

**Vivat Deus Unus et Trinus in Cordibus Nostris**

Rome, Italy

28 May 2004  
NGO-1a/0018/04

To all Members of the Society of the Divine Word and of the Mission Congregation  
Servants of the Holy Spirit

**Re.: Accreditation of VIVAT International as NGO with ECOSOC, United Nations**

Dear Sisters/Confreres,

Special greetings for a POWER-full Pentecost!

We received with great joy and gratitude on 27 May 2004 an e-mail communication of Fr. Lawrence Correa, SVD, Chairperson of the VIVAT International New York Executive Team (VINY ET), giving the good news regarding the VI application for accreditation with the ECOSOC of the United Nations.

On 26 May 2004, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) recommended VIVAT International for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. This recommendation will have to be approved by ECOSOC in their Session in June-July 2004. This means that upon approval by the ECOSOC, VIVAT International is accredited as an NGO with ECOSOC of the UN. This is indeed great news for all of us as we have been working towards this for the last three and a half years, and it gives us the added power, privilege and responsibility to collaborate with the UN at the local, national, and international levels.

We thank in a very special way Fr. Lawrence Correa who as Chairperson of the VINY ET very dedicatedly and perseveringly followed up the application of VI to ECOSOC that was prepared well by him and Sr. Maria Carmen, Fresnida Castro, Chairperson of VINY ET 2000-2002, and filed on 11 April 2003. The processing of the application was long and difficult, but Fr. Lawrence, with trust in the Lord, did his very best to really follow it up, attending all the sessions from morning till evening, making all efforts to make personal contact with the government delegates and responding to all the questions that were raised by them in the sessions of the Committee on NGOs.

While we have this good news, we would like to exercise caution and prudence by not mentioning in any news or information bulletins published in any of our provinces/regions

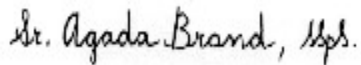
that VIVAT International is working in the following countries - China, Vietnam, Taiwan and Hong Kong - because, according to Fr. Lawrence, this would be harmful for VIVAT as

it would invite those governments that had tried to block its being accredited with ECOSOC to investigate the activities of SVDs and SSpS in those countries. So, to be prudent, for the sake of VIVAT, let us stick to the statement that we are now working in 62 countries, or in so many countries, always excluding China, Vietnam, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

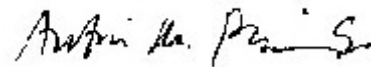
Dear Sisters and Confreres, let us all take advantage of the accreditation of VIVAT International, our SVD / SSpS joint venture for addressing our common mission priorities, and work more intensely towards poverty eradication, development and empowerment of women, a culture of peace and a sustained development of the people we are associated with in our mission countries, that VI may truly be for the greater honor and glory of the Triune God,

Wishing you all a new Pentecost with the outpouring of the Spirit's gifts on everyone,

One with you in His love,



Sr. Agada Brand, SSpS  
Congregational Leader



Fr. Antonio M. Pernia, SVD  
Superior General

Copy: Sr. Mary Cecilia Hocbo, SSpSAP  
Superior General