

Connecting For Change: Corporate and Social Leaders in Dialogue

Survey Briefing Note



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The primary goal of the Connecting For Change (CFC) conference on September 9th and 10th was to bring together prominent national and international business leaders, social innovators and the Dalai Lama to build relationships and solutions for a better world. Almost half of those who participated completed an online survey after the event. Of these, approximately one-third were social innovators and two-thirds were business leaders. The following sections report out on the key questions asked in the survey tool.

Meeting the Dalai Lama and Participants the Highlight of the Experience

Survey results demonstrate that the presence and time spent with the Dalai Lama was the highlight of the event, closely followed by the caliber and spirit of the participants who attended.

Connecting the Sectors

Over 20% of respondents walked away from the session in deep reflection on the importance of harnessing the respective expertise and values of private enterprise and social change oriented organizations to develop a common language and accomplish more in society. Many of these respondents identified a will to further remove barriers between sectors and nurture cross-sectoral relationships. Eight percent of respondents stated that the event stimulated a need for personal change, and that they were reflecting deeply on how they could personally do more to promote peace and help others educate their hearts. In the words of one respondent, “I tend to be a practically-oriented, focused person [and] work to make change in my own sphere of influence. This experience broadened my view considerably and, while I was initially skeptical and perhaps even a little cynical, about 'peace and love, harmony and compassion' as effective tools or approaches, I am more open minded after my experience.”

The Dalai Lama Center as the Leader in Global Problem-Solving

The survey tool asked respondents to share their dreams for the Dalai Lama Center. Of the variety of responses, five roles for the Center strongly emerged. In the words of one respondent, “[My dream for the DLC is that it] becomes a magnet for leaders from around the world and that the dialogues and discussions at the Center radiate ripples of true and substantive positive change back to the rest of the world.”

Above all, respondents felt that the Dalai Lama Center should be a leader in global problem-solving and conflict transformation. In addition, respondents felt the Center could be:

- A space for personal learning and dialogue
- A gathering place to connect people to practical initiatives and to each other
- A spiritual space for meditative reflection and spiritual practice, and
- A leader in developing an inter-sectoral/interdisciplinary language, insight & training.

In addition, twelve percent of respondents felt that it was critical that the Center be accessible and inclusive to people “from all walks of life”.

More than a Few Connections Made

Almost half (48%) of respondents reported that they made more than a few connections at the event – at least several and in many cases, many connections.

The People the Most Potent Opportunities

When asked what potential opportunities had emerged from the event, the majority (17%) of respondents identified newfound contact with people with similar values and/or special expertise (x9). Other major opportunities identified were as follows:

- New areas of collaboration, partnership and alliance

- Improved work as a result of information exchange and a better understanding of issues
- New, diverse friends
- New influences on thinking, and
- Identification of new areas for future contribution.

Use the Web, Newsletters and Follow-up Events to Stay Connected

Respondents provided three main recommendations for staying connected, in addition to a variety of creative ideas that are listed in Appendix A of this document. These three recommendations are:

1. A managed website with blog
The heart of feedback was that the website should contain a profile for each participant that they could update and use as a base for online communication (or “blogging”) with others.
2. Email updates
Participants offered a number of helpful suggestions around the content of e-html newsletters that are listed in the appendix of this document. Key points were to tell the stories of real change made as a result of connections, to showcase opportunities for collaboration and to set specific targets or asks around communication goals.
3. Reunion dialogue event(s)

Four Significant Recommendations for Improvement

Respondents demonstrated a deep engagement with the event. Although 10% of respondents felt that the event was great as is, most were liberal in their suggestions of how it could be improved. Four key recommendations emerged from the survey feedback:

1. Have a more spacious, dialogue-focused agenda.
Almost half of respondents (42%) felt that the agenda was not as strongly in service of dialogue and “connecting for change” as it could have been.
2. Prepare for & structure participant time with the Dalai Lama more effectively.
Thirty-one percent of respondents felt that participants were not well prepared for the session with the Dalai Lama. In particular, they felt that his role was not well understood by the group.
3. End with a conclusion and call to action.
Twelve percent of respondents felt that the meeting closed with a compelling conclusion and call to action or next steps. Suggestions were made for a public commitment by everyone and actual actions for people to work on or engage around. In another section of the survey, 27% of participants identified the question of practical, concrete next steps to harness the desire for action and staying connected among the group as their most significant reflection after the event. In the words of one respondent, “what we wanted more of is a forum to understand one another, to explore possible strategies to overcome barriers. The group of people you chose are very bottom line, and solution driven. This forum asked them to think broader and more loosely. I think this had a subtle but real benefit to the group but didn't give them what their personalities demand: solutions.”
4. Make more delegate information available before the event
Eight percent of respondents felt that they would have benefited from an opportunity to get to know each other more beforehand.

