



The Earth Charter Initiative

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

2007

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## I. INTRODUCTION

**T**he Earth Charter Initiative is the collective name for the extraordinarily diverse, global network of people, organizations, and institutions who participate in promoting the Earth Charter, and in implementing its principles in practice. A growing number of activities have been taking place around the world inspired by the Earth Charter including book publications, children, youth and adults workshops, and projects within the private sector, academia and religious/ interfaith communities. These efforts are fueled by a profound sense of urgency to change the current paradigm and improve the well-being of Earth and the whole community of life.

The Initiative is a broad-based, voluntary, civil society effort, but participants include leading international institutions, national government agencies, university associations, NGOs, city governments, faith groups, and many well-known leaders in sustainable development. Many of these organizations have shown a strong long-term commitment to the Earth Charter and have agreed to become ECI Affiliates. Others are considered as Partners, since their involvement in the Initiative might be more short term or for a very specific project.

Earth Charter International (ECI) is the formal organization that facilitates and catalyses a number of efforts to promote the use of the Earth Charter in different fields and regions of the world.<sup>1</sup> From 2005 to 2007, Earth Charter International had two administrative offices, called “Centers,” in Sweden and Costa Rica. The number of staff members working at these offices varied from 8 to 10 persons. The center in Costa Rica, located at the University for Peace campus, focused on the ECI Education Programme known as the Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development at UPEACE. The staff members of this office were also in charge of communicating with affiliates from Latin America, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Africa.

The office in Stockholm, Sweden, was called the Center for Strategy and Communications. In addition to these core functions, it also focused on the coordination of affiliates, fundraising, and overall administrative and financial management. It also hosted until the end of 2007 the development of the Earth Charter Business Programme, and the development of the Programme on Religion and Sustainability, as well as the Youth Initiative, which was transferred to Costa Rica in October.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that the Earth Charter Initiative should be distinguished from Earth Charter International (ECI). The former refers to the entire network of individuals, organizations, etc globally, whereas the latter designates the core staff members and Council working to coordinate the Initiative.



*Staff Members of Earth Charter International*

The main activities carried out by the Centers – hereafter referred to as Earth Charter International - are detailed in the first section of this report. Many of these activities have been carried out with the support of ECI Affiliates and Advisors. These are individuals and organizations who are close to ECI and contribute to the implementation of the various ECI programmes.

In 2006, ECI had been completely redesigned as an organization, including the formation of a new International Council and policy framework for governance. This Transition continued in 2007 and involved on-going development of the organization's structure, development of Council policies, continued strategic planning, development of administrative systems, and implementation of communication strategy. After having designed this Transition and then serving for two years as Executive Director of Earth Charter International to lead the Transition process, Alan Atkisson returned to his work in the private sector. Mr. Atkisson continues to be active in the Earth

Charter Initiative and to collaborate as an Advisor.

Consequently, the ECI Council decided to close the ECI Office in Sweden, where Mr. Atkisson staff had been based, and to transfer all of its functions to the Center in Costa Rica. At the same time, the Religion and Sustainability Programme was moved to Germany. Mirian Vilela became the new Executive Director of Earth Charter International. In order to help this process, Alide Roerink - lead Earth Charter contact at ECI's Dutch Affiliate, NCDO - agreed to assume a very active role as a Council member. She will be working more closely with ECI staff in areas such as the further development of the Business Initiative. ECI Council member Oscar Motomura, also assumed a leadership role in strategic planning.

In the 2nd half of 2007, the ECI Council began a strategic planning process to develop a new, much more decentralized approach to expand the Initiative. During this period of strategic review and planning, ECI effectively suspended fundraising activity pending the outcome of Council deliberations. As a result, ECI did not reach the new fundraising goals originally established for 2007, although it did secure the renewal of key multi-year gifts as well as new funding to support the development of the Business and Religion programmes. The resulting shortfall in the planned 2007 budget has been covered by new contributions received in early 2008. New Council guidelines on strategy were completed and launched at the close of 2007.

ECI believes these steps were essential to reaching its long-term goals.

# II. EARTH CHARTER INITIATIVE

## MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

*The following statements have been prepared and issued by the Earth Charter International Council. (Version Dated 15 March 2007)*

### Mission Statement

The mission of the Earth Charter Initiative is to help establish a sound ethical foundation for the emerging global society and to promote the transition to a sustainable way of life founded on: respect and care for the community of life; ecological integrity; universal human rights; respect for diversity; economic justice; democracy; and a culture of peace.

### Vision Statement

We envision the Earth Charter becoming the most widely shared ethical framework for sustainable living and exercising a growing influence on human affairs.

We envision recognition and endorsement of the Earth Charter by an ever-increasing number of national and international institutions, including UN agencies, leading to the embrace of the Earth Charter by the United Nations General Assembly.

We envision individuals, organizations, businesses, governments, and multi-lateral institutions throughout the world adopting the values and principles of the

Earth Charter and working collaboratively to build just, sustainable, and peaceful societies.

### Organizational Vision

Over the next five years, we envision creating high quality communications and education programmes that reach millions of people, promoting a holistic and systematic way of understanding the fundamental challenges of our time, catalyzing thousands of initiatives in support of the Earth Charter's objectives, and inspiring hope.

Over the next five years, we envision bringing the Earth Charter and its ethical values and principles into strategically chosen events, processes, and initiatives involving civil society, business, and government.

We envision accomplishing these goals as a small, efficient organization that works in partnership with Earth Charter Affiliates and other institutions and organizations, providing an inclusive ethical vision and bringing fresh energy to the task of advancing the transition to a just, sustainable, and peaceful world.

## III. HIGHLIGHTS OF 2007

The year 2007 was a year of extraordinary dynamism and progress within the Earth Charter Initiative. Highlighted here are just a few of the milestones for the EC Initiative this year:

### At the Strategy level:

- Following the strategic workshop carried out in Sao Paulo, Brazil, at Amana Key's training center, with the participation of Council members, Staff, Advisors and some Affiliates, the ECI Council determined that there exists a strong need to "Scale Up" -- that is, to dramatically expand, by orders of magnitude, the world-wide process of dialogue, engagement, and action known as the Earth Charter Initiative. This determination was driven by (1) accelerating changes in the world, including negative trends and positive human responses, and (2) a related and parallel expansion of interest in, and commitment to, the Earth Charter as a guiding ethical framework.
- A set of Action Guidelines (Working Principles) were developed to support the policy and strategy of "Decentralized Empowerment", the accelerated expansion of the network and to guide organizational development and Initiative leadership going forward.
- A gradual (one-year) organizational restructuring process was initiated to support an accelerated process of "Scaling Up". The process should

build on the existing structure and strategy, which appears to be working well.

- ECI communication and web strategy worked well with the number of web visitors increasing exponentially in 2007. EC website visitors went from 7,000 visitors in January to 70,000 visitors in August and nearly 100,000 by the end of 2007. Furthermore, the number of endorsers vary from 2 to 7 a day. These are important indicators of growing interest in the Earth Charter Initiative.

### Others:

- The first training course for Earth Charter leaders was offered in San Jose, Costa Rica. This course is part of a series of courses that will seek to implement the Decentralized Empowerment Policy for Scaling up.
- The release of the publication "Good Practices Using the Earth Charter", which was co-published with UNESCO and first launched at the 4th International Conference on Environmental Education in Ahmedabad, India.
- A presentation by Steven Rockefeller about the Earth Charter at the United Nations General Assembly's High Level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace.
- The President of Mexico re-affirmed his government's commitment to

the Earth Charter, and the Minister of Education and Environment signed a cooperation agreement that includes the intention to use the Earth Charter through the national education system.

- The Global Reporting Initiative began a process to identify ways to use the Earth Charter and invited ECI to develop a Guidance paper on the Global Compact, the Earth Charter and Global Reporting Initiative, which was developed in cooperation with NCDO.
- Earth Charter UK Trust was formally launched during a seminar called "The Earth Charter, Past and Future" held at Exeter College, Oxford University. This event also involved a special planting tree

ceremony with Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Prize Winner and Earth Charter Commissioner.

- The Earth Charter Youth Initiative (ECYI) held a global, online, participatory, "Town Hall Meeting" to elect its Youth Leadership Team (YLT). This involved all members of EC Youth Network YLT, which met at the International Conference on Environmental Education in Ahmedabad, India; consists of 6 women and 6 men, from all around the world. The YLT, in close collaboration with the International Youth Coordinator, is engaged in realizing their ambitious Plan of Action 2008-2009, which works to engage, empower, and expand the world-wide Earth Charter youth network.

## IV. OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES LED BY THE EARTH CHARTER INTERNATIONAL

### 1. Decentralized Empowerment for Scaling Up Policy

A two-day strategic planning workshop took place in April to identify key challenges and opportunities for the Earth Charter Initiative, and to further develop a strategy outlining the way forward for the Initiative. This event marked an important opportunity to refocus efforts of the Earth Charter Initiative towards its expansion, using a set of guiding and operational principles.

This event took place in Sao Paulo, Brazil,

at Amana-Key's educational and training center, with the participation of Earth Charter Council members, Staff, and several Advisors and Affiliates. The results of this workshop were used to provide input to the annual Earth Charter International Council meeting that followed this strategic planning workshop.

One of the most important outcomes that resulted from both the workshop and the Council meeting was the *Decentralized Empowerment for Scaling up Policy*. This envisions exponentially sensitizing more people around the world to the Earth Charter. This policy is designed



*ECI Council meeting discussing the scaling up strategy*

to empower individuals, communities, and organizations to take action and to promote the Earth Charter worldwide.

In order to guide this anticipated upsurge in activities, the Council has produced a set of *Action Guidelines for Decentralized Empowerment*. The Guidelines are intended to function as a “virtual coordinating mechanism” and reference document, to provide a sense of consistency and direction to self-empowered participants in the Earth Charter Initiative. These Action Guidelines are accompanied by a set of recommended activities that people can undertake to help the EC Initiative to achieve its mission (See [www.earthcharter.org](http://www.earthcharter.org)).

In addition, Earth Charter International implemented actions to put into practice the decentralization policy:

**a. The Course for Earth Charter Promoters**

In July 2007, Earth Charter International offered a 5-day pilot course entitled: “Earth Charter as a Vision for the Future.” This effort was organized in collaboration with Amana-Key, a Brazilian educational

and training center founded by ECI Council member Oscar Motomura. This course, the first of its kind, aimed to train people to translate the Earth Charter vision into reality, in an empowering and decentralized way. The hope was that, after the course, participants would become active promoters of this vision in the communities where they work and live, and that they would spread the word about the Earth Charter’s shared ethical principles of sustainability among their friends, families, and networks.

The first step was to inspire participants through the Earth Charter vision. This required a methodology that was highly inspirational, creative, fun, and participatory. The topics of discussion included, among others, a thorough review of the Earth Charter itself and the application of its sixteen core principles to real world situations.



*Earth Charter course in Costa Rica*

**b. Volunteers Network**

In October, a new system was launched to allow individuals interested in contributing to the Earth Charter Initiative, to apply online and to become part of the EC volunteers’ network. With this new system,

visitors to the Earth Charter website can find a link, under the “Contribute” section, with a number of specific projects in which they can become involved. This effort directly responds to the Strategy for Decentralized Scaling Up Policy. Earth Charter International provides the volunteers with materials and general guidance to undertake projects such as the translation of the Earth Charter, or sponsoring an Earth Charter event or publication. By December 2007, there were 57 volunteers from all regions of the world.

