Gandhi International (France) and the Institute of Gandhian Studies, Wardha (India) cordially invite organisations, institutions and individuals interested in promoting non-violence and peace in the world to participate in the Sevagram International Congress on Non-violent Economy and Peaceful world at Wardha, India in October, 2017. This conference is organised in commemoration and celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Meeting of Lanza del Vasto, popularly known as Shanti Das or French Gandhi, with Mahatma Gandhi in 1937 at Wardha.
Objectives of the Conference:

- The proposed Conference is aimed at providing an International forum for exchange of ideas and sharing of experiences for worldwide, Gandhian, nonviolent, peace organisations, institutions and individuals working for a sustainable world.
- To commemorate and celebrate the 80th anniversary of the meeting of Lanza del Vasto with Gandhi in 1937.
- To Coordinate and work out common future actions and programmes.

Themes:
The Conference is expected to discuss the following themes and the related areas in Plenary Session, Concurrent Sessions and the Workshop:

Plenary Session
Meeting of two Great minds: Gandhi and Shanti Das
Gandhi’s vision of Alternative Civilization framework for a Non-violent and Peaceful Society
Life and contributions of Joseph Jean Lanza del Vasto (1901-1981) and his search for Alternatives
Pilgrimage to India and meeting with Gandhi and three months stay at Wardha in 1937 and its consequences for his life and times
Community of Ark as creative expression of alternative living and its initiatives and involvements in various Non-violent Struggles
Common Grounds in the Thoughts and Actions of Gandhi and Shanti Das

Concurrent Sessions:
1. Conceptualizing Gandhian Economy in the face of liberalized /globalised world
Challenges of Globalised Economy - Marginalization of deprived sections of society, growing inequality-widening gap between the rich and poor, growing unemployment and jobless growth, over-exploitation of natural resources both renewable and non-renewable, Impact on eco-system and environment
Key Ingredients of Gandhian Economy - Need based not greed based Economy, Decentralized production and distribution, Appropriate technology, Trusteeship and Bread Labour

2. Ensuring Livelihood / Food Security in a Sustainable Way
Reviving traditional and indigenous means of livelihood through local/rural resource based small scale/village industries using appropriate technology
Promoting organic indigenous agricultural practices to popularize traditional pest resistant seeds and its preservation through farmers, organic manure, local water shed management system to check the onslaught of highly mechanized, genetically modified, MNC controlled seeds, fertilizers and pest-control methods under highly commercialized industrial agriculture system
An appropriate service sector conducive to traditional means of livelihood
Ensuring food security to all including landless and marginalized sections through appropriate and equitable agrarian system
3. Towards a Violence /War free world
The growing violence in all walks of life
The imminent threat of Third World War from weapons of mass destruction mainly of nuclear weapons
Gradual Disarmament with focus on all kinds of weaponry systems of mass destruction
Demilitarization of War zones
Combating terrorism through non-violent means
Building up of a Non-violent/ Peaceful World Order- Think Globally and Act locally – Combining global vision with local initiatives

Workshop on mobilizing popular opinions and international movements for a Non-violent Economy and Peaceful World with more representative character in UN system and other international institutions/organizations

Organisation:
Sevagram International Conference on Non-violent Economy and Peaceful world will be jointly organised by Gandhi International (France) and the Institute of Gandhian Studies, Wardha (India)

In Asia: The Asian secretariat of the Conference, represented by the Institute of Gandhian Studies in Wardha, in collaboration with individuals representing organisations and movements engaged in non-violent action and constructive work would coordinate the Asian participants of conference. The Asian secretariat, especially the Institute, will monitor the academic content of the proposed Conference in consultation with Gandhi International.

Asian participants:
Asian participants interested in the event may directly write to the Conference Secretariat for participation in the Conference.

