



**The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of the  
International Day of Older Persons**

***Poverty Reduction Strategies  
with and for Older Persons:  
Regional Perspectives***

Presented by  
The UN/NGO Committee on Ageing,  
in collaboration with the UN Department of Public Information,  
the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs,  
and the United Nations Population Fund

**Thursday, October 6, 2005**

**10:00 am to 1:00 pm**

**United Nations Headquarters  
New York**

**Poverty Reduction Strategies with and for Older Persons:  
Regional Perspectives**

10:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

Opening Remarks from **Ramu Damodaran**, Chief of the Civil Society Service in the Outreach Division of the United Nations Department of Public Information

Greeting Message from Secretary-General **Kofi Annan**

Greeting Message from **Florence Denmark**, Chairperson, NGO Committee on Ageing, UN NY

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Moderator: **Ramu Damodaran**

Keynote Speaker: **Jomo Kwame Sundaram** (Jomo K.S.) Assistant Secretary General for Economic Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Brief question and answer period

PANEL DISCUSSION

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGIES WITH AND FOR OLDER PERSONS

Moderator: **Donald Lee**, Chief, Poverty Eradication and Employment Section, Social Perspective on Development Branch, Division for Social Policy and Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Africa: **John Moses Sama**, representing The Regional Center for the Welfare of Ageing Persons in Cameroon

Asia: **Win Win Kyi**, Associate Professor, Bergen Community College, New Jersey

Latin America: **Irma Loemban Tobing-Klein**, cofounder and executive of the MDG Global Watch NGO, Former Permanent Representative of the Republic of Suriname to the United Nations

Middle East: **Kamal Khaldi**, Director of the Distribution Center of Arab References, Sociologist, Social Worker

West and the Rest: **Dorothy Rosenberg**, Policy Advisor, MDGs and Civil Society, Poverty Group (MDG Focal Point), United Nations Development Programme

Brief Question and answer period

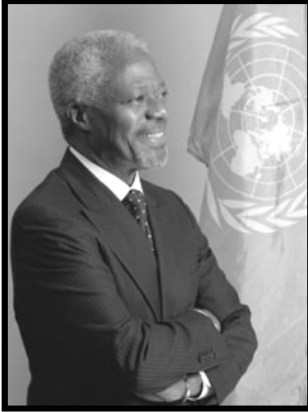
CULTURAL EVENTS

Prelude to program

“**Supercentenarians**”: a continuous loop of photographs from **Jerry Friedman’s** new book, Earth’s Elders: The Wisdom of the World’s Oldest People. Note that the UN Bookstore will be hosting Mr. Friedman for a book signing in the afternoon following the program. These works are also scheduled to appear next spring as the art exhibit in the United Nations Visitors’ Lobby

Conclusion of program “**Jazzberry Jam**,” a musical delight featuring jazz great **Carline Ray**, accompanied by **Dotti Taylor**

UN Webcast 6 October, 10:00 a.m., ET, <http://www.un.org/webcast>



**Kofi Annan** is the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations. The first Secretary-General to be elected from the ranks of United Nations staff, he began his first term on 1 January 1997. On 29 June 2001, acting on a recommendation by the Security Council, the General Assembly appointed him by acclamation to a second term of office, beginning on 1 January 2002 and ending on 31 December 2006.

Mr. Annan's priorities as Secretary-General have been to revitalize the United Nations through a comprehensive programme of reform; to strengthen the Organization's traditional work in the areas of development and the maintenance of international peace and security; to encourage and advocate human rights, the rule of law and the universal values of equality, tolerance and human dignity found in the United Nations Charter; and to restore public confidence in the Organization by reaching out to new partners and, in his words, by "bringing the United Nations closer to the people".

The Secretary-General is fluent in English, French and several African languages. He is married to Nane Annan, of Sweden, a lawyer and artist who has a great interest in understanding the work of the United Nations in the field. Two issues of particular concern to her are HIV/AIDS and education for women. She has also written a book for children about the United Nations.



**Jomo Kwame Sundaram** (Jomo K.S.) has been Assistant Secretary General for Economic Development in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) since January 2005. He was Professor in the Applied Economics Department, Faculty of Economics and Administration, University of Malaya until November 2004, and was on the Board of the United Nations Research Institute on Social Development (UNRISD), Geneva (2002-4). He is the Founder Chair of IDEAs, International Development Economics Associates ([www.ideaswebsite.org](http://www.ideaswebsite.org)).