### c. Internships

In August 2007, the Earth Charter office in Costa Rica started a formal internship programme for UPEACE students. A call for applications was sent out with a description of specific activities and responsibilities. These included: translation of the Earth Charter, research papers, assistance with developing the online resource center, educational outreach campaigns, and involvement with the Youth Initiative. There were 23 part-time interns during the period of November 2007 – January 2008.

In addition, over the course of the year, four interns worked on a full time basis at the EC International centers. They were financially supported by the World Leadership Corp and the Finnish Government, and provided significant support in administrative and research work.

## 2. Endorsements

A new automatic system to record individual and organization endorsements was

put in place on the Earth Charter website. According to the data received from this system, there are 2,508 organizations that have endorsed the Earth Charter.

Just to mention a few of the key endorsements:

- On 2 May, the Mayor of Sao Paulo, Mr. Gilberto Kassab, endorsed the Earth Charter on behalf of the Municipality of Sao Paulo, Brazil. He also pledged his full support for collaboration between the Sao Paulo Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Environment, in implementing actions to incorporate the Earth Charter into the city’s education system.



*Mayor of Sao Paulo during the endorsement ceremony*

- Similarly, the organization in charge of the Universal Forum of Cultures, which took place in Monterrey, Mexico, endorsed the Earth Charter in a ceremony on 3 July. At this ceremony, the President of the Forum and other leaders signed a statement declaring their commitment to use the Earth Charter as a guide and ethical framework for decision-making, policy development, and

educational initiatives. They pledged to promote the Earth Charter during the three months of this Forum's activities.

- Another important endorsement took place in the City of Caguas, Puerto Rico. The Municipality organized a special ceremony to celebrate its commitment to putting the principles of the Earth Charter into practice.



*Endorsement of Caguas Municipality, Puerto Rico*

### 3. Education for Sustainable Development

Education is at the core of the Earth Charter's mission and purpose, which is why the EC Center for Education for Sustainable Development was created. This Center has been working in partnership with UNESCO, to help implement the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. The following section provides an overview of the main activities undertaken by this Center.

#### Outreach to Educators and Educational Institutions

There have been continued efforts to

identify and establish relationships with key networks and organizations, as well as nurture existing partnerships. The goal continues to be to "promote institutional adoption of the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development and motivate groups to use the Earth Charter".

Exciting new partnerships have resulted from these efforts. Examples can be found in Latvia, with the Institute for Sustainable Education at the University of Daugavpils; in Russia, with the Institute for Problems of Sustainable Development at the Russian State University for Chemical Technology and the Environmental Commission of the Russian Public Chamber; with the UNESCO Office in Hanoi, Vietnam; in the Philippines, with the Divinity School at Silliman University; in Canada, with the Ministries of Education, Youth, and Citizenship in Manitoba; in Seychelles, with the National Institute of Education; as well as with the Organization of Iberoamerican States.

It is not easy to measure the tangible outcomes of these outreach efforts in the short run. However, it is worthwhile to mention at least one concrete result: the translation and publication of 1,000 Earth Charter brochures into Vietnamese, which were distributed by the UNESCO Office in Vietnam during a National Education for Sustainable Development Advocacy meeting.

#### *Outreach efforts in Asia - Pacific*

The following activities were undertaken to raise awareness about the Earth Charter in Manila, the Philippines and Jakarta, Indonesia, in November 2007.

In Manila, three Earth Charter Forums were organized. The first forum took place

at the Environmental Studies Institute, at Miriam College; the second at the Philippines Women University; and, the third at the Soka Gakkai Center. The number of participants varied from 70 to 300 people, representing a wide range of sectors including academia, NGOs, government, and the general public at large.

A variety of other outreach activities were also carried out in Manila, including meetings with key institutions and participation in a radio programme about the Earth Charter. All these activities were supported by Ella Antonio, an Earth Charter Affiliate, who is the President of Earth Council Asia Pacific.



*Forum in Manila*

In Jakarta, Earth Charter International Council member Erna Witolear, in collaboration with several prominent organizations in Indonesia, organized a meeting to identify ways to further disseminate the EC principles in this country. The attendees launched an Earth Charter network for Indonesia, and committed to undertake collaborative actions to achieve this aim. The network is composed of: KEHATI, LEAD Indonesia, Lenteng, Eka Tjipta Foundation, Dana Mitra Friends of the

Environment Fund Foundation, CIKAL School, Madania School, Sokka Gakai, the Association of Philanthropy Indonesia, and a representative of the Ministry of Environment.

### Workshops and Conferences

#### a) Department of Education, University of Costa Rica (UCR)

ECI staff collaborated with UCR to offer workshops on education for sustainable development to the faculty and students of the Department of Education. The first workshop for faculty members took place at the end of May; the second one at the end of June. Two other workshops are being planned for students of the same department. The goal is to engage them in using the Earth Charter as part of their teaching and in re-orienting their curriculum towards ESD.

#### b) Observatory for Development, University of Costa Rica (UCR)

This department at UCR is the lead coordinator of an environmental education project with several high schools in the area. The department has invited ECI to be part of this project, to share the vision of the Earth Charter with students and professors through a series of workshops. Three workshops were undertaken this year.

#### c) National University of Costa Rica (UNA)

The Vice-Dean of the Department of Education at UNA invited ECI to lead two workshops about the Earth Charter,

ESD and the Decade. The workshops were directed at professors of the Department of Education. As a result of this activity, a Professor from this Department committed to developing Earth Charter materials for secondary schools and the Earth Charter was formally incorporated as part of the curriculum programme of this department.

**d) Children’s Museum of Costa Rica**

Every year, the Children’s Museum (an Earth Charter Affiliate in Costa Rica) invites the EC Center for ESD to contribute to their anniversary celebrations, which involves three days of activities with children. This year, the EC Center contribution was a two-day children’s workshop, which took place in April.



*EC-CNFL Children’s Workshop*

**e) Earth Charter workshops for children in collaboration with National Electricity Company of Costa Rica**

The EC Center for ESD offered six workshops for children, ages 8 to 12 years. In total, 202 children participated in a one-hour workshop designed to sensitize participants to the integrated vision of the Earth Charter, and to raise a sense of commitment and responsibility

towards sustainability. These workshops were part of a national environmental education programme led by the Costa Rican National Electricity Company (CNFL). The ECI has been invited to contribute to CNFL efforts in the future.

**f) Earth Charter workshop during World Environment Day celebrations**

A number of institutions based in Costa Rica participated in an event to celebrate World Environment Day. The EC Center in Costa Rica contributed by offering a workshop to sensitize school teachers in a rural area of Sarapiquí about ESD and the Earth Charter.

**g) The Balkan and Black Sea Circle Consortium Conference (BBCC)**

EC International actively participated in the annual conference of the BBCC held at the University of Debrecen, Hungary, in May. A presentation was made on the use of the Earth Charter as a framework for ESD.

**h) Workshops at the World Environment Education Congress – Durban**

Over 2,000 people from all over the world participated in the World Environment Education Congress, held in July in Durban. ECI organized two Earth Charter Workshops. The first one focused on the Earth Charter’s role in education, while the other focused on biodiversity education and the Charter.

**i) Participation in the Higher Education for Sustainable Development Conference, San Luis Potosi, Mexico**

The EC Center for ESD participated in the II International Conference: Sustainability

Perspectives for Higher Education, organized by the Autonomous University of San Luis Potosi (UASLP) and Luneburg University, in July. An article and an exhibit about the role of the Earth Charter in education were presented at this Conference. As a result, the organizers considered ECI as an important partner for several of their projects, such as building a platform for sharing ESD materials and resources.

**j) Participation in the 4th International Conference on Environmental Education- Ahmedabad, India**

Over 1,500 people participated in this major event, which was a follow-up to the historical Tbilisi Conference and Declaration thirty years ago. EC International organized several activities to contribute to this important event:



*EC Workshop in Ahmedabad, India*

- Facilitation of the working session: “Integrating Values of Sustainability into Education: The Promise of the Earth Charter”
- Launch of the publication “Good Practices Using the Earth Charter”
- Joint coordination of the working session “Youth: Trendsetters of ESD”

- Launch meeting of the ECYI’s recently elected Youth Leadership Team (YLT)
- Launch of the Intergenerational Partnership Initiative

The working session on values of sustainability for education lasted three days. Interesting thoughts, reflections and ideas emerged from this session. There was a general consensus that efforts to use the Earth Charter and incorporate values of sustainability should:

- Be contextualized. It is important to be sensitive to cultural contexts, without disregarding notions of universal values and concepts such as community of life and universal responsibility.
- Avoid indoctrination. Use educational settings to stimulate ethical reflection, helping students to deepen their sense of responsibility. It is important to avoid the “imposition” of the EC.
- Consider the Earth Charter as an instrument to stimulate critical questioning and understanding of sustainability, as well as to stimulate dialogue about the meaning and interpretation of its Principles.

Significantly, the final Ahmedabad Declaration and Recommendations, which can be accessed through this link (<http://www.tbilisiplus30.org/Declaration.pdf>), explicitly mentions the Earth Charter as a foundation to developing the educational processes needed to help individuals to find solutions to the pressing problems and challenges of the 21st century. The Earth Charter is also mentioned in the

Recommendations, which are designed to support and guide the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

### ESD Resource Center

Important efforts were made over the last three months of the year to identify and categorize a number of existing resources on the Earth Charter and Education for Sustainable Development. These ranged from books to websites and educational tools, including pedagogical materials and guidebooks. The objective is to develop a specialized and recognized resource center that offers a variety of online educational resources on ESD and the Earth Charter in different languages.

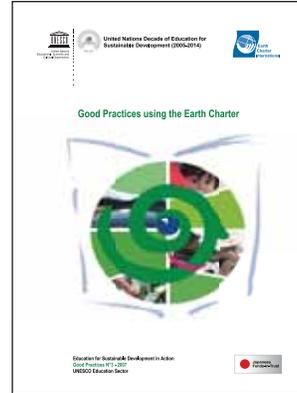
Three interns have been helping to organize the online resource center, as well as the hard copy materials at the Costa Rica office. The new EC online resource center will be launched during the first half of 2008.

### Publications

#### a) Good Practices using the Earth Charter

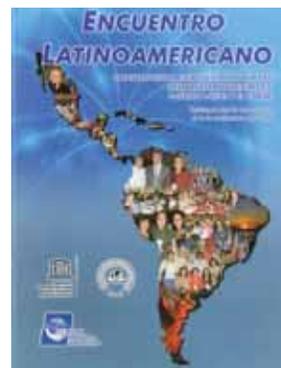
Earth Charter International published this compilation in collaboration with UNESCO, and launched it during the Ahmedabad Conference. This is part of a series of publications that UNESCO is committed to produce within the framework of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. This publication comprises a compilation of twenty-seven experiences of incorporating the Earth Charter into non formal, primary, secondary, and/or higher education practices. It is hoped that this publication will be translated

into Portuguese, Spanish, and Russian in partnership with other organizations.



#### b) Latin American Strategy for DESD

Following the 2006 Latin American Conference on ESD, organized by the Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development and UNESCO, an online forum was launched the following year to solicit input for the drafting process of the Latin American Strategy for the DESD. The consultation process was carried out from December 2006 until the end of February 2007. The final version of the strategy was released in March. The strategy has been widely distributed within the Latin American region and is available through the EC Initiative website.



