

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

IN THE

GENETICALLY MODIFIED AGE

Welcome



WATER, FOOD, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

"We can't afford to go dollar for dollar with a huge multinational corporation like Monsanto, but we're going to do it anyway – because it's the right thing to do."

-Senator Joe Benning
(R-Caledonia, Vermont)
upon the successful passage of the first State mandatory labeling bill

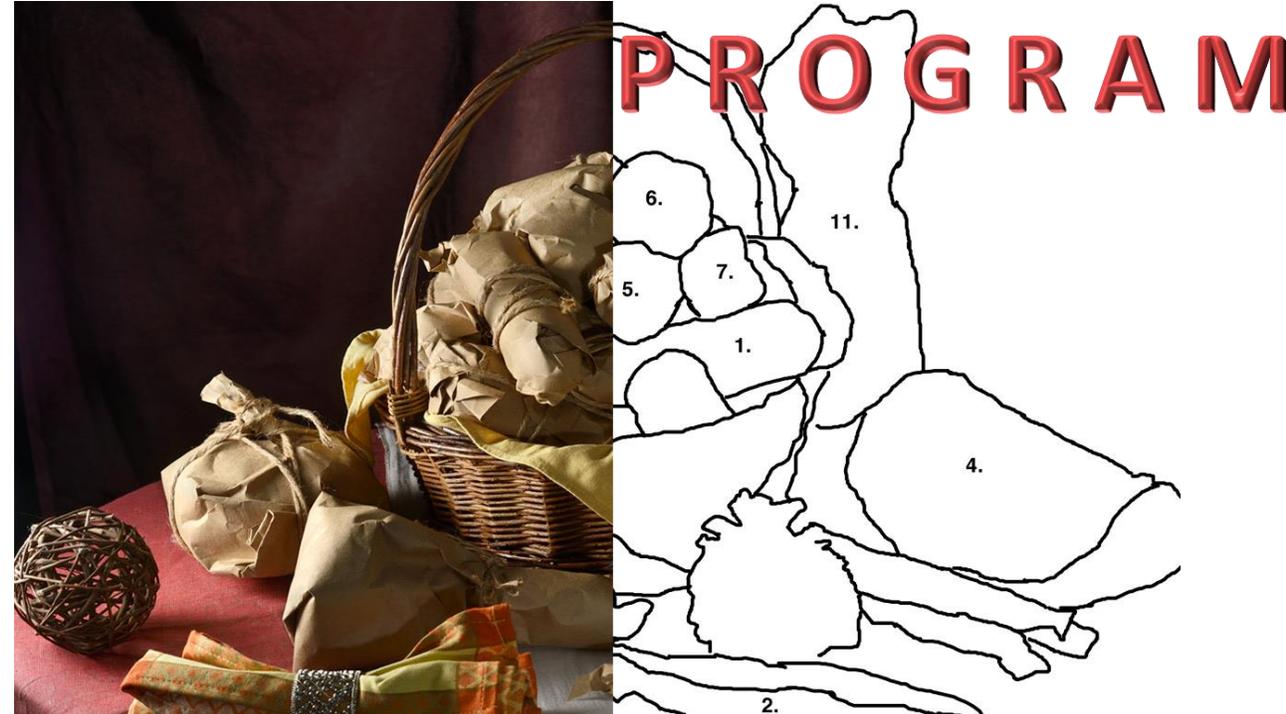
Monday, October 20, 2014
Program: 6:30 to 8:30pm
The Graduate Center – CUNY
City University of New York
Concourse Level:
C204/C205 – 365
Fifth Avenue, NYC

A panel discussion

Sponsored by
The Light Millennium



<http://www.lightmillennium.org>



MODERATOR: Prof. Abdullah TANSEL, Baruch College

KEYNOTE: Dr. Michael K. HANSEN, Ph.D., a Senior Scientist with Consumers Union, publisher of Consumer Reports

PANELISTS:

- H.E. Dr. PALITHA L. KOHONA, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the UN
- Mr. JOHN KEMPF, founder and CEO of Advancing Eco Agriculture (AEA)
- H.E. Mr. CARLOS GARCIA GONZALES, Founder & CEO, CG Global Consultant and former Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the UN
- Ms. JULIE MARDIN, Artist-Activist and Independent Researcher
- Ms. BIRCAN ÜNVER, Founding President of The Light Millennium and Permanent Representative to the UN

∞ Interactive Session ∞ Concluding Remarks by the PANELISTS

A PANEL DISCUSSION

This timely discussion will pick up from The Light Millennium's recent panel at the UN Department of Public Information's 65th Annual NGO Conference (Aug. 27-29, 2014), with a continued diverse set of voices, from diplomats, scientist, farmer to civil society, discussing the problems as well as solutions.