Born in Penang, Malaysia, in 1952, Jomo studied at the Penang Free School, Royal Military College, Yale and Harvard. He has taught at Science University of Malaysia (USM, 1974), Harvard (1974-5), Yale (1977), National University of Malaysia (UKM, 1977-82), University of Malaya (since 1982), and Cornell (1993). He has also been a Visiting Fellow at Cambridge University and was Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. He has authored over 35 monographs, edited over 50 books and translated 11 volumes besides writing many academic papers and articles for the media. He is on the editorial boards of several learned journals.



**Ramu Damodaran** is Chief of the Civil Society Service in the Outreach Division of the United Nations Department of Public Information. In this capacity, Mr. Damodaran oversees the Department's outreach to the public, including non-governmental organizations and educational institutions. He is also Editor-in-Chief of the Organization's flagship quarterly, UN Chronicle. Damodaran's prior United Nations responsibilities include that of Senior Officer in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, Senior Focal Point Officer in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Political Affairs Officer in the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship. As a member of India's national diplomatic service, Mr. Damodaran served on the Indian delegation to the United Nations and was Chairman of the United Nations Council for Namibia Drafting Committee. He has worked in the Indian Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi and in the Indian Embassy in Moscow. Mr. Damodaran has extensive work experience in media, including television, radio and print journalism, in India and is a recipient of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union award for best radio feature.



**Florence L. Denmark**, Chair, NGO Committee on Ageing, UN NY, has represented both the International Council of Psychologists and the American Psychological Association at the United Nations since January 2000. Ms. Denmark received her Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania. She was the Robert Scott Pace Distinguished Professor and Chair of the psychology department at Pace University for 13 years. Prior to that time, Ms. Denmark was the Thomas Hunter Professor of Psychology at Hunter College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She is currently the Robert Scott Pace Distinguished Research Professor at Pace University.

Dr. Denmark has served as President of the American Psychological Association (APA), the International Council of Psychologists, and other regional and national organizations. At this time, she is a liaison to the APA's Committee on Aging. An internationally recognized scholar, researcher and policy maker, with a particular expertise on the ageing of women, she is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and has received many national and international awards and four honorary doctorates. Dr. Denmark has authored or edited 15 books and over 100 articles and book chapters. She has presented numerous papers and reports on ageing at local, regional, national, and international meetings. In 2004, Dr. Denmark received the American Psychological Foundation Gold Medal for Lifetime Achievement in the Public Interest. In 2005, she received the Ernest Hilgard Award for Distinguished Sustained Contribution to General Psychology.



**Donald Lee** is Chief of the Poverty Eradication and Employment Section of the Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Mr. Lee is an economist and received his PhD and Msc. in Economics from University College London, University of London. His work in the Division for Social Policy and Development is primarily related to the follow-up to the World Summit on Social Development, the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty and the Millennium Declaration, with specific responsibilities for poverty eradication and employment issues. He is a member of the Coordinating Committee for the International Year of Microcredit, 2005.

Prior to taking up this position, he was Acting Chief of the Finance, Industry and Trade Unit in the Division for Sustainable Development. Before his move to United Nations Headquarters in New York, he served as an economist with the United Nations regional commission for Asia and the Pacific, where he dealt with macroeconomic issues. He also served with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Bangkok, Thailand, where the focus of his work was on foreign direct investment, including investment promotion.



**John Moses Sama** has been an Associate Lecturer in African Philosophy on the Faculty of Letters and Human Services at the University of Douala, Cameroon, since 1994. He is also currently Vice-Dean of Studies and Teacher ISES Deido at Douala. From 1980 to 1994, he taught at and was controller for Cameroon Baptist Convention Schools.

He has traveled widely in Asia, Europe and Africa in his study of the social psychology of older persons and how the environments in which they live, with particular emphasis on social structures and services, affect behavior. He has also studied the psychology of older persons in less developed areas as well as interaction between the elderly and youth. Mr. Sama has worked as a volunteer for over seven years with RECEWAPEC to help reduce poverty among the elderly in Cameroon. His participation in this year's International Day of Older Persons programme is as a representative of RECEWAPEC. Mr. Sama holds a degree in philosophy and a diploma from the University of Yaounde, Cameroon.



