
A Message to the Forum 2000, October 2012

His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Spiritual Leader, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, India/Tibet

Brothers and sisters,

You gathered now for the Forum 2000 in Prague. Although I personally – physically – cannot participate, but my spirit, my mind will always be there.

Particularly, our respected, very close, admired friend, President Havel is no longer physically with us. So, we should feel more sense of responsibility, as he is physically no longer with us. So his wish, his spirit we must carry and his wish must be fulfilled by those people who still remain, including myself. I myself am totally dedicated to the fulfillment of his wish, of his dream.

So those of you, who are there, please, now think more seriously; and we should develop new ideas. And then, what is important is implementation. Just a few nice words of resolution have not much effect, but we must implement those. So that is what I want to share with you.

I am sure your meeting will be successful and can be a small way to the appreciation of our late great friend's wish. So thank you very much.

And I am always used to telling people, when we talk about the change of the world, trying to improve humanity, making it more peaceful, happier... Ultimately, these things must start from the individual – ourselves. Unless we ourselves change to being better, more peaceful, more sensible... than we can express from one single person to ten persons, thousand persons, ten thousand, hundred thousand persons, and like that. So ultimately, the important thing is change oneself. Good things must start from one individual.

So sometimes I think – including myself – sometimes there is some expectation that change will come from "there"; without your own change. That's, I think, unrealistic.

Thank you.