The Final Word – A High Overall Satisfaction Rating

Participants were asked to score their experience of the event from 1 to 10, with 1 being the lowest score and 10 being the highest score (“outstanding”). No respondent scored the event less than a 4. Seventy-seven percent of respondents scored the event a 7 or higher. Of these, 20% scored the event a 7, 23% scored the event an 8, 20% scored the event a 9 and 38% scored the event a 10/10.

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SURVEY BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Connecting for Change: Corporate and Social Leaders in Dialogue workshop took place on September 9th and 10th, 2006 in Vancouver, BC. Sponsored by the Dalai Lama Center for Peace and Education, the Connecting For Change (CFC) project is intended to bring together prominent national and international business leaders, social innovators and the Dalai Lama to build relationships and solutions for a better world.

Participants were invited to complete an online survey at <http://www.connectingforchange.ca> after the event from September 15, 2006 to October 22, 2006. Raw written results were tabulated automatically by the survey software in an Excel spreadsheet, manually compiled and categorized, and then evaluated by the project team.

SURVEY RESPONDENTS AND RESPONSE RATE

Of the 117 participants that attended the two day event, fifty-two (or 44%) responded to the survey. For a list of those who responded, see Appendix A. There were three types of participants: (a) individuals serving as resources (staff or volunteer) to the workshops; (b) social innovators; and (c) business leaders. For a breakdown of respondent rate by type, see the table below:

Table 1: Response Rate by Participant Type

Participant Type	# Participants ¹	# Respondents	% Response
Resource individuals	5	Not requested to complete survey	
Social Innovators	63	21	33%
Business Leaders	55	31	56%

GENERAL ANSWERS TO SURVEY QUESTIONS

The bolded questions were the key queries that comprised the survey tool.

1. **What stands out most for you from our time together?**

Respondents highlighted feeling and experience in their responses to this question. The most memorable aspect of the event for most respondents (37% or 19/52) was the presence of the Dalai Lama himself, followed by the unique calibre of the participants at the event.

His Holiness...

- Presence and time spent with the Dalai Lama (x19)

The People...

- Caliber and spirit of participants (x15)
- Diversity of participants (x3)

The Experience or Atmosphere...

- Experience of a remarkable assemblage of people wanting to make change (x4)
- Willingness, positive attitude and pragmatism of participants (x3)
- Openness and respectfulness in discussion (x3)
- Passion and desire to create substantive change (x3)

The Message(s)...

- Simplicity of the message (x3)
- Meaningful conversations (x3)

¹ This number is not correct, as it does not reflect the 11 one day only participants and some other anomalies. Further refinement is necessary.

Practical Connections & Information...

- Networking opportunity (x3)
- Learning about new activities/initiatives (x3)

It is noteworthy to mention a few critiques of the event that emerged in this section of the survey. No critique was made by more than one individual. Critiques were as follows:

- Workshop was very long
- Negative experience of lack of acceptance among delegates
- Unmet expectations around content
- Rules seemed to be changing with the moment / lack of clarity
- Time was much too short to really explore possible connections

2. What new or important questions did this event raise for you?

What Now? The Structure and Process of Key Next Steps

- 14/52 or 27% of participants identified the question of practical, concrete next steps to harness the desire for action and staying connected among the group as a response to this question
- 7/52 or 13% were reflecting on how to continue nurturing linkages and removing barriers between the corporate and social sectors to develop a common language and accomplish more in society
- 2/52 or 4% wondered what it will take for the Dalai Lama Center to succeed (do meaningful projects, raise efforts of peacemaking and compassion)
- 2/52 or 4% were considering the leverage points of engagement and systemic change

Personal Change...

