

**Minutes of the 17th Annual Meeting of the Auroville International Association,
held in Ben Lomond, USA, California.**

18 - 24 July 2002

Theme of the meeting: THE INTERNATIONAL ZONE

Present:

Members of AVI Centers and Liaisons:

Argentina: Anandi Fernandez;

Canada: AuroMira Parks, Andrew Rattee;

France: Alain Grandcolas;

Germany: Wolfgang Schmidt-Reinecke, Friederike Werner;

Netherlands: Martin Schreurs;

Sweden: Eveline Preibsch;

UK: Martin Littlewood, Sonia Dyne;

USA: Bill Leon, Chandresh Patel, Julian Lines, June Maher, Megan Thomas, Nilauro Markus, Roger Toll;

Aurovilians: Bhavana, Guy, Helmut, Ila, Jill, Joan, Peter A., Sukrit, Tekeste, Tine, Renu;

Participants from the Sri Aurobindo Ashram: Dr. Ananda Reddy;

Other participants:

Aham Brack, Amrit Inamdar, Amrita Banerji, Andrea van de Loo, Andy Brooks, Aurelia Walton, B Sullivan, Bankim Kalra, Bill Lathrop, Bryan Walton, Charles Flores, Constance, Deborah Lawlor, Dietra, Dr. Ananda Reddy, Ed Giordano, Elenna Rubin Goodman, Ethan, Markus-Brooks, Fanou Walton, Gentiane Brack, Hashi Grandcolas, Hiranya, Ida Cory, Isa Prieto, Jack Alexander, Jarod Markus-Brooks, Jean Johnson, Jessica, John Robert Cornell, Jonathan Breslow, Kalpana Patel, Karen Cornell, Kundan Singh, Luise Hansen, Manjou Bonke, Mary Alexander, Michael Bonke, Mindy Toth, Molly Kurtz, Odette Brack, Paco Prieto, Paula Murphy, Puja Markus-Brooks, Richard Lipschutz, Ree Brennin, Roshan Prieto, Sally Walton, Sami Sunchild, Sampat Sajjan, Savitra, Scott Leonard, Soleil Lithman, Soonja Kim, Sunny Lithman, Taranti, Zackaria Moursi;

Friday July 19th, 2002

Welcome !

On behalf of AVI-USA I would like to welcome you to the Auroville International 2002 Conference at the Sequoia Seminar Center of Ben Lomond, CA. It is most fitting that we gather in such a spot. We have the big trees to inspire big ideas. We have Mother Nature all around us to inspire our integral spirits and remind us of our inter- and inner-connections to each other, to Auroville, and to the work of Sri Aurobindo and Mother. We have each other. And we have the Divine Spirit to work through us.

We will naturally discuss many aspects of the ongoing work of Auroville, the AVI's and each other. The theme for this conference is "The International Zone," and that topic will get special attention. In a real way, this gathering is a "Temporary International Zone," a living community of Aurovilians by birth, relocation, or inspiration. Our hope is that we can practice for a week our highest ideals of cooperation and co-creation as we explore inner and outer realms of the integral yoga and its manifestation in us and in Auroville.

We have planned many opportunities for you to gather with friends, make new ones, create, collaborate, network, become more involved, share your stories, learn from others, rejuvenate, and get inspired. We have made many efforts to accommodate the diversity of interests, goals, and needs of the many participants. Please do not hesitate to ask if you need some special assistance or want to offer your help in any way. We encourage your input throughout the conference - participate in the sessions, volunteer, listen, and make good use of our time. This is our meeting, our community, and our opportunity to make a contribution to Auroville. Your participation is what will make this meeting a success.

We could make a lot of requests for specific understandings, behaviors, and restraints, but we all know that if we meet in Their Light, it will come out right. When I was in Auroville last February and working in the International Zone at the USA Pavilion site, a friend brought a quote by Mother that he had seen that day. It has proved very useful to me as a daily reminder of the ease and joy of the sunlit path. Maybe it can inspire us at this time.

Be simple.
Be happy.
Remain Quiet.
Do your work as well as you can.
Remain open to me.
This is all I ask of you.

- The Mother

May your brief stay in this community that she has initiated be joyful and meaningful in all ways and may we bask in the light of the Divine together here and wherever we journey afterwards.

With love from all of us at AVI-USA,

Bill Leon

President,
Auroville International USA

Programme:

Thursday evening, July 17,

Happy potluck dinner in some friend's house with everybody who had already arrived.

Friday, July 18

All day: The AVI Board meets at the Sequoia Seminar Center.

Evening: Dr. Ananda Reddy addresses the assembly on the theme of the International Zone:
What role does the World have in the life of Auroville ? How do Aurovilians and those
outside form one community ? Please check the following link:

http://www.aviusa.org/avi2002_main.html, and the actual article is at:

http://www.aviusa.org/avi2002_fri_keynote.pdf,

Saturday, July 19

Facilitators: Julian Lines and Bill Leon

Morning: Welcome, announcements, orientation for the day.

Beautifully prepared slide show of Chandresh and Vishnu with music as introduction.
Introduction of participants.

Guy's slide show of a brand-new 15 min land fund video made by Steve (Cynergy), with
good recent photos and text, which can be used for intros on Auroville and other purposes as
well, followed by a PowerPoint presentation on the status of the land situation in Auroville,
and discussions. Afterwards, Guy showed a 5-min. very recent DVD-video (made 12th of
June by Aurofilm), where Dr. Kireet Joshi talks about the land fund situation in Auroville

Afternoon: Bhavana gave a presentation on her work with the Auroville Village Action
Group, underlining the on-going difficulty of integrating Auroville and the villages.

Michael Bonke brought everyone up to date on progress at Matrimandir, a fascinating
report with slides.

Evening: Wolfgang introduces "Influence of Integral Yoga on Western Thought" and compared Ken Wilber and other philosophers with Sri Aurobindo. A lively discussion followed. Please see the article on http://www.aviusa.org/avi2002_main.html

To conclude the day, the participants enjoyed a dance party with live music.

Sunday, July 20 The International Zone

Facilitator: Megan Thomas;

After announcements and orientation, we embarked on an alphabetical report on the status of the international pavilions from the attendees.

Africa

Report by Tekeste

Africa has played a big role in supporting the idea of Auroville in '69. Haile Selassie put it in writing. There is powerful potential. Tekeste showed a film made in Ethiopia. Mother endorsed Tekeste to be the African representative in Auroville. Information on the planned Africa House in the International Zone.

Argentina by Anandi

Stressed the difficulties in the work because Argentina belongs to the category of an undeveloped country. Reports on the present financial crisis. We are working on a book: "The Wisdom of Sri Aurobindo" in Spanish. Anandi gave talks on TV and has some articles to show from New Age magazines. In '94 the Argentineans got some workshops together for the Pavilion to have a full continental Pavilion since the countries in South America have so many things in common. If only put buildings will be put in the IZ, then first world countries will have them only.

Canada by Andrew

AVI Canada in Quebec has been in existence for 30 years. In Ontario and the rest of Canada, we are in a search to find our national identity. France and England, our original influence is now influenced by an international influx. One of the main ideas for the Pavilion is to build a hockey rink. We don't want an Americas Pavilion, but our own.

France by Alain

No one has taken responsibility for the Pavilion in France, but rather in Auroville. I summarize a report from Serge and Claude. We laid the first foundation stone by an industrialist; the French ambassador lay the 2nd stone two years later. The idea of the French is now to build up a European space. We hope to build up a French corner with a library and video center. We have an office in Aurelec with a computer and plan to organize cultural programs, student exchanges and showing of films and television. The study of the French soul is not yet part of the program.

Germany by Wolfgang and Friederike

At least 16 people for ten years have done in-depth research of the question “what is our German soul”. We have the advantage of Sri Aurobindo's comments on the soul of Germany and have benefited from the talks of Ananda Reddy in the past two years. Philosophy/idealism and music on the one hand and engineering/perfection-in-matter-spirit on the other are part of our heritage. So the pavilion should express both qualities. As the combining theme and element "water" came to us in a meditation. So the concrete first pavilion plans which are laid down in a brochure and can be found on the AVI Germany website have an artistic, esthetic water concept as their focus and a water institute as their initial building stage. On August 15, 2001 we had an inauguration of our site and a reception in Auroville.

India by Bankim

Bharat Nivas will be shifting offices out creating new spaces. Permanent exhibitions on India were suggested. Asia Urbs created a new look in the Bharat Nivas campus. Auroville is not very well known in India. I personally feel that the group should reach out in India and have more activities. We can learn from the mistakes and successes of Bharat Nivas. It has been under construction and functioning for longer than the Matrimandir.

Netherlands by Martin

I can be very short because nothing much is happening yet, but discussions are just starting. In last October we had a meeting about what to do, but we have not approached the general public. The strong feeling was that we might not want a Dutch Pavilion per se, but cooperate, for instance, with the Belgians. (An objection from Guy drew laughter from the group).

