

Media coverage Assisi 'Sacred Land' event/Green Pilgrimage Network & Heng Shan event, China

(Quoted text, below, is usually a sample of longer text available on sites being quoted)

Media coverage – Assisi:

The Assisi event was very well covered, before, during and after the event itself, with extensive coverage by the BBC, in faith-based publications, secular newspapers and online media around the world and also by Italian newspapers and TV.

UbrainTV (the Japanese TV company inspired partly by ARC, which focuses on energy and environmental issues) brought a seven-strong team out to Assisi and has produced a series of reports featuring interviews with faith leaders and also coverage of the event. They can be seen on www.ubraintv.com and a link to the main programmes has also been set up on ARC's Assisi pages – <http://www.arcworld.org/projects.asp?projectID=541>.

Highlights of the media coverage include:

BBC:

- BBC Radio 2's Good Morning Sunday show – which attracts one of the station's highest audiences – interviewed Martin Palmer on October 8.
- Radio 4's Sunday programme ran an interview with Martin on October 30.
- Karen Partridge of Radio 4's Saving Species programme produced a long report broadcast on the Green Pilgrimage Network on Wednesday November 16, and another on the Religious Forestry initiative on November 22.
- ARC consultant Mary Colwell was interviewed live on October 30 by six BBC regional radio stations.
- BBC Radio Scotland broadcast a piece on Assisi, with Martin Palmer and Rev Dane Sherrard from Luss, Loch Lomond, on November 6.

Other TV/radio interviews:

- The God Slot broadcast by RTE, Ireland's national television and radio broadcaster, ran a piece on November 4;
- Dr Husna Ahmad was interviewed on *The Green Guide for Hajj* by Al-Jazeera English;
- CNN International also broadcast a report on *The Green Guide for Hajj* and ran a longer article on the Green Pilgrimage Network on its website.
- Philippa Hitchen of Vatican Radio, who came to Assisi, produced a large number of interviews and website articles for Vatican Radio which is a hugely influential broadcaster to Catholics around the world;
- NPR (US-based National Public Radio broadcasts through a network of 900 independent stations reaching 26.8 million listeners every week), produced a long and well written report, and also another report focussing on Amritsar's greening plans. (<http://www.npr.org/2011/11/21/142506560/in-india-spreading-a-green-gospel-among-pilgrims>).

Coverage in newspapers/magazines/websites include:

- *The Tablet* (leading publication for Catholics worldwide) ran an extensive and thought-provoking piece by ARC consultant Mary Colwell;
- Two articles in *The Church Times*, a leading Anglican publication;
- A big article in the *Jerusalem Post*;
- Articles by *Treehugger.com* – very influential website in the environmental world – and *GreenProphet.com*, the Middle East's leading environmental website;
- Articles in *The Hindu* newspaper and the *Times of India*, as well as a host of other Indian publications.

Italian media:

We also had extensive coverage in the Italian media, with Rai (the country's equivalent of the BBC) covering the event for news and also interviewing several delegates for a major Saturday faith programme which attracts enormous audiences. Reports also appeared in all the major Italian newspapers, thanks to assistance with media contacts and translation of press releases by WWF Italy's press officer Francesca Mapelli.

Other coverage – newspaper/magazine articles & websites

http://www.praying-nature.com/site_pages.php?section=Ecology+Matters&category_ref=98
Praying Nature.com

Greening Pilgrimages Through the Green Pilgrimage Network

Praying Nature with St Francis of Assisi – Irish eco-religion site, advertising the Assisi event: "Every major religion takes ecology seriously and is now involved in environmental projects. The world's religions are increasingly seen as playing a pivotal role in protecting the natural world."

<http://www.ciwem.org/events/supported-events/2011/oct/31/sacred-land-green-pilgrimage-network.aspx>

Included on the website of the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) which has 150,000 visits a month and on its monthly newsletter.

Sacred Land: Green Pilgrimage Network

"The Green Pilgrimage Network brings together faith and city authorities to green their sacred sites, looking at waste, water, energy, food and transport issues, and protecting wildlife, biodiversity and the beauty of the landscape; it also encourages pilgrims to 'tread lightly upon the Earth', both during their pilgrimage and at home."

Oct 6

<http://fore.research.yale.edu/news/item/green-pilgrimage-network-launch-in-assisi-end-october-2011/>

Yale University Forum on Religion and Ecology website

Green Pilgrimage Network launch in Assisi end October 2011

The first global network aimed at greening pilgrimage – the largest movement of people worldwide – will be launched in the presence of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh KG, KT, at the Sacred Land celebration in Assisi, Italy, from October 31 to November 2, 2011. The first global network aimed at greening pilgrimage – the largest movement of people worldwide – will be launched in the presence of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh KG, KT, at the Sacred Land celebration in Assisi, Italy, from October 31 to November 2, 2011. Plus link to ARC website/press release

Oct 10

http://www.treehugger.com/natural-sciences/worlds-first-green-pilgrimage-network-launches-at-end-of-october.html?campaign=th_rss&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+treehuggersite+%28Treehugger%29

Treehugger.com

Treehugger is one of the US's most influential sustainability websites. It was rated the top sustainability blog of 2007 by Nielsen Netratings and was included in Time Magazine's 2009 blog index as one of the top 25 blogs

by influential blogger Matthew McDermott

World's First Green Pilgrimage Network Launches At End of October.

"An interesting step towards eco-friendly spiritual travel ... Why focus on pilgrimage? ARC points out that collectively pilgrimage is the world's largest reason to travel..."

Also published/linked at:

http://now.shelterholic.com/2011/10/10/worlds-first-green-pilgrimage-network-launches-at-end-of-october/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=worlds-first-green-pilgrimage-network-launches-at-end-of-october

Shelterholic.com

World's First Green Pilgrimage Network Launches At End of October ...

An interesting step towards eco-friendly spiritual travel: The Alliance of Regions and Conservation, working with WWF, ...

www.online-advice-service.com/environment/archives/13740

The Environmental Guys website

World's First Green Pilgrimage Network Launches At End of October

An interesting step towards eco-friendly spiritual travel: The Alliance of Regions and Conservation, working with WWF, ...

<http://stepitupearth.com/green-earth-news/worlds-first-green-pilgrimage-network-launches-at-end-of-october/>

Step It Up Earth website, October

World's First Green Pilgrimage Network Launches At End of October

An interesting step towards eco-friendly spiritual travel: The Alliance of Regions and Conservation, working with WWF, ...

http://www.hotonearth.co.uk/news/210718/worlds_first_green_pilgrimage_network_launches_at_end_of_october/

Hot on Earth website, October 10, 2011

World's First Green Pilgrimage Network Launches At End of October

An interesting step towards eco-friendly spiritual travel: The Alliance of Regions and Conservation, working with WWF, ...

<http://agreenliving.org/tag/october/>

A Greener Living website, October 10, 2011

World's First Green Pilgrimage Network Launches At End of October

An interesting step towards eco-friendly spiritual travel: The Alliance of Regions and Conservation, working with WWF, ...

<http://www.cyclallic.com/other-news/41-tree-hugger/206-eco-recycling-news-worlds-first-green-pilgrimage-network-launches-at-end-of-october.html> (Colorado recycling

company newsletter)

<http://humanitariannews.org/20111010/worlds-first-green-pilgrimage-network-launches-end-october>

blog about Aid/NGO/etc

October 10, 2011

World's First Green Pilgrimage Network Launches At End of October

An interesting step towards eco-friendly spiritual travel: The Alliance of Regions and Conservation, working with WWF, ...

<http://www.jpost.com/LandedPages/PrintArticle.aspx?id=241104>

Jerusalem Post

(The world's top English-language daily newspaper covering Israel, the Middle East and the Jewish World)

J'lem, Haifa to be part of international 'green pilgrimage'

By SHARON UDASIN, 10/10/2011

Both Jerusalem and Haifa will be sending delegations to an October 31 event in Assisi, Italy, which will celebrate the launch of a global network aimed at promoting environmentally-sustainable pilgrimages among the world's major religious sites. Key to the new Green Pilgrimage Network, which is being launched by the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) and the Worldwide Wildlife Fund, will be a link to "faith cities," where pilgrimages tend to occur en masse annually and where sites must remain "as environmentally sustainable as possible," according to a statement from the new group. Instrumental in establishing this network was Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Naomi Tsur, who said that she actually proposed the idea of establishing such a network for pilgrim cities at ARC's 2009 Windsor Castle gathering for environmental and religious leaders. ...

Also published/linked in:

<http://www.nigerianewswire.net/tag/green-pilgrimage-network/>

J'lem, Haifa to be part of international 'green pilgrimage'

By SHARON UDASIN, 10/10/2011

Both Jerusalem and Haifa will be sending delegations to an October 31 event in Assisi, Italy, which will celebrate the launch of a global network aimed at promoting environmentally- sustainable pilgrimages among the world's major religious sites.