**Win Win Kyi** is an Associate Professor at Bergen Community College, New Jersey and a Summer Teaching Faculty at Yale University, Connecticut. She has been in the field of lower and higher education for over three decades. Ms. Win Kyi has demonstrated expertise in international communications through a substantial record of publications, media appearances, formal and information presentations and successful liaisons and negotiations with international academic, business, cultural and political leaders.

For nearly two decades, she has been an active volunteer sharing her experiences with the senior citizens with programs such as Reading for Pleasure and Leisure, Plays from Around the World, Moments in History and International Short Stories. Some of the recognitions that she has received are Women of Peace, Powerful Women and Powerful Voices, Asian/Pacific Women Fellowship, Mid-Career Fellowship at Princeton University, Ambassador of Peace and Ambassador of Hope. She grew up as a child of a UN official. Her philosophy in life is love people, use things. Not use people and love things.



**Irma Loemban Tobing – Klein** is Co-founder and Executive Team Leader of MDG Global Watch. She has followed an employment track that started in 1958, with Suriname's Ministry of Justice, where she headed two divisions for the legal protection of children, also served as barrister and eventually became Chief of the Legal Department (1981). From 1982 to 1988 she served as a Chief of the Department of Juridical Affairs and Treaties of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Her diplomatic career started in September 1988, with her appointment as Counselor (Deputy Ambassador) at the Embassy of the Republic of Suriname in the Netherlands, followed by her first assignment as Minister Plenipotentiary in June 1994, where she headed the Permanent Mission of Suriname to the United Nations.

In 2001, she became Ambassador at large and served until 15 January 2003 as Permanent Representative of the Republic of Suriname to the United Nations; from September 2003 – September 2004, she served as advisor social, humanitarian and cultural affairs in the Cabinet of the President of the 58th Session of the General Assembly. Since August 2003, she has been advisor to the Minister responsible for Gender Affairs in Suriname on issues relating to the membership of Suriname to the Commission on the Status of Women. In December 2001, she received the "Woman who Make a Difference Award" from the UN NGO CSW, N.Y.; in August 2005, in the Netherlands, the prestigious "Jagernath Lachmon, Kwkoe Award;" and just recently the (3rd of September 2005) the "Kankantrie Award."



**Dr. Kamal Khaldi** is Director of the Distribution Center of Arab References in McLean, Virginia. He is a sociologist and social worker and has undertaken several studies focusing on modern socio-cultural changes in the Middle East and the concept of an Israeli-Palestinian Bi-National State. Prior to his current position, Dr. Khaldi was affiliated with the General Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists Syrian Chapter, from 1987 to 1995, as a social worker and as Chapter Chairman in Damascus.

From 1980 to 1987, he was a Social Researcher with the General Union of Palestinian Writers in Syria. He also served as Deputy Director General, Social Sector, for the development of the Euphrates Basin in Rakka, Syria from 1972 to 1980, and was a Lecturer in Social Work at the High Institute of Social Work at Damascus University between 1966 and 1972. Dr. Khaldi holds degrees in sociology from Damascus University and in social work from the High Institute of Social Work in Cairo, Egypt.

**Dorothy Rosenberg** is the Policy Advisor for MDGs and Civil Society in the Poverty Reduction Group of the Bureau of Development Policy, United Nations Development Program. From 2001 to 2004, she was the Senior Poverty Reduction Advisor, Poverty Group, BDP/UNDP, Regional Center for Europe and the CIS, Bratislava, Slovakia, following her activities as a Fulbright Exchange Professor and Senior Researcher, Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute for International Economic and Political Studies, Moscow, Russian Federation.

Her areas of expertise include: Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union; gender and social policy (education, health care, family, labor market, pension, social welfare systems) in pre- and post-transition economies; poverty data and analysis; and ethnicity and conflict. With over 25 years of professional experience, she is the recipient of multiple grants for research in Central and Eastern Europe. Her professional travel from 1980 to the present has included Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, former German Democratic Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and the former Yugoslavia.



