

## **PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS for 2013**

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a Happy New Year 2013 with many blessings, an excellent health, and great inspiration and success in everything you do. Thank you very much for all your kind messages and numerous cards with greetings and good wishes for the Holiday Season and for the New Year.

On this occasion I would also like to thank you once again for your enormous scholarly contribution that you made to the Annual Meetings of our Institute and to our Conferences in Baden-Baden as well as for the time and effort that you have devoted to preparing your papers for presentation at our meetings and for publication in our Proceedings and international scientific Journals. Furthermore, I would like to express special thanks and deep gratitude to our colleagues who have been helping to organize, coordinate and chair/co-chair various Symposia, Panels and Workshops for our Conferences, and to all those who were involved with various operations of our Institute, and who helped to referee and review the papers that have been submitted for presentation at our Conferences or for publication in our books or Journals.

This summer, we shall hold the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the IAS, where we shall celebrate and honor outstanding scholarly contributions of our colleagues and their distinguished service to the international scientific community. We shall celebrate the completion of several important international projects; the publication of over 300 scientific books and 3 major scientific Journals the IAS e-Journal, ACTA SYSTEMICA and the IAS-Transactions in Systems Research and Cybernetics. This year we shall also inaugurate the HALL of FAME to honor deserving colleagues who over their lifetime significantly contributed to the advancement of knowledge in Cybernetics, Systems Science, Systems Research, and other related areas.

I am happy to report that at our Conferences, we have succeeded in bringing together colleagues from a wide variety of diverse fields and disciplines to collaboratively develop new areas of study that cross-fertilize various fields of science by new innovative ideas, concepts, approaches, methods, and tools. In addition to advancing the knowledge in various traditional technical fields and disciplines, our activities have been focused on developing systems tools that can be used to improve the Quality of Human Life; enhance the quality of education; enrich the quality of human relations, interactions and governance; advance personal and spiritual development; facilitate pursuit of happiness; maximize human potential and creativity; integrate scientific advances with ethics and aesthetics; and seek how to replace the Culture of War, Violence, Oppression, Fear and Hate by the Culture of Peace, Liberty, Cooperation and Love; and how to transmute the climate of belligerence, bullying, fear, greed, injustice, and ignorance into a climate of love, compassion, caring, justice, knowledge and wisdom. In the process, we have also significantly contributed to heightening the awareness of important issues of our time and helped to raise and transform the human consciousness to a higher level (of human functioning).

I believe that with your kind help and unrelenting support we all together will be able to successfully continue to meet the challenges of the future and further constructively contribute to developing and building a kind, caring, just, free, wise and knowledgeable society.

With My Warmest Wishes and Kindest Regards,

George Lasker