Russia by Michael

On February 21st the inauguration of the Russian Pavilion took place. For the first time an official statement by the Russian ambassador gave support for Auroville and the Pavilion. On the physical level, not so much is happening right now, but funds are available from Dimitri von Morenschildt who died last month at the age of 100. We are now seeking counterparts in Russia to work with the Russians in Auroville. We have no plans or architects yet, but that is the step before us now.

Spain by Tine for Alfonso

Alfonso has published a book "In Search of the Soul of Spain" which is extraordinary and very much worth reading. The work on the Pavilion in physical has not yet begun.

Sweden by Eveline

The Swedish center is very small. The Pavilion is not an issue that moves me very much. When we had the AVI meeting in Sweden, we tried to explore the national soul, which is very hard to do in a global community. I am listening and waiting for inspiration. What I like is the Unity Pavilion.

Tibet by Julian

The Tibetan Pavilion is an inspiration to us all. Through the dedicated efforts of Claude Arpi, it is nearly completed. When the US and Russia had a meeting on cooperating on a well in the International Zone, they met in the Pavilion of Tibetan Culture. It is the only Pavilion, which had its cornerstone, laid by the head of state, H.H. the Dalai Lama. Tibet is the only government, which solves its most difficult problems by consulting an oracle. We have much to learn from their spiritual science. Unfortunately, the construction has stopped for lack of funds. Can't we network to find the \$30,000 needed to complete it? Joan and Jill commented on the contribution of the visiting doctor and the atmosphere of the New Year thousand light mandala.

UK by Martin

Two prongs are happening, some in the UK and some in Auroville. We only just started in the UK and have put it on our agenda. There are some people who don't agree we need a Pavilion. We benefited from Ananda Reddy giving us a talk. Anne Gilbert has created a brochure and made contacts with the British consulate.

US by Bill and Jill

We believe we are following Mother's intention by creating a national pavilion. We are looking at activities and functions more than form. Looking in the "Agenda", we read Mother's characterization of our national soul and its dynamic youthful quality of action. This is what we wanted for the buildings and the activities. So the student guesthouse "the little wide eyed open quality" could be manifest in the building itself. The building could be used as artist groups and economic development groups, for exchange and community rather than a museum. We brought an architect and an applied environmental scientist to AV in 2001 and brought forty students in 2002 to create a building. It is not JUST for USA students, but also for anyone who wants to come.

Unity Pavilion by Jill

A video has just been completed which will explain more. The Unity Pavilion will be open to all AVI people to gather and meet and have an office when they come to Auroville. How can we imaginatively share and celebrate what we have in common i.e.: snow around the world? We could have international studies on World Peace and Human Unity. Russia and USA made donations for the Unity Pavilion.

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We then had a panel discussion on the International Zone with Helmut, Jill, Tekeste, Peter and Ananda.

Presentation by Helmut - living area - cite universitaire. Biggest group are those who want to participate, but don't know how. Emphasis on centers, Agora, Town Square, reflected in "university campus" model discussed by the Americans.

Jill mentioned we have four zones, plus Peace Area and Green Belt. Each country has to go through a process in IZ group and the Development Council.

Peter, in quest of the order of the International Zone: How can we implement the free grouping of nations Sri Aurobindo mentions? Galaxy is valid in putting out deeper cosmological structures, an energy field.

Action points:

Compilation of Sri Aurobindo's writing on international zone.

Figure out what is relevant to Auroville today

Nation soul based on past or future?

Sunday afternoon

Discussion in small groups:

How do AVIs participate and what are their roles in the evolution and decision making in the international zone.

How to include all players?

How do we best manage the development of the international zone with close communication and collaboration with Auroville and other actors?

a. build on successes

b. look at problems

Mechanisms

After a half hour discussion we returned with the following reports and suggestions:

#1 Taranti

Create a phone center for international communications

Fund delegates to meet face to face

Bring trainings to Auroville

#2 Paula

We had the sense that the time is NOW to move forward on the International Zone.

Presence and commitment present makes a difference -i.e. Claude and Tibetan Pavilion

Strong presence outside can also have an influence as with Germany.

Working with AV yields new result: US Student Guest House

Opportunity for Growth

Grow out of your national karma

Lack of diversity of cultural groups: Jews and Arabs

Aurovilians must have final say !?!?

Expanding IZ group to include AVIs and villagers

#3 Andrew

US group and how it worked - saw it through from start to finish

Co-builders - US Model on international scale
Bring national vision to Auroville, go to Auroville face to face

#4 Renu
Designed together
Collaboration with Ashram through Bharat Nivas

#5 Roger
Simplify, right job for right group
AV Rep key to feeding back and forth between the country and its Auroville counterparts;
Invite ashram participation and hold seminars on Sri Aurobindo's and Mother's insights.

#6 Molly
Momentum
Development group working together
Tamil housing a need

#7 Guy
Decision-making process a focus
- AVI Centers
- AV National group

Need a close collaboration, illustrated by a flow chart.

Current decision-making process
PLUS
IZ group's new orientation with their consent

* * *

Our next session was an overview of the impact of water reported on by Jill. Admitting her "amateur" status, Jill was drawn to the issue from her experience in moving the American Pavilion project forward and trying to resolve best strategy for getting water to the building site and supplying it in the future.

It is a very wide subject touching many areas. The current Water Service has been dissolved, creating a difficult situation. She cited a few responses to her questionnaire and essays on water including an early interview with Roger and some health and the suggestion to form an Advisory Board. The well at the visitor's center may also help serve the International Zone.

Ed responded with a number of insights based on his earlier understanding of the dynamics of the Auroville water table. He suggested we should put a well on the other side of the IZ. It is one of the richest areas for water.

As a delightful bonus to our day, we saw excellent videos on the Unity Pavilion and one from the students from the University of Washington who worked on the US student dorm. This video has a bonus ending which has to be seen.

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We then had some dynamic programming, breaking off into a number of various subject groups including more on water and a discussion of the nation-soul.

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Our evening session consisted of Savitra's songs from the early years. He invoked the special feelings of the early days and his relationship with the children. His songs were evocative and well received.

Paula followed with a lovely collection of stories about a journey to Tibet combining both stories read from a diary and recited from memory.

The talent show continued with essays and poetry from Amrit Imandar, who served as a secretary to Rabindranath Tagore and told stories about the relationship between Sri Aurobindo and Tagore. He also read from his original poems.

Chandresh followed with a few of his original poems, some of which have been previously published on the internet.

The very long and wonderful day ended with a capella rendition of an original song by Taranti, a personal antiwar song about a young friend who was sent to war at age eleven and died, dedicated to the mothers of Iran and Iraq.

Monday, July 22nd Excursion Day

Morning: Megan Thomas facilitated a Consensus Decision Making Workshop. Unresolved topics, which were discussed on Saturday and Sunday, were again being looked at and used as material for this workshop.

The assembly broke into different groups for the excursion.

One group visited the Monterey Bay Aquarium with its unique marine and coastal habitats, followed by a walk into the gigantic redwood forest.

The second group heeded straight into the Henry Cowell National Redwoods Park for a long walk. After 3 pm, the groups drove to Santa Cruz to the beach.

Evening programme:

A native Indian shared songs and native Indian music with us. The programme reads: We have just spent all day exploring the land, which has been home to the Ohlone Indians for

over 10,000 years. Ohlone Elder Patrick Orozco joins us to share the story of his people and their culture.

Amrita Banerji continued the evening with chants and devotional music from India.

Tuesday, 23rd The work of Auroville International

Facilitator: Bill Leon

Amrita started the day with singing bhajans together. She was leading with her beautiful voice and playing the harmonium.

AVI Board report

Following are the AVI board members. In France 2003 new elections will be held.

- 1 Chair: Wolfgang (AVI Germany)
- 2 Vice Chair: Julian (AVI USA)
- 3 Secretary: Martin Littlewood (AVI UK)
- 4 Treasurer: Alain (Auroville and AVI France)
- 5 International Secretary: Tine (Auroville)

other members:

- 6 Alfonso (AVI Spain)
- 7 Sonia Dyne (AVI UK)
- 8 Chandresh Patel (AVI USA)
- 9 Eveline (AVI Sweden)
- 10 Friederike (AVI Germany)
- 11 Harrie de Koning (AVI NL)

Coopted members:

- 12 Bill Leon (AVI USA)
- 13 Satyakam (AVI France)

Honorary members

Mia (AVI Netherlands) and Mauna (Auroville) remain AVI board members emeritus and are invited to join our meeting whenever possible.

1. Finances by Alain:

There are 8 centers and 12 liaisons.

The centers and liaisons are each contributing according to their size. It was wished that some contribution, not necessarily money, has to come annually from the liaisons in order to link the energy in whatever form with our AVI work.

Amrit Imandar announced a donation of \$1000 for next year's AVI meeting in Auroville.

Auroville is covering most of the expenses for our Auroville secretary Tine in giving her a maintenance and covering approx. half of AVI's monthly office expenses.

Following decisions were endorsed by the general assembly:

- ?? 500 Euros to Tine to help her with the establishment of her telephone line to Aurogreen for a term of office of three years. In case she should step back from her office after only one year she should reimburse 300 Euros.
- ?? AVI wants to open an International Zone account, which would help the IZ group to cover the running expenses of IZ group work and agreed to donate an amount of 300 Euros for that purpose.
- ?? To Auroville Today, an amount of Rs. 6000 was given for the yearly expenses to mail AV Today monthly to the AVI centers around the world.