- 4/52 or 8% were reflecting on how they could personally do more to promote peace and help others educate their hearts
- 2/52 or 4% were wondering how they could get involved in new not-for-profit activities in the future
- 2/52 or 4% were reflecting on how they could “show up” in their roles with open hearts under everyday circumstances

The Philosophical/Conceptual...

- 4/52 or 8% were thinking about the importance of engaging and educating business leaders on the power of enterprise in the social and environmental arenas on one hand and/or the need for business to become more responsible and altruistic on the other
- 2/52 or 4% were thinking about the importance of seeing beyond their narrow sectoral focus and staying in touch with the wider perspective of developments in other sectors
- 2/52 or 4% were thinking about how society can make change rapidly enough for our children’s future

3. What is your deepest dream for the Dalai Lama Center for Peace and Education?

A leader in global problem-solving and conflict transformation...

- 11/52 or 21% envisioned the Center to be focal point and actor on the global scale as well as a local resource in Vancouver – and, as one person put it, “a magnet for global leadership”. The Center would play a leading role in seeding principles of peace and interfaith harmony into all sectors and between nations

A space for personal learning and dialogue...

- 9/52 or 17% envisioned the Center to become a space available for personal development and dialogue, where meetings and reunions could be held for those sharing similar goals and values – or an interest in learning about – global social change

A gathering place to connect people to practical initiatives and to each other...

→ 7/52 or 13% viewed the Center as a catalyst for connecting people to each other around meaningful dialogue and practical action

Accessible and inclusive...

→ 6/52 or 12% expressed their desire that the Center be accessibly located to vulnerable/marginalized groups (e.g. Downtown Eastside) and open and inclusive to people from “all walks of life” – not just those who are financially wealthy

A spiritual space for meditative reflection and spiritual practice...

→ 5/52 or 10% envisioned the Center as a spiritual center accessible for Westerners

A leader in developing an inter-sectoral/interdisciplinary language, insight & training...

→ 5/52 or 10% saw the Center as a training resource that would cross-pollinate expertise, insights and principles from business and social sectors and build leadership and interconnectedness within and between sectors

4. Did you make any meaningful connections with others?

The majority of respondents reported that they had made meaningful connections with “a few” of those who participated in the event. The results were as follows:

One or Two (4) – 8%

A Few (19) – 36%

Several (15) – 29%

Many (10) – 19%

Note that four individuals did not respond to this question.

5. What immediate or potential opportunities do you see emerging from the connections you made?

The top answers to this question were:

→ Staying in contact with people with similar values and/or special expertise (x9) – 17%

→ Identifying areas of collaboration, partnership and alliance (x6) – 12%

→ Exchanging information and improving my work with a better understanding of issues (x6) – 12%

→ New, diverse friends (x5) – 10%

→ Influence on my thinking (x4) – 8%

→ Identifying other areas where I can contribute in future (x3) – 6%

As a noteworthy mention, three individuals felt that it was “too early to tell” or “hard to say” what immediate opportunities had emerged from connections made. Another two individuals noted that they had not generated any ideas/actions out of the event.

6. What recommendations do you have for keeping people connected?

Respondents answered this question with suggestions for communication methods, communication frequency and some specific recommendations for e-html newsletters, a Connecting For Change (CFC) website, local meetings and events.

In terms of communication method, the top three preferences were for:

→ **A managed website with blog** (13/52 or 25%)

Participants were specific about what a useful web resource would look like. The heart of feedback was that the website should contain a profile for each participant that they could update and use as a base for online communication (or “blogging”) with others.

→ **Reunion dialogue event(s)** (8/52 or 15%)

→ **Email updates** (8/52 or 15%)

Participants offered a number of helpful suggestions around the content of e-html newsletters that are listed in the appendix of this document. Key points were to tell the stories of real change made as a result of connections, to showcase opportunities for collaboration and to set specific targets or asks around communication goals.

Other suggestions were as follows:

- Center to recruit collaborators for programs or research (x5)
- Send out participant list (x5)
- Local meetings (x4)
- Online class hosted/taught by participants (x1)
- Conference calls hosted by participants on specific topics (x1)
- Stay connected to Charles (x1)
- Daily e-meditation/devotion (x1)
- Social events (x1)

The question posed was not specific about communication and/or meeting frequency. Further clarification is required on this point and perhaps could be polled in the first e-html that goes out from the Center.

