Under the auspices of the Austrian Commission for UNESCO

the

ACPC Austrian Center of Philosophy with Children

organizes the

International Conference

"Language, Diversity and Understanding: Cosmopolitan Perspectives"

October 17 - 20, 2013 in Graz/Austria

Our society is undergoing a period of constant change due to the economic, political and cultural processes of globalisation. During this conference, we will deal in a critical way with the challenges arising from this, i.e. with diversity, participation, equal opportunities, justice and education. Open and successful communication is only possible when we show our appreciation for cultural diversity and demonstrate our commitment to human rights.

This year we will focus on the following questions:
How is communication possible in a pluralist society? Can we learn how to live together with cultural diversity through philosophical education? How can philosophical-rational dialogue offer us direction in a multi-faceted and often contradicting society? Do the individual and his/her rights disappear behind the over-emphasis on cultural identity? How can a cosmopolitan way of thinking contribute to overcoming cultural stereotypes?

With philosophical education, autonomous critical and creative as well as reflective thinking can be fostered and the ability to make judgements can be practised. The symposium aims to instigate discourse about the potential of cultural diversity and multilingualism and to make this visible in a sustainable way.

"Philosophy and democracy call on us to make use of our ability to judge, to choose the best political and social form of organisation, to recognise our values and, in a nutshell, to become what we all are already – free human beings – in a comprehensive manner." (Federico Mayor, former Director General of the UNESCO)

One important goal of this conference is to identify the diversity, complexity and dynamics in this fast changing world of today. This may help to position the ideas of children and their ways of living and to integrate them into ever-increasing generational contexts. It constitutes a challenge for philosophy to enhance language skills, communication and curiosity and encourage young people to raise questions and think of alternatives.

A particularly important goal of this year's conference is to introduce knowledge which has a scientific foundation and which at the same time can be communicated and socially put into practice. This conference will contribute to repositioning and improving the quality of curricular models.

As demonstrated by the great interest shown by the approx. 200 participants from 30 countries, our activities are seen as a role model, even beyond national borders. Among the participants are renowned international experts from various disciplines and fields. Again we look forward to an eventful conference.

The conference topics comprise the following, among others:

- Diversity and Communication
- Philosophy and Cultural Diversity
- Language and Identity
- Intercultural Communication and Global Thinking
- Transculturality and Transdisciplinarity
- Globalisation – Cosmopolitan Perspectives
- Lifelong Learning
- Citizenship and Democracy
- Community of Inquiry

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Place: Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz, Meerscheinschlössl,
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Conference fee: € 60.- (students and members € 30.-)

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Conference languages: English and German

Deadline for abstract: July 31, 2013 (abstract about 300-500 words)
Deadline for final paper: September 1st, 2013