### c) Videos

Four videos were developed during the year. One video shares the outcomes of the Latin American Conference on ESD, held in 2006. This video also includes interviews with four important Iberoamerican thinkers about the field of education.

The other three videos contain interviews about topics related to education and ethics. Some of the interviewees include: Leonardo Boff (Brazilian theologian), Vladimir Zakharov (Russian Public Chamber), Janet Gerson (Prof. Columbia University), Dale T. Snauwaert (Chair Department of Foundations of Education, University of Toledo), Diane Scalon (Musician), amongst others.

### Partnerships

#### a) University for Peace (UPEACE)



Earth Charter International offered two courses at the Master's level as part of its collaboration with UPEACE. These included: a course on Sustainable Development in October 2007 for the International Peace Studies Programme, as well as a course on Sustainable Development and Environmental Governance in May 2007 for the Environmental Security Programme. Both courses feature the Earth Charter as a case study, as an example or as a reference point.

#### b) Costa Rican Presidential Project, "Peace with Nature" (Paz con la Naturaleza)



President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica issued a presidential decree in December 2006 that created an initiative called "Peace with Nature". As part of this Initiative, an Education Committee was formed, and the EC Center for ESD was invited to take part. This Committee is developing a plan to promote cultural changes towards sustainability across all educational settings. The first activities to be implemented will be aimed at creating awareness amongst educators, and then moving towards the general public. In this Committee, EC International Staff and Affiliates have been active in promoting the Earth Charter as a framework for the initiative's actions.

#### c) Institute for Sustainable Education at the University of Daugavpils, Latvia.



As a result of ECI outreach efforts, a partnership was initiated with Daugavpils University. Contact with the University started because of their extensive and recognized work on teacher's education and life-long training. Through this partnership, ECI became a member

of the Eastern European Network of Educators-The Balkan and Black Sea Circle Consortium. In addition, this Institute has offered to become a node of Earth Charter educational efforts in Eastern Europe. This was clearly manifest in November 2007, when ECI Staff Member Marina Bakhnova moved to Latvia for a six-month period to work with this Institute.

d) **University for International Cooperation (Universidad de Cooperación Internacional -UCI)**



A strategic partnership with UCI was formally established in December 2007 when the EC Center for ESD signed a collaborative agreement with the University to develop courses based on the Earth Charter. These courses will target local government authorities and staff from across Latin America on sustainability issues. The first module will focus on the Earth Charter and ethics.

**4. Earth Charter Youth Initiative (ECYI)**

In 2007, the ECYI Membership grew at an accelerating rate, with members from over 50 countries. The ECYI list-serv doubled in size and, in an entirely decentralized way, more than 500 young people joined online Earth Charter-related groups on Facebook, TakingItGlobal, Wiser Earth, Orkut, etc. For example, 223 people signed up for the Earth Charter “Cause” on Facebook and

a growing number of people are recruited every day. This is effectively decentralized endorsement of the Earth Charter.

The ECYI has a rapidly growing online presence, with a more informative, interactive, and innovative website. For example, an ECYI Blog was initiated, with 25 articles and stories posted, plus 120 comments received from around the world. Significantly, 70% of these comments were directly associated with the online “Town Hall Meeting and Election” of the Youth Leadership Team in September. Activity on the ECYI website made a clear jump in September as well, remaining at an average of 1,708 visits / month through the end of the year. This was more than 2.5 times the average activity seen before September (665 visits / month).

Furthermore, the number of engaged and connected ECYGs has more than doubled in the past year, now totaling 28 from all around the world. These groups have been active in a variety of ways, including:

- translating the Earth Charter into Finnish and Belorussian;
- holding youth conferences on the Earth Charter in Belorussia, Latvia, and Ethiopia;
- promoting sustainable livelihoods on Lake Victoria and in the slums around Nairobi, Kenya;
- promoting organic agriculture in China;
- cleaning up beaches in the Philippines;
- providing humanitarian assistance after the August 2007 earthquake in Peru; and

- campaigning for renewable energy on university campuses in the USA.



*Activities of Youth Groups*

In collaboration with the former Core Group, the ECYI Handbook was developed, with a special focus on ECYGs. This is to be translated, published and disseminated in 2008.

In 2007, ECYI members also participated in various international events, taking on leadership roles throughout:

- UPEACE's International Conference on Climate Change and Vulnerability, The Hague, Netherlands;
- Global Youth Service Day;
- Earth Charter International Council Meeting, Sao Paulo, Brazil;
- United Nation's Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-16) in New York City, USA;
- CIVICUS Youth and World Assemblies in Glasgow, Scotland;
- UNEP's Tunza Conference in Leverkusen, Germany;
- International Youth Forum in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt;

- Commonwealth Youth Forum 6 in Entebbe, Uganda;
- 4th International Conference Environmental Education in Ahmedabad, India; and,
- UNFCCC's Conference of the Parties in Bali, Indonesia.

For the purpose of promoting youth participation in such international processes, Leah Wener, a World Leadership Corps Fellow interning with ECI, and Dominic Stucker, ECYI Coordinator, researched and drafted "Youth in Global Governance for Sustainability: An ECYI Guide," to be translated, published and disseminated in 2008.

As mentioned above, the ECYI elected a Youth Leadership Team (YLT), with 12 representatives from all the world's regions. The former Core Group helped to develop an inclusive, participatory, and democratic election process, which included an online "Town Hall Meeting" and voting in September 2007. The elected YLT Representatives met in November at the 4th International Conference on Environmental Education (ICEE), where



*Youth Leadership Team at the meeting in Ahmedabad, India*

they drafted the YLT Plan of Action for 2008-2009; participated in numerous working sessions and plenaries; contributed to the drafting of the Ahmedabad Declaration, which mentions youth and the Earth Charter specifically; and formed strong working relationships with UNEP's South Asia Youth Environment Network (SAYEN) and the China-India Forum. The YLT works very closely with the International Youth Coordinator on their goal of "engaging, expanding, and empowering the ECYI."

An important project for ECYI - the creation of an Alliance for Intergenerational Partnership for Sustainability - was launched at the ICEE Conference in Ahmedabad, with the drafting of the "Framework for Forming Intergenerational Partnerships for Sustainability" (IPS). This Framework is intended to become a practical mechanism for forming effective working relationships between people of all ages in the pursuit of justice, sustainability, and peace. The Framework was translated into numerous languages and will be posted on a Wiki site, enabling people from around the world to comment and offer suggestions. The Alliance for IPS will also be formed in a decentralized way using the same Wiki site. At strategic events, the Framework draft will be revised until it is submitted to the World Conservation Union (IUCN), as part of a motion on the importance of intergenerational partnerships for achieving justice, sustainability and peace.

In 2007, the ECYI also continued to collaborate with its partners around the world, including:

- Global Youth Action Network (GYAN);
- TakingItGlobal (TIG);

- United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY);
- Youth Action for Change (YAC);
- Peace Child International (PCI);
- BeatBoard and
- Plan Neatherlands.

These partners represent a wealth of resources and skills, as well as large international youth networks. These partners play important roles in the initiatives that ECYI will launch in 2008. Plan Neatherlands provided generous funding for the ECYI. For more on the ECYI see [www.earthcharterinaction.org/youth](http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/youth)

## 5. Religion and Sustainability Programme

In October 2006, EC International engaged former EC Youth Coordinator Michael Slaby to do research and strategy development on how to strengthen links with the world's religious and spiritual communities. With a preparation phase of 10 months that included research into Earth Charter archives and interviews with leading experts in interreligious dialogue, the Earth Charter Programme on Religion and Sustainability formally began to be implemented in September 2007. Funding was generously provided by the Kendeda Sustainability Fund in Washington DC. The programme is conducted in organizational partnership with the Ecumenical One World Initiative – the Earth Charter Affiliate in Germany – which has agreed to host the programme at an administrative level.

Strategically, the programme uses the Earth Charter as a common platform to help build bridges between the world of research and policy, and the world of religious engagement with the great challenges of our time. It intends to help religious individuals, organizations and networks grapple with issues like climate change, ecosystem preservation, and the links between poverty, human rights, and the environment, in practical as well as ethical terms.

In 2007, the activities of the EC Programme on Religion and Sustainability included:

- a. The production of high-quality learning materials for religious audiences, including an Earth Charter Guide on Religion and Climate Change, as well as a narrative on faith-based contributions to the Earth Charter drafting process. These will both be released in early 2008.
- b. The creation of the website blog [www.earthcharterinaction.org/religion](http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/religion), which highlights news and background stories about spiritual and religious engagement with the Earth Charter. This will also be developed into a platform for the sharing of success stories and best practices on religion and sustainability.
- c. The creation of a network of organizations and religious congregations that support the programme. One inspiring example is the renowned Interfaith Center of New York, which decided to become an Earth Charter Affiliate.

In 2007, high priority was given to bring the Earth Charter to strategic interfaith

and religious events and conferences in order to broaden the base and outreach of the new programme:

In March, the Earth Charter was highlighted at the First International Expert's Workshop on Faith-Based Organizations and Education for Sustainable Development, organized by UNESCO Catalonia. Several leading experts of the Earth Charter movement, including ECI Council Member Mary Evelyn Tucker and ECI Advisor Abelardo Brenes, participated in the event and shared their insights. The participants agreed that a key contribution of religions to the Decade for Education for Sustainable Development is a deepened understanding of the ethical dimension of sustainable development, particularly the principle of respect and reverence for life. The official workshop report highlighted the Earth Charter as a key reference document for inspiring religious organizations to join and support the Decade.

In June, Earth Charter Commissioner Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp presented the Earth Charter to thousands of people attending an open air event at the German Protestant Church Congress ("Kirchentag"). The event took place against the majestic backdrop of the Cologne Cathedral and was attended by renowned leaders such as Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town.

In September, the Active Faith Earth Charter Seminar took place in Taplow Court, UK. It introduced the Earth Charter to a diverse group of congregations and faith-based organizations. The event was organized by Earth Charter UK in cooperation with the National Commission of UNESCO, the Development Research Center of the

University of London, and Soka Gakkai-UK. This was the first time that the Earth Charter was explicitly introduced to faith communities in the UK.



*Location of Active Faith EC Seminar, Taplow Court, UK*

In October, ECI Council co-chair Steven Rockefeller participated, on behalf of Earth Charter International, at the United Nations General Assembly’s High Level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace. The Dialogue took place at the ministerial and head of state level, and included an interactive hearing with civil society. Rockefeller participated as a respondent to the civil society panel on best practices



*Steven Rockefeller speech at the UN.*

for interreligious cooperation. In his intervention, he presented the methodology of the Earth Charter drafting process as an inspiring example of bringing the different religions and cultures together by focusing on shared ethical principles and common concerns for the urgent challenges facing humanity.

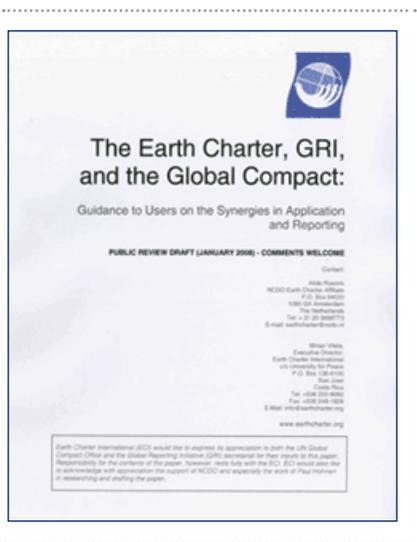
Rockefeller’s remarks were published on the UN website. Furthermore, the official summary report published by the Presidency of the General Assembly made two positive references to his intervention, and took up one of his suggestions as its final recommendation: the development of a code of conduct based on global ethics that could be adopted as one of the key objectives of a United Nations body for interreligious and intercultural cooperation.