7. What could any of us have done to improve the weekend?

Respondents demonstrated a deep engagement with the event. Although 10% of respondents (5/52) felt that the event was great as is, most were liberal in their suggestions of how it could be improved. Key points are as follows:

Have a more spacious, dialogue-focused agenda

Almost half of respondents (42%) felt that the agenda was not as strongly in service of dialogue and “**connecting** for change” as it could have been. 8/52 or 15% of respondents directly noted that the agenda felt too packed and that the event at times felt pressured. Many more respondents indirectly referenced this issue in their remarks that there was insufficient time for dialogue at the event. An additional 3 respondents felt that there were major tensions between the two objectives on the agenda – personal change / directions for the Center that “constrained the natural direction the group might have taken” and rushed the time spent on dialogue. Ten respondents desired more time in small groups and discussion, while an additional four respondents desired more time in one-on-one partner discussions.

Prepare for & structure participant time with the Dalai Lama more effectively

Thirty-one percent² of respondents felt that participants were not well prepared for the session with the Dalai Lama. In particular, they felt that his role was not well understood by the group. Three respondents felt that the module on preparation for discussion with the Dalai Lama was a poor use of time and should have been used for more discussion between participants instead. Three respondents felt that participants should have been provided background information on the Dalai Lama’s beliefs and how they could assist individuals in connecting. An additional three respondents felt that the Dalai Lama’s role at the event should have been better defined. Three respondents noted that there was too much “firing off” of questions to the Dalai Lama at the expense of real conversation; two respondents felt that the Dalai Lama should have been posing questions to the group, rather than the other way around. Three respondents reported that they would have liked to have the opportunity

² There were sixteen individuals that together made eighteen comments on this topic

to meet the Dalai Lama personally. One felt that his interpreter should have been directly engaged at the event.

End with a conclusion and call to action

Twelve percent of respondents felt that the meeting closed with a compelling conclusion and call to action or next steps. Suggestions were made for a public commitment by everyone and actual actions for people to work on or engage around.

Make more delegate information available before the event

Eight percent (4/52) of respondents felt that they would have benefited from an opportunity to get to know each other more beforehand. Suggestions included: (a) provide delegate CV information in printed format; (b) provide the dialogues book and biographies; and, (c) provide full bios and pictures.

8. In terms of the overall event, what value did you gain from this experience?

Forty-seven respondents completed this question. Five respondents selected the option “other”³. Participants were asked to score their experience of the event from 1 to 10, with 1 being the lowest score and 10 being the highest score (“outstanding”). No respondent scored the event less than a 4. Seventy-seven percent of respondents scored the event a 7 or higher. Of these, 20% scored the event a 7, 23% scored the event an 8, 20% scored the event a 9 and 38% scored the event a 10/10.

HIGHLIGHTS OF FEEDBACK

On workshop design and format...

- “The design of the programme came closer to achieving dialogue than any meeting I have ever attended.”
- “In my experience, people stay connected after conferences only if the form of the connection is built into the design of the conference itself. Example: communities of practice/interest are formed during the conference; these groups makes commitments around how they want to be connected while they are face-to-face; the tools to meet those commitments are supplied or modeled at the conference.”

On experience of connecting with others...

- “[The workshop gave me] that incredibly contagious spirit of feeling like maybe we all really can do something to make the world a better place simply with small individual cumulative actions.”
- “I tend to be a practically-oriented, focused person [and] work to make change in my own sphere of influence. This experience broadened my view considerably and, while I was initially skeptical and perhaps even a little cynical, about 'peace and love, harmony and compassion' as effective tools or approaches, I am more open minded after my experience with you all.”
- “It felt like there was real energy to create change in the room and it felt to me like everyone left alive to the possibilities of positive change. If we could harness all that energy against an outcome it would have amplified the power for true substantive change.”

On dreams for the Dalai Lama Center...

- “[My dream for the DLC is that] it will serve as a receptacle, a beacon and a mirror for the best of the problem solving, hopes, and compassion that this world can marshal.”
- “[My dream for the DLC is that it] becomes a magnet for leaders from around the world and that the dialogues and discussions at the Center radiate ripples of true and substantive positive change back to the rest of the world.”