2. Report on the on-going application for NGO-status at the UN by Wolfgang

The first application has been rejected because we have not sufficiently propagated in our work the idea of the UN. Before applying again we have to include the UN in our work. Bill has accepted to collect information from UN papers and hand out a concise version to Auroville and AVIs that they could include in their newsletters, websites and such. Ananda offered to establish a contact with a high-ranking Indian UN official. Bhavana brought up the idea of creating "sister cities" with the Tamil villages in and around Auroville. Bhavana stressed that it would have nothing directly to do with money but with linking people. Donations will still go into the Micro Project Fund and be distributed according to need as seen by VAG. Details are still to be worked out.

3. Wolfgang reported about AVI-liaison Russia that Dimitry has officially resigned and that he will write him a letter to state the acceptance of his resignation and thank him for his past work.

4. Meeting Place 2003:

The recommendation was given by the General Assembly to hold a meeting in January / February in Auroville for concentrated International Zone matters and a summer meeting in France for more internal AVI affairs.

Note: The AVI meeting in Auroville is now fixed for February 1 – 4, 2003, to be held in Verite. The AVI meeting in France will be June 10 – 14, 2003, near Paris. For further information, please email <avi@auroville.org.in>

5. Extended International Zone Group Proposal:

After lengthy discussion, the General Assembly came to consensus to present the following document on the Extended International Zone Group. The document in its entirety is copied here and will be discussed in the IZ in Auroville :

Extended International Zone Group Proposal

There is a clear need for active and equal participation of the Pavilion Groups of the AVI centers in the planning and development of the International Zone.

Since the International Zone, as envisaged by The Mother, is a zone for direct interaction between Auroville and the world, a close participation of all groups involved in the realization of the International Zone is essential to progressively manifest Auroville's ideal of an actual human unity.

Several AVI centers expressed during the AVI 2002 meeting the wish to improve the lines of communication and decision-making between the Pavilion Groups of the AVI centers and the Pavilion Groups in Auroville, including the Unity Pavilion Group, and the International Zone Group.

In this context, the AVI 2002 General Assembly decided, by consensus, to submit the following proposal to the present International Zone Group: to extend this group with the following additional participants:

1. A representative of each Pavilion Group of the AVI centers.
2. A representative(s) of Bharatipuram, which is located in the International Zone.
3. Whenever required, a representative of an ad-hoc committee of consultants.

This Extended International Zone Group should be seen as a constructive, enabling force, which wants to actively support and participate in the development of the International Zone.

In order to achieve this objective, it was felt that there should be one yearly face-to-face meeting, including one in Auroville every 2 years.

We propose a trial period of six months extended to one year after review by the Extended International Zone Group.

Recommendations:

- ?? Term of office for the members of the Extended International Zone Group: a period of 3 years with the possibility for reselection.

- ?? Enhance access to information and improve communication on the International Zone within and without Auroville.
- ?? If the need is felt by the Extended International Zone Group, a core group could be created composed of a selection of members of the Extended International Zone Group.
- ?? Encourage the participation of under-represented continents in Auroville such as Africa, Asia, Central and South America as well as aboriginal cultures.
- ?? Encourage all new Pavilion Groups either in Auroville or in their native country to form partner groups. The Extended International Zone Group will offer assistance to such endeavors.

Tasks:

- ?? Ananda Reddy has offered to facilitate the compilation of a document from the writings of Mother and Sri Aurobindo on the nation soul before Feb 21, 2003. This information will be disseminated to the AV community.
- ?? Help resolve the issue of water in the International Zone as one of the first priorities in terms of infrastructure development.
- ?? Consolidate the remaining land in the International Zone by purchasing the remaining 5 acres at an estimated cost of \$25,000.
- ?? Establish the Extended International Zone Group office in the Tibetan Pavilion and, with the support from the AVI Centers, provide a regular monthly budget for the office.
- ?? Include the value of the land and the maintenance cost of the pavilions in the budget of the future pavilions.
- ?? As per the request of the Argentina Liaison Office, find representatives for South America in Auroville.
- ?? Invite and encourage participation from the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in the activities of the Bharat Nivas Pavilion.

6. AVI Center's Report.

AVI Canada: Quebec antenna report for the year 2002

Dear friends and members of AVI,

We regret the Quebec antenna is absent for your gathering but we accompany you in our thoughts. I personally went 3 times in California and really enjoyed it, it's a great place and in that yoga's family I really miss my American's friends.

In Canada, this year has seen the launch of our first official internal division with the province of Ontario and we hope it's the beginning of a wider participation from English Canada.

We succeeded to print 2 bulletins for our friends and members with a publication of 150 copies each. Our membership is under 20 members and our financial situation is always precarious. We sold 50 Auroville's calendars and musical CD's by Aurovillian artist Joy. Two artists from Montreal gave an artwork to support Art for Land.

Two of our members plus two members of the board, including myself enjoyed a first stay in Auroville last winter. It has been the occasion for meeting some good folks there and develop a more realistic approach about the work for Auroville. We thank the Foundation for World Education for a grant that enabled Suzane Langlois to give art workshops in Auroville schools.

We also attended some meetings including those for the International Zone and we held a first "historical" meeting with the Canadians living in AV. This step comes within our effort to find some light and cue to make the Canadian Pavilion's progress. About that topic we renew our intention to be part of it and you must understand that our effort is only limited by the human resources available: our board, as many of you, is made of volunteer work and comes after the responsibility of our families and jobs. We are rich in ideas and projects but our actual priority is still limited to maintain the Canadian lighthouse open and relay information about AV. For the future I would like to hear more from Canadians_ from governments, cultural and financials levels_ about a participation in AV's ideal. A lot has to be done and patience is the mother of virtue.

Some members of our board completed their first 2-year mandate and are willing to renew it.

We will hold our annual meeting in August, followed by an open evening for visitors to see some videos from our visit to AV.

We maintain our interest in hosting an AVI meeting for the coming year.

We wish you a great and constructive gathering.

Claude Daviault,
President AVI Canada and on behalf of Quebec's Antenna

July 2002

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2001-2002 AVI annual report from Canada-Ontario

Presented by Andrew and AuroMira.

1. December Fair in Toronto. Sales of AV products
2. Legal registration of AVI-CO
3. May conference with Janet Fearn and Marta Mendez as speakers.
4. Future projects: file in papers for our non-profit number.

5. Donations: approx. 500 \$ CDN to schools in AV (Andre's project)
6. Sent cleaning product (vacuum cleaner) to the Matrimandir for the carpet.

Love,

Catherine

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Report of AVI Germany 2001 – 2002

presented by Wolfgang and Friederike

Active German Pavilion Group. 15- 8-2001 was the date of the consecration ceremony at the supposed site of the future German pavilion in IZ. A leaflet in English and German is just now being published about our pavilion concept and presently workshops with architects, artists and designers are going on (in Germany).

Grant appeal to German Ministry for Development improved and submitted.

Appeal in close cooperation with AVI Germany's sister charity VFAVR (Organization for the development of the AV region). More than one year we (AVI Germany and Karin from Village Action) were preparing, improving and correcting this "masterpiece". Budget around 150.000, - EUR

New press releases in regard to AV and Integral Yoga in Germany. One of these articles (from Wolfgang) is supposed to be published in Russia in winter 2002/2003.

German Civil Service in AV works well after some initial difficulties. Presently there are six jobs occupied.

Seed money for an "Integral Foundation", dealing also with Integral Yoga in Germany, is announced. Initiative by Wolfgang and others.

Introduction tours to AV by AVI Germany in 2001 and 2002. 2001 was the first tour destined mainly for parents with children. Since 2002 tours are organized in close cooperation with a German travel agency. Presently about 3-4 introduction tours to AV offered per year.

Development and enlargement of AVI Germany's website www.de.auroville-international.org

Exhibition dealing with AV / Asia Urbs prepared in Berlin. Together with UN office in Germany and the Indian Embassy in Berlin. First class exhibition space on the ground of the German Foreign Ministry. Exhibition scheduled for approx. September 2002.

Founding of a Sri Aurobindo (Auroville) Center in Berlin in June 2001. Since May 2002, AVI Germany is in charge of a flat, providing seminar and meditation space. Events like talks, video films, workshops, meditations offered by Aurovilians and “like-minded people.” Place for about 20 participants.

Membership and donation flow was decreasing last year. Why? Maybe because AV is growing and becomes more “official” (grants from EU etc). Maybe its projects are no more so “tangible” and transparent? Matrimandir, formerly a major recipient of donations, was decreasing a lot (probably due to unclear conditions). Land donations on the other hand were increasing.

Facts and figures. We have about 300 paying members/friends.
Budget 2001/02 was about 100.000, - EURO

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AVI SPAIN

ANNUAL REPORT 2001-2002

Presented by Tine

Dear friends,

It seems the desert arrives in AVI Spain and we need a very useful breath to go on. Between July 2001 and June 2002 not real movement is done in our center. Many external reasons can be explained, truth have no reasons but facts. Here comes a small report of our made, in a particular point of view.

