

EARTH CHARTER INITIATIVE

NEWSFLASH

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1. 'WHAT CAN I DO WITH THE EARTH CHARTER?': A NEW RESOURCE

The Earth Charter is being disseminated in an increasing number of places across the world at all levels. It touches people, inspires organizations, and offers values and principles for a sustainable future. But the Earth Charter International Secretariat often receives the same question: "What can I do with the Earth Charter?". So with our network, we tried to help in providing answers to everyone, a newcomer or an advanced user, a youth group or a business, a local community or an educator. Going through simple logical steps, the document refers to more in-depth resources. Most importantly, it does not provide the only answer, but should help you in finding yours. The document is available on : [http://www.earthcharter.org/files/What can I do with the Earth Charter.ppt](http://www.earthcharter.org/files/What_can_I_do_with_the_Earth_Charter.ppt) We would appreciate any feedback you may have on this tool. Thank you!

2. EARTH DAY CELEBRATION AND THE EARTH CHARTER IN SERBIA



*Drawing made by A. Blatnik
specially for the event.*

The main Earth Day event was organized in Belgrade with the presentation of the brochure and municipal guide "How to initiate Local Agenda 21 in my municipality?", printed by the Standing conference of Cities and Municipalities of Yugoslavia. This project was supported by the Ministry of Environment and will be continued as a permanent campaign.

Additionally, the Resource Center of Nis organized a press conference for South-East Serbia with the Earth Charter as a central theme. Slobodan Milutinovic, member of the Earth Charter Local Committee, presented an Earth Charter campaign, together with Mrs. Kaludjerovic from Standing Conference of Cities and Municipalities. There was prominent presence from the media and the event was one of the main news stories shown by several TV stations as well as in several newspaper articles.

3. THE EARTH CHARTER IS TRANSLATED INTO HEBREW אמנת כדור הארץ

We are pleased to inform that the text of the Earth Charter was recently translated into Hebrew. It will be available on line later this week at www.earthcharter.org

4. EARTH CHARTER YOUTH GROUPS (ECYG) TOOLKIT AVAILABLE

The International Youth Earth Charter Coalition has developed a 5-page toolkit called "Earth Charter Youth Groups. Why? What? How? ... and Resources". The idea of the EYCG was developed to strengthen the international youth network and help youth from all over the world to build activities based on the Earth Charter. The EYCG program will be coordinated by Michael Slaby from Germany (michael.slaby@gmx.de). The toolkit is available on-line at: [http://www.earthcharter.org/files/Earth Charter Youth Groups - Framework.doc](http://www.earthcharter.org/files/Earth_Charter_Youth_Groups_-_Framework.doc)

5. EARTH CHARTER INITIATIVE PRESENTS IN NEW YORK

The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) is meeting in New York from April 29th to May 8th. This is the 1st meeting of the CSD since the Johannesburg Summit and will be crucial in providing political direction to the implementation of the Johannesburg outcomes.

As a parallel activity, a Partnerships Fair has been organized as an opportunity for Partnerships launched at the World Summit to network, learn from each others experiences and look for funding. The Earth Charter Initiative presented an update on its partnership, 'Educating for Sustainable Living with the Earth Charter' on Friday, May 2nd in a session titled, 'The promise of the Earth Charter and the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development'. Please contact mohit@earthcharter.org for more details.

6. 'THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL': A SEMINAR BASED ON THE EARTH CHARTER

On the first weekend of April, Josiane Trolliet, Earth Charter focal point in France, participated in an event organized by six students from Lyon's Technological University Institute (IUT Lyon). As their final year project the students decided to organize a seminar based on the Earth Charter. The first day, 80 primary school students, people with disabilities and elderly people participated. The activities included pedagogical workshops, drawing and choosing slogans: "I'm active for my planet" with a backup "I too have my words to say". The manager of the student

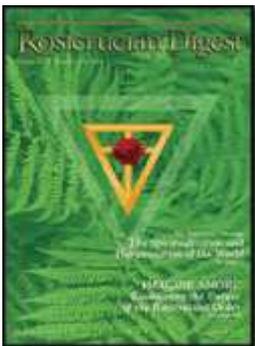


team said of the seminar: *"It has been extraordinary, the students lived a fantastic experience of humanism. This Charter is an exceptional tool ! The Dean of the University decided to organize a seminary on that same theme every year. He was very touched by the attitude of those young people that he never saw acting like this."*

7. EARTH CHARTER ACTIVITIES OF 'ECOCLUBES' IN CHILE

Since the launching of the Earth Charter at the Instituto de Ecología Política (Political Ecology Institute) where our Focal Point, Manuel Baquedano is the President, the Red Nacional Ecoclubes (Ecoclubes National Network) within this institute has shown great enthusiasm in disseminating and implementing the Charter with several activities explained at www.iepe.org/econoticias

Recently, the 35 schools of the Comuna Canela in the Region IV of Chile have joined the Earth Charter's values and principles. Their Municipality also committed to incorporate the Earth Charter philosophy not only in the schools but into their policies.



8. THE ROSICRUCIAN DIGEST FEATURES THE EARTH CHARTER TEXT

The Rosicrucian Order is pleased to share the Earth Charter in their fine magazine where the Earth Charter is featured from page 8 onwards. The Rosicrucian Order decided to share the Charter with its congregation and is very pleased with this issue as they have received very positive commentaries from their worldwide membership as well as requests for more information on the Earth Charter. The issue can be seen at www.rosicrucian.org

9. EARTH CHARTER FOCAL POINT IN GERMANY GATHERING MATERIAL WORLDWIDE

The Ecumenical One World Initiative (OeIEW), our focal point in Germany, will have the opportunity, at the end of May, to present the Earth Charter at the "Ecumenical Kirchentag" in Berlin (for more information, see www.oekt.de/en), where many visitors are expected. To showcase the international reach of the Earth Charter Initiative, they would like to present Earth Charter material from different countries and cultures, such as translations of the Earth Charter, posters, bulletins, case studies, etc. You may send materials to Michael Slaby: michael.slaby@gmx.de by May 19th.