

# CALIFORNIA REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

August 15, 2016

To the Friends Residing in California

Dearly loved Friends,

As the Baha'i world strives to set in motion the new Five Year Plan, it is with great joy and enthusiasm we announce the release of the first unit of Book 10, titled "Building Vibrant Communities."

In the last three years, the training institute in California has been experiencing unprecedented growth. In particular, increasing numbers of souls from the wider community have joined hands and become participants of institute courses. These new friends are carrying out community-building activities in neighborhoods and clusters throughout the state. Likewise, tutors are learning how to improve the quality and spirit of joy within study circles, and are becoming increasingly effective in helping "create an environment conducive to the spiritual empowerment of participants who will come to see themselves as active agents of their own learning, as protagonists of a constant effort to apply knowledge to effect individual and collective transformation."<sup>(1)</sup>

As the Universal House of Justice reminds us, "The sequence of courses is organized to set the individual, whether Baha'i or not, on a path being defined by accumulating experience of the community in its endeavor to open before humanity the vision of Baha'u'llah's World Order."<sup>(2)</sup> Thus, Books 1 through 7 of the training institute guide us in developing many skills, help strengthen our qualities and attitudes, and facilitate our capacities of walking together on a path of service to our community. Other pre-publication materials for Books 8, 9, and now 10 have been released and build on the content of the first seven books. The content of Book 10 is most relevant to tutors, animators, children's class teachers, and those who are accompanying others as they initiate and carry out activities. Thus, we would encourage those participating in institute courses to complete their study of Book 7 before advancing to study Book 10.

As "the timing of the release of the first unit of Book 10 is indeed propitious for the launching of the new Five Year Plan,"<sup>(3)</sup> there will be opportunities to participate in Book 10 study circles throughout the region in the coming weeks and months. The first unit of Book 10 has been rolled out in a manner that has raised an initial contingent of tutors throughout the region. These tutors will begin to organize more local trainings for the friends. Please connect with your local coordinators to participate or initiate study circles for any new book. There will also be a study of the first unit of Book 10 from October 20-23 at Bosch Baha'i School (more information and registration information will be available on the Bosch website).

With love,  
Regional Training Institute of California

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(1) Ridvan 2014 message from the Universal House of Justice to the Baha'is of the World

(2) 12 December 2011 message from the Universal House of Justice to all National Spiritual Assemblies

(3) Letter dated 24 January 2016 from the International Teaching Centre to all Continental Counsellors