

INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR STUDIES IN SOCIETY AND RELIGION (**IFSSR**)  
organizes  
THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON  
***Universalistic Religion & Multi-Cultural Society : Tagore's Contribution***  
(A Tribute to Rabindranath Tagore on completion of his 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary)

July 6-8, 2012

**Invitation to submit abstracts to the conference**

It is a great pleasure for us to invite participation to the Third International Conference of the International Forum for Studies in Society and Religion (IFSSR). Title of this year's conference is: ***Universalistic Religion & Multi-cultural Society: Tagore's Contribution***. This Conference is a tribute to Rabindranath Tagore on his 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary. Tagore is fondly remembered as 'The Globe-trotter – ***visva-pathik***', who could visualize and pray for a world -

***'Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;  
Where knowledge is free;  
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls;***

***Where words come out from the depth of truth;  
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection;  
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit;  
Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and action --  
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.'***

Import of these words as well as hundreds of his writings both in prose and poetry throw light on this great visionary – 'Kavi' - who marked his footsteps centuries ahead of his time. Universalistic religiosity as well as respect for multicultural human society rendered for Tagore a significant place in the history of India. In fact, Rabindranath Tagore still features quite prominently in Indian psyche with a point of self-revelation finding out one's distinct place in this Universe.

Apart from this self-revelation or identifying one's own self as a part of this Universe, Tagore extended a strong arm towards development of rural India in all possible areas, to name a few, agriculture, health, water supply project, dairy & husbandry, handicrafts and hand looms, etc. His keenness to 'Education for All' policy was transformed as Visva Bharati – '*yatra vishvam bhavatyeka-nidam*' – where the world rests into a nest. He also opened the door of aesthetic enjoyment through dance and music for womenfolk which was forbidden for long for women. He was criticized strongly by the then Reformist Bengali society for his uncompromising struggle and sympathy for lower class people specially poor section of the society irrespective of whether they belonged to Hindu or Muslim religion.

He stood apart from narrow nationalistic politics of India since he felt that unless and until awareness of freedom could be raised at the grass-root level, urbanized movement alone could never produce result desirable for this country.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, at this crucial stage of human civilization world-wide, these Tagorean visions are required to be brought into light and discussions to be raised to find out their relevance in the

contemporary socio-cultural spread embedded with religious variables.

IFSSR aims at bringing together scholars from various parts of the world to participate in this multicultural phenomenon with its universal approach, if any, through this International Conference.

Papers including titles and abstracts (Max 100 words), may be sent to :

Professor Piyali Palit ( [piyali48@gmail.com](mailto:piyali48@gmail.com));  
Professor Asoke Bhattacharya ( [asokebhattacharya@yahoo.co.in](mailto:asokebhattacharya@yahoo.co.in)).

Last date of submitting abstracts : **29<sup>th</sup> February, 2012;**

Last date of submission of full-paper : **30<sup>th</sup> April, 2012.**

List of selected papers/participants will be published on the IFSSR website.

### **Registration fees**

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|---|--------------|
| I. For participants from India, developing countries and their accompanying persons | .....500 INR |
| 2. Students from India & developing countries                                       | .....200 INR |
| 3. Participants from developed countries representing a University Department       | .....500 USD |
| 4. Other participants from developed countries                                      | .....100 USD |

### **Accommodation**

Accommodation for participants may be arranged at reasonable rate on request only.

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