

2008 Message from the President:

My Dearest Colleagues and Friends:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for all the kind get-well wishes that you have sent to the hospital. I am happy to report that I have miraculously survived a head-on collision in a near fatal car accident. I have been especially touched and heartened by all your warm personal messages and wishes that you wrote for me on the scrolls of pergamon paper at the Baden-Baden Conference. I am only sorry, that due to my extensive injuries and physical limitations I am not able to respond to each of you personally to let you know how much I love you and how much I appreciate everything that you have done for me, for the Conference and for the Institute.

Since my June hospitalization I have not had access to the Internet and could not read your e-mail and respond to the messages you sent me. My injuries have totally curtailed my activities for now. Nevertheless, I am happy to report that I have already successfully underwent two surgeries, and am looking ahead with optimism to the successful outcome of further treatments. My spirit is very high and strong, and you are constantly in my thoughts and prayers. I am very much looking forward to the pleasure of being with you again at our next Baden-Baden Conference in August 2009.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your active involvement and participation in our 2008 Anniversary Conference and for having so significantly contributed to its great success. In particular, I would like to extend my deep gratitude and great appreciation to both Prof. William Graham and Prof. Kensei Hiwaki for their outstanding Chairmanship of the 2008 Conference under trying circumstances. I would also like to express my thanks and gratitude to our dear colleague Andreas Tinsz, the Secretary and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the IIAS, who has provided invaluable administrative support for our 2008 Conference and has helped to ensure its success.

I am pleased to inform you that Andreas Tinsz will help us again to manage and organize our forthcoming 2009 Baden-Baden Conference, which we are now starting to organize. Please be so kind and address all your e-mail messages and conference communications to Andreas at the new IIAS e-mail address mentioned below. He will be happy to communicate with you and assist you on my behalf.

Andreas Tinsz, Chief Administrative Officer

IIAS

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In closing, remember that miracles do happen. By the Grace of God I survived and would like you to know how much I am looking forward to the day when I am able to physically function again and resume communicating with you personally.

Faithfully yours,

George Lasker