

# 29th S.I. CONFERENCE Piaski - POLAND



**DAY OFF / EXCURSION:** Everybody needs a chance to rest their mind. For me, after 4 days of non-stop work, I was getting itchy feet and so it was great when I woke up and realised it would be no 'rules of order, dolphin, paddles up please etc. Instead we started this LOVLEY day getting on a bus and clambering onto a large boat which took us over lakes, through locks and to the picturesque village of 'Mikolajki', then dropped us off at a pier near our hotel. Amazing to see the beauty of Mazury, 100s of yachts being sailed around, people laughing & smiling in the sun. It made me think of home (India) where water is such a problem for us. We ate our packed lunches and then some of us took bikes out to cycle, swam in the lake, chatted or caught up on sleep. ➔  
*by Dr Ulhas JOSHI, India (see ➔ photo)*



**6-7:30pm PRESENTATION:** on beautiful Guatamala.  
**9pm Servas Online**  
A surprise presentation by Stefan (Sweden) - interesting!

**MODERATORS: ☺**  
**You are doing a great job – such calm voices.**

In Venezuela, can you smoke in public and private places? No (Florencio)

**DEAR SERVAS FAMILY: 🙏**  
Help Suriname with our peace activities by buying a beautiful GA2012 quality T-shirt. Obrigada *By Lidia*

The youngest delegate is 27, there are 3. They are from China, Hongkong, Botswana. 47% of us are ages 27-49 years old. The wisest mature delegate is 72. *By Marijke (New Zealand)*



Servas On-A-Line

**WIN - AN AFRICAN HAND-CARVED FISH NECKLACE**

Tell Demelza (Malawi) the correct answers to the following questions: 1) How many local languages are there in Malawi? 2) The longest freshwater yachting race in the world takes place in a) March, b) May or c) July. 3) Over a)3000, b)1200, c) 800 people attend the annual 3-Day 'Lake of Stars' Music Festival. 4) Cape Maclear, has been granted a) 1st, b) 2<sup>nd</sup> or c) 3<sup>rd</sup> Fresh underwater World Heritage site recognition. 5) Colonial independence took place in a) 1964, b) 1972 or c) 1978. 6) How many countries are there in Africa?

I send to all the participants at the GA 2012 the best greetings from Costa Rica. I wish you a lot of success, I feel very sad that I couldn't participate at the GA. Thank you for the help that you offer to Larissa Mora who represents Costa Rica for the first time. Greetings, **Carmen**

Is it true that you can't access Facebook & Twitter in China? Yep its blocked! But the Chinese people have developed two alternatives to them 'Renren.com' & 'Weibo.com'. The Weibo site is actually a better experience than Twitter! Could Servas, as it develops its own online system improve on the BeWelcome, Couchsurfers, Warmshowers & Hospitality Club sites? *By Jack (China)*

**Are WE at GA 2012 caring about the Environment?**  
*Green Passport Campaign: Holidays for a living planet.*  
It is an initiative by the International Task Force on Sustainable Tourism Development. It provides tips to foster the adoption of responsibilities attitudes in tourism, showing how your behaviour can contribute toward conserving the environment and improving the quality of people's life. In Brazil, it acts in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme. *By Alvany (Brazil)*

☺Sun glasses found. Thank you all for your kind inquiry. **Marijke**

**Men build too many walls and not enough bridges. Isaac Newton**

Unfortunately I spent the beginning of the conference in bed as I was sick. I received plenty of visits so I knew the participants were very active and wanted to do the best for a good conference. I didn't feel lonely even though it was a very sad way of participating in the conference. **Ana Tentella - Italy**



Photo above by: Anne (Finland)