As Monsanto spends over \$6 million to defeat labeling initiatives in Colorado and Oregon, and powerful trade groups file a law suit against our *right to know* in the state of Vermont, the need to achieve transparency on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in our food supply is more urgent than ever. *Freedom of Information in the Genetically Modified Age: Water, Food, Health and Environment* will explore whether these altered forms of food are really the cutting edge solution to world hunger that they are claimed to be. Their proprietary nature, the ineffectiveness of mainstream media, private sector influence, are some of the factors that work against full transparency. *How does this lack of transparency jeopardize our health, our environment, and our common resources?*

Special Thanks to: CUNY GRADUATE CENTER

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE SPEAKERS



KEYNOTE:

Michael K. Hansen, Ph.D.,
a Senior Scientist with Consumers Union, publisher of Consumer Reports

Currently works primarily on food safety issues. He has been largely responsible for developing CU positions on safety, testing and labeling of genetically engineered food and “mad cow” disease. Since 2003, he has worked on a multi-state effort to ban the use of food crops to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. Dr. Hansen has testified at hearings in Washington, D.C., many states, and Canada, and has prepared comments on many proposed U.S. governmental rules and regulations on food safety issues. He also represents Consumers International, a federation of more than 250 organizations in 110 countries, at Codex Alimentarius and other international fora on issues. Dr. Hansen speaks on CU’s concerns on mad cow disease, GMOs, pest management, and antibiotics in animal feed, at meetings and conferences throughout the world. He is widely quoted in the media.

<http://www.lightmillennium.org>



H. E. Dr. Palitha T.B.Kohona, Ambassador & Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, New York

Ambassador Dr. Palitha T.B. Kohona served as the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka until his appointment as Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York in 2009. Prior to this he served as the Secretary-General of the Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process (SCOPP) established by the Government of Sri Lanka since 2006.

Early Life: Dr. Palitha Kohona who hails from Matale, Sri Lanka, received his secondary education in Sri Lanka at St. Thomas College, Mt. Lavinia. He proceeded to obtain a LL.B (Hons) at the University of Sri Lanka and, having been awarded an A.N.U. Scholarship, a LL.M from the Australian National University. He obtained a Doctorate from Cambridge University, UK, for the thesis – ‘The Regulation of International Economic Relations through Law’, subsequently published by Kluwer, Netherlands. He is also an Attorney-at-Law, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. Dr. Kohona has published extensively and delivered lectures on areas such as, terrorism, international organized crime, the environment, international treaty law, etc.

International Career: Dr. Kohona was a member of the Sri Lanka delegation to the UN General Assembly in 2006- 2011. He has led official level delegations to a wide range of countries on bilateral matters, political, trade, environment, aviation and fisheries issues. He is currently the Co-Chair of the UN Ad-Hoc Working Group on Marine Resources beyond National Jurisdiction, the Chairman of the UN Ad-Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean and a Vice President of the 23rd Meeting of the States Parties to the Law of the Sea Convention.



John Kempf is the founder and CEO of Advancing Eco Agriculture (AEA), a leading crop nutrition consulting company.

A top expert in the field of biological and regenerative farming, John founded AEA in 2006 to help fellow farmers by providing the education, tools and strategies that will have a global effect on the food supply and those who are growing that supply.

As a farmer who grew up in and remains a part of the Amish community, John has a very special understanding of plants’ functional immunity. He sought out alternative approaches to prevent damage to his crops once they stopped responding to conventional pesticide treatments. To enhance plants’ natural immunity, thereby making them less susceptible to pests and disease, he developed a comprehensive, systems-based methodology founded on plant physiology, mineral nutrition and soil microbiology. With results proven on his own farm, John went on to found AEA to share his success and insight that healthy crops do not require chemical treatments or genetic modifications.



