



Earth Charter Bulletin

May 2001

Asia-Pacific Earth Charter Conference

Nov 28- Dec 2, 2001

Brisbane, Australia. An Asia and Pacific Earth Charter conference is being planned to promote *awareness, acceptance, and adoption* of the Earth Charter for the Region.

The objectives of the conference will be to:

- Provide practical examples and assistance in the application of the Earth Charter in government, business, and the environment;
- Promote the National Councils of Sustainable Development in the Asia Pacific region;
- Contribute to the preparatory process of Asia Pacific for the Rio + 10 Conference;
- Obtain an official endorsement of the Earth Charter as an NCSD Regional Group; and
- Assist in the endorsement of the Earth Charter by the United Nations General Assembly in 2002.

The Asia-Pacific conference will help forge regional partnerships necessary to enable achievement of economic, social, and ecological sustainable goals. The conference will bring together key regional players and organizations with leaders of the Earth Charter Commission to examine critical regional sustainability concerns. From this conference strong networks and positive strategies can be articulated.

The conference is co-sponsored by the Australian Earth Charter National Committee, the Queensland Earth Charter Committee, the Griffith University Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice, and Governance; and the Earth Charter International Secretariat.

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ENDORSEMENT OF THE EARTH CHARTER

Remember that you can endorse the Earth Charter on our website as an individual or an organization. If your organization endorses the Earth Charter, we would appreciate receiving a statement of endorsement and how the process was accomplished. Here are a few recent endorsement statements:

➤ **Bellagio Forum for Sustainable Development:** "The Board of the Bellagio Forum for Sustainable Development, an international network of grant-giving institutions striving to attain environmental balance, economic stability and social progress endorsed the Earth Charter on March 30, 2001, during its meeting in Lisbon, Portugal. The Board of Directors recommends that all members of the Bellagio Forum and affiliated associations consider to also give support to this important document."

➤ **Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) International:** "...the majority of the Board felt that the Earth Charter represents a set of principles and values, which are at the center of our vision and mission, and by endorsing it, LEAD will join a respected group of other organizations devoted to similar causes. Motion was duly proposed and seconded, and the motion to endorse the Earth Charter was unanimously adopted."

➤ **National Wildlife Federation:** "Understanding that the Earth Charter 'is a declaration of interdependence and responsibility and an urgent call to build a global partnership for sustainable development' we find it consistent with the mission of the National Wildlife Federation. Accordingly, the National Wildlife Federation is pleased to endorse the spirit and aims of the Earth Charter."

I N S I D E

P. 2 First Steps - An inspirational story of how we can take action and apply the Earth Charter.

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First Steps Walk



On January 1st, 2001, at 11 am, a small but intrepid group met at the campus of Soka University to celebrate the new year, the new century and the Earth Charter. Soka University is a private college in Hachioji, to the west of Tokyo, about one hour from the city center by train. Armed with plastic bags, we planned to walk up a nearby hill, collecting litter as we went.

Our group included key people from the new Soka University Earth Charter group- Sebastian, a Dutch student, and his girlfriend Nobuko, plus Taichi who has designed a special Earth Charter homepage (www.juno.dti.ne.jp/~taichi21/ec21/earth.htm). Sayaka, who heads an environment group at the university which specializes in picking up litter, also joined, with another Dutch student and two teaching staff of the university from the US. Three others of us caught the train out from Tokyo, being struck by the brilliant sunlight and majestic form of Mt. Fuji, visible from the train.

We had our "First Steps" photographed as we set off through the campus and out towards Takiyama, a small hill to the south. On campus it was hard to find litter, so we fought over the few cigarette butts we could find. Outside was a different story. Our progress soon slowed as we pounced on scraps of metal, cardboard, and large numbers of discarded cans from the ubiquitous drink vending machines which are a feature of even rural Japan. Japanese people do not drop litter as a rule, but few exceptions meant that our plastic bags were soon groaning with cans and other garbage. Finding places to dump this along the way became a challenge. We quickly realized the importance of wearing gloves!