<http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P1-198617190.html>

(Chicago based information service for researchers/students)

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<http://www.allvoices.com/news/10566674-jlem-haifa-to-be-part-of-international-green-pilgrimage>

(the world's premier platform for citizen journalism, San Francisco)

J'lem, Haifa to be part of international 'green pilgrimage'

Courtesy J'lem, Haifa to be part of international green pilgrimage' 10/10/2011

Capital's Dep. Mayor Naomi Tsur instrumental in forming the new network, which will link faith cities' to religions. Both Jerusalem and Haifa will be sending delegations to an October 31 event in Assisi, Italy

Oct 21

<http://eefa.jp/modules/bulletin/index.php?page=print&storyid=271>

(Environment, Energy, Forestry and Agriculture Network : EEFA Japan)

芦田理事長Green Pilgrimage Network Launch and Celebrationに招待

投稿日時 2011-10-21 13:28 | カテゴリ : 更新履歴

Green Pilgrimage Network Launch and Celebration

“The first global network aimed at greening pilgrimage – the largest movement of people worldwide – will be launched in the presence of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh KG, KT, at the Sacred Land celebration in Assisi, Italy, from October 31 to November 2, 2011. The event is organised by the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) in association with WWF. ...”

Oct 24

<http://www.ucanews.com/2011/10/24/check-green-pilgrimages-take-to-the-road/>

'Asia's most trusted independent Catholic news source'

Green pilgrimages take to the road

Faiths commit to care for the world and its citizens

By Mike MacLachlan, London, October 24, 2011

A global campaign to encourage ecologically sensitive pilgrimages will be launched in Assisi, Italy, at the end of October by WWF International and a UK-based ecumenical group, the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC). The Green Pilgrimage Network will help faiths make their holy cities and sacred sites as environmentally sustainable as possible, says ARC. “The Green Pilgrimage Network will ask the faithful to live, during the most intense of religious experiences, in a faith-consistent way. To travel to a holy place in such a way as to treat the whole world as sacred is to be a true pilgrim.”

Also published/linked in

<http://www.cathnewsindia.com/2011/10/24/green-pilgrimages-take-to-the-road/>

CathNews India

Green pilgrimages take to the road

Published Date: October 24, 2011

A global campaign to encourage ecologically sensitive pilgrimages will be launched in Assisi, Italy, at the end of October by WWF International and a UK-based ecumenical group, the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC).

Oct 26

<http://www.greenprophet.com/2011/10/green-pilgrimage-network/assisi-green-pilgrimage/>

The Green Prophet website is a leading sustainable voice for green news in the Middle East region

Green Pilgrimage Network Promotes Sustainable Religious Pilgrimage

By Karen Chernick

Religious leaders will gather in Assisi, Italy (home of St. Francis of Assisi) to launch the Green Pilgrimage Network next week. ... Studies estimate that around two million Muslims make the Hajj pilgrimage. Yet such pilgrimages inevitably have a big (and not so positive) environmental impact. To improve this situation, the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) will be launching the Green Pilgrimage Network next week – a network that will come up with sustainable solutions for pilgrims.

Linked also in:

<http://climate.aib.org.uk/article/106592/Green-Pilgrimage-Network-Promotes-Sustainable-Religious-Pilgrimage>

Green Pilgrimage Network Promotes Sustainable Religious Pilgrimage

Oct 28

<http://www.helensburghadvertiser.co.uk/news/roundup/articles/2011/10/28/419051-luss-now-a-green-city/>

Helensburgh Advertiser newspaper (*local newspaper & website, Scotland*)

Luss now a 'green city'

LUSS has, for many years, been known as Scotland's prettiest village ... but now it is Scotland's first green city! And Luss will be representing Scotland at the Green Pilgrim City Launch and Celebration at Assisi, Italy, from October 30 to November 3. ... The trip has the support of the Scottish Government and is seen to be an affirmation of the vision that one day "a green pilgrimage trail will extend from Tain in the north to Whithorn in the south, from Iona in the west to St Andrews in the east and these pathways will intersect at Luss, the pilgrimage home of Saint Kessog.

<http://www.churchtimes.co.uk/content.asp?id=119726>

The Church Times newspaper & website, Issue 7754 (*'the world's leading Anglican weekly newspaper'*)

Pilgrims to be urged: go green

A NEW network will be launched in Assisi next week with the aim of making pilgrimages more environmentally friendly. ... A recent meeting of the directors of Roman Catholic shrines at Walsingham reported that visits to shrines across Europe had increased; and the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham has had one of its busiest years. But the ARC is warning that wildlife and biodiversity at pilgrimage sites are at risk as thousands of visitors descend. High visitor-numbers at pilgrimage sites also place extra pressure on water and food supplies, sewage and waste disposal, and energy resources.

<http://www.ians.in>

INS – Indo-Asian News Service (*India's largest independent newswire*)

Amritsar to join Green Pilgrim Cities movement

by Arun Kumar, IANS

Washington: The Sikh holy city of Amritsar in India will join the Green Pilgrim Cities Network aimed at greening pilgrimage to be launched in Assisi, Italy, from Oct 31 to Nov 2, according to EcoSikh. The event is organised by the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) in association with the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) and will be chaired by its head, Prince Philip of Britain, the Washington based EcoSikh organisation which coordinated the Sikh participation said.

http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/economy/article2577425.ece?ref=wl_industry-and-economy_art

The Hindu newspaper (Business Line section) – *one of India's most widely read and trusted newspapers*

Amritsar to join Green Pilgrimage Network

The holy city of Amritsar will join the Green Pilgrim Cities Network, the first global network aimed at greening pilgrimage to be launched in Assisi, Italy, from October 31 to November 2. The Green Pilgrimage Network will help the faiths make their holy cities and sacred sites as environmentally sustainable as possible according to their own theologies and understanding, Washington-based EcoSikh said in a statement yesterday. ... "

Also published by:

http://twocircles.net/2011oct28/amritsar_join_green_pilgrim_cities_movement.html

Website focusing mainly on Indian Muslim issues

Amritsar to join Green Pilgrim Cities movement

The Sikh holy city of Amritsar in India will join the Green Pilgrim Cities Network aimed at greening pilgrimage to be launched in Assisi, Italy, from Oct 31 to Nov 2, according to EcoSikh.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/2011/worldnews-96072.html>

NewKerela.com website

Amritsar to join Green Pilgrim Cities movement

<http://story.philippinetimes.com/index.php/ct/9/cid/2411cd3571b4f088/id/200527711/cs/1/>

Philippine Times news website

Amritsar to join Green Pilgrim Cities movement

<http://www.zimbo.com/India+Tours/articles/Xpoo95L2YO7/Amritsar+join+Green+Pilgrim+Cities+movement>

Zimbo.com website

Amritsar to join Green Pilgrim Cities movement

http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/wire-news/amritsar-to-join-green-pilgrimage-network_606943.html

Moneycontrol.com news website

Amritsar to join Green Pilgrim Cities movement

<http://www.indiaenvironmentportal.org.in/news/amritsar-join-green-pilgrimage-network>

Indian Environmental Portal website

Amritsar to join Green Pilgrim Cities movement

<http://www.prokerala.com/news/articles/a256345.html>

ProKerala.com website

Amritsar to join Green Pilgrim Cities movement

Oct 29

www.thetablet.co.uk/article/161916

Greening the pilgrims' way

Faith and the environment

By Mary Colwell

In an increasingly secular age, journeys to worship at sacred places the world over are thriving. But how can the faithful and the protectors of holy sites ensure that they don't inadvertently damage Creation through their worship of the Creator? ... The Sacred Land event, organised by the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (Arc) in association with WWF – the World Wide Fund for Nature – and in the presence of Arc founder Prince Philip, launches the first global network aimed at "greening" pilgrimages.

<http://news.in.msn.com/international/article.aspx?cp-documentid=5549182>

MSN India, 29/10/2011

Amritsar to join Green Pilgrimage Network

From Lalit K Jha

The holy city of Amritsar will join the Green Pilgrim Cities Network, the first global network aimed at greening pilgrimage to be launched in Assisi, Italy, from October 31 to November 2. The Green Pilgrimage Network will help the faiths make their holy cities and sacred sites as environmentally sustainable as possible according to their own theologies and understanding, Washington-based EcoSikh said in a statement yesterday."

<http://www.livenewsindia.com/regional-news/punjab-news/amritsar-to-join-green-pilgrim-cities-movement/>

Live News India website

Amritsar to join Green Pilgrim Cities movement

By LM - Sat Oct 29 (possibly auto-translated?)

The eventuality is organized by a Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) in organization with a Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) and will be chaired by a head, Prince Philip of Britain, a Washington formed EcoSikh organization that concurrent a Sikh appearance said....

