AKADEMIE
SCHLOSS KIRCHBERG
ÖKOLOGISCHE LAND-
UND ERNÄHRUNGSWIRTSCHAFT

IX.
World Organic Forum

Sunday, 12. July – Wednesday, 15. July 2026
Kirchberg/Jagst Castle

RETHINKING PEACE!
- PEACE FOR THE FUTURE -

Academy for
Organic Agriculture and Food Systems
Kirchberg/Jagst Castle, Germany

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RETHINKING PEACE – PEACE FOR THE FUTURE focuses on perspectives and new approaches to the comprehensive promotion of peace in a changing world, as well as within the context of current global conflicts. It is about both peace among people and peace with nature.

1. **Peace for Future:** The project aims to engage people in developing peace-related initiatives and to create a network for individuals committed to peacebuilding. It promotes a new culture of peace based on cooperation and constructive conflict resolution.

2. **From Military to Civilian Security:** Another approach focuses on moving beyond military security policies toward a civilian-based security strategy. This includes promoting preventive measures and creating fair economic conditions in order to ensure long-term peace.

3. **Reflecting on the Past:** On the occasion of the 81st anniversary of the end of the Second World War, emphasis is placed on the importance of learning from history and taking responsibility for a peace-oriented future. Peace begins with individual action and the commitment of society.
   - The Peace Movement of the 1968 Era: What has become of it?
   - Albert Schweitzer's Calls for Peace: What can we learn from them?

Conclusion

The concept of "Rethinking Peace" requires a comprehensive engagement with current challenges and the development of innovative approaches to conflict resolution. It is essential that different actors from governments and NGOs to individuals work together to create a sustainable culture of peace and a new peaceful world order.

Academy for Organic Agriculture and Food Systems
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Programme

Sunday, 12. July 2026

Peace Festival

From 9:00 a.m.	**Setting up of Booths** One World initiatives, NGOs, and church organizations
11:00 a.m.	**Ecumenical Service for Peace** with Father Robin Joseph and Rev. Bernd Hofmann (retired), accompanied by music.
12:00 noon	**Lunch Buffet** Marstall & Rose Garden
From 13:00 p.m.	**Peace Initiatives and Contributions with NGOs, music groups, and market stalls.** **Film Presentations on the Theme "Peace with Nature"** Marstall & Rose Garden, Kirchberg/Jagst Castle. - Rudolf Bühler (Chairman, Foundation House of Farmers) - Prof. Dr. Franz-Theo Gottwald (Senior Advisor, Academy Schloss Kirchberg) - Jürgen Grässlin (Activist & Bestselling Author) - Peter Aichelin – RETHINKING SECURITY – - Bernward Geier (Activist & Publicist) - Dr. Eberhard Müller – PEACE FOR THE FUTURE – - Cheshta Rawat, India - Emanuel Sanches Diaz, Dominican Republic - Heiner Stienhans (Chairman of Ecoselva, Sankt Augustin) - Carolin Keller (Coordinator of the International South-North Volunteer Programme) - Heinz Kolmans - Topic: "Buen Vivir" - Kathrin Bah / Sven Ziegler from Kipepeo - Hans Graef (Peace Activist) "Immediate Ceasefire"
18:00–22:00 p.m.	**Peace Concert** Peace Concert with the Stuttgart Salonikers -Donations Welcome - **Speeches on the Theme "Rethinking Peace"**

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Monday, 13. July 2026

Theme: Peace Among People –

07:00 a.m.	**Yoga at the Ayurveda Center/ Prayer in the Castle Chapel**
07:30 a.m	**Breakfast in the Marstall**
09:00 a.m.	**Opening Ceremony in the Ritter Hall** *Keynote Address by Rudolf Bühler (Chairman, Foundation House of Farmers)*
09:45 a.m.	**Creating Peace with Nature through Organic Farming: Perspectives on an Ecological Connection** *Bernward Geier Activist & Publicist* *(Director of COLABORA – Let's Work Together)*
10:30 a.m.	**Coffee Break in the Foyer**
11:00 a.m.	**Peace Among People** *Prof. Dr. Franz-Theo Gottwald* *(Senior Advisor, Academy Schloss Kirchberg)*
12:00 noon	**Lunch Buffet in the Marstall & Rose Garden**
13:30 p.m.	**„Visions of a Better World – Peace Among People and with Nature „** *Jürgen Grässlin (Activist, Pacifist & Bestselling Author)*
14:30 p.m.	**Coffee Break in the Foyer**
15:00 p.m.	**Working Groups and Forums:** **1. Impacts of Wars and Conflicts on International Agriculture and Food Systems** *Introduction & Moderation: Prof. Dr. Franz-Theo Gottwald* ***2.*** **Peace and Tradition in the Cultural Sphere of Agriculture and Society – Learning from History** *Introduction & Moderation: Cristina Bühler & Hans Graef* ***3.*** **RETHINKING SECURITY – Sustainable Development Instead of Military Rearmament** *Introduction & Moderation: Dr. Eberhard Müller & Peter Aichelin*
17:00 p.m.	**Results of the Working Groups**
18:00 p.m.	**Dinner Buffet in the Marstall**

