

International interreligious Affairs, May 2010 highlights
David Rosen

The following were the two major events in my May calendar.

May 24-26 at Lambeth Palace, London; the fourth Anglican-Jewish dialogue.

Initiated by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Chief Rabbinate of Israel, these annual dialogues are held alternately in Jerusalem and Lambeth (or Canterbury) and consist of presentations and discussion on a joint theme.

The Chief Rabbinate's delegation is chaired by Chief Rabbi She'ar Yashuv Cohen and includes Chief Rabbi David Brodman, Rabbi Professor Daniel Sperber and the DG of the Chief Rabbinate, Oded Wiener and myself. The Anglican delegation is chaired by Bishop Jackson of Clogher.

The theme at this meeting was "Creation", looking at the respective Traditions' teachings on the environment, and it was my honor to give the main Jewish presentation on the subject. While the deliberations were reported in the worldwide Anglican media providing for a wider understanding of commonalities and differences in Anglican and Jewish perspectives, (see <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/acns/news.cfm/2010/6/9/ACNS4708>) these discussions facilitate the development of friendship and trust between religious leaders. In addition to the focus on the theme of the meeting, time is also given to addressing issues of common concern and particular attention was given to the position and role of the churches in and in relation to the Middle East. Moreover this bilateral commission has facilitated more effective communication and collaboration between the institutions and their leadership on a number of issues in the Israeli/Palestinian context.

In addition, at the initiative of Sir Sigmund Sternberg, the British Board of Jewish Deputies hosted a reception attended by our respective delegations in honor of the CBE awarded to me by Queen Elizabeth II (see: http://www.boardofdeputies.org.uk/page.php/BOARD_AND_STERNBERGS_TOAST_ROSEN_HONOUR/361/103/3)

Following the days of our dialogue, I held meetings with interfaith leaders/activists and also met with the leadership of the Board of Deputies at their request to discuss a number of current interfaith issues.

May 30/31 Doha, Qatar. The WEF's world global design summit

In addition to my having been involved over the last decade with the World Economic Forum's Religious Leaders Council (as well as its C-100 for the promotion of dialogue between Islam and the West) I am also involved in the WEF's Global Agenda Council.

This is a composite of a number of groups of experts together with leaders from the business and political worlds as well as civil society, who have been addressing a wide spectrum of subjects/issues with a view to formulating a vision and agenda for the future in light of the various scientific, economic and social challenges facing humanity. Two meetings of these councils took place in Dubai and the work was presented at the WEF AM in Davos. The Doha meeting, hosted by the Emir of Qatar, sought to plan a future program accordingly and to advance greater cooperation between the different sectors and across the globe.

See: <http://www.weforum.org/en/events/GlobalRedesignSummit2010/index.htm>