Oct 30

http://www.indiannewslink.co.nz/index.php/specialfeature/guru_nanak_jayanti/sikhs-link-amristar-to-global-green-network.html

Indian News Link (*New Zealand Asian community website*)

The Green Pilgrimage Network will help the faiths make their holy cities and sacred sites as environmentally sustainable as possible according to their own theologies and understanding. ... Ten faith traditions have nominated pilgrim cities or sacred sites to become founding members of the Green Pilgrimage Network, ranging as far afield as Louguan in the People's Republic of China for Daoists to St Albans in the UK for Anglicans and Amritsar for the Sikhs. ... With the strong relationship between Sikh teachings and the environment, Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee President Avtar Singh Makkar and Punjab Pollution Control Board Chairman Kahn Singh Pannu readily agreed that Amritsar would be a great addition to the Green Pilgrim Cities Network...

Also published/linked at:

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/2011/20111029/punjab.htm#2>

The Tribune newspaper & website (*the largest selling daily in North India*)

Chandigarh, October 28. Amritsar will formally join the Green Pilgrim Cities Network, the first global network aimed at greening pilgrimage to be launched in Assisi, Italy, from October 31 to November 2.

http://politicalcolorz.com/news_inner.php?type=International-news&pageid=8666

(lively multifaith website from Andhra Pradesh)

Amritsar to join Green Pilgrim Cities movement

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[@](http://english.manoramaonline.com/cgi-bin/MMOnline.dll/portal/ep/contentView.do?contentId=10365435&tabId=1&channelId=-1073865034&programId=1080127267&BV_ID=@)

[@](http://english.manoramaonline.com/cgi-bin/MMOnline.dll/portal/ep/contentView.do?contentId=10365435&tabId=1&channelId=-1073865034&programId=1080127267&BV_ID=@)

E-newspaper produced in Kerala, India

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The Sikh holy city of Amritsar in India will join the Green Pilgrim Cities Network aimed at greening pilgrimage to be launched in Assisi, Italy, from Oct 31 to Nov 2, according to EcoSikh.

<http://maninblue1947.wordpress.com/2011/10/29/the-tribune-amritsar-to-join-green-pilgrim-cities-network/>

Blog

Chandigarh, October 28. Amritsar will formally join the Green Pilgrim Cities Network, the first global network aimed at greening pilgrimage to be launched in Assisi, Italy, from October 31 to November 2.

Oct 31

<http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk/n106.htm>

Christian Ecology Link – website & newsletter for Christians concerned about the environment
31 OCT-2 NOV - ASSISI - GREENING PILGRIMAGES FOR DIFFERENT FAITHS
Faith cities in the Green Pilgrimage Network will include: Amritsar, India (Sikh); Assisi, Italy (Roman Catholic); Etchmiadzin, Armenia (Armenian Orthodox); Haifa, Israel (Baha'i); Kano, Nigeria (Islam's Qadiriyyah Sufi tradition); Jerusalem for Jews, Christians and Muslims; Louguan, People's Republic of China (Daoist); St Albans, England (Church of England); Trondheim, Norway (Lutheran Church of Norway)....

<http://arabnews.com/lifestyle/offbeat/article526917.ece>

ArabNews.com (*'the Middle East's leading English language daily'*)

Prince Philip pulls out of Italy trip

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Published: Oct 31, 2011

The Duke of Edinburgh - who only arrived back from an 11 day state visit to Australia over the weekend - was due to fly to Assisi to attend a meeting of the Alliance of Religions and Conservation's (ARC) Green Pilgrimage Network yesterday (31.10.11), but was forced to cancel because of his illness. Princess Michael of Kent, Baroness Marie Christine Anna Agnes, will replace Prince Philip on the trip to Assisi where a panel will discuss ways for multiple faiths to make their sacred sites and pilgrim cities as environmentally sustainable as possible.

Also published in:

http://www.femalefirst.co.uk/royal_family/Royal-55186.html

Female First (a celebrity gossip & lifestyle magazine)

Prince Philip pulls out of Italy trip

http://www.maleextra.com/royal_family/Royal-55186.html

Male Extra website magazine

Prince Philip pulls out of Italy trip

<http://www.news1130.com/news/world/article/293999--buckingham-palace-says-prince-philip-suffering-from-a-cold-cancels-engagement-in-italy>

News 1130 – breaking news, traffic, weather

LONDON - Queen Elizabeth II's husband cancelled a trip to Italy on Monday due to illness, Buckingham Palace said.

The palace said 90-year-old Prince Philip is suffering from a cold and would not visit Assisi, Italy, where he was to attend the launch of the Green Pilgrimage Network.

<http://www.thisiscornwall.co.uk/Philip-misses-Italy-trip-cold/story-13721821-detail/story.html>

Western Morning News newspaper

Philip, 90, was due to travel for an overnight stay in Assisi for the launch of the ARC Green Pilgrimage Network.

<http://www.globalnews.ca/world/buckingham+palace+says+prince+philip+suffering+from+a+cold+cancels+engagement+in+italy/6442511421/story.html>

Global News website

Buckingham Palace says Prince Philip, suffering from a cold, cancels engagement in Italy

Queen Elizabeth II's husband cancelled a trip to Italy on Monday due to illness,

Buckingham Palace said. The palace said 90-year-old Prince Philip is suffering from a cold and would not visit Assisi, Italy, where he was to attend the launch of the Green Pilgrimage Network. Philip — who rarely cancels his official duties — is expected to resume his royal engagements later this week, the palace added.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/world/prince-philip-sick-after-aussie-tour/story-e6frf7lf-1226183098529>

Herald Sun, Australia

PRINCE Philip has been struck down by sickness following his tour of Australia

Buckingham Palace confirmed that the Duke of Edinburgh has a cold and had to withdraw from an overnight stay in Assisi where he was due to launch the Alliance of Religions and Conservation's Green Pilgrimage Network on Monday, British newspaper *The Daily Telegraph* reports.

<http://www.skynews.com.au/showbiz/article.aspx?id=680740&vId=>

Sky News

Prince Philip ill after Aussie tour

[Prince Philip sick after Aussie tour](#)

au.prime7.yahoo.com/a1/news/.../prince-philip-sick-after-aussie-tour/ 1 Nov 2011 – The Duke of Edinburgh has returned from his tour of Australia with a cold ... has a cold and had to withdraw from an overnight stay in Assisi where he was due to launch the Alliance of Religions and Conservation's Green Pilgrimage Network on Monday...

[ray4karma](#)

ray4karma.livejournal.com/ the Duke of Edinburgh has a cold and had to withdraw from an overnight stay in Assisi where he was due to launch the Alliance of Religions and Conservation's ...

[Prince Philip sick after Aussie tour](#) www.chrisroubis.com/2011/11/prince-philip-sick-after-aussie-tour/ Press TV | The sickening UK police state continues to digress, now spying on taxi passengers [...] the Duke of Edinburgh has a cold and had to withdraw from an overnight stay in Assisi where he was due to launch the Alliance of Religions and Conservation's Green Pilgrimage Network on Monday...

Nov 1

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-11-07/india/30369323_1_sacred-sites-amritsar-ks-pannu

Green Pilgrimage Network aim for car-free routes

Times of India

AMRITSAR: A ban on cars on pilgrimage routes, provision of fresh water for pilgrims, and planting of thousands of trees around sacred sites - these were some of the initiatives which the founder members of the Green Pilgrimage Network pledged to implement at Assisi... Amritsar has formally joined the green pilgrim cities network, which was launched in Italy on October 31. The event was organised by the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) in association with the World Wide Fund.

<http://www.inspiremagazine.org.uk/news.aspx?action=view&id=5723>

Inspire Magazine (*UK publication going free to churches, with a circulation of around 70,000 and a confirmed readership of 200,000+*).

A ban on cars on pilgrimage routes (Kano, Nigeria); solar panels for its cathedral roof (St Albans, UK); provision of fresh clean, water for pilgrims (Amritsar, India), the planting of

thousands of trees around sacred sites (Etchmiadzin, Armenia) – these are just some of the initiatives....

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=19220>

Independent Catholic News

Launch of Green Pilgrimage Network in Assisi

Posted: Tuesday, November 1, 2011

A ban on cars on pilgrimage routes (Kano, Nigeria); solar panels for its cathedral roof (St Albans, UK); provision of fresh clean, water for pilgrims (Amritsar, India), the planting of thousands of trees around sacred sites (Etchmiadzin, Armenia) - these are just some of the initiatives which participants pledged to implement at the launch of the Green Pilgrimage Network in Assisi, Italy, today.

Also published in:

http://www.silobreaker.com/launch-of-green-pilgrimage-network-in-assisi-5_2264962277834752111

News digest website UK/US/Sweden

Launch of Green Pilgrimage Network in Assisi

A ban on cars on pilgrimage routes (Kano, Nigeria); solar panels for its cathedral roof (St Albans, UK); provision of fresh clean, water for pilgrims (Amritsar, India), the planting of thousands of trees around sacred sites (Etchmiadzin, Armenia) - these are just some of the initiatives...

