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CF/RAI/USAA/DB01/HS/2003-00074

Full Item Register Number [auto] **CF/RAI/USAA/DB01/HS/2003-00074**

ExRef: Document Series/Year/Number **IYF Materials 19**

Record Item Title

First Announcement for the World NGO Forum 1993, Launching the International Year of the Family 1994 (IYF) 'Promoting Families for the Well-being of Individuals and Societies'. Published by NGO Committee on the Family, UN Vienna Center. Original Brochu

Date Created / on Item
17-Sep-2003

Date Registered
17-Sep-2003

Date Closed/Superceeded

Primary Contact
Owner Location
Home Location
Current Location
History Related Records =60909132
<No Location Set>

Fd1: Type: IN, OUT, INTERNAL?
Fd2: Lang ?Sender Ref or Cross Ref
F3: Format

Container Record
Container Record (Title)

N1: Numb of pages
0

N2: Doc Year
0

N3: Doc Number
0

Full GCG Code Plan Number
Record GCG File Plan

Da1:Date Published

Da2:Date Received

Date 3

Priority

Record Type **A02a Item Hist Corr - CF/RAI/USAA/DB01/HS**

DOS File Name

Electronic Details

No Document

Alt Bar code = RAMP-TRIM Record Number

CF/RAI/USAA/DB01/HS/2003-00074

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1 ST ANNOUNCEMENT

WORLD NGO FORUM

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} for Richard Tills

MALTA

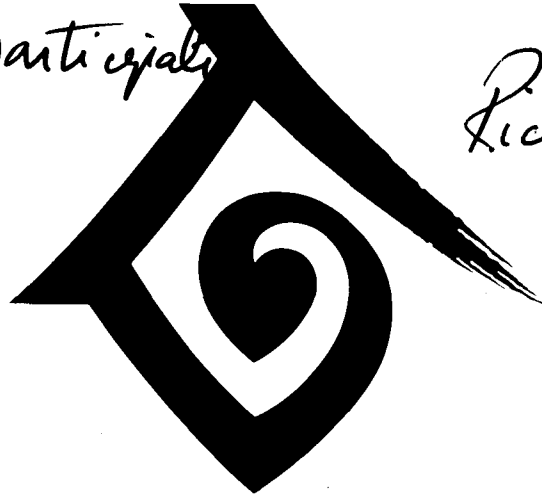
Nov 28 - Dec 2

LAUNCHING THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY 1994

Sponsored by Young & Rubicam

VMCF will be part-sponsoring via Geneva - and will be invited to participate

Richard



"PROMOTING FAMILIES FOR THE WELL-BEING OF INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETIES"
MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE CENTRE,
MALTA 28 NOVEMBER - 2 DECEMBER 1993



organized by the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

in cooperation with the United Nations- IYF Secretariat

and the Government of Malta

in collaboration with other NGO Committees on the Family

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT
**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO PARTICIPATE AT THE
WORLD NGO FORUM LAUNCHING THE INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF THE FAMILY 1994**

THEME:
**"PROMOTING FAMILIES FOR THE WELL-BEING OF
INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETIES"**
28 NOVEMBER - 2 DECEMBER 1993
**MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE CENTRE,
VALLETTA - MALTA**

The World NGO Forum is a global event to launch an effective and successful **International Year of the Family 1994**, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly. It takes place as a culmination of the preparatory phase and on the eve of the Year.

The World NGO Forum aims at gathering the main IYF actors and multipliers from around the world in order to mobilize action and awareness, plans and participation in promotion of IYF at the regional, national, local and grass-roots levels for 1994 and beyond. As a result families themselves should be enabled to know about, participate in and benefit from IYF.

The World NGO Forum has as its objectives:

- ★ to motivate NGOs and governmental and intergovernmental bodies to develop and implement action for IYF and beyond;
- ★ to provide a platform for information exchange on major family issues, policies, research, successful family programmes, available expertise and financial resources among IYF agents and experts from different sectors and levels of operation leading to partnerships and cooperation between different regions and organizations;
- ★ to assess progress made and obstacles encountered in IYF and identify common strategies;
- ★ to reach areas of the world not yet included in the IYF network, particularly developing and least developed countries, where the importance of the family in development is crucial;
- ★ to ensure effective follow-up action as part of an ongoing process towards a more "family-friendly" society.

