

PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR ADDRESS

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a Very Happy and Successful New Year 2007! Thank you very much for your Christmas cards and New Year wishes. At this time of Peace and Reflection, please allow me to let you know how grateful I am for your continuing support and for your help and cooperation in further developing our Institute and its Annual Meetings and Conferences and making it a resounding success!

As we enter the *27th year of the existence of our Institute* and see what we have achieved, we can take pride in many of our great accomplishments. Since the inception of our Institute in 1980, we have sponsored and organized over *50 International Meetings and Conferences* with more than *500 Symposia, Sessions and Workshops* in which colleagues from more than *90 countries* from around the world have actively participated. In collaboration with UNESCO, AIC and other scientific bodies and societies we have organized *15 Symposia and Workshops on Culture of Peace and Dialogue of Civilizations*.

Since 1980 we have published over *200 books* - Volumes of our Conference Proceedings. In the year 2000 we have launched *3 International Journals*: (1) IAS-Transactions on Systems Research & Cybernetics; (2) ACTA SYSTEMICA; and (3) an electronic online IAS-E Journal published at our *IAS Website <http://www.ias.edu>*

We have *recognized the Excellence, Exceptional Performance, Meritorious Achievements, Outstanding Scholarly Contributions and Distinguished Service and Leadership* of many of our esteemed colleagues around the world and we have bestowed upon them relevant *Honors and Awards*. In addition, we have *established scientific cooperation* on many of our international projects and research endeavors, and have further developed our *Open Ph.D. Program for Distance Education, and a Global Network for Internet-Based Interactive Education*.

We have been extensively involved in raising public awareness of important issues of our time and have helped to educate the public to better understand the complexities and interconnectedness of these issues. Indeed, we have been developing tools and strategies that would allow us to improve the quality of human life, promote the culture of peace and cooperation, and advance sustainable human development. In the years to come we hope to further persevere in our search and struggle for truth, justice, peace and compassion, and to pursue, develop and implement these nonviolent collaborative tools and strategies whenever and wherever needed.

Knowledge is Powerful Weaponry. To be Aware is to be Forewarned and Forearmed!

With Warmest Regards and Many Blessings,

Prof. George E. Lasker
President
The International Institute for Advanced Studies
in Systems Research and Cybernetics (IIAS)