EC International was also present at a public event of the International Interfaith Organizations Network (IION), which took place in the historic St. James Palace in London. The event highlighted the new interfaith initiatives being undertaken by the United Nations, and also underscored the importance of putting environmental challenges on the international interfaith agenda.

## 6. Business Programme

Starting with the international “Value of Values” seminar held at Imperial College London in March 2006, and supported by EC Dutch Affiliate NCDO, EC International has developed a number of publications mapping out the Earth Charter’s role in the rather over-saturated field of sustainability and social responsibility in business.

One of these publications is the result of the Earth Charter's emerging partnership with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) -- the world's leading set of guidelines for corporate and organizational sustainability reporting. GRI expressed their approval of a paper guiding companies on how to link the Earth Charter to the GRI guidelines. This paper was developed by Alan Atkisson, Paul Hohnen (consultant), with significant input from Alide Roerink and colleagues, and the financial support of NCDO. GRI extended an invitation to showcase the Earth Charter at their Global Congress, in May 2008.



Continuous efforts are underway to review ECI options for activities in this field. Partnerships with different initiatives have been sought and are in the process of being consolidated, such as: the micro-credit project of Ecologia (a NGO from China); the entrepreneurship programmes of NCDO in the Netherlands; and training programmes of Amana-Key in Brazil and GLA in Amsterdam.

One thing, however, is clear: the ECI will be increasingly promoting the use

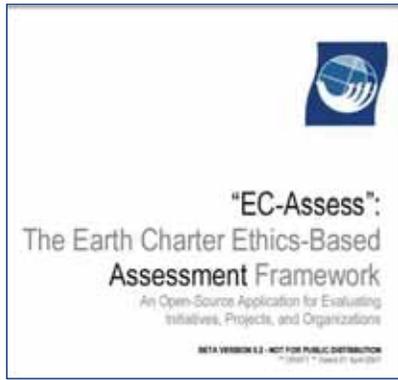
of the Earth Charter in the private sector field, as a guide for training, inspiration, assessment and decision making. And of course, many are already using and promoting the Charter. See the next section on EC-Assess for its potential application to the business sector.

## 7. Earth Charter Global Dialogue on Ethics and Climate Change

In April, the ECI launched an online forum on Ethics and Climate Change. The aim was to bring different perspectives together about the ethical dimension of climate change. This forum started with an article submitted by Council Members Brendan Mackey and Song Li: *Winning the Struggle Against Global Warming: A Report to the Earth Charter International Council*. The forum has been open to generate comments and thoughts about the points made by the authors, and have also welcomed other contributions to prompt reflection on this important issue.

## 8. EC-Assess

The Earth Charter Assessment Tool – EC Assess- a brand new integrated assessment tool based on the ethical framework of the Earth Charter- was created in early 2007 and launched at the CIVICUS World Assembly, in May in Glasgow, UK. This tool has been successfully tested and used a number of times - with University for Peace students in Costa Rica; in workshops in the Netherlands and Sweden; and at the EC Working Session in the 4th ICEE Conference, Ahmedabad, India.



EC-Assess, which can be applied within the civil society, business and governmental sectors, measures both a subject's level of declared commitment and level of performance in pursuit of a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world. The tool is designed to be applicable and useful in a very wide variety of contexts, ranging from individual lifestyle assessment to internal

or external organizational review.

Using a subset of the Earth Charter's sixteen Principles and sixty-one Supporting Principles, evaluators identify which Supporting Principles are material (i.e. significant, meaningful and relevant) to the subject of the assessment. Then, they evaluate (1) the extent to which each Supporting Principle is espoused publicly, and (2) the extent to which actual planning and performance reflects the implementation of that Supporting Principle in practice.

The EC-Assess process helps to harness the power of "cognitive dissonance" - that is, instances where actions do not mirror espoused values. These points of dissonance can be recognized as opportunities for launching campaigns to change personal behavior or organizational strategy, and practice.

# V. OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES LED BY EARTH CHARTER AFFILIATES AND PARTNERS

The following section provides a sample of activities that have been organized and implemented by Earth Charter Affiliates, Partners or other organizations that are voluntarily collaborating with the Initiative. This is not intended to be an exhaustive account of all efforts and activities that have been inspired by the Earth Charter. The activities below are organized by country.

## ● United Kingdom

### *Launch of Earth Charter UK Trust*

On 9-10 February 2008, a special seminar on “The Earth Charter, Past and Future” was held at Exeter College, one of the oldest colleges at Oxford University. The Earth Charter UK Trust was formally launched at this seminar, with the powerful symbol of a special tree



*Wangari Maathai at EC UK Launch*

planting ceremony. The guest of honor was Nobel Peace Prize winner, and Earth Charter Commissioner, Wangari Maathai. It is worth noting that participants also included: Steven Rockefeller, Co-Chair, Earth Charter International Council, Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director General of the World Conservation Union–IUCN, Bianca Jagger, award-winning human rights campaigner and Advisor to the Earth Charter, and Herbert Girardet, Director of Programmes for World Future Council.

This effort was organized by ECI Affiliate Jeffrey Newman and colleagues. It is expected that the Earth Charter is on course to having a much more visible profile in the UK than previously.

### *One Earth, Many Faiths event in Oxford*

On 19 November 2007, the University Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Oxford hosted a major panel discussion on the role of Britain’s religions in protecting the Earth. The main speaker was Jonathan Porritt, Chairman of the Government’s Sustainable Living Commission. He was joined by prominent religious leaders in Britain, as well as leaders of the green movement. The organizers displayed the Global Ethics Exhibition prepared by Dr. Hans Küng and the Global Ethics Foundation, and invited the participants to sign and endorse the Earth Charter.

Rabbi Jeffrey Newman and Justine Marchant of Earth Charter UK were among the facilitators and advisors of the event, and more than 100 endorsements were collected in a festive ceremony that followed the official event.

***Course at Schumacher College – Roots of Learning: Approaches to holistic and transformative learning***

Earth Charter Advisor Abelardo Brenes, in coordination with Edmund O’Sullivan, offered a short course entitled “Roots of Learning: Approaches to holistic and transformative learning”. The course was held 5-9 November at Schumacher College in the UK. Its main purpose was to offer a space for students to gain a deeper understanding of holistic-transformative learning. The Earth Charter was used as framework in this process.

● **Russia**

***Partnership with the Russian Center for Environmental Policy and Culture***

During the 1st half of 2007, a new partnership was initiated between the Center for Russian Environmental Policy and Culture and the ECI. This partnership led to the organization of a Conference called “The priorities of environmental policy and civil society”, which was held from 20-22 November in Moscow. The conference was organized under the leadership of Dr. Vladimir Zakharov, Director of the Center, who is also a Chairman of the Environmental Commission of the Russian Public Chamber (the Civil Forum).

One of the purposes of this effort was to help identify priorities for Russian environmental policy and environmental protection for the newly elected members of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. Special attention was paid to the formulation of these priorities and enhancing future cooperation between state, business, and civil society groups for an effective implementation of the environmental priorities. This also involved discussions on the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and identifying ways of promoting in Russia the ethical values and principles for sustainability expressed in the Earth Charter.



*Vladimir Zakharov, Mirian Vilela and Marina Bakhnova at the Conference held in November in Moscow*

***Conference on “Global Security and Sustainable Development: Ecology, Economy, Energy”***

The Earth Charter was featured at the Conference “Global Security and Sustainable Development: Ecology, Economy, Energy,” held from 12-13 February and hosted by the Russian Public Chamber. The Public Chamber is the official institution gathering voices from civil society and facilitating this



*Alan Atkisson and Vladimir Zakharov at the conference hosted by the Russian Public Chamber*

movement in Russia. It is also a conduit for communicating civil society concerns to the government. At this conference, former USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev made a well-received, unscheduled speech that underscored the importance of science to sustainable development, and pointed to the role of the Earth Charter as a guiding ethical framework.

## ● Tatarstan

### *The Earth Charter and Culture of Peace Programme*

The Parliament of Tatarstan has embraced the principles of the Earth Charter since 2001, and instructed governmental agencies to find practical applications for the principles in their work. As a way to implement the call made by the Parliament, the Ministry of Education and Science launched a large-scale effort to implement an Earth Charter and Culture of Peace Programme across all levels of its education system. This programme intends to incorporate values such as respect for all life, respect for one another, and respect for the Earth into the curriculum.

In 2007, one of the main activities of

this programme was the publication and nation-wide distribution of three textbooks on the Earth Charter for primary, middle, and high school students. The textbooks, which are also available through their website, include activities for integrated learning on issues related to the natural and social sciences. These also include a special “Earth Charter Course” for teachers.



*Earth Charter Guidelines for primary school teachers in Tatar and Russian languages*

## ● Romania

### *Activities of the Romanian Ministry of Education and Research*

Romanian Minister of Education, Dr. Mihail Hardau, was very enthusiastic about the Earth Charter after learning about it through the outreach efforts undertaken by the ECI. Since then, he has launched a series of activities in order to integrate the Earth Charter into educational process and extra-curricular activities at the primary and secondary school levels.

By the start of the 2006-2007 school year in Romania, the Earth Charter had been integrated into core curriculum subjects,

vocational training and general school-based curriculum.



*Students of Romanian Schools*

● **Germany**

*First national teacher's training on the Earth Charter in Germany*

On 24 October, the Earth Charter Affiliate in Germany, Ecumenical One World Initiative (EOWI), in collaboration with SGI-Germany and two regional educational institutions, organized the first-ever national teacher's training seminar on the Earth Charter in the country. This was attended by forty teachers, educators and representatives of different teacher training institutions in Germany. The seminar highlighted and explored several areas in which the Earth Charter could be used



*Teachers Training in Germany*

to raise awareness about the values that are inherent in sustainable development. Many participants committed to using Earth Charter education materials in their schools and to disseminating these within their networks.

● **Sweden**

*The Earth Charter at the Tällberg Forum*

The Earth Charter featured at the Tällberg Forum, an annual gathering held in June in the Swedish region of Dalarna, which has emerged as a premier global conference in the field of sustainability. The Earth Charter received significant and increasing attention at the Tällberg Forum 2007. Ruud Lubbers, a member of both the Earth Charter Commission and a founding member of the Earth Charter International Council, was a prominent plenary speaker, and his mention of the Earth Charter was picked up by a number of others, including Tällberg Founder Bo Ekman. The Charter was also the subject of a number of discussions during plenary sessions and workshops.

● **The Netherlands**

*Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp's commitment to the Earth Charter is honoured with the Interfaith Gold Medallion*

On 1 November, Earth Charter Commissioner Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp was awarded with the prestigious Interfaith Gold Medallion "Peace Through Dialogue". The award was presented to him by the Dutch Minister of Justice, Dr. Ernst Hirsch



*Rabbi Soetendorp's speech*

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Ballin, in the name of the International Council of Christians and Jews (ICCJ). The jury's official announcement explicitly recognizes his work for the Earth Charter. The ceremony took place in the historic synagogue of Soetendorp's Jewish congregation in The Hague.

