

PLEASE HOLD THESE EVENTS IN THE LIGHT

JULY 2002

July 6
Saturday

International Day of Co-operatives

<http://www.wisc.edu/uwcc/icc/orgs/copac/member/un/int-day/what-is.html>
<http://www.intuition-in-service.org/unitednations/specialdays/july.html#coop>

A day to celebrate the vital role played by the co-operative movement in the evolution of a new economics of sharing. On the first Saturday of July in 1895 the International Co-operative Alliance was formed. Today the Alliance is an umbrella group of organizations representing 760 million members of co-operatives in 100 countries.

Verily, cooperation opens all possibilities, but one needs the understanding of what this cooperation comprises. Often people relegate it to the province of certain state matters whereas cooperation is the condition of the entire life. Precisely, even in each small mutual assistance is comprised cooperation which has a cosmic significance. Each glance, each handshake, each thought is a sign of cooperation, if consciously utilized. How valuable it is for people to feel that they are constantly generating consequences! Like titans, they shake the world.

Heart, 204

July 11
Thursday

World Population Day

www.unfpa.org/modules/wpd02/index.htm
<http://www.intuition-in-service.org/unitednations/specialdays/july.html#pop>

A day to focus on work being done by servers around the world to reduce alarming rates of population growth in developing countries. It has long been recognised that efforts to improve the quality of life for all people require a reduction in the rate of population growth. Smaller families help to combat poverty, ill-health and illiteracy and secure lasting economic well-being

This years' theme, **women and action against poverty: empower, protect, educate**, affirms the vital role played by women in the development of healthy societies.

Reproductive health is central to women's life opportunities and choices. Smaller and healthier families, fewer sexually transmitted infections and safer childbirth are major benefits. Yet **poverty prevents many women from seeking care**. More than 350 million

women do not have access to a choice of safe and affordable contraceptive methods. **Reproductive health saves lives** some 500,000 women die each year from mostly preventable causes related to pregnancy and perhaps 15 times as many suffer injury or infection.

Everything we have learned shows that when women are empowered—through laws that ensure their rights, health care that ensures their well-being and education that ensures their active participation—the benefits go far beyond the individual, they help the family, the community and the nation. While we work to close the poverty gap we must also close the gender gap.

Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director, UNFPA

**July 26 & 28
Friday & Sunday**

Sunrise of Compassion – International Year of Mountains
<http://www.sunriseofcompassion.com>

The first Sunrise of Compassion event was held last year with an all-night event on Japan's Mt Fuji. Hundreds of people gathered on the mountain to celebrate the spirit of compassion. At sunrise they joined in a meditation for world peace and compassion.

This year two events will be held – both dedicated to the International Year of Mountains. On July 26th:

“The head abbot of Japan's famous "Tenkawa Shrine" will conduct a traditional Shinto style fire ceremony for the respect of Mt. Fuji and the blessing and success of IYM 2002 Global Event activities. The night will be filled with guest speakers, musicians, dance and song. At the moment of sunrise, we hold hands in prayer and our thoughts will be completely united, as one strong energy of altruistic compassion, which we will send out to the world. Our prayer will be synchronized with thousands of other people in a global prayer for peace.”

On July 28th the Sunrise of Compassion gathering on Mount Fuji will be televised and broadcast world-wide as part of a global telecast by United Earth Networks celebrating International Year of Mountains. **“Footage from the Mt. Fuji gathering will be combined with several other international concerts, to make up the global TV special. The television, radio and Internet program is expected to reach hundreds of millions of viewers around the world, and will be broadcast via satellite to over 100 countries.”**

**THE GLOBAL TELECAST PLANS TO INCLUDE A VIDEO OF THE WORLD PRAYER,
THE GREAT INVOCATION.**

**COMING UP : WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – 26 August – 4
September – Johannesburg <http://www.johannesburgsummit.org>**

**IN 2002 THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS OBSERVING TWO THEMES OF DEEP SIGNIFICANCE
TO ALL – BUT OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO THOSE WHO VALUE SUBJECTIVE WORK:**

International Year of Mountains

International Year of Ecotourism

2002 is also being observed as United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage

Remember these important International Decades:

1993-2003 Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

1994-2004 International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

1995-2006 UN Decade for Human Rights Education

1997-2006 UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

2001-2010 International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World

2003-2012 United Nations Literacy Decade: Education for All

Suggested Meditations in support of UN Days and UN International Years are available on the web at: www.unmeditation.org

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