings together nine world religions for dialogue and work on critical issues. Born in Calcutta in 1961, he migrated to the US in 1979 and is one of its most prominent Sikh figures.

Mr **Devinder Pal Singh Chawla**, popularly known as D P Singh represents the city of Nanded, the land of the Tenth Master of Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh. For the last seven years Mr. Singh has been in service as CEO at Nanded's prime Gurdwara Takhat Sri Hazoor Sahib. Under his leadership the city has gone through major development and has improved the infrastructure for receiving and accommodating pilgrims. The city receives approximately 25 000 pilgrims every day. The Gurdwara has a strong focus on environmental work and has several projects going that seek to gear up the eco-awareness in the city. Among other activities they have planted over 500 000 trees in the city. Each year they celebrate the Sikh Environment Day.

Mr **Jonas Solstad Sønnesyn** is the conference coordinator for the Green Pilgrimage Network Meeting. Jonas is on leave from his master studies in political science at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim (NTNU). He will be back at the university in the fall to write his thesis on the cooperation between the BRICS countries. He has previously worked as an intern at the Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi, India, and has held various positions in the International Student Festival in Trondheim (ISFIT).

City Councillor **John Stene** has been member of Trondheim City Council since 2007. He represents the Labour Party and became Councillor in 2011. He also serves in "Formannskapet"; the second highest political body in the municipality.

Ms **Turid Stenseth** is a member of Trondheim City Council where she represents the Labour Party and sits on the committee for Cultural Affairs. Her political engagement began after she retired from her professional career, where she first worked as a teacher for 14 years and then as a headmaster for a primary school for 29 years. In addition to being trained as a teacher she is specialized in school development and education for children with special needs.

Mr **Allerd Stikker** currently serves on the boards of ARC and Voltea Ltd., a water technology company in the Unilever Ventures portfolio. He has published a number of books including *The Transformation Factor: Towards Ecological Consciousness* (1992), *Closing the Gap: Exploring the History of Gender Relations* (2002) and *Water: The Blood of the Earth* (2007). He obtained an MSc degree in Chemical Engineering from Delft University of Technology in 1953 and then held various positions in the international corporate sector. In 1986 he obtained an MA degree in Theology and Religious Studies from Leeds University. From 1990 to 2010 he ran the Ecological Management Foundation (EMF), where he focused on putting into practice a closer coherence between ecology and economy.

Dr **Inad M. Surkhi** is General Manager for Development and Planning in the Jerusalem Governorate and General Manager in the Ministry of Jerusalem Affairs, both in the State of Palestine. He holds a PhD in Modern Political Science from the Institute of Arab Research and Studies in Cairo and has previously worked as an Assistant Professor at Alquds University in Jerusalem. He is author of the book *Kibbutz since origination – Continuity or Change* and hundreds of articles and studies in newspapers and other media. In addition to his position as General Manager he is member of several committees in many Palestinian ministries.

Deacon **Helena Svensson** has worked as a deacon in the Church of Sweden since 1998. For the last five years she has worked in Vadstena, Sweden's foremost pilgrim site and a

new Green Pilgrimage Network member. Helena has a keen interest in environmental issues and tries to implement the ecological way of living both in the church and in her own life.

Rev **Tsunekiyo Tanaka** is the President of Jinja Honcho (Association of Shinto Shrines). In addition to his duties as President he is the Head of the prefectural branch of the Association of Shinto Shrines, Chairperson of Japanese Religionists' Congress for World Federation, Member of the Administration of Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and General Director of the National Federation of Hachiman Shrines. He graduated from Kokugakuin University in 1969 with a major in Shinto Studies. He became Chief Priest of the Iwashimizu Hachimangu in 2001 and was elected to President of Jinja Honcho in 2010.

Ms **Naomi Tsur** is Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem since 2008, with special responsibility for planning and environment. Her long involvement in environmental action includes work as Director of the Jerusalem branch of the Society for Protection of Nature in Israel (since 1996) and the establishment of the Sustainable Jerusalem Coalition in 1998. She has represented Sustainable Jerusalem at international environmental conferences in South Africa and the UK and led a municipal delegation to the 2009 ICLEI congress in Canada. She has published articles on participatory democracy and the urban environment.