**Jerry Friedman** is one of the leading professional photographers in the world of television and print advertising. Soon after opening his own studio on lower Fifth Avenue in 1972, he became one of the nation's top still photographers, working with such high-profile and innovative advertising agencies as Young and Rubicam, Ogilvy & Mather, J. Walter Thompson, Della Femina, and Saatchi & Saatchi New York. In the early 1980s, Mr. Friedman became a television director and opened Paradise Films in New York City. He produced highly lauded commercials for numerous brands, from Amex to Huggies and Hanes. In addition, he wrote and directed the short film "The Waiter," for which he received the silver award from the International Film Festival held in New York.

In December 2000, he conceived of a project that became the focus and passion of his life: to photograph the world's oldest people, traveling across the United States and to remote and far-flung regions of the world to capture the images and life stories of this "hidden minority." That remarkable journey – and the people he met along the way – is profiled in *Earth's Elders: The Wisdom of the Oldest People on Earth*, scheduled for publication in October. The project had such a great impact on Mr. Friedman that he founded the Earth's Elders Foundation to stimulate people's thinking about the realities of being an older person in this country. Earth's Elders Foundation owns all rights to the author's work on the supercentenarian project, and all "author proceeds" from *Earth Elders* will be donated to the Foundation.

### **Earth Elders: The Wisdom of the World's Oldest People**

by Jerry Friedman

With essays by Dr. Robert Coles, Dr. M.

Joycelyn Elders,

Lama Surya Das, and Arvol Looking Horse

*Earth's Elders* an unprecedented look at the hearts, minds, and spirits of fifty of our planet's "supercentenarians"—those who have lived to be 110 years old and older. From the steppes of Mongolia to Manchester-by-the-Sea in Massachusetts, Jerry Friedman encountered members of the "hidden tribe" of supercentenarians—ordinary people who have achieved extraordinary ages. In his remarkable portraits, Friedman celebrates their lives, illuminating the rarely glimpsed worlds of men and women who have lived in three different centuries. Their rich and colorful stories touch the heart, and provide us with intriguing clues into the mysteries of longevity.

Contributing personal reflections to this book are four of today's most distinguished thinkers: Dr. Robert Coles, professor of psychiatry at Harvard, researcher, and Pulitzer Prize-winning author; Dr. M. Joycelyn Elders, former Surgeon General of the United States and committed advocate for health care and education; Chief Arvol Looking Horse, spiritual leader of the Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota Nation and 19<sup>th</sup> Generation Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe; and Lama Surya Das, colleague of the Dalai Lama, best-selling author, and the most highly trained American lama of the Tibetan tradition of Buddhism.



**Carline Ray** is a native of New York, a singer, bass player, and teacher. She is a graduate of the Juilliard School of Music with a BS in composition and the Manhattan School of Music with a MM in voice. She received her early musical training from her father, also a Juilliard graduate. Carline's professional experience covers more than 60 years in the classics, jazz, latin, calypso, and blues. As a bass player she has played with the Duke Ellington Orchestra and with big bands led by names like Skitch Henderson and Peter Duchin. Some of the small groups she performed with were led by Mary Lou Williams, Marian McPartland, and Benny Powell, to name but a few. She has traveled extensively in Brazil, Europe, and the Far East, doing concerts, festivals, State Department tours, etc.

As a singer, she has been a concert chorister with such groups as the Schola Cantorum, Camarata Singers, and the American Opera Society. In the recording studios she has sung back-up for such favorites as Patti Page, Brook Benton, Della Reese, Bobby Darin, and the McGuire Sisters. As an educator, she has taught at Medgar Evers, Hunter, William Patterson and New School University. Carline has been honored with several awards for her contributions to jazz and received two grants from the NEA. Her most recent honor was an award received as one of the original members of JAZZBERRY JAM at the Mary Lou Williams Jazz Festival at the Kennedy Performing Arts Center in Washington.

**Dotti Anita Taylor**, a pianist, flutist, producer, composer and arranger, who has written over 150 compositions, will accompany Carline. Dotti is the recipient of several NEFA Meet the Composer grants and has been honored for her contributions to the world of jazz. She studied at the Caputo Conservatory of Musical Arts and at the Juilliard School of Music. She received a BA in math and an MA in Music from Queens College, and is retired from a thirty-year career as a math teacher in NYC. She is actively performing with various groups and has her own quartet as well as a seven-piece women's ensemble, Moment of Truth. Dottie is currently president of International Women of Jazz.