<http://www.indiaclimateportal.org/green-pilgrimage-network-aim-for-car-free-routes-07-november-2011-the-times-of-india>

AMRITSAR: A ban on cars on pilgrimage routes, provision of fresh water for pilgrims, and planting of thousands of trees around sacred sites

Nov 2

<http://www.news.va/en/news/ecology-meeting-focuses-on-care-for-creation>

Vatican Radio official site (*has a massive reach to Catholics around the world*)

Thoughtful piece linking the Papal visit (28/10/11) and the Sacred Land event.

The responsibility of all people to be more proactive in caring for creation is at the heart of this week's meeting in Assisi organised by the Alliance of Conservation and Religions....

Noting the progress of the partnership of religions with environmental science, embodied in the Assisi anniversary, it goes on: "there is an ever greater need for all the world's faith

communities to tap into their ancient spiritual traditions and bring that wisdom to bear on the lives of present and future generations."

<http://www.eni.ch/featured/article.php?id=5260>

Swiss-based Ecumenical News International (ENI)

Faith groups meet in Italy to promote "green" pilgrimages

Representatives from 15 faith traditions gathered at the Sacred Land Celebration in Assisi, Italy from 31 October to 2 November for the launch of the Green Pilgrimage Network, organized by the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) in association with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). ... The Green Pilgrimage Network released a "fact file" outlining various efforts pilgrims and pilgrim cities can make, such as choosing sustainable tourist agencies and travel arrangements, eating and drinking ethically, minimizing waste, and supporting work being done locally to help "green" the sacred destination.

<http://www.a1plus.am/en/social/2011/11/02/etchmaidzin>

Armenian website

Will Etchmaidzin become city of green pilgrimage?

Italy's Assisi city hosted a meeting of Green Pilgrimage Network from October 31 to November 2, 2011.

<http://www.armtown.com/news/en/a1p/20111102/2011110215/>

Armenian website

Will Etchmaidzin become city of green pilgrimage?

Italy's Assisi city hosted a meeting of Green Pilgrimage Network from October 31 to November 2, 2011. The event was organised by the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) in association with WWF under the auspices of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip of England... The event aimed to promote green pilgrimage and establish joint programs. Representatives of the Armenian Apostolic Church and Etchmiadzin Municipality participated in the meeting. They presented the program "Echmiadzin - a place of green pilgrimage."

<http://news.am/eng/news/80321.html>

News.am – Armenian news agency

Armenia attends inter-religious meeting in Italy

Meeting of the Green Pilgrimage Network of the Environment Protection and Religions international inter-religious organization was held in Assisi, Italy, from October 31 to November 2. The event was held under the auspices of Prince Philip of England. The meeting brought together representatives from the world's different religious communities, and it aimed to stimulate Green Pilgrimage, seek new avenues, and establish ties toward joint projects. Bishop Hovakim Manukyan, from the Armenian Apostolic Church, as well as Dr. Karen Nazaryan and Samvel Madoyan, from Armenia's Etchmiadzin City Hall, took part in the meeting and presented the "Etchmiadzin as Green Pilgrimage" Project.

Nov 3

<http://www.iclei-europe.org/news/press-releases/>

ICLEI - Official website of ICLEI, association of local governments for sustainability

ICLEI part of global network pledging to green pilgrimages

Assisi, Italy, November 3 2011

A ban on cars on pilgrimage routes; solar panels for cathedral roofs; provision of fresh clean, water for pilgrims, and the planting of thousands of trees around sacred sites - these are just some of the initiatives which the founder members of the Green Pilgrimage Network pledged to implement yesterday. ICLEI Secretariats in both the Europe and Southern Asia are involved in the Network, which is the first in the world aimed at greening pilgrimage..."

<http://www.ecosikh.org/amritsar-joins-the-green-pilgrimage-network-in-assisi-italy/>

EcoSikh website

Amritsar joins the Green Pilgrimage Network

At the gathering, the Sikh community representing Amritsar, made a commitment to the environment in the historic city that Guru Ramdas Ji founded in 1573, joining with ten other sites associate with the Baha'i, Muslim, Hindu, Christian, Dao, Buddhist, Jewish and Shinto faiths. ... Amritsar has already began work toward a better environment, with the planting of 3.5 million (trees) in the district since 2007, with over 1 million planted in military cantonment areas numbering over 250 tree varieties under the leadership of Punjab Pollution Control Board head Kahn Singh Pannu. The Amritsar District Commissioner has also been instrumental in introducing the eco-rikshaw in Amritsar and emphasizing the monitoring of pollution around Darbar Sahib, while the the Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA) has installed a 2000L solar powered water heater over the Langar Hall at Darbar Sahib to promote the use of Green Energy as an alternative to fossil fuel based power...

<http://www.stalbanscathedral.org/community/grassroots-environmental-group/green-pilgrimage-network>

St Albans Cathedral website

The Green Pilgrimage Network

St Albans Cathedral is now a founding member of a new global network aimed at greening religious pilgrimages. The Green Pilgrimage Network was launched on 1 November in Assisi in Italy ... The vision of this network is to make places of pilgrimage as environmentally sustainable as possible."

<http://epaper.hindustantimes.com/PUBLICATIONS/HT/HC/2011/11/03/ArticleHtmls/Sikhs-represent-pilgrim-city-at-green-conclave-03112011002042.shtml?Mode=1>

Hindustani Times newspaper

Sikhs represent pilgrim city at green conclave

"The inaugural conference of Green Pilgrim Network (GPN), organised by Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC), opened in Assisi on Wednesday. Eleven world pilgrim cities of different faiths are participating, including Amritsar, represented by Sikhs at Assisi in Italy. A press release issued by the Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) said that high-school children from Assisi carried flags containing symbols of different religions."

Also copied into: <http://www.qilaraipur.org/nri-news/1330-sikhs-represent-pilgrim-city-at-green-conclave>

(Website of Jassi Khangura MLA for Qila Raipur, Punjab)

<http://www.ekklelesia.co.uk/node/15648>

Ekklesia is an independent, not-for-profit thinktank which examines the role of religion in public life

Faith groups meet in Italy to promote green pilgrimages

"Representatives from 15 faith traditions gathered at the Sacred Land Celebration in Assisi, Italy from 31 October to 2 November 2011 for the launch of the Green Pilgrimage Network, organised by the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) in association with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). Plans announced by Green Pilgrimage Network leaders included measures to protect nature, teach children about conservation, protect sacred forests, reduce waste and encourage recycling, and organise nature tours for pilgrims. ... "

Nov 4

<http://punjabnewslines.com/content/sikhs-part-green-pilgrim-network-inauguration-assisi/33650>

Punjab News Online

Sikhs part of Green Pilgrim Network inauguration at Assisi

Vivid description piece about the opening events, procession and ceremony: "The colorful and impressive procession culminated at the conference hall where prayers by leaders of different faiths were recited. Dr. Rajwant Singh recited the hymns of *Aarti* from the Sikh scriptures, Sri Guru Granth Sahib in the assembly, signifying the importance of nature in the universe. Amritsar, the city of Golden Temple is the only Indian city of pilgrimage to join the green network so far. SGPC has been instrumental in the matter of joining the green network spearheaded by Eco Sikh."

Also published in:

<http://www.indianewscalling.com/tip.php?tipid=16793>

Sikhs part of Green Pilgrim Network inauguration at Assisi

<http://www.sikhnet.com/news/sikhs-part-green-pilgrim-network-inauguration-assisi>

Global Sikh website

Sikhs part of Green Pilgrim Network inauguration at Assisi

<http://www.calgarykeertan.com/calgarykeertan/aggregator/sources/2>
Sikhs part of Green Pilgrim Network inauguration at Assisi

<http://sikhcommunitycenter.org/index.php/Syndicated-News/SikhNet.html>
Sikhs part of Green Pilgrim Network inauguration at Assisi

<http://www.churchtimes.co.uk/content.asp?id=120158>

The Church Times, *Issue 7755*

“Green Pilgrimage Network launched. Banning cars on pilgrimage routes, solar panels, and tree-planting initiatives at sacred sites were some of the ideas pledged by founder members of the Green Pilgrimage Network, launched in Assisi this week. Representatives from 15 faith groups gathered in Italy for the opening of the network by Princess Michael of Kent. She was standing in for the Duke of Edinburgh, who was unwell and unable to attend. St Albans Cathedral and the city of St Albans are founding members of the network, which is an initiative of the Alliance of Religions and Conservation in conjunction with the World Wildlife Fund.”

http://blogs.fco.gov.uk/roller/bakerenglish/entry/assisi_ii

Blog of Nigel Baker, UK Ambassador to the Holy See

“ARC’s great insight was to see that the world’s faiths had a crucial role to play in helping to tackle the global environmental crisis, and that by doing so together they could understand better each other’s beliefs, bringing the world’s different faiths together. This Assisi gathering, appropriately hot on the heels of the Pope’s own gathering of world religious leaders in the same city, saw Copts, Jews, Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Hindus, Sikhs, Lutherans, Muslims, Shinto priests and Daoists, all sharing experience of pilgrimage, and how they could make pilgrimages more environmentally friendly. ... ”