### *The United Network of Young Peacebuilders Seminar*



From 8 – 15 June 2007, the long-time EC Youth Initiative partner, the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY), brought together 29 European youth leaders from 18 countries in Shoorl, The Netherlands. The diverse participants, already active in human rights, peacebuilding, and project management, came together to deepen their understanding of these fields.

The seminar was organized within the frameworks of the "All Different – All Equal" campaign and the Earth Charter. A special workshop on the Earth Charter was offered to show participants how such a framework could be useful in their work.

### *Round Table of Worldconnectors for People and the Planet*



A new initiative was launched in the Netherlands, under the leadership of Earth Charter Commissioner Ruud Lubbers and supported among others by ECI Dutch Affiliate NCDO, with the aim to inspire a global mindset and stimulate a more positive role of the Netherlands towards a sustainable and just world. Prominent persons and youth leaders who connect worlds, come together regularly and develop alternative views and strategies on global issues, such as migration and development, global human security and climate change. Worldconnectors are inspired by the Earth Charter and the UN Millennium Declaration, expressed in statements and public performances. For more information see: [www.worldconnectors.nl](http://www.worldconnectors.nl)

### *'Live Earth Charter'*

At the occasion of the worldwide Live Earth campaign, initiated by Al Gore, much attention was generated on the issue of climate change, also in the Netherlands. To link this event to the Earth Charter, the Dutch Earth Charter Affiliate, NCDO, produced a special

Earth Charter film (in Dutch) in which several youth Earth Charter supporters and Earth Charter Commissioners Wangari Maathai and Ruud Lubbers speak about the relevance of the Earth Charter for the struggle against global warming. Also, in July, an article entitled ‘Save Glacier and the Poor with one Plan’, linking the Earth Charter and the Millennium Development Goals, written by Steven Rockefeller and Alan AtKisson, and signed by Ruud Lubbers and Earth Charter advisor Herman Mulder, was published in the main Dutch newspapers.

*Inspiring words lead to action – yearly Earth Charter Network Meeting*

“Effecting change by inspiring each other and at the same time a billion worldwide”. These are Beautiful words by Awraham Soetendorp during the yearly Earth Charter Network Meeting on 13 November 2007. Words that inspired some eighty participants attending this meeting at the Royal Tropical Institute in Amsterdam, organised by NCDO, to bring the Earth Charter principles into reality. Throughout the day the Earth Charter was the central issue in speeches and in discussions, the exhibition Seeds of Change (translated into Dutch) was also featured. Earth Charter Commissioners Ruud Lubbers and Awraham Soetendorp, Worldconnectors and Earth Charter supporters Herman Mulder, Sayida Vanenburg and Erik Thijs Wedershoven, as well as many guests from businesses, non governmental organizations and volunteer organizations exchanged their visions and experiences and generated ideas for further action. Several issues related to the Earth Charter were discussed in workshops, including

‘Governmental & Politics’ (Netherlands and Europe), ‘Business Engagement & Innovation’, ‘Religion & Sustainability’ and ‘Youth Networking Leadership’. In the words of Matthijn de Boer of Atmosphere it was “a successful and inspiring day”.

● **Spain**

*The Third Local Parliament of Religions in Alicante*

On 12 - 13 May 2007, the “Third Parliament of Religions” was held at the University of Alicante, Spain. The theme of this event was “Caring for the Earth, embracing life: the Earth Charter and the commitment of religions”. More than 400 delegates participated in the event. The entire congress, including reports, workshops, round tables, communications and the sharing of experiences, made reference to the values expressed in the Earth Charter.



*III Congress: Projects and Utopias for a better world – inspired by the Earth Charter*

On 2-3 June, ECI Affiliate Fundacion Valores held its third annual conference,

entitled “Projects and Utopias for a better world”. This series of conferences intends to open a space to reflect on the Earth Charter principles, as well as on processes of education for sustainable development and values-based education. It is also meant to promote knowledge-sharing about what different organizations from Spain are doing regarding these topics.

### *The First Iberian Earth Charter Meeting for Sustainable Development*

This meeting was successfully organized and sponsored by Fundación Valores in Spain and ASPEA in Portugal, both Earth Charter Affiliates. The meeting was held in Madrid on 17-18 November 2007.



*Panel at the first Iberian EC meeting*

The objectives were to offer space to share experiences; promote collaboration; develop strategies and objectives for the execution of different community projects; and, build an online network to be known as the Iberian Earth Charter Network for Sustainable Development. This will serve as a space to raise awareness of all ongoing projects in the region. With this in mind, four groups on Society, Environment, Business and Education were formed to discuss these issues. More than 200 people attended the meeting.

### *Round Table for Innovation in Values-Based Education*

The Centres for Educational Training, Innovation and Resources of the Valencian Community (CEFIRE) serve as the administrative organ responsible for spearheading educational innovation through the field of lifelong learning. The CEFIRE of the city of Elche decided to draw upon the Earth Charter across its areas of intervention.

An important action they have taken has been the formation of a Round Table for Innovation in Values-based Education, which was launched in November 2006, but its consolidation took place in 2007. This Round Table brings together a total of 15 representatives from the education sector, as well as other selected actors (expert technicians in various disciplines). Its goal is to establish, promote and carry out actions and proposals for the development of values-based education, one which draws on the Earth Charter as an underlying framework, within the Valencian region. The Round Table meets once per trimester to propose, integrate, implement and evaluate the application and dissemination processes of values-based education in general, and the Earth Charter in particular.

#### ● **Italy**

*Cogeme Onlus, a private company foundation working with the Earth Charter*

As part of the celebrations for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in Italy, Cogeme Onlus Foundation (an Earth Charter Affiliate in Italy), organized an international event in

Castegnato, Brescia, in November, entitled “In the circle of creation: Education and wisdom of native people”. The purpose was to promote a better understanding about the American native people and for participants to consider the Earth Charter as an educational tool. A presentation about the Earth Charter was included as part of this event.

Fondazione Cogeme Onlus is a foundation that was originated from Cogeme SpA, which is a private company that offers management services such as water treatment, energy and environmental services to communities in 70 municipalities of Brescia and Bergamo province and a small local authority’s consortium in Lombardy. The mission of this Foundation is to improve the quality of life in the Lombardy region. A special interest in environmental sustainability has led the Foundation to become increasingly involved in the field of education and teachers’ training, with the objective to raise awareness of sustainability issues in schools and universities. They have been using the Earth Charter as an educational instrument. To help with this goal, Cogeme Foundation has been collaborating with the Catholic University in Brescia, through a refresher course for teachers on water issues, and by awarding a prize for the best thesis on the theme of sustainability.

● **Mexico**

*Earth Charter featured in Earth Day celebrations in Mexico*

In connection with a special national ceremony for Earth Day (22 April 2007),

Mexico’s Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Education signed a formal agreement to collaborate in the implementation of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. They also agreed to incorporate the Earth Charter into all levels and aspects of Mexico’s education system.

The ceremony was hosted by the President of the Mexican Republic, Felipe Calderón Hinojosa. ECI Council Co-Chair Steven Rockefeller also spoke at the event, which was coordinated by ECI Council member Mateo Castillo Ceja, Head of the Social Participation and Transparency Unit at Mexico’s Ministry of Environment.



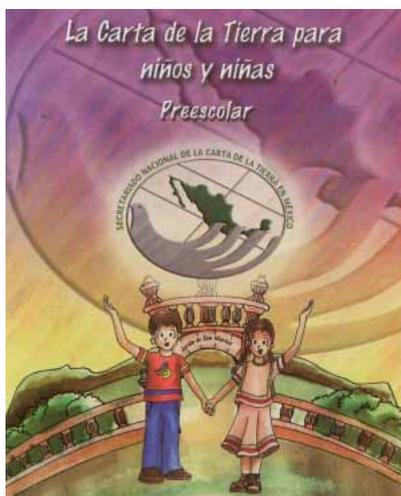
*President of Mexico and other participants of the Earth Day celebration*

*Using the Earth Charter throughout the national education system*

The dissemination efforts made by Earth Charter Affiliates in Mexico generated many important outcomes. Testament to this were the numerous Earth Charter endorsements made by universities, educational institutions, and NGOs.

Another outcome was the inclusion of the Earth Charter as ‘recommended reading’

in the National Plan for Sciences in Secondary Schools. This is an important achievement since this is a normative educational plan that is used across the country. Also, it recognizes and makes explicit the links between values for sustainability and scientific knowledge.



A number of other efforts were made at the local level. For example Conciencia Ecológica de Aguascalientes, an Earth Charter Affiliate, developed a series of Earth Charter booklets for children. In May, these booklets were officially released and distributed by the Mayor of Aguascalientes. Further distribution and training to use these materials will continue in 2008.

### *Earth Charter National Meeting in Mexico*

A national EC gathering entitled “Education, Health and Environment” took place on 11 - 12 October in Monterrey, Mexico. The Mexican Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources organized this meeting in collaboration with many other organizations, including the World Forum of Cultures.

The main topic addressed in this meeting was how education, health and environment collectively can help promote personal well-being as well as the sense of respect and care for nature. The meeting focused on reflecting on the Earth Charter part III “Social and Economic Justice”. This was an enriching opportunity for the over 400 participants to share experiences about ways in which they have been using the Earth Charter.

### ● **Brazil**

#### *Getting to know the Earth Charter movement in Brazil*

As mentioned in previous sections, Amana-Key and EC International organized a number of events in Sao Paulo in April. These included: a youth workshop, a strategic planning workshop, and the Annual Earth Charter International Council Meeting (see pages 5 and 6).

In addition, a meeting was organized with different Brazilian organizations that use the Earth Charter in their specific contexts. Participants included



*Brazilian organizations' meeting, Sao Paulo*

representatives from educational institutions, government, and business, ministry officials, and leaders of Brazil's extremely vital NGO and popular education movements. The testimonials about the impact of the Earth Charter in Brazil, and the stories about projects that are using the Charter to facilitate awareness raising and change, were moving and enlightening. The meeting was very helpful to introduce Earth Charter-engaged leaders from Brazil to one another, and to inspire new activities and strengthening on-going efforts.

***Brazilian Ministry of Environment reaffirms its commitment to the Earth Charter***

On 30 April a formal collaborative agreement was signed between the Minister of Environment of Brazil, the Center for the Defense of Human Rights of Petropolis (founded by EC Commissioner Leonardo Boff), and Earth Charter International. During the ceremony, Minister Marina Silva strongly pledged her support for the Earth Charter and reiterated the

commitment of the Ministry to use and promote the Earth Charter's vision. The Earth Charter has been widely disseminated by this Ministry in connection with Agenda 21 activities over the past five years. This agreement further strengthens and formalizes cooperation between the Brazilian Government and Earth Charter International.

***Training educators with the Earth Charter in Sao Paulo***

ECI Affiliate UMAPAZ, an open university for peace and environment education, is an initiative of the city of Sao Paulo Government. This University, in collaboration with the Municipal Secretaries of Education and Environment, launched a project to disseminate the Earth Charter across Sao Paulo's network of educators, which consists of approximately 65,000 teachers.

Launched in September, the first phase consisted in bringing together the 1st Group of 877 participants, mainly schools directors and pedagogical coordinators. The aim was to sensitize the participants about the Earth Charter, and to request their support in mobilizing educators by district. Forty-two groups of educators, school directors and administrators were formed, each comprising 20-30 persons. Starting on 1 October Earth Charter Seminars were held with each of these groups, and these will continue in 2008. The Seminars offer a space to share experiences and reflect about the relation between the Earth Charter principles and the possibilities for applying them to educational practice.



