

Scribblings Found on Table Mats after Opening World Café Session

(Some of these might be more meaningful to you if you were there! See PowerPoint for exact questions discussed. Transcribed/edited liberally by PA – apologies for errors.)

Table 1:

Signs of increased integration

- Financial insecurity has led to more awareness of use of resources and the importance of fundamentals such as family, relationships, faith, health, community and curiosity – looking for answers!
- Sane patriotism with a wider loyalty to mankind
- People are more receptive to God and spirituality
- Means to be physically more connected – Internet, travel, have means to be one yet don't quite understand what it means yet!
- New ways of communicating emerging in community everywhere.
- Multilateral cooperation!! On important issues – recognition that an international approach is needed
- “Unity” word everywhere
- God is love – progress
- Growing in consciousness – we are all connected, especially through global ‘crisis’.
- Lot more interracial marriages – popular in media!!

Challenges arising from integration

- Unsustainable models of spiritual leadership being clearly exposed for their emptiness
- Integrate through service – not necessarily asserting our difference or identity
- Lot of integration is based on Western concepts – result in manipulation – Richer + poorer.
- Manufactured countries - people want out!
- Integration often focused on mechanical or instrumental surface issues – not deeper spiritual, moral, ethical!!!
- “Social cohesion problematic”
- Challenge is identity!! When integration occurs, lose your identity?
- Challenge of integration of universal values and principles in societies that have been isolated or have isolated themselves and vice versa for the western world.

Opportunities arising from integration/disintegration

- Distinction through service
- Opportunity to have the Faith demonstrate its capacity to develop skills in people for integration
- Higher consciousness that politics are not the answer
- We are more aware of the forces of integration and disintegration so we see the possibility of progress and have less fear!!!
- Higher respect for diversity – people arising to defend the right to diversity

- Concern for unity in neighborhoods – more
- Learning to empower every person on the planet!!

Table 2:

Signs of increased integration

- Technology – more organized
- SARS (Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome)
- Buy local – leading to integration on a regional level
- Development of international law – advancing mores
- Communication
- Standardization (int'l labor office)
- Regional standards – European union standards
- Federal Aviation Administration

Challenges arising from integration

- Diversity of culture conflicting with sense of entitlement
 - Accepting as equals
 - Greater voice of developing nations
- Throttling (?) of General Assembly by Security Council
- Lack of spiritual identity
- Desire to control material resources
- Lack of understanding of fundamental spiritual realities of man
- Aspects of Internet
 - Violence
 - Lack of ethics
 - Corruption
 - Abuse of trust
 - Information overload
 - No sense of responsibility

Opportunities arising from integration/disintegration

- Building new systems – chances for innovation
- Greater receptivity to the Faith and new directions
- Opportunity to negotiate when people have needs “bail out”
- Fundamental problems need to be addressed...
- Bahá'í inspired development
 - Creative interplay between practical and spiritual
- Core Activities
 - Raise consciousness
 - Available to all even if illiterate
 - Power to the individual – empowerment – a true service

Table 3:

Signs of increased integration

- Conflict down 60% since 1992
- Greater coordination among countries
- Receptivity to Faith/ core activities
- Bahá'í = largest unified people
- Common people organizing for self reliance
- SARS
- Parallel NGO organizations to traditional institutions
- Internet tools for integration

Challenges arising from integration

- Dealing with existing power structure
- Creating an all-inclusive power structure
- Adopting a new paradigm
- Ensuring fairness > equity
- Lack of common concepts of justice
- Lack of skills for integration process
- Recognition of spiritual component >> self interest
- Blind tradition

Opportunities arising from integration/disintegration

- Increased ability for consistent results
- Emergence of new technologies and ideas
- Power vacuum filled by organized people
- Opportunity to contribute to new
- Provide hope and vision
- Openness to ideas
- Forces reflection

Table 4

Signs of increased integration

- (This section appears to have been torn off the sheet)

Challenges arising from integration

- Need new international institutions
- Raising all cultures to equal value
- Corporate identity
- Sharing differences
- Unity in diversity
- Build community on local level
- Beyond a culture of contest

Opportunities arising from integration/disintegration

- New mind
- New markets and products
- New businesses
- New institutions
- New laws
- More justice
- International standards
- Work in more countries
- New civilization
- Home soil – concept of foreignness disappears
- Can do jobs from anywhere
- Career
- Media
- Receptivity to this message

Table 5

Signs of increased integration

- International Space Station – built by many countries cooperating
- African women coming together to plant trees
- ATMs
- Education as integration
- Study abroad
- Mobility
- People from many backgrounds get to meet
- People mixing stuff
- Conflicts are signs of a learning curve to integration
- Core Activities
- Cooperative participatory education
- 40th anniversary of ‘earth rising over moon’ photo
- Public discourse embraces these issues
- Desire to search for new answers

Challenges arising from integration

- Compelling need for international structures
- Value exchange becomes meaningful
- Consumption v. need
- Models that we have don’t work any more. Same tools don’t work

Opportunities arising from integration/disintegration

- Bahá’ís have increasing opportunities to boldly assert principles of SED