

Milano



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## Greeting Message Interreligious Meeting "Signs of Peace"

July 20, 2013

Dear Friends,

Today Milan welcomes, here at the Museum of Science and Technology, the deep and ancient voices of Eastern and Western spirituality. It welcomes a dialogue on the unity of man, on his truest and most intimate desires: above all, that of peace.

I am happy to welcome, on behalf of the entire City, Noritake Syunan, president of the International Zen Exchange Friendship Association. Today he brings us the wisdom of the Zen: a tradition that focuses on the spirituality of the individual, on his experience of the world, on his inner light as a source of harmony within himself and in social relationships. A tradition that can fruitfully communicate with that of the Gospel, as we see happening this evening thanks to the presence of Bishop Erminio De Scalzi. The affinities and differences between these two worlds can shed light for everyone, believers or not.



Milan is traditionally open to the East: its engagement in dialogue and interreligious confrontation and its intercultural and international vocation, make it a city open and curious towards the East.

It is therefore no coincidence that today, in Milan, at the Museum of Science and Technology, we can find Zen and Buddhists friends together with Christians, followers of other religions and non-believers, gathered to hear the dialogue between two Masters of the spirit.

The initiative of the Science Museum has the merit of creating a dialogue between two great spiritual traditions and Science, now an unavoidable horizon of human life. Two human dimensions whose conflict has often generated intolerance. Two dimensions, neither of which can be rejected, and whose cooperation can bring great developments and peace to all. I thank for this Fiorenzo Galli, general director of the Museum, who has promoted today's meeting together with Father Luciano Mazzocchi, founder of the community "Zen and the Gospel."

Science and Religion are the two major responses to man's appetite for knowledge about the world and about himself. Two answers that are both necessary.

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Milan is preparing Expo 2015: our city is working to become an international workshop on the themes of food, water, energy, and sustainable lifestyles, not only for the present but also for the future.

In this scenario the great religious traditions of the world are central. There will be numerous visitors from the Zen and Buddhist traditions, who will give their contribution as visitors, as researchers, as experts, as teachers, as technicians, as scientists.

The Museum of Science and Technology will be an undisputed leader. Like tonight, Religion and Science will weave a peace dialogue about man, and about dignity, justice and equality which are the foundations of peace.

To all of you my best wishes along with the greetings of a city that works every day to welcome different cultures and faiths, to foster dialogue, and to generate fruits of peace for a better future for all.

Thank you.

Giuliano Pisapia  
Mayor of Milan