

PRESS RELEASE

GROSS NATIONAL HAPPINESS ON THE GLOBAL AGENDA?

“GNH3” ORGANIZERS SEND OPEN LETTER TO DR. STIGLITZ AND DR. AMARTYA SEN

Bangkok, 15 January 2008 - The Organizers of the Third International Conference on Gross National Happiness “GNH3” learned with excitement, high expectations and in a critical mood that **President Nicolas Sarkozy** of France approached **Nobel laureates in Economics Dr. Joseph Stiglitz** and **Dr. Amartya Sen** to advise him on redefining “progress”.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) continues to guide governments and investors on how to measure economic growth. A new standard should be designed to give direction to development and social transformation.

The formulation of global, national and local Happiness or Well-being Indexes was the aim of the **Third International Conference on Gross National Happiness** held in **Nongkhai** and **Bangkok, Thailand, 22-28 November 2007**.

In an **OPEN LETTER** the Organizers of GNH3 make an appeal for strengthening and initiating free and open partnerships towards the formulation of a new way of calculating progress. In particular the experiences of (small) developing countries, and “least developed countries” should be included in a new consensus.

The **Sathirakoses Nagapradipa Foundation** founded in Thailand by **Sulak Sivaraksa** is coordinating preparations for follow-up activities based on multi-stakeholder exchanges during the GNH3 conference.

For news on the GNH3 conference and its follow-up please visit the conference website www.gnh-movement.org

Contact: **Sathirakoses Nagapradipa Foundation**

Wallapa and Hans van Willenswaard

hans@gnh-movement.org

wallapa@suan-spirit.com

Tel. (66) (0) 2 222 5698

Mobile (66)(0) 81 406 2260

Suan Nguen Mee Ma Co Ltd (GNH3 Conference Organizer)

113-115 Fuang Nakorn Road (Opp. Wat Rajabopit)

Bangkok 10200

THAILAND