In our meeting in autumn the members of a new board were elected but the direction line remains.

Two projects for Auroville haven't been accepted:

The first one was an additional project to the Model Town, but the Pamplona City Council doesn't accept it because they feel the Model Town is for Auroville and the Aurovilians and not for Tamil development.

The second one was for some financial minicredits for textile and milky coops, but the Government of Navarra doesn't accept it. We feel in one part many new NGOs are going on in a very professional way, but also because where there is money, many bugs come around to take a part. Also we feel much projects are accepted for Christian and South-American NGOs, but it seems a political decision.

For this year we haven't any project, because:

As you know Assumpta, one of our better contact for projects in Auroville, has left us. Also, Joseva and Anandi are involved in the work for Asian Urbs and they have no time or energy for send us any project as they did before, so...

The economy in AVI Spain touched down in the beginning of 2002, so all together, we resolve the finances with our own pocket and we are in a surviving situation. We would like to send to AVI treasury the same contribution we did last year, we hope we will do it.

In the winter-spring's meeting some ideas came out, but it wasn't enough energy to get a heat:

One of our members had a small contact with Federico Mayor Zaragoza with the possibility to be continued. The idea to ask him for help with the possibility to build the Spanish pavilion was abandoned.

It was proposed to ask the Embassy of India through the Secretary of Auroville, to send a letter to the Government of Navarra and Pamplona City Council to explain how useful are their donations for the development of Tamil people around Auroville. It maybe this summer, in the next trip of some members of AVI Spain to Auroville it will be discussed there.

One of our members wants to create an Auroville Spanish web, but he hasn't done it yet. And so on...

Fortunately we keep the web domain "auroville.net", and we transferred it to the AV web master

15th May, in the University of Lleida (near Barcelona) an Auroville audiovisual conference was done with our success. At the same time, at the same University, in the next floor an International Amnesty conference talking about Palestine was done.

A member of AVI Spain in collaboration with Centro Sri Aurobindo of Barcelona made the Catalanian language corrections for the second edition of the book one of SAVITRI. It was published last May.

A small article about Auroville for the magazine of Centro Sri Aurobindo Barcelona was sent. It will be published in July or August.

With pity and sorrow, nobody from AVI Spain will be able to come to the AVI meeting in California. Many of us will be present there with our aim and love, so keep us placed beside you and give us a new breath for a growth in the present situation.

Love, OM, Alfonso and all of AVI Spain

* * *

AUROVILLE INTERNATIONAL FRANCE 2001/2002

Presented by Alain

1. Local

Due to financial constraints, the shop/cum exhibition/cum meeting place has been closed last year in July and we have recently opened a new place which we share with another organization, “Amitié Franco-Indienne” (Indo-French Friendship), in which we have the exclusive use of an office cum exhibition and we share a wide meeting room with 100 chairs.

The cost of renting these premises is limited to 300 Euros, i.e. three times less.

Attendance is planned every Saturday.

2. Public functions

a. In April, we had a stand in the fair “Vivre et Travailler Autrement” (to live and work otherwise). It is the main fair with an ecological and holistic approach. We are rather happy with the various contacts. More than 50 people have joined our mailing list.

b. One full day in the “Maison de l’Inde”, a large guesthouse for students in the “Cité Universitaire” in which we find several other national pavilions. We had an exhibition cum sales of books/incense including a conference on Auroville by Croquette. More than 50 people attended.

3. Information on Auroville

Our website is more and more consulted and we receive an average of two e-mails per week from people asking some information.

We have about 800 names on our address book, 350 names of people interested and 80 people who have contributed 40 Euros to become a member of our association and receive our bulletin (once this year).

4. Organization

The French association is a legal charitable trust with 12 board members, out of which 4 members form the executive body:

- chairman: Croquette,
- vice-chairman: Dominique Darr,
- general secretary: Satyakam,
- treasurer: Jean-Pierre Fredet

The organization of the association is performed by a set of active members, which have each a specific responsibility to assume. Presently, 16 active members are listed.

5. Donations

Donations, as well as membership contributions, allow a tax deduction of 50% of the amount donated.

Donations to Auroville in 2001:

- land: 1750 Euros
- matrimandir: 800 Euros
- residence for education: 1600 Euros
- dental centre: 1600 Euros
- Darkali: 1250 Euros
- Danama: 600 Euros
- Wall for climbing: 850 Euros

TOTAL: 8450 Euros

AUROVILLE INTERNATIONAL The NETHERLANDS 2001-2002

Presented by Martin Schreurs

Content:

- News of the board.
- Survey of activities
- Other ongoing activities last year
- Financial review

News from the AVI-NL board

Current board members

- Jannet Klingenberg (chairman)
- Wim de Jong (secretary)
- Harrie de Koning (treasurer)
- Mia Berden
- Kamiel van Heeswijk (editor)
- Jan Lohman
- Nelli de Steur

This year the board met 8 times. Board members met also on other occasions.

Changes:

- ✍ In the membership of the association Auroville International Nederland, the subscription of the Dutch magazine Auroville International Nederland has been included starting from the calendar-year 2002.
- ✍ Jan Lohman has handed over the editorship of the Dutch AVI-NL magazine to the new board member Kamiel van Heeswijk; he has visited Auroville in the early days.

Jan stays active as translator of articles from English into Dutch and remains representative of the Aurofonds in the Netherlands.

~~✍~~ Mia Berden has handed over the treasurer ship to Harrie de Koning.

bankrelatie: Postbank reknr. 805707, Auroville Int Ned, Generaal Knooplaan 85, 5623 MV Eindhoven

secretariaat: Zuideinde 14b 2421 AH Nieuwkoop Tel. +31 (0)172 57 99 90 - e-mail:

avinl@wolmail.nl

Website: www.nl.auroville-international.org

* * *

AVI SWEDEN

Report 2001/2002

Presented by Eveline Preibsch

The last few years the activity of the Swedish center has mainly been focused on keeping information available to people interested in knowing about Auroville and giving advice to people wanting to visit Auroville.

There are about 20 people in touch with the center as members or friends donating regularly to mainly Village Action Work.

The last years Staffan and Eveline have run the center.

In May we had a meeting in the South of Sweden with some people that have spent time in Auroville recently and are dedicated to the Aurovilian cause. And there was a good feeling of making it a "tradition" in the future to gather with the people in the South for a mutual sharing around Auroville. So that was a positive spark for our commitment to the AVI-work and will maybe find a few more who want to be part of the work.

Also the last year there has been an increase of people contacting us who want to visit Auroville.

The website will be improved with some more informational texts that have been translated into Swedish by the Swedish Aurovilians (Jaya and Felix).

As the center doesn't generate any money our participation at the AVI-meetings is paid with our personal money and this year Staffan has unfortunately not been able to come due to the expenses just to get to California. He sends his greetings to everyone.

* * *

Auroville International UK

Report for 2002

Presented by Martin Littlewood

Introduction to AVI UK

Membership

AVI UK invites anyone interested in its work, and in the work of Auroville, to become a member. There is a sliding scale of subscriptions, such that members can contribute according to their own wishes. For this contribution, members receive a bi-annual newsletter and an invitation to meetings. AVI UK also offers a special rate for the “Auroville Today” magazine along with its own membership.

Providing Information about Auroville

AVI UK provides information about Auroville and gives help and advice for those wishing to visit or to live there permanently. We provide assistance regarding guest facilities, working in the community, visas, and traveling arrangements, joining the community and about the work of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. We carry a range of information leaflets, brochures, and videos and can obtain detailed information on most projects and activities in Auroville. Members of AVI UK visit Auroville regularly and we try to have the latest information available.

AVI UK publishes a newsletter for its members twice a year, giving up to date information about various activities and projects in Auroville, particularly those that we are presently supporting. We also give information about activities in the UK, such as meetings and lectures. Members of AVI UK are often invited to give lectures by universities and organizations having similar interests.

Providing Assistance to Auroville and Aurovilians

AVI UK helps to provide a link between members of the community of Auroville and the UK. We are in close contact with Auroville by means of e-mail. We provide assistance with obtaining information and materials from the UK, liaising with UK organizations, on behalf of Auroville, and providing expertise where this is not available from within the community.

Meetings

AVI UK holds two general meetings held each year, and committee meetings approximately every two months. General meetings are announced in the newsletter and we invite anyone interested in Auroville to attend. Often at these events we have the chance to see the latest video from Auroville, or slides taken by one of our members during a recent visit. At these meetings we also invite any visiting Aurovilian to come and participate. In the last year, Alan, Tim, Joss and Anita have attended our meetings and given presentations on different aspects of Auroville.

Projects

AVI UK supports projects in the Auroville and the bioregion. Projects are implemented, in partnership with Auroville. Projects are supported in areas including Education, Environment, and Community Development.

Fund Raising

The organization applies for funds from funding agencies such as the EC, National Lotteries, DFID (British Government Funding) and private trusts, for work being carried out in the Auroville bioregion. Donations are also received from individuals and organizations, which are used to support a number of projects in Auroville. Being a registered charity gives us the benefit of being able to recover tax from donations made by UK taxpayers. Individuals may make donations designated for specific projects.