It was very satisfying being able to clean up even the short stretch of land between the university and the entrance to Takiyama which is like a nature reserve. Part of the route was along a main road where we picked up what had been

A CALL FOR ENGAGEMENT

The Earth Charter Initiative is seeking the public debate and ratification of the Earth Charter by municipalities and other local units of government. In this manner the principles and values of the Earth Charter can be disseminated and implanted deeply within our communities. It is at the local level that the adoption and education of new values and ethics must begin if we are to confront the challenges of today and forge enduring solutions. We are writing our supporters for help in this endeavor. If you feel you are able to approach a unit of government and engage its consideration of the Earth Charter please write Steve Glass at info@earthcharter.org.

lobbed out of the car windows over many, many years. Here the amount of plastic packaging used for instant meals became a noticeable feature as did polystyrene packaging. And more cigarette butts...

A nearby convenience store allowed us to wash our hands and empty our bulging garbage bags. An earnest discussion broke out as to whether we were actually doing the right thing by picking up litter as foreigners (more than half the group was non-Japanese)- did it look as if we were trying to 'shame' the Japanese by doing this? Would our time be better spent on raising awareness of environmental issues and how our behavior affects the planet?

Most of us felt this activity was very satisfying and much more enjoyable than we anticipated. Once we entered the Takiyama nature reserve the amount of litter dropped again and our gentle walk to the top was pleasant in the warm sunshine. At the top, we sat down to eat our picnics by a small temple and took turns reading out the Earth Charter principles in English and Japanese, as well as some poetry about the history of the area by Daisaku Ikeda, founder of Soka University and a great champion of the Earth Charter.

We hope to do this again! It was enjoyable and simple to organize and we all felt that it was good to put the Earth Charter principles into action even in so small a way. Since January 1st, I have become so much more willing to pick up litter wherever I see it. I feel a renewed sense of how our tiniest everyday actions create our world.

Joan Anderson

Soka Gakai International

Events & Initiatives

The Parliament of Tatarstan adopts the Earth Charter



On April 27, the State Council of the Republic of Tatarstan voted unanimously to endorse the Earth Charter. Earth Charter presentations had been made to the State Parliament Committee on Environment in further preparation for the official presentation of the Earth Charter to the State Council. A special workshop was also held following the endorsement of the Earth Charter with the Tatarstan public, experts, and leaders of state governmental bodies in order to further consider in detail the whole set of issues regarding the effective use of the Earth Charter as a guide for sustainable development.



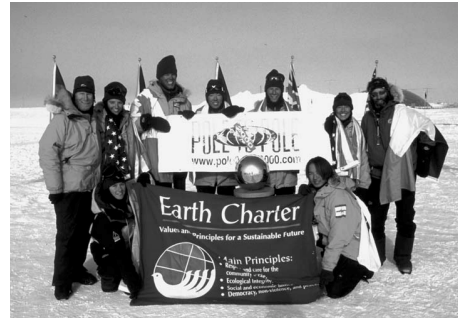
The President of the Republic of Tatarstan, Parliament, Ministry of Ecology and various public organizations have all expressed their full support for the Earth Charter project.

This historic event was the culmination of a long process of dialogue and review. During The Hague launch of the Earth Charter in June 2000, a special envoy of the President of Tatarstan, M. Shaimiev, announced the readiness of the Republic of Tatarstan to implement the Earth Charter concept and principles at the level of the republic. Thus was born the project 'Tatarstan - a Territory for a Culture of Peace, Sustainable Development and Tolerance'. Acting on instruction of the president, Tatarstan launched a large-scale 'experiment' on implementing the Earth Charter and Culture of Peace principles.

The Initiative moves forward in Germany

The Ecumenical One World Initiative with the support of BUND, Friends of the Earth Germany, have been working together to produce a German Earth Charter brochure to promote the Earth Charter in Germany. It will be presented to the public and media at their meeting in Frankfurt, June 13-17, 2001.

