

## GCF launches Transformative Education Forum (TEF) in India



Delegates of the Transformative Education Forum convened Nov 2011 at Monterey, California, USA

**T**HE GENEVA-BASED GLOBAL CHALLENGES FORUM (GCF, estb.2010) has set up a project office in Bangalore to expand the foundation's outreach in the Indian subcontinent. The project office will create a national network of partner members from all levels of academia, business, research, government and non-government sectors in a concerted effort to overcome India's challenges through strategic collaborations, forums, memberships, innovative proposals and policy recommendations. From September 12-15 together with the Bangalore-based ACTS Group of Institutions, GCF will inaugurate its first India project – the Transformative Education Forum (TEF).

**History.** While on a visit to India in March, Dr. Walter Christman, founding-director of the GCF, signed a strategic partnership with the ACTS Group, an NGO in Bangalore founded by its president, Dr. Ken Gnanakan. The ACTS Group comprises primary and secondary schools, colleges and a private university, and has been in social welfare organising educational programmes, community welfare projects and facilitating strategic alliances for nation-building for over three decades. Dr. Gnanakan is a well-known educationist who travels the world speaking at global forums and the author of several books on education, management and theology. Dr. Moses Satralkar is GCF's coordinator to manage all its major initiatives including organizing international conferences, key projects and forum memberships.

**TEF.** The Transformative Education Forum (TEF) will support changes in education worldwide in acknowledgement of the fact that the majority of the global citizenry is under-educated, especially young girls and women. The 12 Principles of Transformative Education are intended to help define a system of education that "transforms" older, obsolete models of human learning to create sustainable, diverse, conscientious global citizens with the ability to problem-



Dr. Walter Christman, Founding Director Global Challenges Forum

solve complex issues for a better, more equitable and viable world. "TEF will be organised annually and participants will comprise a cross-section of invited leaders from all levels of academia, business, government and non-government sectors around the world," says Dr. Gnanakan. In keeping with the overall thrust of GCF, TEF 2012 at Bangalore will debate ways and means to integrate global sustainability drives through educational initiatives at all levels.

"TEF Bangalore will explore various issues related to sustainability such as community education, environment, poverty, health, spirituality, family (with an emphasis on women/children) and other related issues in the wider context of education," says Dr. Moses Satralkar.

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