*Leonardo Boff and Minister Marina Silva*

*Educative processes for instituting a culture of peace and planetary ethics in Petropolis*

The Center for Human Rights Defense (CDDH, Centro de Defesa dos Direitos Humanos) of Petropolis has been working for several years promoting a sense of belonging amongst excluded and marginalized peoples. Three of their programmes have been very active during 2007, each of them seek to raise awareness of environmental and cultural rights: "Rights and Human Rights", "Art education and Human Rights, and "Citizenship and Human Rights". These programmes are enacted through several different projects.

These projects intend to disseminate and promote the Earth Charter through critical reflection and practical activities within all scopes of society.

They have undertaken numerous Earth Charter workshops for the community living around Petropolis and specially children. The Center has also taken a leadership role in a communication project, jointly undertaken with Itaipu, to raise awareness about the Earth Charter through videos, publications and conferences with Leonardo Boff.

*Incorporating the Earth Charter in non-formal and community education, NAIA*

NAIA is a group of educators and facilitators working with popular / non-formal education in local communities. They seek to promote alternative learning spaces where social and environmental issues can be discussed and addressed.

Since 2003, NAIA has been mobilizing its network of educators to design materials and workshops using the Earth Charter as an instrument and Earth Pedagogy as an education philosophy. During 2007, Valeria Viana of NAIA, coordinated the Open School Project of the University of Brasilia working with a group of 22 students through the department of extension. This effort involved the formation of a study group, then the design and implementation of 41 workshops held in public schools and communities in the area surrounding the capital city. The Earth Charter has been central in these workshops involving children, youth and adults. One of the exercises is to stimulate each school to develop its own version of the Earth Charter. The main themes they address are: a) Education for Sustainable Development and the Earth Charter; b) Agenda 21 for schools and the Earth Charter; c) Organization of social networks; and d) Designing and evaluation of local development projects.

● **Puerto Rico**

*Implementing the commitment to the Earth Charter*

Following the endorsement of the Earth Charter by its Municipality of Caguas, the School of Environmental Issues at Metropolitan University initiated a process to develop a course using the Earth Charter. The School also committed to implementing Earth Charter activities with its Professors. A primary and secondary school in Puerto Rico has already integrated the Earth Charter into its curriculum.

● **Dominican Republic**

*The Ministry of Education of Dominican Republic promotes the Earth Charter*

On 5 June a Workshop on the Earth Charter took place with the attendance and participation of the Vice Minister of Education, the person in charge of Technical Pedagogical Issues, the Curriculum Director and the coordinator for the area of Natural Sciences at a national level. Fifty people from different parts of the country were present, including teachers, regional advisors, adjunct supervisors, national technicians and coordinators from the Ministry of Education. The purpose of the meeting was to work with the Charter and create activities to integrate the Earth Charter principles within the Basic Curriculum Contents.



*Participants of the Earth Charter workshop in Dominican Republic*

● **Costa Rica**

*Courses on the Earth Charter at the National University*

The Costa Rican National University has been using the Earth Charter as a framework for extension projects, as well

as in many other courses, particularly at the Center for General Studies. Early on in the year, an agreement was made with this Center to collaborate in putting together a course fully based on the Earth Charter, to be offered in 2008.

● **United States**

*Hilton Arlington Hotel's commitment to the Earth Charter*

The Hilton Arlington Hotel, in Arlington VA, pioneered a hotel-wide and community service project, using the Earth Charter as a source of inspiration and as a guiding framework. The entire management staff and associates at the hotel became engaged in the endorsement of the Earth Charter, and also committed to community service actions inspired by the Charter. An action that reflects this commitment was the creation of the Earth Charter Steering Committee, which works on developing a 5 year capital plan to make the hotel 100% sustainable.

This hotel is the first commercial venue in North America to host the Ark of Hope, and prepared an event for that occasion, which took place on 6 October.



*Presentation at Hilton Arlington Hotel, USA*

### *The Earth Charter Community Summits*

Since 2001, Earth Charter U.S. has been actively promoting the Earth Charter in the country, especially through the Earth Charter Community Summits, which are organized locally, and in some instances they link with other Community Summits abroad.

Many initiatives have been spearheaded as a result of the summits. These include: weaving the Earth Charter into lesson plans for public schools; university graduate certificates and a Master’s level programme guided by the Earth Charter; city endorsements and the launch of a quality of life indicators programme; adoption and use by religious organizations and interfaith groups; use of the Earth Charter in mission statements for non-governmental organizations; initiatives like Earth Scouts for children and youth, from three to fifteen years of age; and, countless other individual actions that continue to spread the word about the Earth Charter

### *The IHM Congregation and the Earth Charter*

As Catholic sisters, the Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Monroe, Michigan (IHM) have a long-standing commitment to spirituality, justice, and education and a long history of ministry in those areas. In 2004, after a process that involved the community of Monroe, the Sisters endorsed the Earth Charter, and since then, they have been very active. In 2007, they partnered with the Adrian Dominican Sisters to bring the Ark of Hope to Michigan. Thousands of persons were impacted by this educational experience at four diverse host sites. Each month the IHM Justice, Peace and

Sustainability Office posts an educational bulletin board at the IHM Motherhouse on a different topic. In April 2007, the bulletin board featured the Earth Charter poster and images of IHM Sisters and Associates “in action” living out Earth Charter principles. The Earth Charter was also the context for the second Midwest Green Building Conference in 2007 held at the IHM Motherhouse. The 200 attendees received a copy of the Earth Charter and each keynote speaker and workshop presenter received the Earth Charter preamble mounted on a plaque.

### ● Canada

#### *The Little Earth Charter*

The Little Earth Charter (LEC) was initially created for young kids, through a collaboration between JC Little of Little Animation Inc. and Rosie Emery, a singer and songwriter and environmental educator from Canada. This is a remarkable animated website that captures the principles and momentum of the Charter in sights and sounds and the language of children. In 2007, the LEC launched a new and improved website, which has been translated into seven languages: English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Catalan,

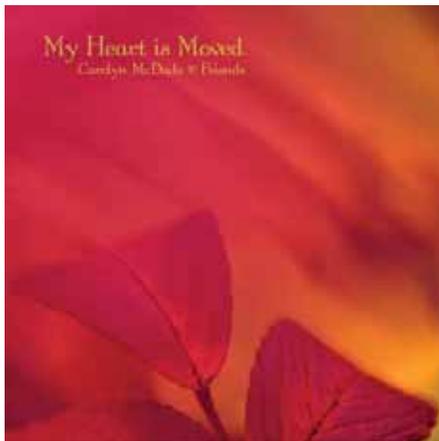


Dutch and Russian. They have also incorporated new animated games and activities.

In addition, the LEC launched a collaborative project with Cacia Schools in Portugal, called “Working Together”. The LEC served to facilitate discussion and the sharing of experiences between students from Portugal, Belgium, Russia, Japan and Brazil. This year, the project organized several activities. For example, the Schools of Cacia organized an Earth Charter presentation at the City Hall of Aveiro, Portugal. More information can be found at [www.littleearthcharter.org](http://www.littleearthcharter.org)

***Music inspired by the Earth Charter - My Heart Is Moved***

This CD with songs by Carolyn McDade, Norma Luccock and Nancy Nordlie gathered 85 women locally in 10 regions of North America during the seasons 2006-2007 to sing, reflect, create and move the call and vision of the Earth Charter into the wider community. Its objective is to serve the vision of a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society within the well being of the whole community of life.



CD Cover

Several of its songs were inspired on the Earth Charter.

**Seychelles**

***The Earth Charter as part of national teacher training***

The Seychelles National Institute of Education, the organization responsible for the training of primary and secondary school teachers, has incorporated the Earth Charter as the framework for two compulsory courses on environmental education for sustainability. In 2007, the incorporation of the Earth Charter into the curriculum led to the implementation of activities with the students and surrounding communities.

● **South Africa**

***Using the Earth Charter in Rhodes University courses***

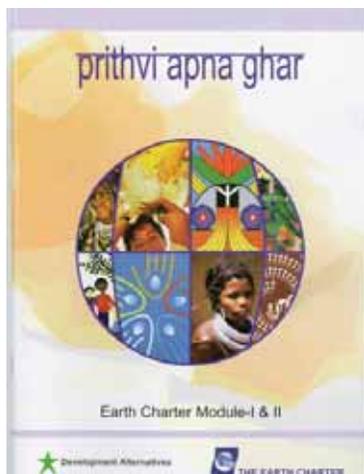
Professors of the Environmental Education and Sustainability Unit at Rhodes University began to use the Earth Charter as the theoretical framework for an Environmental Education, Ethics and Action research programme. Under this programme, this University offers two courses that fully use the Earth Charter: the Rhodes/ Gold Fields Participatory Certificate course and the Advanced Certificate in Environmental Education course. The Earth Charter is used in these courses as an ethical lens for exploring contemporary issues with students. In 2007, the Professors introduced new methodologies for enhancing the use of the Earth Charter to stimulate dialogue and for addressing ethical dilemmas.

● **India**

*One Earth, One Family:  
Earth Charter in Delhi Schools*

During Earth Day celebrations in April, the “Earth Charter for Delhi Schools Project” was launched by the Honourable Chief Minister of Delhi, Smt Sheila Dikshit. This is a project led by CLEAN India, a programme of Development Alternatives (a leading Indian NGO and ECI Affiliate).

Several newspapers reported on this event and noted that Delhi was the first city in the country to integrate the Earth Charter into its school curriculum. This programme intends to plant one million tree saplings in New Delhi. As such, it is an important step towards making the capital a more ‘green-friendly’ city.



As part of the Project, CLEAN India developed an adaptation of the Earth Charter for children, and translated this into Hindi and other local languages, in order to incorporate the Earth Charter into Delhi Schools. In addition, the NGO has created seven modules with suggested

educational activities for teachers, as well as posters for raising awareness about the Earth Charter principles. These materials have been distributed in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Forests of the Delhi Government.

● **Vietnam**

*Earth Charter in Vietnamese*

Thanks to the efforts of Katja Pellini, UNV Specialist in Education for Sustainable Development from the UNESCO Hanoi Office, the Earth Charter is now available in Vietnamese and is being used in the activities for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in Vietnam. The brochure of the Earth Charter in Vietnamese was distributed to over 100 participants of the National Advocacy Workshop on Education for Sustainable Development. This event took place in July in Hanoi. The Vietnam National Commission for UNESCO organized this event, where participants from different ministries, educational institutes and offices met to discuss previous and on-going educational activities and to share their views on education for sustainable development.

● **The Philippines**

*A bike tour to disseminate  
the Earth Charter*

A 5-day bike tour was organized around Laguna, a major Philippine water reserve threatened by industrial pollution and over fishing, to spread the principles of the Earth Charter. The vision was to build consciousness about sustainable lifestyles

and responsible consumption among young people and local communities. This initiative was spearheaded by the Philippine Resources for Sustainable Development, Inc. (PRSD), a youth-oriented NGO active in the fields of social empowerment, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability, in partnership with the Young Artists Fellowship for the Environment, Inc. (YAFE), and other environmental NGOs in the country.