Pole To Pole Carries the Earth Charter flag to the South Pole



In April 2000, a team set out to undertake a global journey never done before, from one pole to the other using skis, bicycle, canoe, kayak, by foot and sailboat. This high powered adventure captured the public imagination, TV, radio, newspaper and Internet coverage reached an estimated 300 million people.

The aim of this journey was to improve the ways that we treat the planet and each other, by demonstrating to others the power we each have to make a difference.

Along the route the team helped with local environmental and social initiatives, for example, habitat protection in the Yukon, the homeless in New York, war orphans in Nicaragua and tree planting in Argentina.

We spoke to 12,000 people at schools and universities, including Harvard and University for Peace about Global Citizenship. We spoke of the world we want to create and power we each have to shape our global future by taking small action steps.

After 5 months of our 10-month journey we came across the Earth Charter initiative in Costa Rica at UPEACE and immediately saw its value. It expressed what we had been doing and saying in a clear comprehensive manner. We took it on as part of our mandate and presented it to schools and cities throughout South America, and eventually to the South Pole!

Next year we continue our human powered circle of Earth from south to north, via Africa and Europe, and plan to introduce the Earth Charter and global citizenship, shaping our global future through small action steps to 200,000 young people at presentations.

Martyn Williams
Founder of Pole to Pole

Local Government - Urbino, Italy takes up the Earth Charter Challenge

On June 8th, 2001, the Earth Charter will be presented by Mikhail Gorbachev in Urbino, Italy. This event will result in the formulation of the Urbino Declaration, a document declaring support of the Earth Charter Principles that will be signed by a wide range of political, social, and cultural organizations. Already supporting the initiative are the presidents of the Italian local authority and city council organizations, the Town Council of Urbino, the Town Council of Pesaro, the University of Urbino, the University of Ancona, and many other notable individuals and institutions. The event is sponsored by the President of Italy, Green Cross International, the International Foundation for the Survival and Development of Humanity, and the Town of Urbino. Urbino was chosen for this prestigious event due to its commitment to sustainable and durable development. It is proud of its past as the capital of a Renaissance dukedom, and its future, founded upon successfully integrating tradition with modernity. Urbino plans to initiate a permanent operational nucleus, to work on local sustainable development and to promote guidelines for dialogue on a world-wide basis regarding shared global ethics and values.

Utilizing the Charter as Educational Material

UNESCO recently developed a multimedia teacher education program entitled "Teaching and Learning for a Sustainable Future" as part of its program "Educating for a Sustainable Future". It was developed specifically for teachers, accessible online, and planned to be made into CD ROMS. It is currently being evaluated, and it will then be translated into several languages, and made available by the end of 2001. This program is related to and contains a substantial section on the Earth Charter as well as links to the Earth Charter web page. It further includes suggested ways to be involved in the Earth Charter process. In contemplating the far reaching implications of this initiative, it is important to recall that by training teachers, a bank of local resources is created that help connect environmental concepts to each community.

The program is divided into 25 modules designed for teachers, teacher educators and student teachers as well as curriculum developers, education policy makers, and authors of educational materials. It can be used in both pre-service and continuing in-service teacher education, by individuals or by groups. Altogether, a total of 100 hours of professional development can be accessed by teachers and other educators. Use of the program is free and can be adapted.

Interviews



**Maritta von Bieberstein
Koch-Weser**

Interview on: Nature
Conservation and Equity

Interview with Patricia Morales
UNESCO publication - EOLSS

Former Director General of IUCN where she worked until December 2000. Before that, Dr. Koch-Weser worked at the World Bank since 1980. Her latest assignment at the World Bank was as Director for Environmentally & Socially Sustainable Development for the Latin America and Caribbean Region. Her field experience in international development and environment spans the regions of Latin America & the Caribbean, West & East Africa, South Asia, East Asia & Pacific, Eastern Europe & the Former Soviet Union.

