THE SIXTH INTEGRATED EAST-WEST FORUM
The Science of Consciousness Conference
TSC 2017

JUNE 5, 2017, SHANGHAI, CHINA

“Oh, East is East and West is West, and never the twain shall meet,
Till Earth and Sky stand presently at God’s great Judgment Seat;
But there is neither East nor West, Border, Nor Breed, nor Birth,
When two strong men stand face to face, though they come from the ends of the earth!”
- Rudyard Kipling (1889) : The Ballad of East and West

The Integrated East-West Forum is now a familiar feature at the TSC series of conferences, starting with TSC 2012 at Tucson, TSC 2013 at DEI, Dayalbagh, India, TSC 2014 at Tucson, TSC 2015 at Helsinki, Finland and the landmark TSC 2016 at Tucson at the first conference of the series rechristened as ‘The Science of Consciousness’. The Sixth Integrated East-West Forum at TSC 2017 will be yet another landmark integration effort as part of the TSC-series. The above quote rather prophetically captures these momentous events, when not just two strong men from East and West meet at Shanghai (China) and Dayalbagh, Agra (India) also through video-conferencing.

EMERITUS CHAIRS

East
Revered Prof. P.S. Satsangi
Chairman, Advisory Committee on Education
Dayalbagh Educational Institutions, India

West
Prof. Stuart Hameroff
Director, Centre for Consciousness Studies
University of Arizona, USA

Prof. Anirban Bandyopadhyay, NIMS Japan
Prof. Subhash Kak, Oklahoma State Univ., USA
Prof. Mani Lal Bhaumik, UCLA, USA
Dr. Bani Dayal Dhir, DEI, India

Prof. Jack Tuszyński, Univ. of Alberta, Canada
Prof. Thomas Bever, Univ. of Arizona, USA
Prof. Rocco J. Gennaro, Univ. of Southern Indiana, USA
Prof. Paavo Pylkkänen, Univ. of Helsinki, Finland

Forum Coordinator : Dr. Bani Dayal Dhir, Dayalbagh Educational Institute (Deemed Univ.), India
Forum Coordinator and Organizer – Video-conferencing : Mr. Prem Prashant, Member, Divinity Forum (Dayalbagh/@DEI-location)
Forum Organizer : Dr. Vishal Sahni, Dayalbagh Educational Institute (Deemed Univ.), India

Discounted Registration Fee for DEI, India group :
(Special Discounted Fee for attending both Integrated East-West Forum and TSC event)
(to be submitted to TSC 2017 organizers at Shanghai – for further details, refer to
http://consciousness.arizona.edu)

WEBSITE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS FOR
THE EAST-WEST FORUM
https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=tsc2017
Contact email : tsc2017ewforum@gmail.com
Last Date for Submission of Abstracts : November 30, 2016

Receipt, Acceptance Letter and Visa Facilitation Letter will be provided by Shanghai organizers
Sponsors :
Centre for Consciousness Studies, Dayalbagh Educational Institute (Deemed Univ.), India
Centre for Consciousness Studies, University of Arizona, USA
The tradition in the TSC series of conferences has been to hold meetings in alternate years at Tucson and every other year elsewhere in the world. The conference has been aptly renamed as 'The Science of Consciousness' from TSC 2016 onwards in tune with the growing acceptance of consciousness studies among the scientific community all over the world.

A meaningful East-West dialogue seems feasible as has been increasingly evident from TSC-2012 through TSC-2016. To meet these challenges, the landmark Sixth Integrated East-West Forum at TSC-2017 is intended to be a place where one presents key ideas from both approaches, and where these ideas can interact in the spirit of constructive mutual criticism, evaluation and enrichment. It appears plausible to evolve a science of inner experience (which is repeatable and verifiable) by attempting to integrate Eastern and Western scientific approaches and philosophy by verifying inner spiritual phenomenology of consciousness through well-established scientific epistemology, including three important stages of observation (awareness), report (description) and analysis (understanding) (Price and Barrett, 2012) while also avail of modern techniques of fMRI and MEG scans in capturing repeatable physiological / physical parameters of neural correlates accompanying inner spiritual experience during meditatively practic-es. Invoking higher and higher level of unified quantum field theory with correspondingly subtler and subler particle size of fine-grained geometry will lead to a significant jump in the level of fineness (fine-grained quantum geometry) which should enable us to access, at least in the abstract world of mathematics and physics, the primary ultimate source of consciousness in the whole Universe.

We need to resolve the inextricably linked problems of subllest particles smaller than $10^{-35}$ metres Planck's length and large distances more than $10^{40}$ light years, and approach zero and infinity by application of logic and induction in the right way.

Dayalbagh and DEI are closely associated with Radhasoami philosophy, which centers upon a type of meditation practice arising from the spiritual philosophy of Eastern Saints known as “Surat Shabda Yoga”. Shabda is referring to a spiritual current which can be perceived in meditation as inner light and particularly unstruck rhythmic sound. Yoga is referring to the uniting of our real essence (soul) through an inner listening with focused mental and spiritual concentration (surat) upon an inner sound (Shabda) which, it is maintained, emanates from Radhasoami the Supreme Being representing the macrocosm i.e. unity. It is therefore taught as the unchanging and primordial technique for uniting the soul with the Supreme Being via the sound-current of Shabda in order to experience oneness with macrocosmic consciousness at multiple levels. India is in many ways still a spiritual society and the Radhasoami philosophy (based on ‘Saar Bachan’) has a consistency with other extant spiritual meditational practices of the world (to name a few, Buddhism (Buddhavacana), Jainism (Agamas), Christianity (Bible), Islam (Koran), Sufism (e.g. the Masnavi of Maulana Rumi), Sikhism (Guru Granth Sahib) and Hinduism (as represented by Vedas, Upnishads and Gitā). In contrast, much of Western scientific and philosophical study of consciousness takes place in a secularized setting. There was consensus among eastern philosophers and western scientists at the TSC 2016 Panel Discussion that, on one side, for internal experiences or human experience, a protocol has to be necessarily followed. Following that protocol is very difficult for western nations as they will have to leave alcohol and non-vegetarian food. So consensus emerged on studying environment around those who perform yoga, mahayoga or Surat Shabda Yoga and we pin our hope on Corporate Social Responsibility as a measure, that those who perform Surat Shabda Yoga have greater sense of Corporate Social Responsibility. The author of one of the latest books, ‘Our Mathematical Universe’, (Prof. Max Tegmark, MIT) is like us, is in the quest for the ultimate nature of reality. We are trying to explore ultimate nature of reality from two ends, from the ends of science as well as inner or human experience. Therefore, we believe our approach to the problem of consciousness is more complete since we do not only view it from physical science perspective. Moreover, we combine conceptual insights with practical applications which lead to real practical experience of what this inner reality is, and what the human experience is like. Hence, this is where we believe we can offer profound insights in terms of growing ultimate human consciousness.

For further details, refer to www.dei.ac.in