The Asian Secretariat, Sevagram International Conference on Non-violent Economy and Peaceful world C/o Institute of Gandhian Studies, Gopuri, Wardha-442 001, Maharashtra, (India)

Email : mahatma_wda@bsnl.in
        igsgvp@yahoo.com

Telefax: +91 (0) 7152-240315
Web: www.gvpwardha.in

For the rest of the World:
Gandhi International would coordinate the activities in the rest of the world. It carries out, promotes and informs all people interested in the event. It also coordinates transportation and journeys to India for those who want to participate in it other than Asian participants. The interested participants may contact the coordinator in the following address:

Christophe Grigri
Coordinator, International Secretariat
Sevagram International Conference on Non-violent Economy and Peaceful world
C/o Gandhi International, France
E-mail: christophe@gandhiinternational.org

Web: www.gandhiinternational.org
Online registration for participants and speakers from non-Asian countries:
https://www.inscription-facile.com/login/1491209853
Papers:
We welcome papers falling under the broad themes of the Conference. Papers may be preferably prepared in English with the Microsoft Word format. A CD of the paper along with a hard copy also may be sent. Participants are also encouraged to send one of the copies by e-mail as attached file. The papers may not exceed 8000 words. The selected papers will be circulated among the participants. Papers may be sent to Dr. Siby K. Joseph, Dean of the Institute of Gandhian Studies, Wardha by June 2017. Those who are preparing papers in French, Spanish and other languages should also submit a translation of the same in English. Working languages of the Conference will be French and English.

Conference:
The Conference will take place for 3 days from 27-29 October 2017. You can plan your journey to India for the Conference days and after conference events. The weather in October - November is moderate and pleasant.

Programme at a Glance:

Pre-Conference:
26th October:
Arrival of delegates and logistic arrangements
Briefing about the Sevagram Conference and
Screening of a movie on Shanti Das

Conference:
27th October- Venue: Sevagram Ashram
Morning: Inaugural Session

Afternoon: Plenary Session
Theme: Meeting of two Great Minds: Gandhi and Shanti Das

28th October- Venue: Institute of Gandhian Studies, Wardha
Concurrent Sessions
Session 1: Conceptualizing Gandhian Economy in the face of liberalized /globalised world
Session 2: Ensuring livelihood / Food Security in a Sustainable way
Session 3: Towards a Violence/ War free World

29th October- Venue: Centre of Science for Villages, Wardha
Morning: Reporting of the Concurrent Sessions and Workshop

Afternoon: Valedictory Session and Sevagram Declaration of World Charter on Non-violent Economy, Sustainability and Violence free World

Post Conference events:

Field visits to Gandhian projects and Communities:
30th October: Visit to CSV – Paunar Ashram of Vinoba Bhave - Eco-village

31st October
Morning: Peace March from Institute to Gandhi Chowk–Visit to Laxmi Narayan Mandir
Return to IGS

Afternoon: Wardha Visit including Magan Sangrahalaya - where Shanti Das planted a tree
Planting of a new tree in the premises in memory of Shanti Das.
1st November:
Morning: Visit to the Seminaries and Holy Mass
Afternoon: Visit to Buddhist Stupa and Gitai Mandir and exhibitions on Jamnalal Bajaj and Vinoba Bhave

2nd November: Visit to Anandwan, Warora established by Baba Amte

3rd November: Celebration Day: Cultural and Musical programmes

4th November: Free

5th November: Departure

**Venue:**
The Congress will take place in Sevagram and Wardha in central India. It can be reached by train from several destinations. The nearest airport is Nagpur, which is located at around 75 kilometres from Wardha. The Congress will be inaugurated on the 27th October at the Sevagram Ashram where Gandhi lived and worked for many years. The rest of the sessions will be held at the Institute of Gandhian Studies and the Centre of Science for Villages both at Wardha.

**Food and Accommodation:**
Participants will be provided board and lodging at different institutions in Wardha. Vegetarian food will be provided to all the participants. Local transport to the Conference venue and back also will be arranged.

**Participants:**
Number of participants has been limited to 125 out of which approximately 75 persons will be from America, Africa, Europe and Middle East. The rest 50 persons will be from Asian countries.

**Cost:**
Individual participants and organisations are expected to meet the cost of travel and local journey from their own sources.
Those who wish to participate in the conference should register their name with the coordinator in the prescribed registration form along with the payment.

**Registration fee for Conference and other programmes:**
Registration fee for participants from Asia for the Conference is a token solidarity amount of Rs.1000. It may be deposited at the time of arrival in cash other than Indian participants. The Indian participants are expected to make the payment in advance. The cost of post Conference events will be charged separately from the participants and it may be around Rs.40,000 per person for the whole period in the case of participants from Asia.
Registration fees for participants from the rest of the world are:
- 480€ for the 4-days conference + 70€ per each additional day
- 100 to 200€ of optional solidarity contribution to facilitate the participation of people from developing countries.
The fees might be reduced on request depending on the country of residence of a very limited number of participants.