The World NGO Forum invites the participation of:

representatives, experts and interested persons from international, regional, national and grassroots NGOs, in particular family-related organizations and associations as well as representatives of governments (IYF focal points), IYF national committees, specialized agencies of the UN system, intergovernmental organizations, the media and the private sector.

THE WORLD NGO FORUM DRAFT PROGRAMME:

Plenary Sessions will deal with global perspectives of the theme. Proposed topics include:

Family: Source of the Future	Building a Family-friendly Society
Family: Its Relationship to Larger Networks	IYF - Making it Happen in Your Country!
Family: The Well-Being of Family Members	IYF - Challenges and Opportunities into
Family: Responsibilities and Rights	the 21st Century

Special Interest Meetings will focus on issues of concern in all societies and how these relate to and interact with family well-being. Proposed topics include: **Family and**

Values of Society	The Economy	Special Needs
Poverty	The Workplace	Disability
Culture	Paid work/ Unpaid work	Resource for the Prevention
Education	Migration/Mobility	of Substance Abuse
Housing	Formation and Early Stages	HIV/AIDS
Health Promotion	Role Patterns	Violence
Environment	Parenting/Partnership	Partnership with NGOs
Ageing	Women	The Child

"How To" Sessions will elaborate on action areas, skills and techniques which could be applied in IYF activities by providing resource material for the participants. Proposed topics comprise: **How to**

cooperate in a coordinating IYF body	lobby with and for families
integrate family research into practice	evaluate family policies
empower and involve families	learn from families
integrate family services into the community	build local, national and regional family networks

Regional Exchange Meetings will allow participants from different regions to plan and coordinate regional IYF action at various levels.

Study Tours will be organized to various local family-related projects in Malta.

The World NGO Forum will confront participants with a question raised at the 1st International Seminar of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family: "Are today's societies 'human societies' i.e., societies that promote human development above everything else?" A truly human society depends on families. Families are vital to the well-being of all their members. Families bear primary responsibility for shaping dynamic human societies.

"Promoting Families for the Well-being of Individuals and Societies": this theme will lead to awareness and action in the course of the International Year of the Family 1994 and beyond into the 21st Century.

We invite your contribution to the programme and debate at the World NGO Forum for IYF in Malta!

FURTHER INFORMATION ON

Conference Venue: A four-centuries-old former hospital of the Knights of Malta, the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta is a most beautiful, historic place and well-equipped with state-of-the-art technology, including to meet the special needs of the disabled.

Languages: Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English, French and Spanish (others if resources are available).

Speakers: The Secretary General of the United Nations will be invited to speak. Representing the highest authorities of Malta, the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister and the Minister for Home Affairs and Social Development will address the Forum. Other speakers will include the UN Coordinator for IYF and other key family experts and distinguished personalities from the NGO and private sectors.

Social and Cultural Events will include official receptions by the Maltese President and Government, an Evening of Family Solidarity (encounter with Maltese families in their homes), a Concert and a Maltese Fiesta.

Travel: Malta is located at the crossroads of Africa, Asia and Europe. Most major airlines operate regular flights to and from Malta. AIR MALTA offers regular flights from major European cities.

Accommodation: A selected list with the choice of various categories will be proposed by the competent travel agency in Malta, including the possibility of staying with families.

Registration Fee: To be announced with the Preliminary Programme.

Preliminary Programme: This will contain further detailed information, including Registration and Accommodation Forms, and will be distributed in April/May 1993.

Organization: The World NGO Forum is being organized by the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, in collaboration with the New York NGO Committee on the Family and the Paris UNESCO/NGO Group on the Family, in cooperation with the UN-IYF Secretariat and the Government of Malta.

It is important at this point to know approximately how many participants from around the world will be attending. If you are considering to attend, wish to contribute to the programme, and would like more copies or additional information, please contact:

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St. Venera, MALTA Tel: 356-48 51 00-5; Fax: 356-44 35 95