

# EARTH CHARTER OCTOBER 2002 NEWSFLASH

## **In this Issue:**

1. Illustrated Earth Charter Booklet for Children Created
2. Earth Charter Summits Mobilized People Across the U.S.
3. 'A Blooming World' Campaign takes root
4. New Zealand Earth Charter Activities
5. Earth Charter Widely Disseminated in Spain
6. Special Earth Charter Newsletter Issued by the Earth Ministry
7. Announcements from the International Secretariat
  - Pre WSSD Report
  - Educator Database and Resource Archive

## **1. ILLUSTRATED EARTH CHARTER BOOKLET FOR CHILDREN CREATED**

An Earth Charter Booklet in Portuguese, titled the 'Earth Charter for Children' (Carta da Terra para Crianças) was created in Brazil by Nucleus of Friends for Childhood and Adolescence (NAIA), [www.naia-rs.org.br](http://www.naia-rs.org.br), as part of a bigger project called Vivemos Juntos (We Live Together). The International Secretariat will be coordinating the translation of the Portuguese booklet into Spanish and English.

For more information please contact Valéria Viana at [forumzinho@portoweb.com.br](mailto:forumzinho@portoweb.com.br). This document will be available very soon in our website as an important didactic resource.

## **2. EARTH SUMMITS MOBILIZED PEOPLE ACROSS THE U.S.**

This year's summits were held in 24 cities in the United States on Saturday, September 28 and were connected via a webcast. This was the first year that webstreaming was used and despite some of the flaws, it made keynote speakers available even to people at home and created the framework for an on-going Earth Charter Web Channel.

With the Earth Charter as the centerpiece, each summit had its own unique spirit and combination of activities. In addition, to the 24 "official" summit cities, other gatherings were held on the same day focused on the Earth Charter

More details can be found at [www.earthchartersummits.org](http://www.earthchartersummits.org). The 2003 summits will be held on Saturday, October 11.

## **3. 'A BLOOMING WORLD' CAMPAIGN TAKES ROOT**

A Blooming World is a campaign embraced and developed by the Earth Charter Youth Initiative in cooperation with other organizations throughout the world such as NGOs, governments, Ministries, Universities, Municipalities and others. The project aims to plant native floral trees in different spaces in cities with the purpose of embellishing them and having their inhabitants feel integrated. It is an invitation to go on a pilgrimage through the world admiring beautiful species of native floral trees at the edge of the roads and paths, neighborhoods and parks.

A Blooming World is a campaign born as an initiative of the University for Peace in Costa Rica

#### **4. NEW ZEALAND EARTH CHARTER ACTIVITIES**

Earth Charter Aotearoa New Zealand (ECANZ) has had an active month of activities. They recently presented an Earth Charter information stand at the New Zealand Business Council for Sustainable Development in Auckland. They are also in working with Soka Gakkai International New Zealand to promote the Earth Charter for the launching of an international peace park in Rotorua, in early November. Lastly, the group is in the process of translating the Earth Charter into Maori and

The International Secretariat looks forward to receiving updates from the National Committees regarding ongoing initiatives and activities.

#### **5. THE EARTH CHARTER IS BEING DISSEMINATED WIDELY IN SPAIN**

The Earth Charter has been recently sent to 8,104 municipalities in Spain, with many of them deciding to officially endorse the document. The goal now is to make sure that the over 150,000 educational institutions in Spain receive an Earth Charter poster, a first step in ensuring that this document is brought to the consciousness of Spanish youth.

#### **6. A SPECIAL EARTH CHARTER NEWSLETTER EDITION WAS ISSUED BY THE EARTH MINISTRY**

A Special Earth Charter Edition of the Earth Letter bulletin was issued for November/December, 2002 by the Earth Ministry, USA. The Earth Ministry's mission is to engage individuals and congregations in knowing God more fully through deepening relationships with all of God's creation. They believe that through this experience our personal lives and our culture will be transformed. These transformations include simplified living, environmental stewardship, justice for all creation and a world view which sees creation as a revelation of God. To see this edition please visit [www.earthcharter.org](http://www.earthcharter.org) at the NEWS AND EVENTS section.

For more information: [emoffice@earthministry.org](mailto:emoffice@earthministry.org) or [www.earthministry.org/emcal.htm](http://www.earthministry.org/emcal.htm)

#### **7. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT**

1. *Pre WSSD Report*: The Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development was a milestone for the Earth Charter Initiative. The final report on this event is being finalized. But the process to get there was just as important. From before Prepcom I until the declaration prepared for Johannesburg, the Pre WSSD report tries to cover the most important steps of this preparatory process.

The draft report is online in the 'What's New' section of the News and Events at [www.earthcharter.org](http://www.earthcharter.org).

2. *Gathering Earth Charter Educational Materials*: The Earth Charter International Secretariat is making a concerted effort to gather all the Earth Charter related educational materials that have been developed. The goal is to put together a network of educators who have used the Charter as well as an archive of educational materials that they have created and make this information available via our web site. With this in mind, we request our network to send our office any documents that they have for us to consider adding it to our database.