H.E. Mr. Carlos Garcia Gonzales is a career diplomat that served his country in the United Nations from July 1, 1996 to June 17, 2014, and Founder, CEO, CG Global Consultant and Director of UN Relations at Enviro Board Corporation

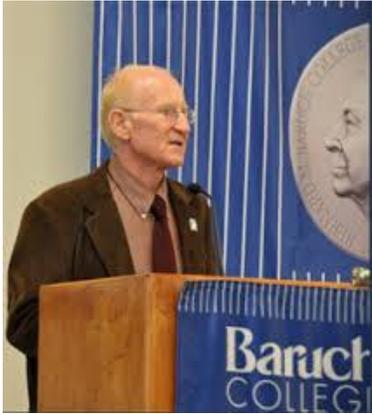
He is the former Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations and currently contributes to the analysis, assessment and promotion of the international relations, in particular the multilateral affairs and the United Nations agenda as consultant.

During his long standing career in New York, Ambassador Carlos García was in charge of the political, economic, financial, social, peace and security, humanitarian, environmental and human rights issues, having held several positions, on behalf of the Latin American and the Caribbean States, such as: President of the General Assembly's Fourth Committee (2013-2014); Vice President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2014; Vice-Chairman of countless committees during the General Assemblies, and in other bodies such as the Commission on Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women; Vice-Chairman of the former Executive Board of INSTRAW; Vice-President of the Executive Board of UNDP-UNFPA UNOPS in 2011; and as Rapporteur of the Joint Executive Boards field visits to Guatemala (2004) and Azerbaijan (2005).



Julie Mardin is an artist-activist and independent researcher.

She has exhibited her politically messaged art work exploring the marketing of violence, and information overload, nationally and internationally since 1996. She has been a regular researcher and contributor for The Light Millennium, providing overviews on previous dedication themes such as for Nazim Hikmet, Karen Armstrong and Arthur C. Clarke, and an essay on small farmers which was picked up by Gale textbooks in its 2006 anthology on World Hunger. She is currently the Content Coordinator for Issue #30, dedicated to Freedom of Information in the Genetically Modified Age. She has also covered the topic for the magazine, providing a general overview of the hazards and difficulties of independent scientists to conduct independent research, and has helped to develop and moderate the Light Millennium's panel discussion "A Quest to Fulfill Body and Mind Post-2015: Is genetically modified food a solution?" that took place at the 65th UN DPI/NGO conference last August. She holds a Diploma in Commercial Photography from Center for the Media Arts and a Masters in Fine Arts from Columbia University's Creative Writing Program.



Abdullah Uz Tansel, *Professor of Computer Science at The Graduate Center and Baruch College*
The concept of this panel is a special Interest of Professor Tansel.

Abdullah Uz Tansel is professor of Computer Information Systems at the Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College and Computer Science PhD program at the Graduate Center. His research interests are database management systems, temporal databases, data mining, and semantic web. Dr. Tansel published many articles in the conferences and journals of ACM and IEEE. Currently, he is supervising PhD students who are researching temporality at RDF and OWL, which are semantic web languages. Dr. Tansel served in program committees of many conferences and headed the editorial board that published the first book on temporal databases in 1993. He is also one the editors of the forth coming book titled Recommendation and Search in Social Networks to be published by Springer. He received BS, MS and PhD degrees from the Middle East Technical University, Ankara Turkey. He also completed his MBA degree at the University of Southern California. Dr. Tansel is a member of ACM and IEEE Computer Society.



Bircan Ünver, *Founding President, Executive Producer/Director and Permanent Representative to the UN DPI/NGO of The Light Millennium*

She has been Executive Producer and Director of the LM's e-publications and public programs in its all aspects, and The Light Millennium TV (LMTV) Series and Specials since its inception and is the Permanent Representative of the organization to the UN DPI since its association in 2005, and took the lead in its application process. As an advocate for "freedom of expression" and "public benefit media," she has compiled and e-published over 57 e-issues and produced over 100 original television programs, garnering several awards. Developed, organized/co-organized, presented/co-presented, over 60 public events.