● **China**

*The Earth Charter highlighted at the UNEP Youth Leadership Training*

The *UNEP 2007 Asia-Pacific Young Leaders Programme on Environment for Sustainable Development*, held in Shanghai, incorporated the Earth Charter as part of its programme and invited ECI to collaborate with this effort. The ten-day programme was organized by the UNEP-Tongji Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development (IESD). This included a module on ethics and values for sustainable development based on the Earth Charter, which was conducted by Michael Slaby, former ECYI Coordinator.



*UNEP Youth Leadership Training*

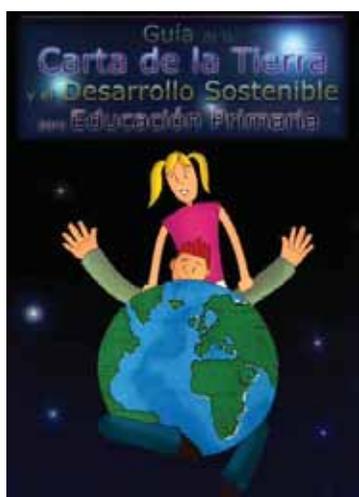
Going into its fourth year, the Asia-Pacific Leadership was designed as a collaborative effort by the Asia-Pacific Regional University Consortium, to provide training for emerging leaders in sustainable development from the Asia-Pacific region. It is a one-week-long programme that incorporates field trips, case studies, interactive exercises and participant presentations. The Leadership Programme's outcomes are part of UNEP's contribution to the UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development. The key target groups for this programme were middle to senior level officials from government, leaders from non-governmental organizations and from the private sector, many of whom pledged their support of the Earth Charter upon completing the EC-related module.

**Publications**

A sample of the publications that refer to the Earth Charter are as follow:

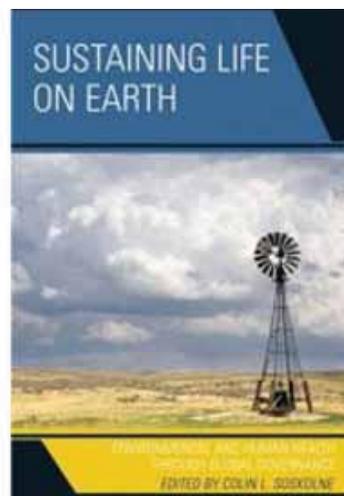
- Brendan Mackey, ECI Council member, wrote a chapter called *"Applying landscape-ecological principles to regional conservation: the wildcountry project in Australia"*, which is included in the book *"Key Topics in Landscape Ecology"* and makes reflections on the Earth Charter.
- Elizabeth May, ECI Council member, wrote the book *"How to save the world in your spare time"*, which makes references to the Earth Charter. This book gives tips and guidance about how to get important issues into the news, and how to mount a successful campaign that will help people to feel empowered to act.

- Fundación Valores, one of the ECI Affiliates in Spain elaborated and published the book: “Earth Charter Guide for Primary Schools” in collaboration with Antonio Cortés and Cristina Tapias. The book is based on the Earth Charter. The Council of Industry, Energy and Environment of the Board of Extremadura sponsored an initial 1,000 copies to be distributed in local schools.



- Michele Sato, Affiliate of ECI from Brazil, coordinated the development of a collective work entitled “Eco - Arte para o reencantamento do mundo” (*Eco-Art for the re-enchantment of the world*). This 36-chapter book celebrates an alliance between art and the environment, and uses the Earth Charter as its framework.
- Johannah Bernstein, an international environmental lawyer in Geneva developed the paper: “The Policy Relevance of the Earth Charter in Europe”. She presented this piece at the 3rd Forum Maastricht conference on European topics in cooperation with Socires, a Dutch policy think-tank.

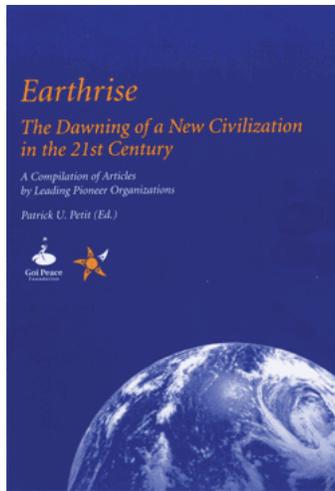
- Colin Soskolne, Professor at the University of Alberta, published “Sustaining Life on Earth: Environmental and Human Health Through Global Governance”, in which he uses and refers to the Earth Charter.



- In celebration of the International Environmental Day, the Institute Vivo in Brazil produced the *Earth Charter in Braille*, as well as an Earth Charter audio book for the visually impaired.
- Peter Blaze Corcoran and James A. Wohlpart from Florida Gulf Coast University have edited a new book of essays called “A Voice for Earth: American Writers Respond to the Earth Charter”. This book is a collection of over 10 essays with the reflections of a diverse group of writers. It includes a chapter by Steven C. Rockefeller entitled “Crafting Principles for the Earth Charter” that articulates a number of stories of the Earth Charter drafting process. A chapter by Mary Evelyn

Tucker entitled “Learning to See the Stars: The Earth Charter as a Compass for the New Century” is also part of this unique publication. The book will be released in the second half of 2008 by the University of Georgia Press.

- The Earth Charter Initiative is also featured in a new publication called “*Earthrise: The Dawning of a New Civilization in the 21st Century*”.



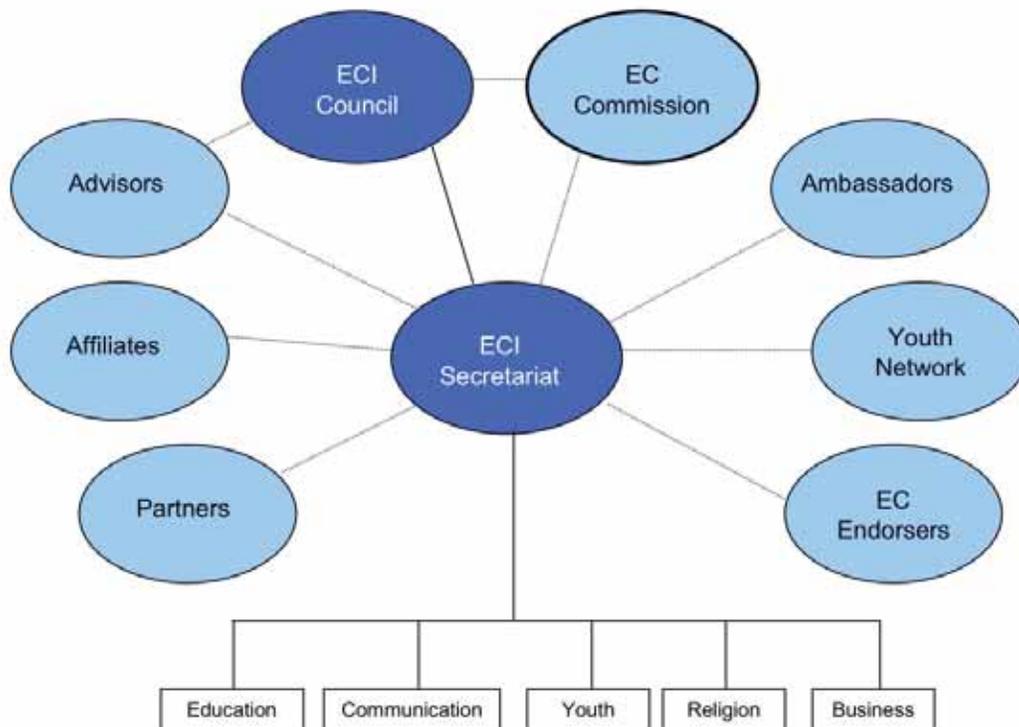
This publication highlights 30 leading-edge civil society organizations and networks that are internationally active and innovative in fields such as politics and diplomacy, ecology and education, economics and business,

science and media, as well as youth and spirituality. The articles contributed by these organizations describe their respective visions, activities, best practices, and their specific contribution toward the creation of a new civilization. This empowering book offers a glimpse of the exciting and enlightened future that is possible. It is indeed the objective of the *Earthrise* book to inform and inspire, but also to empower and motivate all people and institutions working toward the creation of a New Civilization. For more information contact the publisher at [utz@utz.de](mailto:utz@utz.de).

- *Social Alternatives*, a quarterly journal published by the University of Queensland Australia dedicated its Volume 26, No. 3, Third Quarter of 2007, on the overall theme of Global Ethics. This issue, edited by Noel Preston, has a collection of articles many of which refer to the Earth Charter. Part A is a set of pieces strongly grounded in theory and critical argument while part B presents pieces of a more descriptive vein representing examples of focused organizational activities aimed at implementing a global ethical vision. This includes one article by Mirian Vilela entitled “*The Earth Charter Endeavour*”.

# VI. THE EARTH CHARTER INITIATIVE STRUCTURE

## Earth Charter in Action A Global Network of Initiatives



EC refers to Earth Charter.

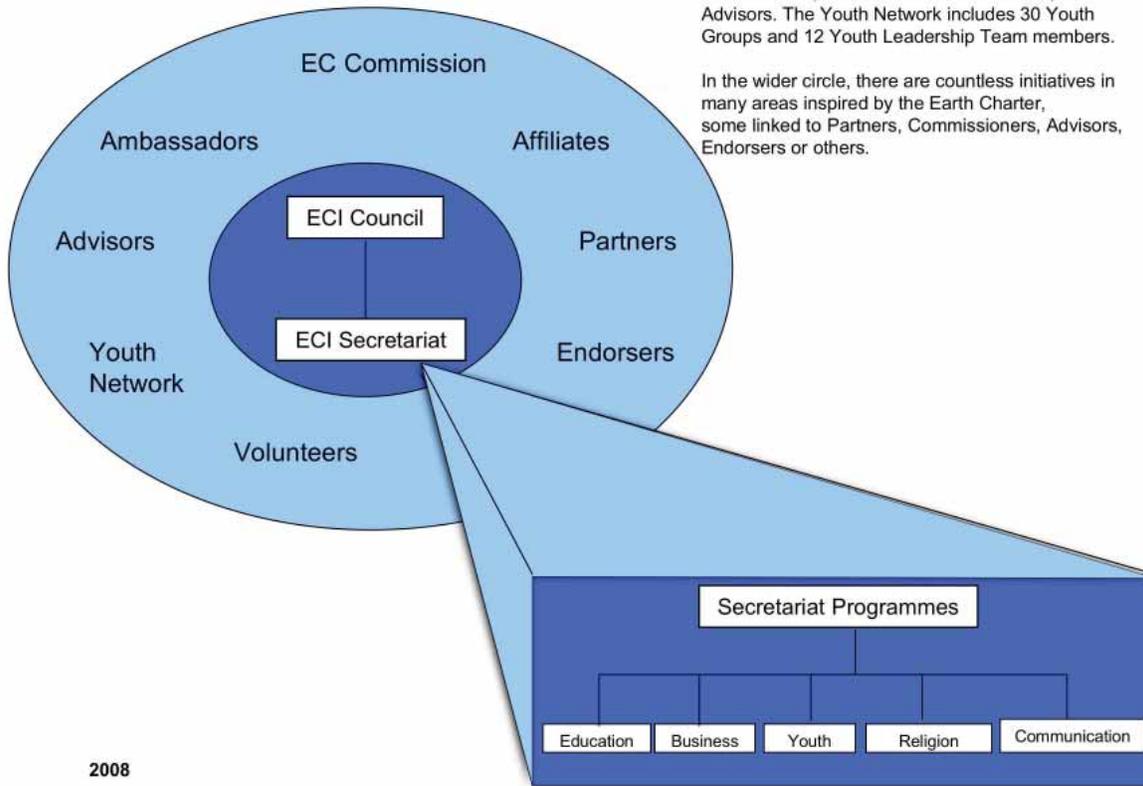
ECI refers to Earth Charter International, which includes the Council and the Secretariat.