³ The other response was not specified or not collected by the automatic survey compilation tool.

- “[My dream for the DLC is that] it becomes more than a place; that it evolves into a placeholder and enabler of the idea that we can only thrive by working together and crossing traditional boundaries of organizations, groups, and beliefs.”
- “The culture [of the event] was...dominated by many who were not eager to allow the kind of communication exchange discomfort that might surface disagreements. I come from a personal culture where having different views is welcomed and new visions evolve out of the integration of ideas.”

On the event as a whole and opportunities for improvement...

- “The week-end was great and was very inspiring for me. I thought that it was a real challenge to get to a deep level of sharing with 120 people mostly strangers to one another and this, in a couple of days. Considering the beautiful result I think that it was a great success!”
- “What we wanted more of is a forum to understand one another, to explore possible strategies to overcome barriers. The group of people you chose are very bottom line, and solution driven. This forum asked them to think broader and more loosely. I think this had a subtle but real benefit to the group but didn't give them what their personalities demand: solutions.”

APPENDIX A: Survey Respondents

- Aaron Pereira
- Andrea Southcott
- Anita Roper
- Arran Stephens
- Barbara Brink
- Christle Wiebe
- Darcy Rezac
- Darcy Winslow
- Dave Mowat
- David Helliwell
- Deborah Frieze
- Ed Levy
- Ed Waitzer
- Elane V. Scott
- Eugenio Scannavino Netto
- Faye Wightman
- George Roter
- Jacqueline Koerner
- Janice Abbott
- Jeremy Seligman
- Joe Wai
- John Baigent
- John Lefebvre
- John Richardson
- Lola Rasminsky
- Lyall Knott
- Mark Prior
- Mary Tidlund
- Matthew Toledo
- Melanie Mark
- Michael Clague
- Mike Houck
- Molly Baldwin
- Murray McCann
- Nick Louie
- Paul Cohen
- Peggy Fowler
- Pierre Legault
- Robb Lucy
- Robert B. Winsor
- Robert Steller
- Roger Saillant
- Rud Browne
- Safia Minney
- Shari Gardiner
- Sheri Flies
- Silken Laumann
- Stephanie Hanford
- T Brodhead
- Tanny Crane
- Tracy Monk
- Vickie Cammack

APPENDIX B: Tabulated Summary Responses

Question 1

What stands out most for you from our time together?

- Presence and time spent with the Dalai Lama (x19)
- Caliber and spirit of participants (x15)
- Experience of a remarkable assemblage of people wanting to make change (x4)
- Networking opportunity (x3)
- Willingness, positive attitude and pragmatism of participants (x3)
- Openness and respectfulness in discussion (x3)
- Passion and desire to create substantive change (x3)
- Simplicity of the message (x3)
- Diversity of participants (x3)
- Learning about new activities/initiatives (x3)
- Meaningful conversations (x3)
- Feeling inspired and motivated to act (x2)
- Focus on listening (x2)
- Communal silence (x2)
- Experience of potential for social change (x2)
- Opportunity to broaden perspectives
- Dinner event on Saturday evening
- Transformational experience
- Sharing stories
- Need to create structure and value to continue participating
- Courage to continue work
- Workshop was very long
- Negative experience of lack of acceptance among delegates
- Unmet expectations around content
- Rules seemed be changing with the moment / lack of clarity
- Time was much to short to really explore possible connections

Question 2

What new or important questions did this event raise for you?

