

Thomas Imboden

Curriculum July 2013



### Contact

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### Personal Details

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Birth date	13 May 1956 in Trun (GR), Switzerland
Nationality	Swiss
Residence	Switzerland since August 2009 Maldives / Sri Lanka 1999-2009
Languages	active: English, German, French passive: Rumantsch, Italian, Latin languages
Legal status	married (2nd marriage) to Tharushi Fernando (Sri Lanka)
Children	Andreas (1985), Nathan (1989), Tamara (1993)

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## Executive Summary

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The multilingual Swiss national Thomas Imboden, born in 1956, interrupted his advanced studies in philosophy, comparative religion & social psychology at the University of Zurich to join the Swiss Committee for Unicef in the early 1980s, where he headed the departments of development education and fundraising.

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An assignment to Sri Lanka and the Maldives in 1983 and 1984, and many subsequent shorter and longer visits to both countries, to Thailand, Singapore and India made him acquainted with the lifestyles & cultures of the Southeast Asian region.

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From 1988 he established himself over more than a decade as a self-employed consultant, fundraiser & project manager for non-governmental organizations, cultural groups & public institutions in Switzerland, under the name of Visions.

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In 1999 he settled with his family in the Maldives and from 2001 in Sri Lanka, where he took on a variety of marketing, project management & consulting assignments.

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From 2002, he developed his own cultural exchange program between Switzerland and Sri Lanka, expanding it further into Southeast Asian countries, in cooperation with embassies, local institutions and corporate sponsors.

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After returning to Switzerland in 2009, he continues his work as a self-employed consultant and project manager, focusing on intercultural events and exchange projects.

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Search for identity in a globalized world, unrestricted artistic expression, and inspiration for peace are the basic principles of Thomas Imboden's work. The result: a celebration of diversity. This vision is transformed into tangible cultural events: concerts, festivals, exhibitions, performances, workshops and publications for a variety of audiences.

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## Curriculum Vitae

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from 2009	Consultant, project & event manager based in Switzerland
from 2002	Exchange projects & events between Switzerland and Asia, under the label CrossCulture
2001-2009	Consultant, project & event manager based in Colombo, Sri Lanka
1999-2001	Founder and director of Salaam School of Arts, Languages and Music in Malé, Republic of Maldives
1988-1999	Consultant and project manager on intercultural and environmental communication to private organizations, public institutions and businesses in Switzerland, under the company name of Visions
1985-1987	Staff member of the Swiss Committee for Unicef, responsible for fundraising and development education
1983-1984	Six months study visit to Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Work and project visits at Unicef field offices in both countries
1981-1983	Co-founder and Secretary of the »Forum School for <i>one World</i> «, Zurich (now Foundation for Development Education – Stiftung Bildung & Entwicklung, Zurich)
1980-1984	Freelance staff member of the Swiss Committee for Unicef, Zurich, for development education and project documentation
1978-1985	Studies of philosophy, comparative religion and social psychology at the University of Zurich (9 semesters, no certificate)
1973-1977	Language High School in Einsiedeln, Switzerland Language College in Sarnen, Switzerland University entry degree (Matura B)
1970-1973	Secondary school & Mathematical Gymnasium in Zurich
1962-1969	Primary school in Trun & Wädenswil, Switzerland
1956	Born on May 13 in Trun, Grison, Switzerland

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## Recent Projects

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### **Global Peace Initiative, USA / Netherlands / India**

2012 Development of a global monthly donor base through volunteer training and coordination, electronic communication, websites and other tools for the Brahmananda Saraswati Foundation (USA) and Brahmananda Saraswati Trust (NL).