Ms **Vigdis Vormdal** is the leader of the Pilgrim Confraternity of St Olav, an association based in Trondheim for pilgrims and people interested in pilgrimage. Vigdis is also one of three editors of the magazine "Pilgrim today". Both positions are held on a voluntary basis. She is recently retired and has a long career as a teacher, with a brief stay at a Christian institution where she counselled people going through difficult periods in their life, behind her. Vigdis did her first pilgrimage in 2003 and has since completed many more, both in Norway and Spain. The last couple of years she has also arranged and guided pilgrimages for others, her main motivation being to realize human and spiritual values and meeting people of different cultures and religious affiliations.

Rev Dr **Kevin Walton** is Canon Chancellor at St Albans Cathedral in the Church of England. The Cathedral is the shrine of St Alban, Britain's first Christian martyr from Roman times, has a large community of worshippers and volunteers, and is the mother church of the Diocese of St Albans covering the counties of Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, north of London. Kevin's responsibility is for Education, Welcome and Ecumenism. This includes promoting green pilgrimage. The Cathedral also has an Environmental Group, made up of dedicated volunteers. Before working in St Albans, Kevin was a parish priest in the North East of England. He has a PhD on the story of Jacob in the book of Genesis, and degrees in Theology, and French and German.

Professor **Tu Weiming** is an ethicist and a New Confucian. He is Lifetime Professor of Philosophy and founding Dean of the Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies at Peking University. He is also Research Professor and Senior Fellow of Asia Center at Harvard University. He has written more than 30 books, most of them on Confucianism and Chinese traditional culture.

Master **Ren Xingzhi** became a Daoist monk in Longmen Cave Daoist Temple in 1992 and the Supervising Master of Louguan Daoist Temple in 2006. Since 2008 he has held the position as the vice-chair of Sha'anxi Daoist Association. For over a decade he has initiated conservation education projects in the Iron Armour Temple on the Taibai Mountain, and also pioneered in building the first Ecological Daoist Temple.

Ms **Wang Xiuqi** was a middle school teacher in Zhouzhi before she became the director of Zhouzhi Administration of Drugs in 2008 and director of Zhouzhi Administration of Tourism in 2010. She participated in the building of the Green Pilgrimage City Zhouzhi and is chiefly responsible for the ecological city planning and construction of tourism facilities.

Ms **Elizabeth Ya'ari** is the Israeli Jordan River Rehabilitation Projects Manager for EcoPeace / FoEME. She leads several wide ranging regional research projects, high level advocacy efforts and community based activities to advance the rehabilitation of the Lower Jordan River and the establishment of the Jordan River Peace Park. As part of these efforts, EcoPeace/ FoEME is working closely with Christian, Muslim, and Jewish faith based communities and pilgrimage networks to create faith based networks in support of the Jordan River. Elizabeth is currently undertaking an MA in Governance and Diplomacy and holds a BA in International Relations. She has more than ten years of experience managing regional and international projects in the fields of environmental peacemaking and shared cultural heritage.

Ms **Yang Yang** is program manager in the Confucius Cultural Communication Center in Beijing. She coordinates the center's cooperation with ARC and is responsible for setting up meetings and conferences, managing social media and press releases and receiving visitors and handling inquiries.

Bishop **Munib Younan** is the elected president of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) since 2010 and the Evangelical Lutheran Church Bishop of Palestine and Jordan in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land since 1998. He is widely recognized as a leader of interfaith dialogue and an advocate for dialogue, peace and justice in Palestine and Israel. He has authored the book *Witnessing for Peace: In Jerusalem and the World* in addition to many articles. For his work and engagement he has received numerous awards.

Ms **He Yun** currently manages ARC's China program. She's worked on a number of projects with the Chinese Daoists and Buddhists, and facilitated cooperation with the Chinese Confucius Association. She is a Fulbright scholar and was the first Tsinghua Scholar at Cambridge University, UK. She has a M.A. in law from Tsinghua University in Beijing, and is working towards her Ph.D in international relations, where her research focuses on climate change and US-China nuclear cooperation.

Mr **Li Zhi** is Director in China Confucius Foundation and Deputy Secretary General in China Confucian Temple Protection Association. He is responsible for spreading the Chinese traditional cultures domestically and worldwide, as well as protecting the utilization and sustainable development of China Confucian Temple worldwide.