

Penn State University will observe Interdependence Day

Penn State University will observe Interdependence Day on Monday, September 12 with a signing of the Declaration of Interdependence and a panel discussion co-sponsored by University Libraries and International Programs. The event, which takes place in Foster Auditorium of Pattee Library at 12:00 Noon, will open with a formal signing of the Declaration of Interdependence by Vice President and Dean of Undergraduate Education Janis Jacobs on behalf of the University. Attendees will also have the opportunity to sign the Declaration.

The panel discussion, moderated by Lewis Jillings, executive director and associate dean for internationalization, will include the following distinguished panelists: Syedur Rahman, coordinator of the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program and affiliate associate professor and research associate in the College of Education; Charles Snow, chair of management and organization, professor of business administration in the Smeal College of Business, and Mellon Foundation Faculty Fellow; Lakshman Yapa, professor of geography in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences; and Humphrey Fellow Altantsetseg Sodnomtseren, director of international relations at the National University of Mongolia.

The ceremony and panel discussion will be web-cast live via streaming video from the Foster Auditorium by Media Site Live and may be accessed at <http://live.libraries.psu.edu> from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Any location wishing to receive the transmission will need an Internet connection, Internet Explorer version 5.5 or higher (or Mozilla Firefox), and Windows Media Player 9.0 or higher. Faculty, staff, and students of the University at all campuses are invited to join in observing the occasion.

The mission of Interdependence Day is to raise public awareness of the importance of global interdependence in the face of challenges that affect all countries. The goal is also to forge a powerful organization of individual citizens and groups committed to global governance and international cooperation. The date September 12th was specifically chosen for its symbolism as "the day after," in hopes that citizens around the world will realize that terrorism and war are also opportunities for civic renewal and global cooperation. The dream is that benevolent forms of interdependence, demonstrated (or made manifest) in transnational sovereignty, international law, and civic cooperation will outstrip less desirable forms of interdependence apparent in crime, global disease, financial speculation, war, and terrorism.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama endorsed Interdependence Day, saying, "Peace is not something which exists independently of us, nor is war.

The political leaders, policymakers and army generals who have responsibilities with respect to peace are members of our own human family, the society that we as individuals have helped create. Peace in the world thus depends on peace in the hearts of individuals."

For more information on Interdependence Day activities, contact Janet Haner at 814-865-0771.