AVI UK supports New Creation School on a regular basis – through regular donations from individuals, ensuring continuity of funding.

Auroville International UK Committee Members:

Caroline Davies - Chairperson and Trustee

Forrest Corkery - Treasurer

Martin Littlewood – Secretary and Projects Coordinator.

Dick Batstone - Vice Chairman and Trustee

Shirishbhai Patel - Trustee

Sonia Dyne - Trustee

Pat Kaye - Trustee

David Widdicombe - Trustee

Angiras Auro

Aurama Auro

Michael Tait - Trustee (Auroville)

Auroville International UK News

Development Projects

Since June 1997, AVI UK has been working steadily to increase its involvement in supporting development projects in Auroville, and to seek funds from organizations such as the European Community and DFID (UK Government Funding). Martin Littlewood has been working part time for the organization writing projects in association with Auroville. Our retained consultant Greta Jensen, who has helped us prepare project applications to the EC, National Lotteries and DFID, has also assisted us. Projects are being developed in areas of Education, Environment, Tropical Forests, Communication and Community Development. Two projects are now in progress in Auroville funded by the EC: The Auroville Youth Education and Training Project and The Restoration of the Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest (TDEF) - Coromandel Coast, South India (See report below).

Gateway Project

Ulli, an Aurovilian, made a substantial private donation of company shares to Auroville via AVI UK, which have been sold, and the proceeds held by us for the benefit of projects in Auroville. The donor requested that the proceeds from their sale are to be used

for Education, Community Development and Communication projects in Auroville. These projects are nearing completion, with only one major project still remaining – that of the Multi-media Centre, adjacent to the Town Hall in Auroville.

Presentations

We made a presentation on Sri Aurobindo and Auroville at the annual Hindu Youth Festival in July last year, a week-long festival in London, aimed at young people. We had a table at the festival and displayed Auroville leaflets and brochures, and made a 10-minute PowerPoint presentation.

We have recently hosted Dr Ananda Reddy who gave lectures at four locations in the UK, with topics such as “All life is Yoga”, and “Human Unity from a Spiritual Perspective”. At one location, we also gave a slide presentation on Auroville. To follow this up, we intend to do a series of lectures at Sri Aurobindo centers in London and elsewhere in the UK. During Ananda Reddy’s recent talks we have managed to contact a number more people – mainly those connected with the various Sri Aurobindo centers in and around London. We intend to keep up and expand this contact.

Projects Supported by AVI UK

Auroville Youth Education and Training Project

This project is a joint venture between four schools in Auroville under the umbrella of AVAG and SAIER:

Ilaignarkal School The project provides new school buildings, desperately needed for the school's work. These buildings are already in use, and the project continues to pay for equipment and running costs.

Isai Ambalam School The project expands the work of the School, and develops new and innovative education methods for use in Government schools in the region.

Life Education Centre The projects supports the work done at LEC with vocational training for village girls from disadvantaged backgrounds.

New Creation School The project is providing vocational training facilities. Two training workshops (for Electrical and Woodwork) are now in operation – these were opened in February this year, and the other two (for tailoring and metalwork) are to open soon.

The project, worth approximately 180,000 has been accepted by the EC for co-funding (50%), and started in February last year. The project is now half way through its second year (of three). Our first annual report on the project involved much work, both by project holders in Auroville, but also by AVI UK and our Consultant, Greta Jensen. The substantial work was done in order to present a good impression for future projects, and to set a model for future reports. The report was accepted by the EC without comment.

The Restoration of the Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest (TDEF) - Coromandel Coast, South India

This is an integrated project to document and restore portions of the tropical dry evergreen forest (TDEF) of the Coromandel Coast (an area which includes the Auroville

bioregion) and develop management structures to maintain them using a Shared Forest Management, aiming to reverse the degradation of the TDEF in the region.

The Kaluveli Tank Bioregion on the Coromandel Coast of South India covers a triangle between Pondicherry, Marakannam and Tindivanam. The indigenous vegetation of the area extending in a coastal belt from Ramanathapuram in the south of Tamil Nadu to Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh is known as **Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest (TDEF)**. This forest type is found only in South India and Sri Lanka and provides a rare biological richness due to its very high species abundance but it is now close to extinction as only 0.01% survives. Only a few isolated fragments of TDEF exist and many species of trees, shrubs and lianas are on the verge of extinction. The bioregion is home to at least 735 vegetative species including 400 plants that have medicinal properties many of which have been used for centuries by traditional practitioners.

Part of this project has already been funded by DFID (British Government overseas funding) and this part of the project is in progress. The remainder was submitted by AVI UK to the EC under the Tropical Forest budget line. The total project has a value of approximately 290,000.

The project was accepted by the European Commission for funding in 1998, but was delayed for almost 4 years before it finally became a contract. The project finally started in January this year, and is being managed by a team headed by Joss at Pitchandikulam.

New Project

AVI UK is presently putting together a new project for funding by the British Government (DFID). The main participant in Auroville is Village Action. The project is entitled "Positive Action and Change through Awareness, Democracy and Communication", and is being requested from the DFID Civil Society Challenge Fund. The project intends to address problems of injustice, inequality, corruption and discrimination within the villages in the Auroville region, by means of activities such as awareness raising, community building, seminars, workshops and working with women's and men's clubs. This is an expansion of existing work being carried out by Village Action.

Small Projects

In recent years, AVI UK has sought small projects, which have needed small amounts of funding, which have been difficult to get from other sources, yet make a big impact on these areas of work. Two projects, which have recently benefited are Discipline Farm, for which AVI UK paid for a sprinkler system, and Naturellement, Auroville Food Processing, where seed money was provided to re-locate the food-processing unit from Bharat Nivas to the Industrial Zone.

NEW ADDRESS:

AVI UK has a new address (Martin has moved house!):

30 The Green
Surlingham
Norwich

Norfolk
NR14 7AG
Tel: 01508 538300
Fax: 01508 537122
e-mail: martin@aviuk.org

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Auroville International USA Annual Report 2002

Here are just some of the highlights:

All in Awe of AVIUSA Board

The Auroville International Board has been meeting regularly via teleconference this year. It easily comes to consensus decisions, and works very well with its full-time paid Executive Director. The coordination of the AVI2002 meeting has pulled the AVI Board together in a well-synchronized body of good-willing volunteers.

AVIUSA Hosts Auroville International 2002 Conference

In the last few months, AVIUSA has been working hard to organize this year's Auroville International Conference. Nilouro Markus has been the principal coordinator, and each member of the Board has taken on individual responsibilities to make it happen in a smooth and harmonious way. We sincerely hope you enjoy yourselves here. This conference is for all of us, and your energy is what will make it a memorable one. We'd like to thank the Foundation for World Education for a generous grant to supplement AVIUSA's subsidies and scholarships for this conference. More at:
http://www.aviusa.org/calendar_avi2002.html

USA Pavilion Sprouts First Building in Americas Area of International Zone

A Student Guest House, the first building of the USA Pavilion, is built in Auroville with the aid of finances raised through the tremendously successful Mahalakshmi Matching program, and with the collaborative energies of the University of Washington, the AVIUSA Board, and Auroville itself. The manner in which this building was built is a milestone in Auroville's construction history, and was an experimental learning experience for all those who participated. AVIUSA also donated almost \$20,000 of USA Pavilion funds to the construction of the Unity Pavilion. More: http://www.aviusa.org/projects_usapavilion.html

Ground-breaking Financial Strategies

Mahalakshmi at Play in 2001, "Three for One" Matching Program

AVIUSA worked together with an anonymous donor to create an innovative matching program, in which \$300,000 was raised for three projects in Auroville. The Land Fund, the Matrimandir Inner Skin, and the USA Pavilion projects each received \$100,000 through this program. More at:
http://www.aviusa.org/donations_matching.html

Internet Increases Financial Transparency

AVIUSA's books have now been with a Certified Public Accountant for 3 years. Their financial profile, Nonprofit 990 forms that were filed with the Government, and tax exemption letters from the Government are all available through the new AVIUSA website at: http://www.aviusa.org/about_financials.html

AVIUSA Lowers Deduction Rate from 1/10th to 1/12th

Instead of the 10% that was previously deducted from donations for AVIUSA's operating expenses, the nonprofit reduced that rate to 1/12th, or 8.33%, to be more in line with the 12 aspects of the Mother. As always, AVIUSA does not take any deductions from donations made to the Matrimandir.

Credit Card Donations Now Possible

Auroville International USA has entered to Credit Card world. Besides now having a business card for online ticket purchases and other operating expenses, AVIUSA can now accept credit card donations at conferences, online, over the phone or through the mail. More at: http://www.aviusa.org/donations_donatenow.html

Communication Boost

New Website: The new AVIUSA website now answers most of the questions people have about AVIUSA itself, and gives them a chance to see our financial profile, currently supported projects, make donations etc. More at: <http://www.aviusa.org>

Evolve Newsletter: Auroville International USA has started publishing the Evolve Newsletter on a more regular basis. This newsletter reaches about 1200 people in the USA and 50 overseas. These newsletters are available online at: http://www.aviusa.org/resources_evolve.html

Office Enters Computer Age: Nilauro, AVIUSA's new Executive Director has upgraded the office's computer hardware twice, and automated many tasks such as creating donation acknowledgement letters. The new, faster communication has increased donor confidence.
Executive Director - considering renewing term at end of this year.