- Practical, concrete next steps to harness the desire for action and staying connected among the group (x14)
- How to continue nurturing linkages and removing barriers between the corporate and social sectors to develop a common language and accomplish more in society (x7)
- Importance of engaging and educating business leaders on the power of enterprise in the social and environmental arenas and the need to be more altruistic (and less focused on commerce and power) (x4)
- Personal change - How can I do more to promote peace and help others educate their hearts? (x4)
- What will it take for the Dalai Lama Center to succeed (do meaningful projects, raise efforts of peacemaking and compassion)? (x2)
- Importance of seeing beyond narrow NPO focus and staying in touch with the wider perspective of developments from other sectors (x2) – make more general
- How might I be involved in future in new not-for-profit activities (x2)
- How we can make change rapidly enough for our children's future (x2)
- How to “show up” with open hearts under everyday circumstances (x2)
- Considering the leverage points of engagement and systemic change (x2)
- What are the effects of living a happier and more compassionate life on personal health and well-being?
- Social sector obligations to end ineffective programs and resource successful ones
- Behavioral role in organizational change - How do we act in enlightened ways to raise consciousness organizationally?
- continual challenge of how to do meaningful and impactful work for peace
- How to further develop the concept of secular ethics
- concept of re-education
- How to reach a critical mass to make change?
- what stories get to the essence of my work including feelings and ideas that are helpful to others
- How can we go deeper in dialogue to explore the central question of working together/connecting for change?
- Experience of being treated negatively at the event
- Could real and very needed financial support come from this forum?
- How could the Dalai Lama motivate other business leaders to be more imaginative and take new bold steps?
- Can we create a place that assists individuals and organizations to develop principles based on empathy on business time?
- If we plant the seeds of empathy at a young age how can we keep them a central part of a person's decision making process over the long term?
- How do you inspire others to join you when they don't hold this worldview?
- How can the power of laughter be used more effectively in a business context?
- Insight on the need to collaborate/work together to create change

Question 3

What is your deepest dream for the Dalai Lama Center for Peace and Education?

- Space for inclusive thinking, dialogue and personal learning (x9)
 - Source of more meaningful dialogues in future
 - Place for a reunion of those who have met before
- Play a leadership role in global problem-solving (x8)
 - That it will involve the global community as well as locals
 - Magnet for global leadership (thinkers, scholars)
 - Helps bring human rights to all people across the globe

- Gathering place to connect people to practical initiatives and to each other (x7)
- Source of hope, compassion and spiritual sustenance/reflection (x5)
 - Incorporates a spiritual practice program accessible for Westerners
- Accessibly located to vulnerable/marginalized groups (e.g. Downtown Eastside), youth and those who are not financially wealthy – from “all walks of life” (x4)
- Develops a common language among sectors / interdisciplinary and inclusive (x4)
 - Becomes a “mini United Nations”
 - Transforms educational curricula (x3)
- That it is more than a building (x2)
- Harnesses the power of the business community and engages it in the social economy and channels the insights of the social sector into the realm of business (x2)
- Seeds principles of peace, interfaith harmony into all sectors and between nations (x2)
- Capacity to invest in strategic actions to transform conditions on a larger scale
- Run by people that “walk the talk” of the Dalai Lama’s teachings
- That the form and design of the physical building addresses the global need to create more livable, humane cities
- Models a lifestyle of compassion and meaning
- Space that encourages inward, contemplative non-sectarian meditation and outward action
- Will enhance Vancouver and Canada’s brand
- Clearinghouse for research on critical and creative thinking
- Undertakes useful research/data transferable to key locations around the world
- I am confused as to the Dalai Lama’s own objectives for the center and have none to offer

Question 5

What immediate or potential opportunities do you see emerging from the connections you made?

- Staying in contact with people with similar values and/or special expertise (x9)
- Identifying areas of collaboration, partnership and alliance (x6)
- Exchanging information and improving my work with a better understanding of issues (x6)
- New, diverse friends (x5)
- Influence on my thinking (x4)
- Too early to tell / hard to say (x3)
- Identifying other areas where I can contribute in future (x3)
- Obtaining new contacts to follow up on (x2)
- Started process of collaboration with another social sector organization (x2)
- Feel it will be difficult or unlikely to stay in contact (x2)
- More reflection on underlying but significant ideas (x2)
- Identifying concrete actions (x2)
- Financial support to expand our work / potential funder partners (x2)
- Have not generated ideas/actions out of conference (x2)
- Seeking advice on social enterprise initiatives
- Opportunity to develop a deeper connection with my partner
- Opportunity to communicate other initiatives taking place
- Communication and writing
- Opportunity to engage/empower others
- Learning from the previous experiences of others
- Insight on how to help to build a non-profit entity within a for-profit organization
- Meeting with others who are interested in our work as a foundation
- Greater understanding
- Finding research connections

Question 6

What recommendations do you have for keeping people connected?

