



THE DALAI LAMA

MESSAGE

I am happy to be involved with the Temple of Understanding in its effort to promote inter-religious harmony and understanding. I am therefore pleased to send this message of greetings on the occasion of The Interfaith Visionary Call To Action Conference on Sustainable Development being held on October 19, 2010.

I am glad that interfaith leaders are coming together to explore the role of the interfaith movement in addressing climate change and promoting sustainable development.

Destruction of nature and natural resources results from ignorance, greed, and lack of respect for the earth's living beings. This lack of respect extends even to the earth's human descendants, the future generations who will inherit a vastly degraded planet if destruction of the natural environment continues at the present rate. The very perceptible change in climatic conditions in recent times could be a clear warning from Mother Earth that there are limits to our actions.

Resolving the environmental crisis is not just a question of ethics but a question of our own survival. The natural environment is very important not only for those of us alive now but also for future generations. If we exploit it in extreme ways, even though we may get immediate material benefit for the time being, in the long run we ourselves and future generations will suffer.

Therefore the time has come to realize the importance of sustainable development and put together practical measures to carry this movement forward for the benefit of all.

From a historical perspective some of the destruction in the past could have been due to our ignorance. Today, however, we have access to more information. It is essential that we re-examine ethically what we have inherited, what we are responsible for, and what we will pass on to coming generations.

I therefore hope that your conference will look at some of these issues and see how the interfaith family can promote better environmental awareness and a sense of universal responsibility to make this world a better place for all its present and future generations.

October 5, 2010