Regular Teleconferences keep Board in Touch: The AVIUSA board now meets every two months via teleconference, and twice a year in person. This helps the Board actively explore new horizons for AVIUSA. More info on the Board is at: http://www.aviusa.org/about_board.html

Integral Yoga Outreach

Auroville International USA had a "free table" at the last **All USA Meeting (AUM 2001)**, at which people could pick up free information on Auroville. Some interpreted Auroville's "free table" sign literally, and took that too. At that meeting, it was decided to create the **Merge-Purge** project. Integral Yoga centers around the country could pool their address lists, and a newsletter outlining every IY center in the USA was sent to those contacts. This gave everyone a chance to

know what is going on, and a chance to get involved with other centers that they may not have known about. The FWE funded this project, and AVIUSA donated about 100 hours towards its coordination and implementation.

Future Outlook

If Auroville International USA is able to continue employing its Executive Director, it may be able to embark on some of the following:

Youth Empowerment: Nilauro is interested in empowering Auroville's youth, encouraging them to become more active members of the community by offering them internships and apprenticeships both in Auroville and in the USA.

Aurohost: AVIUSA would like to collaborate with Auroville International and Integral Yoga centers, as well as with Aurovilians and friends of Auroville around the world to create a traveler's network called Aurohost. The Foundation for World Education is interested in helping fund this.

University Exchange: AVIUSA would like to follow Bill Leon's example by creating more exchange programs through which professionals and students could go to Auroville, and through which Auroville youth could come to the States.

Professional Fundraising: Nilauro Markus could be trained as a fundraiser, and approach Foundations and individuals for certain projects in Auroville.

Enjoy the conference!

Nilauro Markus, Executive Director, Auroville International USA

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AVI liaison Argentina 2001-2002

presented by Anandi

This last year - as I start trying to explain you in my last report - their were like working at the front cabine of the Titanic ...but I am still alive. Thanks to the help of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. No doubts, they gave me the strength and the how to grasp the mast in this boat.

After so many years of working at the Secretary of Culture and Education, the only thing is some free-lance work that is not easy at all...on top of that I'm alone with a mother getting old who had a car accident ... but in the middle of the rough waves, some friends help me and we could prepare Bhaga's visit giving workshops on Cellular Consciousness. Well-attended and received but, for the present economic situation, not enough to cover the total cost. Anyway I'm happy to made that to happen. A lot of people feeling the Mother's work on her body and their work on Evolution. We've given TV and radio programs and interviews. This was also reinforced for Workshops I've been doing

for the last two years on “The Eternity Game”, a book of Medhananda based on Sri Aurobindo and Mother's yoga. This book has opened a way to the Integral Yoga in different groups of people. I fully recommend the use of this book as a tool for the sadhana, and especially to facilitate kids and young people to get in contact with their inner being and our yoga in a joyful and deep way.

On the other hand, I went on - as usual in the last 16 years – to give information and helping people going to India to visit Auroville. Quite a lot have been and enjoy that.

I also have a strong push to work on Sri Aurobindo and Mother's translations and a very well known publisher has accepted some Sri Aurobindo's selection and is going to come up as “The Wisdom of Sri Aurobindo” in a very nice collection. The Mother's one is ready but they want to wait for Sri Aurobindo to be published first. At the present moment I'm working on "The wisdom of Native people from America (from North to South), this is a real yoga also.

The situation of the Titanic is not better ...nobody knows what is going to happen, really. There is trouble on the street, hundreds of kids are dying DAILY because of hunger ... in this country! !!! ? But all that is somehow making people to be more open and understand this moment under the light of Sri Aurobindo's thoughts on Evolutionary crisis. There are also some local prophecies and scientist's writings related with that.

I hope the world is going to learn from this hard Argentinean experience to find other ways to share the Earth's goods, that doesn't belongs to anyone but HER, and - in Sri Aurobindo's ideas - go, after a kind of globalization towards a real HUMAN UNITY.

I have no doubts that my work is in AMERICA going on making to know - much more than ever - the ideal of Auroville as a new way of Society, what I do not know is if I'm going to be able to survive in this place.

amor , anandi

* * *

AVI Liaison Australia 2001 - 2002

Dear Tine,

Sorry I have been away and just found your message. Perhaps this won't reach on time.

As far as my activities: This last year I have given some slide shows on Auroville, which were well received. The last one was by invitation from the local Permaculture group. I

continue to offer advice to those interested in visiting Auroville. I have hosted quite a few Aurovilians passing through and am always happy to offer my home as a temporary haven. I enjoy this ongoing connection with Auroville and intend to keep up my annual visits there. I receive quite a few requests for books of Sri Aurobindo, more this year than ever before. At present Australia is under a very oppressive government - it is indeed a very sad situation here. We have to keep up a level of dissent - much energy goes into this... I hope this meeting will be a successful and happy one and that great good emerges from it. I wish I could be there...

with love,

Jan Allen in Australia.

* * *

AVI-liaison Austria 2001-2002

Dear Tine,

There is not much going on in Austria concerning Auroville.

I am in contact with Arram, who lived in Auroville some time ago, and we want to organize a meeting in Austria. We are still in the beginning of our planning-phase. I cannot afford and don't want to go to California for a few days, I don't feel as a member of the jet-set-generation, and though I would like to meet all of you, I sometimes think of other ways of meeting, maybe via internet, and give all the money we need for our traveling expenses to Auroville. I think that the money for a flight from Vienna to California could be used for the landfund in a way that is more helpful for Auroville than the fact that I sit together with you. I like the AVI-meetings, I have good memories about the meetings I attended, and if the next meeting is somewhere, where I can go to by car I will surely join you. This year I will stay in Austria, I wish you a fruitful meeting, and besides the inner contact I hope to stay in contact with you via e-mail.

Namaste,

Sylvia

* * *

Report from Liaison-Brazil (2001-2002)

This year has been contributing with new qualities to the small ways AV-liaison Brazil joins the big picture of AVI. The number of interested young people asking for information via email has been increasing. The webpage in Portuguese (AVI site) has something to do with that, I should say. In my academic career I have been able to talk

about Savitri and Sri Aurobindo, not as an expert but as someone who has been touched by the text. I do this in my classes and in the conferences I attend and where I present papers. This happened in Sao Paulo last May and in London in June, and there are more opportunities during the year. In January I was lucky enough to attend a conference in Chennai, which made it possible for me to visit AV four years after I had left. Unfortunately I only get permission for a leave of absence (and funding to travel) when I attend a conference, which makes it impossible for me to join people in US this summer. If all goes well, we may have an AVI meeting here in Brazil, so that a momentum is created for young people (and not so young ones) who may also be touched by AV. I hope so.

Carlos

* * *

AVI-Liaison Bulgaria

Report 2001-2002

Dear friends,

I'm feeling a little sad because of the lack of chance to be with you this year and I wish you to have great days and useful exchange of experience and thoughts. I'll be waiting for a comprehensive transmitting of the spirit and the aspects of the covered topics and ideas, online, for help of those of us, who can't be with you in reality.

For the last year, being a part of AV network, I got closer look and feeling of what are AV and its people and also a look of the link between Bulgaria and AV in the past. My intentions were not to do yet any massive "propaganda" of AV, before to get stronger knowledge and feeling of its energy and achievements.

The main accent was laid on developing our web site in Bulgarian language, where detailed information is provided about AV itself, its history and nowadays, about how one can be in touch with it. Tracking the visitors of the site, I have impressions that there is an interest to AV pages and from the few people, whom I've met personally; I understood there is a nice interest and a good feeling of it.

I've established contact with a nice lady, who was Cultural Attaché of Bulgaria in Delhi in 80-es years. She has been in the Ashram and in Auroville several times, with Madam Ludmila Zhivkova and later with other Bulgarian intellectuals. Now she is a board member of the Club "Friends of India", with more than 500 registered members, most of them intellectuals and students. She told me about her warm impressions and memories from that time in ashram and AV. My idea was to find and meet people who have been

ever in AV and have felt its energy, but I understood that most of them are not among us already. Meanwhile I understood also, that in 80-es Ludmila Zhivkova, being a member of the International Advisory Council to the Government of India, together with Kireet Joshi, had plans to organize translation of Sri Aurobindo's works in Bulgarian language... I know that looking backward is not so productive, but it can give some links and some ideas.

The Club of India's friends, together with the Embassy of India in Sofia, is a publisher of an annual with materials on India. And also they organize monthly meetings on India's culture and people, history and present.

When I was in researching of possibilities to have Ananda Reddy here in Bulgaria, I have provided the club with materials on AV and Ananda Reddy. So they readily decided to dedicate one of their monthly meetings to Ananda Reddy's talk on Indian Culture and Sri Aurobindo's vision on it. Looking realistically on our ability to invite A. Reddy here this summer, we decided to remit such meetings.