Communication Method

Managed website with blog (x13)
Reunion dialogue event(s) (x8)
Email updates (x8)
Center to recruit collaborators for Center program or research (x5)
Send out participant list (x5)
Local meetings (x4)
Online class hosted/taught by participants (x1)
Conference calls hosted by participants on specific topics (x1)
Stay connected to Charles (x1)
Daily e-meditation/devotion (x1)
Social events (x1)

Communication/Meeting Frequency

The question posed was not specific about communication and/or meeting frequency. Four participants volunteered thoughts on how often they would like to meet and/or be kept up to date with Center activities: one each for monthly, every few months, semi-annual or quarterly, and annual communications/meetings. Further clarification is required on this point and perhaps could be polled in the first e-html that goes out from the Center.

E-html newsletters could contain:

- Poll on preferences regarding communication and meeting frequency
- Updates on where the dialogue has gone and may go
- Specific calls to action or “asks”
- Encouragement to people to take time and connect (i.e. initiate an email/call with 1-2 people per time period)
- Encouragement to people within similar localities to connect/meet
- Shortlist of opportunities to rally around
- Requests for input on new ideas for the Center
- A general response email
- Link to the DLC and CFC website(s)
- News and announcements
- Updates on participant activities (and encouragement for others to follow up with them, get more information, or work with them to reach their goals)
- Stories of real changes made because of connections made at CFC
- Requests for assistance (e.g. volunteering time on upcoming seminars or workshops)

The website could contain:

- Participant list (secure/password entry only)
- Participant profiles
 - Name, organization
 - Contact information
 - Interests
 - Skills
 - Updates on actions taken
 - What is offered
 - What is needed
- Blogging capability (inter-profile communication for members only)
- Open-source innovation
- Conversation area around ideas and concepts for Peace and Education
- Reporting area that communicates real changes made because of connections made at CFC
- Case studies of individuals, groups that are actively 'connecting for change.'

Local meetings could involve:

- Opportunity to talk about ideas
- Share readings

- Initiate projects
- Small group lunches (10 people)

Events should have:

- Defined objectives
- Agendas and background information sent out well in advance

Question 7

What could any of us have done to improve the weekend?

- Agenda was too packed (x11)
- More time in one-on-one partner discussions (not enough time to engage deeply) (x4)
- More time in small groups and discussion (x10)
- Lack of conclusive ending and call to action (x6)
- Role/Time spent with Dalai Lama not well structured (x16⁴)
 - Too much question-firing, not enough conversation (x3)
 - HHDL should have posed questions to the group (x2)
 - Insufficient understanding of HHDL's role – this should have been better defined (as observer, not expert) (x3)
 - People should have been better prepared for meeting with HHDL, with background information on his beliefs and how they could assist individuals in connecting (x3)
 - Would have liked opportunity to meet HHDL personally (x3)
 - HHDL's interpreter should have been directly engaged (x1)
 - Module on preparation for discussion with DL poor use of time – should have been used for more discussion between participants (x3)
- Nothing – it was great as is (x5)
- More information on delegates made available before the event (x4)
- Too much 'hype' and ceremony (e.g. Premier's luncheon) which cut into connecting time (x2)
- Less 'overview' time / facilitators spoke too much (x2)
- More time to hear Peter Koestenbaum and other HR experts speak (x2)
- Networking was maximized, sometimes at the cost of deeper connections
- Should not have served meat or alcohol out of respect for Dalai Lama
- Breakout sessions did not work, didn't need them
- Business delegates were not engaged meaningfully
- Better communication regarding the events held on Friday and opportunities to attend
- Felt that conversation was dominated by many who were uncomfortable voicing ideas/allowing ideas to be voiced that might surface disagreements
- Partner pairing value unclear and unworkable
- We should have had two partners rather than one
- More representatives from other peace organizations
- Pre-reading on topics for discussion to help delegates better prepare
- Less emphasis on direct financing
- Smaller groups and fewer tasks for groups
- Needed more stories of corporate and social sectors connecting for change

Question 8

In terms of the overall event, what value did you gain from this experience?

Forty-seven respondents completed this question. Five respondents selected the option "other". Participants were asked to score their experience of the event from 1 to 10, with 1 being the lowest score and 10 being the highest score ("outstanding").

Score	# of Responses
0	0

⁴ There were sixteen individuals that together made eighteen comments on this topic
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1	0
2	0
3	0
4	1
5	3
6	3
7	8
8	9
9	8
10	15