Over 2,500 organizations have endorsed the Earth Charter.

There are 97 Affiliates in 58 countries, 17 Advisors, 30 Youth Groups in 23 countries and 12 Youth Leadership Team members.

2008

## Earth Charter in Action A Global Network of Initiatives



The nucleus refers to Earth Charter International which includes the Council and the Secretariat.

The wider initiative includes:  
Over 2,500 organizations that have endorsed the Earth Charter, 97 Affiliates in 58 countries, 17 Advisors. The Youth Network includes 30 Youth Groups and 12 Youth Leadership Team members.

In the wider circle, there are countless initiatives in many areas inspired by the Earth Charter, some linked to Partners, Commissioners, Advisors, Endorsers or others.

2008

# VII. FINANCIAL REPORT

## STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES - 2007

*Earth Charter International - Two centers activities: Costa Rica and Sweden*

1 January - 31 December 2007 IN US\$

INCOME	USD	USD
<i>Foundation Grants</i>		
Avina Foundation	5,039	
Kendeda Sustainability Fund - Religion Programme	75,000	
Plan Netherlands - General Support	217,999	
Plan Netherlands - Youth Initiative	126,283	
Rockefeller Brothers Fund Staff grant - Resource Center	12,500	
		436,821
<i>Major Individual Donors</i>		
The Philanthropic Collaborative, USA		306,438
AtKisson Group/The Philanthropic Collaborative		7,600
<i>Small Donors (Less than USD 10,000)</i>		7,395
<i>International Agencies</i>		
UNESCO		10,000
<i>Corporate / Business Donations</i>		
Amana-Key (Oscar Motomura)	76,410	
CH2MHill	<u>45,000</u>	121,410
<i>Fees for Services (Courses etc.)</i>		11,844
<i>Sales of Products (Books etc.)</i>		518
Interest Income		8,514
Other/Miscellaneous		0
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>910,541</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries and Professional Services		409,525
Strategic, Programme, and Communications Consulting Support		22,629
Youth Programme		84,062
Religion Programme		18,244
Telecommunications & Internet		10,658
Translation Services		3,493
Travel		62,648
Council Meeting Expenses (Travel and Meeting Costs)		20,738
Events and Meetings		33,982
Office (Rent, Equipment, Security, and Expenses)		34,615
Publications Development		13,330
Printing and Postage		8,739
Staff Training and Development		145
Financial Expenses		4,482
Miscellaneous		8,986
Legal Expenses		33,321
Fund Management Expenses		70,401
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>839,996</b>
<b>SURPLUS / DEFICIT</b>		<b><u>70,545</u></b>

In addition US \$35,000 should be added as an in-kind contribution from the University for Peace for office space and general administrative and finance support. The same goes for significant in-kind contribution received from Amana-Key for hosting the Earth Charter events in April 2007, NCDO for the Business Programme efforts and for the AtKisson Group for various support. In any case given the nature of the Earth Charter Initiative, in which many organizations contribute significantly to advancing the Initiatives's objectives, it is not possible to account for all of that. It is understood though that this would considerably increase the total yearly income and expenditure of the overall Initiative.

# VIII. LOOKING FORWARD 2008

## THE EARTH CHARTER INITIATIVE PRIORITIES

One of the main ECI priorities for 2008 will be the operationalization of the Decentralized Empowerment for Scaling Up Policy. In this sense, EC International will develop communication and educational materials for targeted groups; improve the website platform as a space for sharing experiences; make available materials in as many languages as possible; strengthen relations with Affiliates; consolidate the internship and volunteer programmes; and, develop new strategic partnerships for all EC International programmes. As a specific activity for the operationalization of this policy, training courses for Earth Charter promoters will continue to be offered. Plans are underway to offer four such courses in 2008.

A key aspect of the decentralized scaling up process is to have a clear, efficient and concise website, providing all the necessary information for individuals and organizations to use and disseminate the Earth Charter message. Efforts have already been initiated to create an online resource center, and to present information about endorsements and affiliates in an interactive manner.

For the translation of the Earth Charter and key supporting documents, EC International will be counting on the collaboration of affiliates, interns and volunteers.

Earth Charter International foresees to continue to support the Youth

Initiative, the Center for Education for Sustainable Development and the Religion Programme's Action Plans. EC International will also continue with the consolidation of the Business Programme.

The following actions will be particularly crucial to undertake over the course of 2008:

- The organization of the workshop: Bringing Values and Principles of Sustainability into Education – an Earth Charter Learning Opportunity. This workshop will be held at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, in October 2008. In addition, another workshop will be organized during this Congress to present and test the EC-Assess tool.
- Participate as a partner in the implementation of the project "The Development of Indicators & Assessment Tools for CSO Projects Promoting Values-based Education for Sustainable Development", coordinated by the University of Brighton (UK) and sponsored by the European Commission. This two-year process intends to develop a set of assessment measures to evaluate "what works" with regards to values-based education on SD.
- Initiate the implementation of a collaborative project with The Culture

of Peace Foundation (Fundacion Cultura de Paz), based in Madrid, Spain and presided by Federico Mayor Zaragoza. EC International will help with the development of materials and workshop modules, particularly in topics such as sustainability, planetary ethics and values for sustainability.

- Include the Earth Charter as an important component for teacher training initiatives.
- Develop Earth Charter courses in collaboration with the National University of Costa Rica and the University for International Cooperation.
- Develop a new and updated version of the Teacher's Guidebook.
- Publish "Youth in Global Governance for Sustainability: An ECYI Guide".
- Launch the online course e-GLO (Earth Charter Global Learning Opportunity). This is a semester-long, online course focused on community leadership and digital

story telling, developed by the ECYI.

- Develop the Alliance for Intergenerational Partnership for Sustainability, which was launched at the ICEE Conference in India in November by the ECYI. The Framework draft will be submitted to the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Congress, as part of a motion on the importance of intergenerational partnership for achieving sustainability.
- The Youth Leadership Team will launch a Global Earth Charter Radio Campaign, as well as an international youth-led publication on Earth Charter-related themes in print, digital, and online formats.
- Organize a number of Earth Charter workshops and events such as a Workshop during the Tällberg Forum in Sweden in late June.
- Undertake a number of sustainability, ethics and EC workshops.

# ANNEX 1:

## LISTS OF THE EC INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS, EARTH CHARTER COMMISSION, ADVISORS AND STAFF

### List of ECI Council Members

Steven C. Rockefeller (United States), *Co-Chair*  
 Razeena Wagiet (South Africa), *Co-Chair*  
 Zainab Bangura (Sierra Leone)  
 Mateo A. Castillo Ceja (Mexico)  
 Rick Clugston (USA)  
 Marianella Curi (Bolivia)  
 Camila Argolo Godinho (Brazil)  
 Wakako Hironaka (Japan)  
 Barbro Holmberg (Sweden)  
 Li Lailai (Peoples Republic of China)  
 Song Li (Peoples Republic of China/USA)  
 Alexander Likhotal (Russia / Switzerland)  
 Brendan Mackey (Australia)  
 Elizabeth May (Canada)  
 Oscar Motomura (Brazil)  
 Dumisani Nyoni (Zimbabwe)  
 Henriette Rasmussen (Greenland)  
 Alide Roerink (The Netherlands)  
 Mohamed Sahnoun (Algeria)  
 Kartikeya V. Sarabhai (India)  
 Tommy Short (USA)  
 Mary Evelyn Tucker (USA)  
 Erna Witoelar (Indonesia)

### List of Earth Charter Commissioners

#### *Africa and the Middle East*

Amadou Toumani Touré (Mali) (*Co-chair*)  
 HRH Princess Basma Bint Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
 Wangari Maathai (Kenya)  
 Mohamed Sahnoun (Algeria)

#### *Asia and the Pacific*

A.T. Ariyaratne (Sri Lanka)  
 Kamla Chowdhry (India) (*Co-chair*) *In memoriam*  
 Wakako Hironaka (Japan)  
 Pauline Tangiora (Aotearoa, New Zealand)  
 Erna Witoelar (Indonesia)

#### *Europe*

Mikhail Gorbachev (Russia) (*Co-chair*)  
 Pierre Calame (France)  
 Ruud Lubbers (The Netherlands)  
 Federico Mayor (Spain)  
 Henriette Rasmussen (Greenland)  
 Awraham Soeterndorp (The Netherlands)

#### *Latin America and the Caribbean*

Mercedes Sosa (Argentina) (*Co-chair*)  
 Leonardo Boff (Brazil)  
 Yolanda Kakabadse (Ecuador)  
 Shridath Ramphal (Guyana)

#### *North America*

Maurice F. Strong (Canada) (*Co-chair*)  
 John Hoyt (United States of America)  
 Elizabeth May (Canada)  
 Steven C. Rockefeller (United States of America)  
 Severn Cullis Suzuki (Canada)

## List of Advisors

Alan AtKisson (United States/Sweden)  
Peter Blaze Corcoran (United States)  
Abelardo Brenes (Costa Rica)  
Moacir Gadotti (Brazil)  
Herbert Girardet (United Kingdom)  
Edgar Gonzalez-Gaudiano (Mexico)  
Parvez Hassan (Pakistan)  
Bianca Jagger (Nicaragua/United Kingdom)  
Calestous Juma (Kenya/United States)  
Rustem Khairov (Russia)  
Amory Lovins (United States)  
Jim MacNeill (Canada)  
Herman Mulder (The Netherlands)  
Marina Novo (Spain)  
Edmund O'Sullivan (Canada)  
Jan Roberts (United States)  
Nick Robinson (United States)  
Hans van Ginkel (The Netherlands)  
Moema Vizzer (Brazil)

## List of Partner Organizations (partial)

Amana-Key  
(Brazil)  
Earth Charter Associates  
(United States)  
Green Cross International  
Heart in Action Enterprises, International  
Itaipu  
(Brazil)

Ministry of Environment  
(Brazil)

Ministry of Environment  
(Mexico)

Peace Child International

Taking It Global, International

Transformative Learning Centre, Ontario Institute  
for Studies in Education, University of Toronto  
(Canada)

University for Peace, International

University for International Cooperation  
(Costa Rica)

## Staff (current)

### *Earth Charter International Secretariat and Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development at UPEACE San José, Costa Rica*

Mirian Vilela, *Executive Director*

Marina Bakhnova, *Project Coordinator*

Alicia Jimenez, *Project Coordinator*

Betty McDermott, *Project Coordinator*

Lisa Jokivirta, *Intern (Education)*

Dominic Stucker, *International Youth Coordinator*

Michael Slaby, *Inter-faith Coordinator*  
***Earth Charter Programme on Religion and  
Sustainability (Satellite Office)***  
***-Heidelberg, Germany***

# ANNEX 2: LIST OF EARTH CHARTER INITIATIVE AFFILIATES

## AFRICA and the MIDDLE EAST

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Dana Mitra Lingkungan (Friends of the  
Environment Fund)  
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Wakako Hironaka  
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**NEW ZEALAND / AOTEROA**

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**SRI LANKA**

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www.tei.or.th/gap/

Chirapol Sintunawa  
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