She has lectured on freedom of expression, public access television, women-girl rights, UN, MDGs and presentations on the LM and LMTV. She was member of the Media Subcommittee of the 65th UN DPI/NGO Conference, co-directed the panel "*A quest to fulfill body and mind Post-2015: Is genetically modified food a solution?*" with Julie Mardin at the conference, and was also member of the Planning Committee of the 2nd and 3rd UN High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace (2013, 2014). Recently, she was one of the speakers of the Anuvrat International Conference (Sept. 2014 - Delhi, India). She is also the Founding President ISIKBINYILI.ORG Multi-Media, Culture and Social Development and Support association based in Istanbul, Turkey, which officially formed in January 2010, as the sister and Turkish counterpart of the LM. Bircan holds a master's degree in Media Studies from the New School University (1999, NYC), and B.A. in Fine Arts from the Mimar Sinan University (1988, Istanbul). <http://www.lightmillennium.org>

ABOUT THE SPONSORING ORGANIZATION - The Light Millennium (LM):

The Light Millennium (LM) is a non-religious, non-political, not-for-profit (501-c-3), non-governmental (NGO), independent public benefit multi-media and culture organization. The LM has become associated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations effective (UN/DPI) on December 12, 2005. Formed in 2001, based in Queens, New York. On the Web since August 1999...

The LM was formed based on the first article of the United States Bill of Rights, Freedom of Speech, in conjunction with the United Nations' Universal Declaration Article #19, on Freedom of Expression. It invites citizens of the world to submit, in an appropriate artistic medium, ideas and experiences that will help foster better understanding between people of different cultures and beliefs. The organization frequently presents ideas from the United Nations on its key issues as well as ideas from the all walks of life. Since LM's association with the UN/DPI, channels its capacity and potential sources in support of the UN Vision, MDGs and with the same manner Beyond 2015 for the Sustainable "HUMAN" developments on its multiple platforms yet on the voluntary basis.

LM has collaborated with the Department of Public Information during the NY base UN-DPI/NGO conferences including the recent 65th UN DPI/NGO conference, in which it sponsored and presented the panel "*A Quest to Fulfill Hunger of the Body and Mind Post-2015: Is genetically modified food a solution?*" as well as with other major universities such as CUNY-GC, Baruch, Columbia, NYU, Princeton, Yale, Stevens Institute of Technology, and non-governmental, civil society organizations, as well as with several government agencies and member states of the UN for an event and/or LMTV based collaboration with such government entities as the Turkish Mission, Turkish Consulate General, NY Turkish Culture Office, Swiss Consulate General, the Sri Lankan, El Salvadoran, Kazakhstani, Macedonian missions... Further, LM is a member of the Global Movement for the Culture of Peace(GMCoP) and actively took part in both the 2013 and 2014 UN High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace. www.lightmillennium.org

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE LM'S NEXT E-ISSUE #31

With renewed inspiration for its 31st Issue, LM will be continuing its dedication concept,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION IN THE GENETICALLY MODIFIED AGE: Water, Food, Health and Environment.

To be among the first published group please send us your works by **December 19, 2014**. However the submission process will be open and ongoing into the spring. Our projected e-publication for *the first group of submissions will be January 27, 2015*, the 15th anniversary of the LM's e-publications.

Content Coordinator: Julie Mardin

<http://www.lightmillennium.org/fox-and-gmo-food/list.html>

Contact: Bircan Ünver – Julie Mardin

Email: EVENT@lightmillennium.org – INFO@lightmillennium.org

**Special Thanks to: Our Esteemed Panelists,
Moderator and Host Prof. Abdullah Tansel,
and CUNY-Graduate Center**



**Conceived and Directed by
Bircan Ünver and Julie Mardin
Event Photographer: Ali Sarikaya
and Isik Basarir
Videographer: Richard Graziano
Sponsored and Presented by
The Light Millennium (LM).**

**For more information: <http://www.lightmillennium.org>
For your question or inquiry, please e-mail us at: info@lightmillennium.org
Tel: 718-441-3816 – 646-688-4449**

Please join us during the Garment District Arts Festival
for an Art Exhibit and Open Studio
and to celebrate

The Light Millennium's Issue #30

Freedom of Information in the Genetically Modified Age



at Julie Mardin Photography

Saturday, October 25, 1-6 pm

4 pm Special Guest Talk

Jennifer Rogers-Brown, Assistant Professor of Sociology

Long Island University

specialties: Globalization, Environmental Sociology, Technology and Society, Latin America

and special musical guest

Marco Joachim

featuring artwork from Issue #30

Refreshments

Celebrate Food, Knowledge, Health, and the Environment!

at

Julie Mardin Photography Studio

315 West 39th Street, Suite 303, (between 8th & 9th Avenues)

RSVP by October 23: event@lightmillennium.org

For more information please visit www.lightmillennium.org