Now we have a request from India's friends Club to provide a material about AV for the next year's issue of their journal, and also to give an evening on AV for the next study year. Of course, if we have the strength to prepare a meeting, it will not be limited only to the India's friends Club.

Also I made contacts with professor from Sofia University, the Faculty of Indology, she was in AV as a representative of Bulgarian youth at the international youth' meeting in AV in 80-es. Also she expressed willingness to organize a meeting with students.

Still I know only 2-3 people here, who are living with Sri Aurobindo and the Mother and have closer interest to AV, not just from curiosity. So yet it's difficult to talk about capacity for strong organizational abilities here.

Being in touch with people who have an interest with AV and who are searching for something different in life, I understood that young people haven't such great affinity to romantic ideals and dreams like years before, so they are looking for the realistic results and manifestations of AV experiment. This is the aspect that we would like to try to present by meetings and video. To present not only what AV was and wants to be, but also mainly what AV has achieved really and what it can give and is giving to us, outside it.

After some kind of research of Bulgarian book market, which is in crisis also as other fields of business, I understood that there is an interest to a book from AV about the Integral education. So in our plans for near future is to translate and publish a book on this topic. And also on other topics, step by step.

If I could suggest something, I think it's a good idea to have AVI meetings not only in different countries every year, but also in Auroville. Why not one summer somewhere in the world, next summer in AV. This will help those of us who are not able to travel a lot

to keep direct contact with AV and to establish personal, business and working contacts with Aurovilians, to be more frequently in the Heart.

Dear friends, I'd like to ask for all kind of your feedback, your advice and ideas, suggestions and experience, which could help us to be more in tune as a link with AV.

At the end, let me share with you something that is so inspiring:

“And if one day these ten or fifty could build a single little pyramid of truth, whose every stone has been laid with the right note, the right vibration, simple love, a clear look and a call to the future, the whole city would actually be built, because they would have built the being of the future in themselves. And perhaps the whole earth would find itself changed by it, because there is only one body...”
Satprem, On the Way to Supermanhood.

Love, Tatiana

AVI Bulgaria liaison
e-mail: bulgaria@auroville-international.org

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From AVI–liaison Israel
2001-2002

Dear Mauna, Tine!

I send Auroville best wishes for growth and development, for clarity, integrity and joy of creativity!

I hope you are well!

I am trying to see if one of Yuval & Anna's friends can take my place as AVI representative in Israel. I feel that at this point I can contribute very little as I have previously told you. Hopefully either Yair or Wendy (you might have met them or heard of them, as they visited AV a few times) will be interested to commit themselves to be the AVI representative here.

I am always happy to talk to interested people, but besides that I lack time & energy to further promote the goals, thus feel it is time for someone else to take my place.

I'll keep you informed about further developments.

I hope to come for a visit with my family some time to Auroville,

Best wishes,

Love
Dorith

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AVI Network ITALY

AVI NETWORK ITALY ANNUAL REPORT 2001-2002

Dear AVI friends and Aurovilians gathered in the USA,

First of all I want to say ciao to all of you and sorry for my absence from this year meeting.

In the notes following you will understand why it was impossible for me to attend it. Obviously I'm with you with my heart and soul.

Before starting reporting the activities we organized this year in Italy supporting Auroville development, I would like to remind you why we call ourselves 'AVI Network Italy', a formula almost original in the Auroville International organization. It is because we decided two years ago not to concentrate all the Auroville supporting activities in one spot, geographically speaking and organizationally speaking. This means that during these two years a network of Antennas was created all over Italy just to help the main point (It was me...) to be really effective in the work for Auroville. But I would like to explain better what the Antennas are, as some of you asked me before.

With the term Antenna I mean a place, a yoga center, a cultural association, that gives its willingness, its availability, to be a point of reference for those who are interested in Auroville and want to know more about the city and its projects, for those who want to meet each other and talk about that. It is also a place in which you can buy info materials (videos, brochures, books, incense, CD Rom, music or whatever you want from Auroville products) and have updated information.

Moreover, It's a place in which we can organize presentations, meetings, exhibitions, and Promote conferences on the themes connected to some aspects of the city (integral yoga Collective practice, ecological solutions, sustainable development, experiments in economy and so on). It is also a place in which you can talk directly to persons that are strictly connected with the city, I mean to have face to face dialogue, that seems to be a very important behaviour here in Italy, much more effective than email or web site solutions (but we are working on them, our section on AVI International site is regularly updated and we have an active Italian newsgroup). Finally, the Antenna is a place in which you can make donations for Auroville projects directly in the hands of the promoter of the center, looking him/her in the eyes, in an atmosphere and with a feeling of trust and confidence.

The antennas have their own autonomy in organizing activities, but in full coordination and agreement with me and the other Antennas, and in accordance with the supervision

of the international umbrella of the board of AVI, to whom the entire project of the network in its guidelines was proposed two years ago.

It's important to say that the promoters of the Antennas DO IT FOR FREE as a special kind of karma yoga and because they deeply believe in the Auroville project. On the counterpart, they of course keep on promoting their own activities as yoga centers. About this latest point, I would say that the choose of the Antennas was not only a question of my personal preferences, but a meditated process that saw the active participation of a number of friends, most of them Aurovilians, like Anna Maria, Marika, Luigi, Sauro, and Maggi of the Ashram and of course other Italian friends. The fact you have to consider, is that those centers already run this kind of work for Auroville since a long time and that all the persons in charge have been to Auroville at least once recently (but mostly they have been there a lot of times and for long periods). But they did it in a totally uncoordinated way and with a bounded, limited access to news, information, materials and initiatives.

Now they are becoming the crossing points of a real network, non hierarchic and horizontal in its shape and development, with an increasing facility in sharing information and with much more effectiveness in answering the requests of the inhabitants of their local venue.

At the moment, the experiment includes 8 Antennas:

- Milan ;
- Turin ;
- Siena ; (Tuscany)
- Naples ;
- Rome ;
- Bari ; (Puglia)
- Cosenza ; (Calabria)
- Marsala (Sicily)

Now a new Antenna (the 9ht) is taking shape in Pesaro. The name of the promoters and the addresses of the Antennas are online in our website.

The briefing point is in Bergamo, where I live.

Another coordination point will be in Bologna, where Sauro indicated in common friends the solution for legal and administrative support. We still have to consider the legal position of the Antennas, but Sauro is in Italy at this time, so we look forward to solve together this crucial point.

All the Antennas are already members of a Newsgroup, they are subscribers of AV Today, and started sell info materials on Auroville. We are translating a lot of brochures and planning to publish a book with all Mother's sentences on Auroville, as the concrete sign of becoming, at all practical purposes, an AVI center.

Please, consider we are in -to the process, trying to face whatever we encounter on the path day by day. As a sign of this, I tell you that not all the Antennas are totally operative at this time, but I'm sure you can understand the difficulties we are facing trying to make this big endeavor works properly.

To have concrete examples about the functioning of this network, I want to tell with you the initiatives AVI Network Italy promoted and how I was finally able to find a concrete help by the Antennas in doing it.

- February 2002

20th Conference on Auroville in Florence, organized by Siena Antenna;
22-24th National Darshan Meeting in Salsomaggiore, about *Health and Beauty: the body perfection in the Integral Yoga*, speech on this topic regarding the Auroville experiment, permanent exhibition. With the collaboration of ADITI (Italian Association Integral Yoga), Siena Antenna, Torino Antenna, Marsala Antenna;

- April 2002

24-28 th National Annual Darshan Meeting in Perugia, about *The devotional path in the Integral yoga*, speech about the last Aurovilian year, news and projects, 200 slides showing, video showing, and permanent exhibition. With the collaboration of ADITI, Torino Antenna, Milano Antenna, Napoli Antenna, Roma Antenna.

- June 2002

8-9th Meeting with Ananda Reddy in Costa Serina (Bergamo), about *The practice of IntegralYoga*, with references on the Auroville experiments. With the participation of ADITI, Torino Antenna, Milano Antenna.

24-30 th Conference, slides showing and permanent Exhibition in Turin center city, in the ITALINDIA summer event, with the collaboration of Turin Council, ADITI, Torino Antenna.

25-30 th Auroville Exhibition in Treviso, about *Cities in Network for a sustainable development and solidarity*, with the European Community funding and with the collaboration of the city Council

- July 2002

19-28 th Auroville Exhibition in Venice, *Managing and Innovation of the city*, with the collaboration of the City Council and the Region Council.

20-28 th Auroville Exhibition in Mestre, about *Cities in Network for a sustainable development and solidarity*, with the European Community funding and with the collaboration of the city Council;

In particular I want to stress the importance of these last 3 initiatives that see Sauro and Luigi directly involved as promoters, lecturers and organizers. The mainframe is the ASIA-URBS program that you already know. Those events can give you the sign of the qualitative leap we are doing here in Italy regarding Auroville supporting activities. And also can explain why I was not able to be present among you in these days...

Another note is that Siena Antenna is going to publish the volume *The Psychic Being*, Collected writings of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, Italian translation. It also helped the

publication of Maggi's book *The light that shone into the dark abyss*, Italian translation. It's with the precious advice of this Antenna that the volume *Mother's on Auroville*, Italian translation, will be edited.