The funds support Vedic Pandits in India, their education and the preservation of Vedic chanting

2011 Consulting for the Brahmananda Saraswati Foundation (USA) on a global fundraising and communications strategy

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### **knotted threads by Nesa Gschwend, Swiss artist**

2012 Publication on the artist's exchange with India between 2006 and 2012, in cooperation with Benteli publishers

2012 Installation & exhibition at Lionel Wendt Gallery, Colombo as international artist at the Colombo Art Biennale, Sri Lanka

2011 Installation & exhibition by Nesa Gschwend at the Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

### **Red Strings Through My Hands by Nesa Gschwend**

2009 Installation & exhibition at the Experimental Art Gallery, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

Blog on Nesa's India project (English adaptation)

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### **Senior Citizens Entertainment (SeniorInnen Entertainment)**

2010-2011 Development of cultural programs for senior citizens in Swiss elders homes, in cooperation with Swiss celebrities and music stars, on behalf of **Open Hearts**, Baden, Switzerland

Concept and maintenance of a CMS website

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## Recent Projects (continued)

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	<b>Oasis of Silence</b> by <b>Beat Presser</b> , Swiss photographer
2006-2009	Photo Exhibition, English Book edition & Photography workshop  Events in Colombo, Galle, Bangkok, Phnom Penh, Hanoi, New Delhi  Book editions for Sri Lanka, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam Translations in Sinhala, Thai, Khmer & Vietnamese  Workshop catalogues for Colombo, Hanoi & New Delhi
	<b>Rainbow Project</b> , Switzerland
2007-2009	<b>Imagine Rainbow</b> Concept and editing for an updated English language publication on innovative projects in art, ecology and cultural exchange
2005	<b>Rainbow at Trinco</b> A Tsunami commemoration event with Rainbow flags in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, in cooperation with the local NGO association
1997-1999	<b>Der Erste Regenbogen Katalog</b> (The First Rainbow Catalogue) with Thomas Bertschi and Paul Christ, Rainbow Project, Schwanden, Switzerland, and Werd Verlag, Zurich. Concept development and main editor
	<b>Mandalas</b> by <b>Johannes Frischknecht</b> , Swiss artist
2010	Concept and editing for the artist's website (German, English)
2007-2008	<b>Mandalas</b> Concept, editing and publishing of an art book / retrospective (in German)
2005-2006	<b>Mandala promotion material and calendar</b> Promotion catalogues, PR articles & mailings
2004	» <b>Circle of Life</b> « <b>Exhibition</b> at Mount Lavinia Hotel, Sri Lanka under the Patronage of the Embassy of Switzerland

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## Past Projects & Assignments

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2008	<b>beautiful turns</b> by <b>Rigolo Nouveau Cirque</b> , an autumn tour in Switzerland. Fundraising, marketing, management & communications. CMS website with online ticketing
2006	<b>Blades of Grass</b> Art exhibition by <b>Cora de Lang</b> , Argentina, at the Barefoot Gallery Colombo, Sri Lanka. Editing and publication of exhibition catalogue
2005	<b>The Art of Harmonica Playing</b> Concerts with <b>Roland van Straaten</b> , Swiss musician, & the Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka, Colombo, Sri Lanka, under the patronage of the Embassy of Switzerland
2004	<b>same sun same moon same water</b> Summer event by <b>Rigolo Nouveau Cirque</b> , in Rorschach, Switzerland. Fundraising, event management, marketing & communications
2002-2003	<b>The Official Electronic Guide to the Maldives</b> Interactive multimedia CD-ROM for the Maldives Tourism Promotion Board, in cooperation with a Malaysian software company
2001-2002	<b>Sheri Pvt. Ltd.</b> , Malé, Maldives Corporate culture, operations consulting & staff training for the leading wellness center in the Maldives
2001	<b>Creative Graphic Communications CGC</b> , Malé, Maldives Copy writing for Vilu Reef & Cocoa Beach resorts Various assignments from the tourism industry. Concept work and company development for CGC, incl. website & marketing toolkit.
2000	<b>Long Island Youth Orchestra</b> , USA Event management for the visit of an 80-member youth symphony orchestra to Maldives, in cooperation with the American Embassy in Colombo. Public concert and student workshops, various performances in resorts and in Malé
1999-2001	<b>Salaam School of Arts, Languages and Music</b> , Malé, Maldives Founding and development of a private school, offering arts classes with professional teachers from overseas, and organizing cultural events and productions – an intercultural experiment
1998-2000	<b>Hudhufushi Island Resort</b> , Maldives Detailed proposal and feasibility study for the development of an environmental and cultural tourist resort in the Maldives. Achieved second highest rating in the bidding evaluation