Nov 5

<http://marycolwell.blogspot.com/2011/11/green-pilgrimage-network.html>

Blog of ARC consultant Mary Colwell)

Green Pilgrimage Network

“I have just returned from the launch of the Green Pilgrimage Network in Assisi (October 29th - November 3rd 2011). 10 founding faith organisations pledged to make their sacred site green and sustainable for pilgrims - and not just the site - to encourage pilgrims to make their journeys to and from home as environmentally sustainable as possible, in line with their beliefs that all the faiths preach care for the earth. ”

Nov 7

<http://www.weeklyvoice.com/community-news/amritsar-to-become-green-religious-city/>

The Weekly Voice

Monday, November 7th, 2011 (*website for the South Asian community in Canada*)

Washington: The city of Amritsar will formally join the Green Pilgrim Cities Network, the first global network aimed at greening pilgrimage launched in Assisi, Italy, from October 31 to November 2, 2011. The event is organised by the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) in association with WWF and it will be chaired by His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, husband of Queen Elizabeth, who is also the head of World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-11-07/india/30369323_1_sacred-sites-amritsar-ks-pannu

Green Pilgrimage Network aim for car-free routes

"AMRITSAR: A ban on cars on pilgrimage routes, provision of fresh water for pilgrims, and planting of thousands of trees around sacred sites - these were some of the initiatives which the founder members of the Green Pilgrimage Network pledged to implement at Assisi, informed project manager, EcoSikh, Ravneet Singh on Sunday. Amritsar has formally joined the green pilgrim cities network, which was launched in Italy on October 31. The event was organised by the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) in association with the World Wide Fund. ... "

<http://www.inewsone.com/2011/11/07/amritsar-joins-pilgrim-cities-pledge-to-go-green/88346>

iNewsOne – official mobile news platform from Indo-Asian News Service

Amritsar joins pilgrim cities' pledge to go green

"The newly formed Green Pilgrimage Network, of which the Sikh holy city of Amritsar is the only member from South Asia, has pledged to take a series of steps to turn pilgrim cities green. Among the initiatives agreed to by the group at its first convention in Assisi, Italy, are a ban on cars on pilgrimage routes, solar panels for cathedral roofs, provision of fresh clean water for pilgrims and planting of thousands of trees around sacred sites. ... A movie on food (langar) preparation in the Golden temple for thousands of pilgrims, its distribution and eco-friendly cleaning was also shown. ... "Making Amritsar a green city will require close coordination between the religious sector, the civil society and the government. We are hopeful that this implementation will occur rapidly and Punjab government will step up," Rajwant Singh said.

Also published in:

http://newshopper.sulekha.com/amritsar-joins-pilgrim-cities-pledge-to-go-green_news_1366

Amritsar joins pilgrim cities' pledge to go green

<http://onionlive.com/2011/11/07/pledge-to-go-green-amritsar/>

Onion Live – online newspaper produced by Konkani Broadcasting System Pvt Ltd, Goa, India

Amritsar joins pilgrim cities' pledge to go green

<http://www.boloji.com/index.cfm?md=Content&sd=NewsDetails&NewsID=79836> (IndiaNest.com - news website)

Amritsar joins pilgrim cities' pledge to go green

<http://www.mangalorean.com/news.php?newsid=274819&newstype=local>

Mangalorean news website, Mangalore, India

Amritsar joins pilgrim cities' pledge to go green

<http://facenfacts.com/Search/News/Green%20Pilgrimage%20Network>

Amritsar joins pilgrim cities' pledge to go green

Indian website

<http://www.pardaphash.com/news/amritsar-pledged-to-turn-pilgrim-cities-green/682940.html>

Amritsar joins pilgrim cities' pledge to go green

Indian website

<http://jagopunjabjagoindia.com/archives/1134>

Jago Punjab – 'Punjab's 1st Investigative Paper'

Amritsar to go green under Green Pilgrimage Network's efforts

By Gurjaspal Singh: November 7, 2011

“England’s Royal Princess Michael, the Duke of Kent, gave a certificate of joining of Amritsar city in the newly formed Green Pilgrimage Network (GPN) on behalf of ARC at the first international conference of pilgrim cities, around the world, in Assisi. S. Dalmegh Singh, Secretary Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) received this certificate on behalf of the holy city. In addition, K.S Pannu, Chairman Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB), Dr. Rajwant Singh, President EcoSikh and Ravneet Pal Singh, EcoSikh India project manager were the other Sikh delegates...

Also published in:

http://article.wn.com/view/2011/11/07/Green_Pilgrimage_Network_aim_for_carfree_routes/

Gujerati website World News - link to Times of India article

<http://www.kirpan.com/2011/11/07/amritsar-to-go-green-under-green-pilgrimage-network%E2%80%99s-efforts/>

Sikh news network

Amritsar to go green under Green Pilgrimage Network’s efforts

<http://mhone.in/mhonenews/?p=18535>

(Punjab news site)

Amritsar to go green under Green Pilgrimage Network’s efforts

<http://www.sikhsiyasat.net/2011/11/07/amritsar-to-go-green-under-green-pilgrimage-networks-efforts/>

SikhSiyasat Network – news website

Amritsar to go green under Green Pilgrimage Network’s efforts

Nov 8

http://armenianow.com/arts_and_culture/33040/armenia_echmiadzin_assisi_pilgrimage

ArmeniaNow

Green is Good: Echmiadzin added to sites of “Green Pilgrimage”

By Gayane Mkrtchyan, ArmeniaNow reporter

“Echmiadzin has joined the network of ten Green Pilgrimage sites of the world. The title was awarded to the town of Echmiadzin and Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin during the Sacred Land Celebration in Assisi, Italy that launched on October 31 and continued through November 2 and was organized by Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) in association with World Wildlife Federation. “The Green Movement is not new, however, the Green Pilgrimage Network is just now being established, so this was the first founding assembly,” says Samvel Madoyan, heading the foreign relations department of Echmiadzin municipality, who returned from Assisi late last week.

The sites included in the network have to meet the criteria of a Green Pilgrimage site – they have to make their pilgrim and sacred sites as environmentally sustainable as possible, according to their own theologies and understanding of the natural world. The sites have to be clean and green; visitors should be able to taste locally grown organic food. The Cross of Armenian Unity (CAU) organization hosting tourists to the now Green Pilgrimage site Echmiadzin not only treats its guests to national Armenian cuisine, but also has them participate in the cooking and preparation process. Last week in its courtyard CAU organized an event called Green Hospitality. Apricot tree branches in the yard were decorated with red and green peppers and yellow corns. Traditional Armenian atmosphere was completed with home-made preserves, clay vessels filled with rosehip, haw and peshat; clay jars were full of home-made vodka and wine. The official flag of Green Hospitality added even more festivity to the event. ... ”

Nov 9

<http://edition.cnn.com/2011/11/08/world/meast/hajj-pilgrimage-climate-change/>

CNN

Holy cities face threat from polluting pilgrims

By George Webster, CNN

"An estimated 2.5 million pilgrims have descended on the city of Mecca for the Islamic Hajj, said to be the largest annual gathering of people in the world. Every fit and able Muslim is obliged by their faith to make the journey at least once in their lifetime. But with the rising threat of climate change, there are now calls for both pilgrims and authorities in Mecca to reduce the environmental damage wrought by this yearly influx of travelers.

"Everyone arrives at the same time, at exactly the same place, and every year there are more and more people," said Dr Husna Ahmed, principal author of "The Green Guide for Hajj," a booklet promoting ecologically-sustainable practices among Hajj pilgrims, released earlier this week.

Ahmed, who is CEO of the UK-based Faith Regen Foundation, says that as many as 100 million plastic water bottles were dumped by pilgrims during Hajj last year, according to a study conducted by colleagues at the foundation. Ahmed adds that Mecca's authorities have yet to make adequate provisions for recycling. "All the waste from food, all the fumes from coaches traveling around the city, all the energy used for powering local hotels, it has a significant environmental impact," said Ahmed. "And that's before you think about the carbon footprint of all those flying in from halfway around the globe." "

Also published/linked in:

<http://www.jordandirections.com/2011110843697/international/holy-cities-face-threat-from-polluting-pilgrims>

CNN story linked & illustrated with images of traffic at Mecca, Hajj pilgrims eating fast food etc

<http://business.blogs.cnn.com/2011/11/09/> (includes 1 min video of CNN news report on Green Hajj)

<http://www.jpost.com/VideoArticles/Video/Article.aspx?id=244980>

Where pilgrims once trod, sewage flows

By Arie O'Sullivan / The Media Line

(accompanying video available at this link)

Mohammed Nakhal is normally a calm man, but he's seething now. The stench of raw sewage is overpowering. It is rushing by, down the biblical Kidron Valley through the Judean Desert toward the Dead Sea where even you know what floats. Nakhal, an urban planner, has been instrumental in clearing out the mounds of debris dumped in the valley and is lobbying hard for the sewage to be channeled through underground conduits and treated. It's all part of an ambitious plan to turn what had been for millennia a pilgrimage route for Jews, Christians and Muslims going up to Jerusalem but over the past few decades has become a way down and out for the holy city's refuse, into a green tourism path. ... According to the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC), around 100 million people go on pilgrimages every year. Meeting in Italy recently, the representatives of 10 different religions worldwide discussed ways of greening sacred places...