A last note want to point out what a crucial presence was Ananda Reddy when he came here in Italy last month. As he did in Germany last year, I think that his push towards the finding of the national Soul in the direction of national pavilion project was a terrific boost also for Italians. He will tell you better than me the particular atmosphere of collaboration he was surprised to found here in Italy between the different aspects of the Italian realities connected to Auroville and Sri Aurobindo e the Mother. And I think this is a very important point on the way we have to go through. So thanks to him and to all the other friends are helping us in this endeavor, I'm sure we will succeed and in a short time we will be finally able to talk seriously about the construction of the Italian Pavilion in the Auroville International zone.

I hope you find interesting the notes I posted to you for this annual report, comments and suggestions are of course welcome. If you have any question or you need clarification, please ask me.

Ciao ciao to '*the dolphin's meeting*'
Marco Ferrarini
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AVI Network ITALY

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Marco Ferrarini, tel. 035.251587 ; cell. 0338.4313907 ; fax 02.700412835

Per donazioni: Marco Ferrarini **cc Banco Posta 10074698**

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AVI liaison Kazakhstan

Report 2001-2002

Auroville International liaison in Kazakhstan was opened in June 2001 after AVI meeting in Saint Petersburg. Two people from Kazakhstan, who visited Auroville in 2000, took part in this meeting.

During this year we organized some (4-5) meetings in Astana (new capitol of Kazakhstan) with a group of people who are interested in Integral Yoga and Auroville. We talked about Auroville, it's life, how to visit Auroville, about AVI, new books on Integral Yoga, which was translated in Russian language recently and on other topics. One man contacted AVI liaison Kazakhstan by e-mail, which is available from Auroville's web site. Once we tried to organize a regular delivery of books on Integral Yoga from "Aditi" (S.-Petersburg) to Astana and Karaganda cities, but we couldn't do it because of custom problems, expensive post fare and other reasons. Almost all this

literature is delivering now to Kazakhstan by different commercial channels and though it increases the cost of the books this way is satisfactory to Kazakhstan's readers.

Generally the situation with Integral Yoga in our country is similar with Russian one, because almost all educated people can read books in Russian language and the first book by Satprem "Sri Aurobindo or Adventure of Consciousness" came to Kazakhstan at the same time, in 1989-90. Since this time more than 20 works of Sri Aurobindo, the Mother and Satprem have been translated and published. In different places in Kazakhstan for more than 10 years there are groups or individuals who are interested in Integral Yoga or are practicing it, most of them also know about Auroville. But there is not enough information on Auroville, because only few people can read Auroville's web site in English.

We planed to organize one more meeting in Astana for all those interested in Auroville after receiving slides of Auroville from German AVI.

Now we are preparing information about us for AVI web site. We are going to participate in AVI network more active since one of us stays in Auroville and participate in IZ work either. We consider these two groups together as very closely interrelated and supportive to each other. In Kazakhstan we started to collect Kazakh music and literature to be presented in Unity Pavilion later. The Russian Pavilion group is now preparing a lot of information about Auroville in Russian where we also participate. It will be very helpful for us to disseminate the information in Kazakhstan. We know many people in Kazakhstan working in non-governmental organizations that heard or read about Auroville and asked us about it. We will send them information by emails. We also discussed the possibilities to fundraise money for development of IZ and especially for presentation of materials about Kazakhstan history, culture, etc. in Auroville.

Several people from Kazakhstan visited Auroville this year, some other planning to do it next year, now they are studying English. One man from Kazakhstan has come to Auroville to stay and from the middle of June he is going to become a newcomer. Also he will be a contact person for people from Kazakhstan who are interested in Auroville.

We wish all participants of AVI meeting 2002 in California successful work and all the best.

Our e-mails:

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yes_nurlan@yahoo.com – Nurlan, Karaganda, Kazakhstan

ruslan_yes@yahoo.com – Ruslan, Auroville, TN

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AVI Liaison Norway

Report 2001 - 2002

Dear Tine,

Not much to say about the activities of the Norwegian liaison. I've had a couple of enquiries which I have responded to the best of my ability, using the AV website as a source of reference. I wish that I had more time to engage in activities of support for Auroville projects. But as I have the sole responsibility for the kids most of the time nowadays which is also a strain on my economy as it means less time to work, I've been unable to find the surplus energy to do so. This is also the reason why I'm not there with you, which I had very much hoped to be this year.

I'm truly sorry about the late reply. My modem was knocked out by lightening last Tuesday, so I've been offline for a week before I could get a replacement for it this morning.

I may be kind of stuck here right now, but my Heart is with you as always, it's summer, the sun is shining and everything is very good.

I hope all is fine with you and wish you a joyous experience.

Greetings to All,

hans

Hans Krogsether hans-k@oslo.online.no

* * *

AVI liaison Russia

Report 2001-2002

Like every other AVI-liaison, our office "Aditi" in St. Petersburg continues to give information on Auroville and replies to specific requests as a daily routine, like how to join Auroville or any other question. It is very important that the people in Russia have a direct partner / office available to them when they need to know something in regard to Auroville or Sri Aurobindo. This function is much more important in Russia than in the US or in any other English-speaking country, because there one doesn't need any translations as everybody can visit the websites and get all the needed information from the internet. In Russia it is different. There are 30 small circles distributed in Russia who get their books and information of Auroville / Ashram from "Aditi" and who function in their city / area as contact people for others.

Based on the initiative started on our last AVI meeting in St. Petersburg, we created an email forum (a kind of computer-newsletter). This magazine is called “Aditi News” and contains all kinds of information from darshan messages to actual information from Auroville. Every two weeks this Newsletter is sent out. We should ideally continue these Aditi News with the participation of Sergei and Andrei in Auroville, who are the project holders of the Russian pavilion – if both would show more enthusiasm it would be helpful. But at least the Aditi News are up and about, and I believe the readers are very interested.

In spring 2002 we purchased for the first time products from Maroma for sale in Russia. Formerly the container from India to St. Petersburg was filled with solely Ashram products for sale, besides all the books. The Maroma products are selling quite well, and we plan to import more next time.

The PR-work for Auroville has not been pushed or planned, but still a few interesting things have happened. For the first time the Russian Ambassador to India in New Delhi has officially acknowledged the project of Auroville in a well-wishing letter on the occasion of the foundation stone laying of the Russian pavilion in February 2002. The Russian consul from Madras even came to Auroville on invitation of the Russian Ambassador and gave a speech during the ceremony in the International Zone.

The main work of last year was of course the publications in Russian language.

1. The book “Writings in Bengali” was printed in St. Petersburg and distributed in the Russian market. This book is a part of the collected works of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother.

Two volumes of the collected works of the Mother (of the “Entretiens”) have been finalized and are at the moment getting printed. Also these books are part of the collected works of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother.

A compilation of texts of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother has been printed in All India Press in Pondicherry (totally 610 pages) and was shipped with a container to St. Petersburg this January. This compilation contains parts of the most important works (Synthesis, Life Divine, Letters on Yoga etc.) and could serve as an introduction or summary for the Integral Yoga.

2000 copies of a booklet with texts of the Mother “On Education” have been printed and were sold out within a few months.

Following books have been sold out and were re-printed:

- Upanishads (part of the collected works);
- Mother on Auroville (first publication 2000 copies, was sold out within 2 years)
- “The Way to Immortality” – a compilation of works by Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, and the agenda. The first publication of 5000 copies sold out within 4 years;

In the past year following publications have almost been finalized and will be printed soon:

- A trilogy consisting of the first chapters of three books (approx. 20 chapters):
Synthesis of Yoga, Life Divine, Letters on Yoga;
- Essays on the Gita (almost ready for print)
- Secrets of the Vedas (almost ready for printing as well)

2. Amongst new publications the sale of Russian books from “Aditi” and of originals from Pondicherry is an important activity. I do not know how many thousands of books of Sri Aurobindo are sold every year and how many followers of Sri Aurobindo we are serving with Russian books and English original books. When a book is newly published, we sell one thousand copies within a very short time. Afterwards the sale adjusts itself to an average sale per month. We have 3000 to 5000 readers (I believe that there are a minimum of 3 to 5 readers sharing one book) who buy each new publication, and perhaps 10,000 readers who read Sri Aurobindo amongst other Indian books.

To supply readers of Sri Aurobindo in Russia with translated and original literature is probably not such a spectacular point in the list of AVI-activities. In other countries this activity is not being looked after by the AVI – organizations, and there is no necessity for AVI liaisons to take up this function. But in Russia there is a different situation. In nearly all other countries (except may be Japan and China) the potential readers of Sri Aurobindo are from an intellectual class, which knows English. So translations play hardly a big role in most of the countries where AVI liaisons exist. In Russia very few people know English to an extent that they could read a book of Sri Aurobindo or the Mother in original. And even if they could, it would not be available. So in Russia the publication-work has to provide a base, without which an AVI-work would be meaningless. Therefore we are putting a lot of emphasis on the publication-work.

Email: AVI-liaison Russia, St. Petersburg <agni@aditi.spb.ru>

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