



**Intergovernmental Institution for the use of Micro-algae Spirulina Against Malnutrition**  
**Permanent Intergovernmental Observer to the United Nations Economic and Social Council**

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***“There are people in the world so hungry that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread”***

***Mahatma Gandhi***

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**OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY:**

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***DIRECTOR-GENERAL***

***Udine, Italy 27 November 2009***

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***Confindustria/Gruppo Vinicolo Fantinel Spa***

***Special Fundraiser Event For IIMSAM***

## **Distinguished Ladies and Gentleman,**

Italy is a dear country of mine and all Argentinians it is indeed a great pleasure to be meeting with you again; and I am thankful to you for your kind attendance to support the cause of IIMSAM, which is to eradicate malnutrition globally through Spirulina.

Italy is a country that is associated with some of the beautiful aspects of life. A land of fashion, good food and drink that make us believe that life is 'La Dolce Vita.'

But how many of us wonder about over a billion people that are on the threshold of hunger and on the verge of death this year; and many million of them shall be consumed by death. In fact, while we interact at this moment, somewhere in the world, a little child is dead.

A few days back, I was going through a speech by Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, a UN Messenger of Peace who established the Arab world's first food relief NGO in her homeland, Jordan, and served as a Goodwill Ambassador for the World Food Programme from 2005 to 2007.

In her speech that she delivered on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November in Dubai she mentions about a significant gap that exists between media publicity and real substance. Media covers only the fancy notions of the politicians gathered at the international platforms than about the plight of the hungry and the dying, and various initiatives that can be actuated to mitigate their sufferings. A little noise from the lofty platforms subsumes the cries of the agony and tears of the hungry.

Most people hear about malnutrition and hunger, agree to commit themselves to do something about the children and women dying of malnutrition in a far off land, and forget about their so called commitments to 'make the world a better place', as soon as they reach the confines and comfort of their respective homes and in the warmth of the presence of the near and dear ones. Ignorance is indeed bliss and there is no place like home especially during Christmas.

But I would like to mention one such colleague of mine that does not fall in the above category. It was a pleasure to know Dr. Sulaiman Al-Fahim, a fellow

ambassador of IIMSAM from the UAE who was instrumental to initiate our Spirulina Nutritional Initiatives in the Republic of Kenya.

I can still remember my first meeting with Ambassador Al-Fahim at the United Nations Headquarters in New York when he asked that so many of people talk about malnutrition, about children dying in Africa, and about famines and drought; then why the international community does not take any concrete action.

Same stories of misery and death get repeated year after year at the international platforms and in the media. Human mind and its reasoning are indeed very complex, and I honestly confess that I am not a professional psychologist; therefore I reasoned and said 'perhaps apathy'.

'NO MORE' said Ambassador Al-Fahim vividly. And I am glad to say that early this year when the Republic of Kenya declared the *National Food Emergency*, IIMSAM with the help of Ambassador Al-Fahim launched its Spirulina Nutritional programmes in the Kisumu region of the country. Our goodwill ambassador from Kenya, Mama Sara Obama and Saidi Obama, the grandmother and uncle respectively of the US president Mr. Barack Obama along with the IIMSAM team in Kenya also played a crucial role in the launch.

Action speaks louder than words. I am pleased to say that the actions of Ambassador Al-Fahim manifest this. IIMSAM's programme in Kenya is spreading far and wide in the country, providing nutrition through Spirulina to the school children, to HIV/AIDS affected, to mothers, to the diseased and the disabled and to senior citizens. Soon it shall spread to other countries in East and Central Africa; and to South Asia. Ambassador Al-Fahim's actions are indeed commendable and worthy of emulation across the world.

The brave, the noble, the kind and the wise do not wait for an opportune moment to initiate a positive change that adds to intrinsic value the human life and its richness but just go for it.

I often say that our life as a human is indeed a sheer waste and amounts to nothing, if we do not empathise with the misery of other or wipe a tear or feed the fellow human being.

Christmas is a beautiful time. The spirit of Christmas is on and the people shall celebrate and share the joy with their loved family. I am sure that our interaction

shall give the people gathered here an opportunity to contemplate about how to share the joy with the fellow human being.

IIMSAM can be the necessary platform that shall connect you with your fellow human being where you can not only save a life but also help enrich it through the use of Spirulina.

Would it not be wonderful if our actions can save the life of a little child that can be saved with the use of a little Spirulina? It is possible and can be done, and it is being done by IIMSAM.

I ask you to help IIMSAM to eradicate malnutrition and hunger from the world. Help mainstream the use of Spirulina to eradicate malnutrition, achieve food security and bridge the health divide in the developing and the least developed countries; and to secure the United Nations Millennium Development Goals for the peoples of the world. **Together We Can and Together We Shall.**

I am thankful to our Goodwill Ambassador Marco Fantinel and Confindustria Members for organising this event that shall spread awareness about IIMSAM and would go a long way to build support for it in Udine and Italy that shall help us take a quantum leap from where we are today. It is all a matter of taking notice and opening our eyes and our minds by incorporating new approaches to eradicate sufferings that mar the humankind.

I am confident that each one of us present here shall be an agent of a positive change that shall help enhance the beauty of life and adds to the bliss and joy that we can share.

I thank you all for lending me a patient ear; and wish you all and to your near and dear ones a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year 2010.

Muchas Gracias !