19:00 p.m.	**Film Evening: "Albert Schweitzer's Ethical Imperative – Reverence for Life"** *Presentation & Moderation, Rudolf Bühler* **Lecture** *(requested)* German Albert Schweitzer Center Foundation, Frankfurt am Main Dialogue on Ethics, Peace and Responsibility Quote by Albert Schweitzer: "Peace or Nuclear War".
21:30 p.m.	**Closing Gathering at the Marstall & Rose Garden**

Tuesday, 14. July 2026

Theme: Peace with Nature

07:00 a.m.	**Yoga at the Ayurveda Center/ Prayer in the Castle Chapel**
07:30 a.m.	**Breakfast in the Marstall**
09:00 a.m.	**Keynote: Animal Welfare – Peace with Animals: A Political Perspective** *Renate Künast (former Federal Minister for Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture)*
09:30 a.m.	**"Creating Peace – Women Can Do It"** Janet Maro (Executive Director, Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania, SAT) Thalea Nowak *(Journalist)*
10:15 a.m.	**Coffee Break in the Foyer**
10:45 a.m.	**Panel Discussion on International Women's Day in the Context of: Peace with Nature** *-Prof. Dr. Carolyn Hutter, President Naturelife International* *-Renate Künast, Former Federal Minister for Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture* *-Janet Maro, Tanzania, One World Award 2024* *-Thalea Nowak (Journalist)* *-Moderation: Prof. Dr. Franz-Theo Gottwald, Senior Advisor, Academy Schloss Kirchberg*
12:00 noon	**Lunch Buffet** in the Marstall & Rose Garden
13:30 p.m.	**Father Dr. Déogratias Maruhukiro** Expert lecture on "Green Ubuntu"

14:00 p.m. **PeaceBell Project (requested)**
Michael Patrick Kelly

14:30 p.m. **Working Groups and Forums:**

1. **Solidarity-Based Economy in Agriculture, the Future of Organic Farming & Sustainable Food Systems**
   Introduction & Moderation: Rudolf Bühler
2. **Women & Peace – International Perspectives and German Initiatives in Agriculture**
   Introduction & Moderation: Janet Maro/ Thalea Nowak
3. **Biodiversity, Climate-Resilient Agriculture, Food Systems, & CO_2 Certification**
   Introduction & Moderation: Thomas Wehinger
4. **Green Ubuntu**
   Further Exploration of the Topics Covered in the Lecture, Including Their Placement within a Broader Development Policy Context
   Introduction & Moderation: Father Dr. Déogratias Maruhukiro

16:00 p.m. **Coffee Break in the Foyer**

16:30 p.m. **Presentation of the Working Groups:**
Acclamation of the Kirchberg Declaration
“Rethinking Peace”
Prof. Dr. Franz-Theo Gottwald
(Senior Advisor, Akademie Schloss Kirchberg)
Discussion & Finalization

19:00 p.m. **Dinner Buffet in the Marstall**

20:30 p.m. **International Church Service with a Peace Manifesto**
with Father Robin Joseph and musical accompaniment in the Rose Garden

Wednesday, 15. July 2026

07:00 a.m.	**Yoga at the Ayurveda Center/ Prayer in the Castle Chapel**
07:30 a.m.	**Breakfast in the Marstall**
09:00 a.m.	**Excursion 1:** - Ecoland Herbs & Spices International Sustainable Agriculture & Peace Projects - Sonnenhof, Demeter Farm of the Bühler Family in Wolpertshausen - Animal Welfare Livestock Processing Facility in Schwäbisch Hall
12:00 noon	**Lunch Break at the Regional Market, Wolpertshausen**
13:30 p.m.	**Excursion 2: Local and International Peacebuilding Initiatives** - "Farmers for Peace" House of Farmers, Schwäbisch Hall Guided Tour by Rudolf Bühler Chairman, Foundation House of farmers - St. Michael's Church Schwäbisch Hall - Visit to the Nikolai Cemetery in Schwäbisch Hall Guided Tour by Hans Graef (History Teacher) - Remembering the Peasants' War of 1525 and the Famine of 1815-1817 **Peace Among People – Peace with Nature**
18:00 p.m.	**Dinner Buffet in the Marstall & Closing Gathering in the Rose Garden**

Information

Costs

Regular rate, per person: €95.00 (incl. VAT)
Participation in the conference (Monday–Wednesday), including conference catering with regional organic products from the castle kitchen.

Accommodation Not Included (Self-Paid)

Bio-Hotel Schloss Kirchberg
www.biohotel-schloss-kirchberg.de
www.worldorganicforum.schloss-kirchberg-jagst.de/de/informationen/unterkunft
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Registration

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Travel by Public Transport

Nearest railway stations: Crailsheim Railway Station or Eckartshausen-Ilshofen Railway Station; from there, continue by bus (possible from Crailsheim).