<http://www.oecumene.radiovaticana.org/en1/Articolo.asp?c=536299>

Vatican Radio broadcast (MP3 accessible through this link):

Alliance of Religions and Conservation in Assisi

A rather unlikely alliance, you might think, yet since its foundation 25 years ago, it has made surprising progress persuading religious and civic authorities to work together for the benefit of future generations. That's why, a quarter of a century on from their first meeting in Assisi, ARC was back in the Umbrian hill town at the beginning of November to launch its latest initiative – a green pilgrimage network of shrines and cities across the globe. To find out more, Philippa Hitchen spoke with Martin Palmer, secretary general of ARC and one of its founding members....

<http://www.oecumene.radiovaticana.org/en1/Articolo.asp?c=536309>

Vatican Radio broadcast (MP3 accessible through this link):

The Call of Creation

Award winning journalist and producer Mary Colwell is the Catholic programme advisor for ACR, the Alliance of Religions and Conservation, as well as serving as a consultant to the Catholic bishops conference of England and Wales. She spoke with Philippa Hitchen during the recent ARC meeting in Assisi....

<http://www.treehugger.com/culture/solar-panels-reforestation-project-works-armenias-first-green-pilgrimage-site.html>

Treehugger.com

Solar Panels, Reforestation Project in Works for Armenia's First Green Pilgrimage Site

By Jennifer Hattam

"The spiritual center of the worldwide Armenian Apostolic Church and a major historical site, with buildings dating back to 480, the Echmiadzin Cathedral complex in southwest Armenia is set to get a modern upgrade: solar panels on the roof of its seminary building.

The change was announced as part of Echmiadzin's official entry into the worldwide Green Pilgrimage Network. The 12 sites anointed at the end of last month as part of the new eco-tourism effort are spread from Norway to Nigeria, Italy to India, and represent places holy to Christians, Muslims, Jews, Sikhs, Baha'is, and Taoists. ..." (links to GPN and other religion/environment sites)

Also published in:

<http://coolgreenmag.com/2011/11/09/solar-panels-reforestation-project-in-works-for-armenias-first-green-pilgrimage-site/>

CoolGreenMag.com

Solar Panels, Reforestation Project in Works for Armenia's First Green Pilgrimage Site

Rita Willaert

The devout core of a worldwide Armenian Apostolic Church and a vital chronological site, with buildings dating behind to 480, a Echmiadzin Cathedral formidable in southwest Armenia is set to get a complicated upgrade: solar panels on a roof of a seminary building.

Nov 10

<http://www.sikhnet.com/news/world-religions-form-green-network-pilgrim-cities-including-amritsar>

SikhNet.com

Thorough report on the event/programme, including emphasis on Sikh/Amritsar contributions and many photographs.

"... Victoria Finlay, the Communication Director of ARC said, "The Sikh presentation was one of the best showcasing of their work, faith and practice and variety in the environment initiatives." Delegates from many other cities expressed that there is much to be learned from Sikh initiatives on environment. Dalmegh Singh on behalf of the President of SGPC said, "SGPC is willing to partner to make the city of Amritsar as eco-friendly as possible. We have

already devoted considerable resources towards environmental awareness and preservation."Dr. Rajwant Singh, said, "Making Amritsar a green city will require close coordination between the religious sector, the civil society and the government. We are hopeful that this implementation will occur rapidly and Punjab government will step up." ...

<http://www.planetizen.com/node/52333>

Planetizen: Urban Planning, Design and Development Network

Greening Pilgrimages in Holy Cities

"Pilgrimages to holy sites around the world have caused large amounts of waste and pollution because of the large amount of people gathering together for one event and consumeristic habits, writes George Webster for CNN. Last year during the Hajj in Mecca, researchers at the UK-based Faith Regen Foundation found that 100 million plastic water bottles were dumped by pilgrims.... (links to CNN story)

Nov 11

<http://blog.conservation.org/2011/11/a-green-pilgrimage-to-fight-climate-change/>

Conservation International (Indonesia) blog

A Green Pilgrimage to Fight Climate Change

Posted by Fachruddin Mangunjaya

" ... However, leaders of faith groups from around the world are making serious efforts to change religious pilgrimage behavior and reduce climate change impacts, emphasizing the spiritual belief — common across religions — that humans have a responsibility to protect our living planet. As part of my role with CI's Conservation and Religion Initiative, in early November I traveled to Assisi, Italy — a sacred Catholic city — to attend the celebration of 25 years of collaborative environmental action by the world's faiths. The event was attended by faith-based groups representing many religions including the Buddhist, Baha'i, Christian, Daoist, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh and Shinto faiths. ..." (includes link to 'Green Guide to Hajj')

Nov 12

http://wwf.org.uk/what_we_do/arc_and_the_green_pilgrimage_network.cfm

(undated WWF UK website page)

"25 years ago, as President of WWF International, Prince Philip asked WWF to organise a meeting to explore the links between religion and conservation in the Italian town of Assisi, home of St Francis. Five major faiths - Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, Islam and Judaism - all sent representatives and over a thousand delegates came to explore these links and commit to a lasting partnership. Now, a generation later, delegates have gathered again in Assisi, to measure progress and to take the alliance of religions and conservation to the next level."

P28 notebook

The Tablet: 16 Tablet 12 Nov 11 Notebook_P28 notebook 09/11/2011 15:48 Page 1)

m.thetablet.co.uk/issue/1000284/notebook (mobile version of *The Tablet* (leading international Catholic newspaper))

"Meanwhile, the organisers of a recent event in Assisi to launch a network of green pilgrimage sites were initially disappointed when the Duke of Edinburgh cancelled his attendance due to a heavy cold. But the Catholic Princess Michael of Kent, who was already in Italy on other business, saved the day by dashing to Assisi and delivering the Prince's speech on his behalf."

Nov 14

<http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/press-room/items/2011/November->

[2011/GreenPilgrimageNetworklaunchedinAssisiItaly.aspx](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/2011/GreenPilgrimageNetworklaunchedinAssisiItaly.aspx)

St Albans District Council website – very thorough report on event and GPN programme on local authority website

Green Pilgrimage Network launched in Assisi, Italy - 14 November 2011

St Albans has joined the world's first network aimed at greening pilgrimages which are undertaken by an astonishing 100 million people a year. A party from St Albans including Cllr Beric Read, Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement and Localism at St Albans City and District Council and Canon Kevin Walton of St Albans Cathedral, attended the launch of the Green Pilgrimage Network at the Sacred Land Celebration in Assisi, Italy. This was organised by the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) in association with World Wildlife Fund (WWF). At this event the founder members received their certificates from HRH Princess Michael of Kent. St Albans is the first English city to be part of this international, interfaith network.

Nov 15

<http://www.countryfarmersmarket.com/organic/world-religions-type-green-pilgrimage-network-which-includes-amritsar/> (US farmers' market blog)

World Religions Type Green Pilgrimage Network which includes Amritsar

November 15, Washington: A ban on cars on pilgrimage routes solar panels for cathedral roofs provision of original clean, fill up for pilgrims, and the planting of 1000's of trees nearly sacred internet sites – these are just some of the initiatives which the initiator members of the Green Pilgrimage Network (GPN) pledged to apply. ... "

Nov 16

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/environment/article_8840b0fc-1014-11e1-9362-001cc4c03286.html

Tributary Fund website

Tributary Fund: Enlisting world's religions to save the Earth

GAIL SCHONTZLER, Chronicle Staff Writer: Wednesday, November 16, 2011

" ... The Tributary Fund won recognition two weeks ago from a much larger, older organization, the Alliance of Religions and Conservation, founded by England's Prince Phillip, husband of Queen Elizabeth. It was "really exciting," Gaines Quammen said, to be honored at ARC's meeting in Assisi, Italy, by Princess Michael of Kent, before a group that included leaders from Christian, Muslim, Buddhist and Jewish religions. "Eighty-five percent of the world practices a faith," she said. "That's 5 billion people" ... At the ARC conference in Italy, Gaines Quammen said she gave religious leaders reusable water bottles to promote the idea that when millions of people embark on religious pilgrimages, whether Hindus in India or Muslims visiting Mecca, they needn't use throw-away water bottles that contribute to waste and climate change. ... "

<http://www.europeanhistories.com/>

European Histories website, 16. November 2011

Green Pilgrims

Trees around holy sites, solar panels on the roofs of temples and churches plus no cars on pilgrims roads. These are just some of the initiatives taken by a newly launched Green Pilgrimage Network

linked site in Danish:

<http://detenkleliv.dk>

Grønne pilgrimme

Træer omkring helligsteder, solfangere og bilfri pilgrimsruter...