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## Past Projects & Assignments (continued)

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1997-1998	<b>Sanddorn</b> , Switzerland & Germany by <b>Rigolo Nouveau Cirque</b> . Production, fundraising, marketing & management of two summer tours. Concept, research & editing for a Rigolo anniversary publication
1997	<b>Global Action Plan</b> , Switzerland Handbuch für dauerhafte Lebensqualität (Workbook for a Sustainable Lifestyle). Author and editor, with Orell Füssli publishers, in cooperation with The Green Pages (Die Grünen Seiten).
1994-1997	<b>Development organization Kinder in Not</b> , Zurich Consulting mandate for general policy, fundraising, PR and cultural activities
1994-1995	<b>North-South Dialogue of the European Council</b> , Berne Consulting mandate by the Federal Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DEH, now Deza). Moderation of an NGO working group on basic values. Editing of a Swiss NGO document on basic values
1992-1999	<b>Global Action Plan for the Earth (GAP)</b> , Switzerland The EcoTeam Program. Concept, fundraising, adaptation and project coordination for Switzerland. Campaign »Switzerland Puts its House in Order - Household by Household« with the support of the Federal Office for the Environment (Buwal, now Uvek) and various cities
1992-1997	<b>Vilamendhoo Island Resort</b> , Maldives Development for the first eco-resort in the Republic of Maldives, a tourist island. Ecological concept & investment securing. Corporate design of advertising materials. Review and action plan on ecological performance
1991-1992	<b>The Green Cross / Green Crescent</b> , Switzerland & Maldives Concept and project coordination for a campaign and petition in the Maldives in view of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro
1992-1995	<b>Afro-Pfingsten</b> annual African festival, Winterthur Planning, concept, program and fundraising. Establishing an independent association and securing the continuous support from the City of Winterthur, the Swiss Cultural Foundation, the Swiss Development Cooperation (Deza), and others
1991-1994	<b>Hotel Maderanertal</b> , central Switzerland Project coordination for the revitalization of a mountain hotel

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## Past Projects & Assignments (continued)

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1991	<b>Aufbruch von innen – Manifest für eine Ethik der Zukunft</b> (A Start from Within – Manifest for an Ethic of the Future) Publication authored by the Beaulieu Group. Fischer Taschenbuch, Frankfurt a.M. Contributions and overall editing Published 1990 in French by Editions de l'Aire, Lausanne Published 1995 in Italian by Macro Edizioni, San Martino
1990-1992	<b>Swiss Association for the Preservation of Nature (SBN)</b> School animation and student environmental action, development of teaching materials. Re-editing for a national teaching kit publication on »A river connects« (»Ein Fluss verbindet«)
1990-1991	<b>Forum »School for one World«</b> , Switzerland Project management for »Switzerland in the World - the World in Switzerland«, an prize winning intercultural school program in the Cantons of Zurich and Basel-City
1990-1991	<b>Kobna Anan, Cultural Ambassador</b> , Ghana School tours »A visit to Africa« in Switzerland. Development of teaching materials and publication of a children's book for the tour
1989-1991	<b>Swiss Government</b> , Berne, Switzerland The »International Festival« for the 700th anniversary of Switzerland. Concept and cultural program for a mega-event
1988-1989	<b>Asorotò Festival</b> , Biel, Switzerland Festival for the launch of the Rainforest Campaign by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). Concept, project management, program
1988-1989	<b>The Circle – Der Kreis</b> , Switzerland Concept and research for a touring exhibition by Migros Genossenschafts-Bund (MGB), in cooperation with Caspar Schwabe
1988	<b>Unicef Greeting Cards Operation</b> , New York Unicef Desk Agenda for 1989 on »Water«, concept and photographic Research in Switzerland, Germany, France and USA
1988	<b>Swiss Committee for Unicef</b> , Zurich Publications, travel reports, research and evaluation of fundraising campaigns (consultancy following employment)

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