<http://www.positivekidstuff.com/world-religions-form-green-pilgrimage-network-including-amritsar/>

Positive-Thinking Child - children's website

World Religions Form Green Pilgrimage Network including Amritsar

November 15, Washington: A ban on cars on pilgrimage routes; solar panels for cathedral roofs; provision of fresh clean, water for pilgrims, and the planting of thousands of trees around sacred sites – these are just some of the initiatives which the founder members of the Green Pilgrimage Network (GPN) pledged to implement. Amritsar, only city from India or South Asia, joined the network formed during a summit from October 1- November 3, 2011, in Assisi, Italy....

Nov 17

<http://greenbuildingelements.com/2011/11/17/green-pilgrim-cities-leaving-a-positive-footprint-on-the-world/>

Green Building Elements blog

Green Pilgrim Cities: Leaving a Positive Footprint on the World

November 17, 2011 By Chris Keenan

... Environmental sustainability is an issue that spans the differences of religions. For example, an estimated 2.5 million pilgrims journeyed to the city of Mecca for last year's Islamic Hajj and dumped as many as 100 million plastic bottles. Add to that the additional pollution of taxis and buses in the streets, the energy to power hotels, homes filled to capacity, and the carbon footprint of people flying in from around the world, and the environmental impact is substantial. Just the energy needed to open and close garage doors during this busy time is significant...

Nov 18

<http://www.stalbanscathedral.org/news/236-green-pilgrimage-network-launched-in-assisi-italy>

St Albans Cathedral website

(undated page, Google alert dated 18-11-11)

"St Albans has joined the world's first network aimed at greening pilgrimages which are undertaken by an astonishing 100 million people a year. A party from St Albans including Cllr Beric Read, Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement and Localism at St Albans City and District Council and Canon Kevin Walton of St Albans Cathedral, attended the launch of the Green Pilgrimage Network at the Sacred Land Celebration in Assisi, Italy. This was organised by the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) in association with World Wildlife Fund (WWF). At this event the founder members received their certificates from HRH Princess Michael of Kent. St Albans is the first English city to be part of this international, interfaith network." *(beginning of very thorough report inc. link to ARC website)*

Nov 21

<http://www.npr.org/2011/11/21/142506560/in-india-spreading-a-green-gospel-among-pilgrims>

NPR *(US-based National Public Radio broadcasts through a network of 900 independent stations reaching 26.8 million listeners every week)*

In India, Spreading A Green Gospel Among Pilgrims

by Corey Flintoff, November 21, 2011

The Golden Temple at Amritsar, India, doesn't look like an environmental pressure point. The gold-sheathed building gleams serenely as a jewel box in the midst of a broad reflecting pond. Music serenades pilgrims as they cross a causeway to reach the shrine.... At the Golden Temple's communal kitchen, volunteers prepare and serve about 85,000 meals each day. Singh is proud that the meals are served on stainless steel plates and bowls, so there's no

plastic waste, but he says the temple wants to extend green practices to the cooking and cleaning. That will include installing solar water heaters for the scullery, where steel dishes clash like cymbals as hundreds of volunteers wash up. Temple authorities also want to make better use of the water, using sophisticated ways of harvesting rainwater. Singh says that the organizers hope to educate pilgrims by reminding them of the earth-friendly messages that are already part of Sikh theology. "The air is our master, water is our father, and this earth is our great, great mother," he recites. "So this is [a] direct relation that the Sikh masters have given to us and we should now reflect the way they taught us." ... "

Also published in:

<http://m.npr.org/news/Science/142506560>

In India, Spreading A Green Gospel Among Pilgrims

<http://www.wemu.org/post/india-spreading-green-gospel-among-pilgrims>

In India, Spreading A Green Gospel Among Pilgrims

<http://kosu.org/2011/11/in-india-spreading-a-green-gospel-among-pilgrims/>

In India, Spreading A Green Gospel Among Pilgrims

Nov 24

<http://news.bahai.org/story/868>

(Baha'I World News website)

Network aims to make pilgrimage a greener experience

" ... This year, some 90 delegates from around the world – representing all the major faiths – took part in a two-day conference which examined the way forward for religion and environmentalism, and the Green Pilgrimage Network. The Baha'i International Community was represented at the event by Jalal Hatami, its Deputy Secretary-General. "The Baha'i World Centre is discussing with the authorities in Haifa how to make the city more ecological," said Mr. Hatami. "This includes promoting the use of public transport among all citizens and greener practices in the hospitality sector, improving the management of energy and water, and encouraging more recycling and waste reduction." Mr. Hatami described hearing about the various initiatives already under way in various holy cities as "very inspiring." ... "

Also published in:

<http://www.wfn.org/2011/11/msg00075.html>

(Worldwide Faith News site - database of official news releases from faith groups)

<http://greenheritagenews.com/?p=11818>

(Journal of Humanitarian Affairs website)

Visit holy places in a "green" way

"If you are planning a religious pilgrimage, doing so in a "green way" is the aim of what is called the Green Pilgrimage Network. An estimated 100 million people make some kind of pilgrimage every year, some for a few hours, others for days or months. To address the environmental impact of these journeys – and to assist the world's holy places to become as environmentally sustainable as possible – a new network has been launched which brings together pilgrim sites from 10 faith traditions. ... (reproduces the Baha'I press release, above)"

Nov 25

<http://www.thinkinganglicans.org.uk/archives/005251.html>

Green Pilgrimage Network launched

"The Alliance of Religions and Conservation has announced the launch of the Green Pilgrimage Network. See press release: Green Pilgrimage Network launches with joy, hope, faith and practical plans." (link to ARC website)

<http://huntsvillebahais.wordpress.com/2011/11/25/network-aims-to-make-pilgrimage-a-greener-experience/>

(website of local Baha'I community in Alabama)

Network aims to make pilgrimage a greener experience Posted by hsvbahais on November 25, 2011

" An estimated 100 million people make some kind of pilgrimage every year, some for a few hours, others for days or months. To address the environmental impact of these journeys – and to assist the world's holy places to become as environmentally sustainable as possible – a new network has been launched which brings together pilgrim sites from 10 faith traditions. They range from the Sikh Golden Temple in Amritsar, India, and the Armenian Orthodox holy city of Etchmiadzin, to Jerusalem – a major pilgrimage destination for the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths. The Baha'i World Centre – and the city of Haifa, Israel, where it is located – have also become founding members of the Green Pilgrimage Network. Last year alone, the Baha'i holy places attracted around 750,000 pilgrims and visitors." (link to Baha'I News Website)

Sacred Land event – sound and video coverage (14/11/11)

This is a sample of the video clips and news reports available; Ubrain TV, for example, has uploaded many more videos on to its website.

CNN news report

<http://business.blogs.cnn.com/2011/11/09/>

(news clip embedded on CNN blog page)

Ubrain TV clips

<http://www.ubraintv.com/watchnews.php?id=100178>

<http://www.ubraintv.com/watch.php?id=169>

(Martin Palmer introduction to programme/event)

<http://www.ubraintv.com/watch.php?id=168>

(HRH Princess Michael reading HRH Prince Philip's speech)

<http://www.ubraintv.com/watch.php?id=170>

(procession footage)

<http://www.ubraintv.com/watch.php?id=171>

(Kahan Singh Pannu & Rajwant Singh interviewed)

<http://www.ubraintv.com/watch.php?id=187>

(Martin Palmer presentation – Religion as a Partner & Challenge to Conservation)

Other relevant video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d2AfJm5ZcCc>
(Canticle of the Creatures read by Peter France)

<http://www.greenprophet.com/2011/11/muslim-women-water-conservation/>
(feature on Muslims and Water – ‘Story of Hajjar’ animation)

<http://vimeo.com/31199907>
(In The Footsteps of St Kessog – Luss video)

<http://www.lussonline.net/award3.php?subject=vid.php&article=179>
(Rev Dane Sherrard speaks to his congregation about GPN/Assisi)

<http://www.jpost.com/VideoArticles/Video/Article.aspx?id=244980>
(video insert to Jerusalem Post feature, with Naomi Tsur/Osnat Post)

Sound recordings

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b016kgmg>
BBC Radio 4 programme , 30/10/11, featuring William Crawley interview with Martin Palmer

<http://www.oecumene.radiovaticana.org/en1/Articolo.asp?c=536299>

Vatican Radio interview – ‘Philippa Hitchens spoke with Martin Palmer ...’

<http://www.oecumene.radiovaticana.org/en1/Articolo.asp?c=536309>

Vatican Radio interview – Mary Colwell spoke with Philippa Hitchen ...’

<http://www.rte.ie/radio1/thegodslot/>
RTE Radio 1 programme including interview with Martin Palmer

<http://www.npr.org/templates/rundowns/rundown.php?prgId=3&prgDate=11-21-2011>
(NPR news item, 4.18, downloadable)

Media coverage: ‘Green Guide To Hajj’ and ‘Islam and Water’

Sep 14

<http://www.islamonline.com/news/articles/2/Worlds-First-Eco-Friendly-Hajj-Guide-Launched-at-.html>

World's First Eco-Friendly Hajj Guide Launched at British House of Lords

“The Lord Marland, Britain's Under Secretary of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change, is today hosting leaders and ambassadors from a number of Middle Eastern nations, along with representatives from nations with significant Muslim populations farther afield (Southeast Asia, Nepal, Kosovo...) to launch the first worldwide guide to a greener Hajj.

The event, a conference which takes place at the House of Lords, is organized by the House of Lords in conjunction with EcoMuslim, a UK-based non-profit environmental organization founded by Omar Faruq.

Lord Marland is giving a presentation at the conference explaining potential ways to "go green" during the pilgrimage. ... "

Nov 1

<http://www.greenprophet.com/2011/11/interview-hajj-husna-ahmed/>

Interview With Green Hajj Expert Dr Husna Ahmed

Arwa Aburawa

"...What we want to do is use a theological grounding- the Qur'an and hadith- to encourage people to think more carefully about protecting their environment," says Dr Husna over the phone. It's officially her day off and although she's busy shopping with her daughter who is off to college she's decided to have a quick chat with me anyway. "I mean people are now more and more aware of their carbon footprint and what they can do to limit their impact but Muslims are not really hearing it. So this guide is about encouraging them to do their bit. ..."
(links to feature on GPN, download links)

Also published/linked on:

<http://climate.aib.org.uk/article/107604/Interview-With-Green-Hajj-Expert-Dr-Husna-Ahmed>

<http://www.illumemagazine.com/zine/articleDetail.php?Interview-With-Green-Hajj-Expert-Dr.-Husna-Ahmed-13854>

Nov 4

<http://www.greenprophet.com/2011/11/muslim-women-water-conservation/>

"The Alliance of Religions and Conservation has launched a special water conservation guide aimed at Muslim women and families
Every year at Hajj, Muslims commemorate the struggle of Hajjar; an Egyptian hand-maid and second wife of the Prophet Ibrahim [pbuh] who was stranded in the desert without water for her child. The hajj pilgrims walk, as she did, between two mountains in the Saudi Arabian wilderness known as Safa and Marwa to remember her search for water. To mark the significance of this event, the Alliance of Religions and Conservation has launched a special water conservation guide which focuses on the story of Hajjar, to accompany its Green Guide to Hajj."

Nov 9

<http://edition.cnn.com/2011/11/08/world/meast/hajj-pilgrimage-climate-change/>

Holy cities face threat from polluting pilgrims

By George Webster, CNN

"An estimated 2.5 million pilgrims have descended on the city of Mecca for the Islamic Hajj, said to be the largest annual gathering of people in the world. Every fit and able Muslim is obliged by their faith to make the journey at least once in their lifetime. But with the rising threat of climate change, there are now calls for both pilgrims and authorities in Mecca to reduce the environmental damage wrought by this yearly influx of travelers.

"Everyone arrives at the same time, at exactly the same place, and every year there are more

and more people," said Dr Husna Ahmed, principal author of "The Green Guide for Hajj," a booklet promoting ecologically-sustainable practices among Hajj pilgrims, released earlier this week.

Ahmed, who is CEO of the UK-based Faith Regen Foundation, says that as many as 100 million plastic water bottles were dumped by pilgrims during Hajj last year, according to a study conducted by colleagues at the foundation. Ahmed adds that Mecca's authorities have yet to make adequate provisions for recycling.

"All the waste from food, all the fumes from coaches traveling around the city, all the energy used for powering local hotels, it has a significant environmental impact," said Ahmed. "And that's before you think about the carbon footprint of all those flying in from halfway around the globe." "

Also published/linked in:

<http://www.jordandirections.com/2011110843697/international/holy-cities-face-threat-from-polluting-pilgrims>

Media coverage of the Heng Shan meeting

a. Media – China

There was a very strong media presence at Heng Shan with dozens of journalists from most national newspapers, radio stations and TV stations present, as well as from the local media from Changsha and Hunan media. *The South China Morning Post* in Hong Kong also sent a reporter, but when they realised the significance of the event, they commissioned ARC's Victoria Finlay to write a 600-word article page lead for page 2, which was also advertised on the front page. This was in addition to the feature prepared by their journalist. Daily reports were broadcast and published by Xinhua and CCTV, China Daily, etc.

b. CCTV4 major interview broadcast throughout China

On November 14, 2011, *Journey of Civilization*, was broadcast on CCTV4 to millions of viewers throughout China featuring a discussion on Daoism recorded on the Monday night of the conference. It was hosted by TV host Liu Fangfei, and took the form of a discussion between ARC's Martin Palmer and former vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Mr Xu Jialu. It was billed as a discussion about Taoism between East and West. It can be seen here:

<http://news.cntv.cn/program/wenmingzhilv/20111115/100782.shtml> or
<http://tinyurl.com/d55882n>

c. Other media

The Chinese media gave unprecedented coverage to this event and its significance for contemporary China.

- China News Agency "dialogue between Xu Jialu and Martin Palmer"
<http://roll.sohu.com/20111024/n323259952.shtml>
- China.org "Xu Jialu discuss Daoism with British Sinologist Martin Palmer: Crisis of Modernity comes from not knowing how to be content" <http://news.hexun.com/2011-10-25/134546304.html>
- CulturalChina.Org, 'Martin Palmer: Daoism and the Sustainable world,' (this is an article they dubbed with Martin's name from his dialogue with Mr Xu Jialu. It is in English)

- http://cul.china.com.cn/zt/djlt/2011-10/24/content_4568693.htm
 - China News Agency Hengyang Bureau "Exchanges between 'Dao' and 'The Way'," <http://roll.sohu.com/20111025/n323277038.shtml>
 - Xinhua News Agency, "Daoist Forum host discussions of Dao between East and West" <http://news.sohu.com/20111024/n323260619.shtml>
 - China Daily (English) "Taoist Forum looks at environment" <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90882/7624394.html>
- "Prominent guest speakers include Bawa Jain, Secretary-General of the World Council of Religious Leaders, Martin Palmer, Secretary-General of the Alliance of Religions and Conservation, and Ren Farong, head of the Chinese Taoist Association (CTA). Global celebrities including Prince Philip of the United Kingdom sent congratulations to the opening of the forum."
- *People's Daily* "why Daoism can change the world", <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/102774/7628560.html>

"Martin Palmer said that, with the powerful modern media, they could use books, the internet and audio-visual products to introduce Taoism to Westerners so that more Westerners will know about and like it even if they have never been to China."

- *China News*, 'English experts point out Daoism is good for sustainable development

'Environment and religious groups promoting green pilgrimage'
<http://76.75.216.139/tag/%E5%BD%AD%E9%A6%AC%E7%94%B0/?variant=zh-hans>

d. Media – English Language

The English language print media, including *Xinhua*, *People's Daily*, *East Day*, the *South China Morning Post* and the *New York Review of Books* all picked up the story from and about ARC. We understand that it was covered by many more reporters from the Chinese language press, and are waiting for a report on this by our Chinese colleagues.

This is the first time that Daoism has been taken this seriously by the secular media in China. Many of the articles are exploring how ancient Daoist philosophy can have a real context for modern people in modern China today, in areas that include traditional Chinese medicine and the environment. It was particularly exciting for many journalists – as expressed for them in print, and in person – that there should be interest, internationally, in China's ancient beliefs, and it is hard to underestimate the importance of the presence of ARC's delegation in giving an international context, beyond the role of Western Daoists (who were represented at the meeting), to the International Taoist Forum.

The story was particularly important in the context of the death of a toddler in Guangdong the week before, with a closed circuit camera recording how, after she was hit by a van, 18 people passed by her bleeding, dying body, and ignored her – leading to a crisis of confidence in China's national compassion and spiritual future.

ARC's Martin Palmer was interviewed on at least 5 television news stations throughout the event. This was an important event in itself, but also seems likely to lead to more dialogue and better links with ARC and with the Daoists by Chinese media in the future.

e. Media coverage of Chinese delegation, Assisi

The Assisi event was very well covered, before, during and after the event itself, with extensive coverage by the BBC, in faith-based publications, secular newspapers and online media around the world and also by Italian newspapers and TV. The presence of the Chinese delegation both religious and secular created considerable excitement and Professor Fan was interviewed by many journalists and especially by the BBC Radio 4 reporter and his comments on TCM and wildlife trace and climate change impacts was included in the Radio 4 Saving

Species programme broadcast on November 16th. Vatican Radio also interviewed him as well as the Daoist nun Master Ge.

In addition, UbrainTV (the Japanese TV company inspired partly by ARC, which focuses on energy and environmental issues) brought a seven-strong team out to Assisi and has produced a series of reports featuring interviews with faith leaders and also coverage of the event. They can be seen on www.ubraintv.com and a link to the main programmes has also been set up on ARC's Assisi pages – <http://www.arcworld.org/projects.asp?projectID=541>. They too did extensive interviews with the Chinese delegation.