Dr. Koch-Weser is an anthropologist by training and holds a Ph.D. from the Universities of Bonn and Cologne, where she studied Social Sciences and Latin American History. She did extensive field work in Brazil.

Can you find the value of nature concept in the Earth Charter.

Exactly. We think the Earth Charter reflects an important movement. It tries to galvanise the values people share across the globe, no matter what their religion, no matter where they live. This global convergence of values is fundamental for conservation. When we say *conservation*, we mean more than protected areas — namely the broader notion of sustainable development, of managing environmental assets in a way that does not make future generations poorer for our actions today.

What are the major challenges for the Third Millennium, in particular caring for Earth and humanity?

Our vision for the future is to think in terms of global and regional neighbourhood. We all share one planet, one finite stock of resources, from water and soil to biological species. We must complement the web of economic and trade related connections with an equally strong web of integrated environmental governance. The goods we use every day are derived from natural resources from all corners of Earth. We are completely connected in terms of our consumption,

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Sir Shridath Ramphal

Author of:
"Our Country, the Planet"

Interview with
Patricia Morales
UNESCO publication - EOLSS

Sir Shridath (Sonny) Ramphal is the Caribbean region's Chief Negotiator for international economic negotiations in Europe and the Americas. The Secretary-General of the Commonwealth from 1975 to 1990, he was earlier Minister of Foreign Affairs and of Justice of Guyana.

*Sir Ramphal is a Co-Chairman - with former Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson - of the Commission on Global Governance, whose report **Our Global Neighbourhood** has made proposals for far-reaching international reforms. He is a member of the Earth Charter Commission.*

You have played a key role internationally by increasing the awareness of the need for an ethic of survival. Could you explain the relationship between this ethic of caring and global interdependence?

The issue of survival has arisen because there is a danger to the sustenance of human life on the planet, because the pattern of human actions, if continued without change - on a "business as usual" basis - could endanger the environmental support base that is vital for human life. Faced with this danger, we are all vulnerable, the whole world is vulnerable. There are no safe sanctuaries for rich or poor. This is one important aspect of global interdependence. The Brandt Commission drew attention to our economic interdependence when it called its report "North-South: A Programme for Survival". The Brundtland Commission issued its message of environmental interdependence, naming its report "Our Common Future". The Commission on Global Governance underlined the imperatives of interdependence and of a global ethic to guide our actions by speaking of "Our Global Neighbourhood".

Do you consider that the global community will accomplish social and economic justice in this century, as proposed by the Earth Charter?

The term "accomplish" carries a connotation of completeness, and I would be wary of suggesting that the quest for social and economic justice in the world will be completed within a finite period, even a century from now. We can certainly expect to see progress, I hope substantial progress, towards that goal, and we must strive for that. But if we consider the pace of progress in, say, the second half of the last century, I don't know if we can be confident that the goal will be fully achieved within the new century. Take poverty, which is central to the question of social and economic justice. Despite all the rhetoric about basic needs and poverty alleviation, despite several decades officially dedicated to development, the number of people in extreme or absolute pov-

erty continues to increase. According to the World Bank's World Development Report for 2000, the number of people living on the equivalent of a dollar a day or less had risen from 1.2 billion in 1987 to 1.5 billion, and the report warned that if recent trends persisted the number would reach 1.9 billion by 2015. And the year 2015 is the year for which the world community has set a target of reducing extreme poverty by a half. If the world does meet that target by 2015, then one would be justified in feeling more confident, indeed optimistic, about what the world will achieve by the end of the century.

Could you explain why we need global governance to achieve justice, peace and security?

There is clearly a role for national action to achieve justice, peace and security. But, equally, in the contemporary world these issues cannot be contained strictly within national borders; they have international implications and therefore call for global action to complement national efforts. If we look at the questions of economic and social justice, our efforts to achieve them must begin at home, within every society. But to varying degrees these national efforts need to be supported and encouraged by global efforts, as the international economic system has been skewed against developing countries. In the matter of gender equality, the place of women in society, obviously each society has to take the action necessary to remove discrimination and promote equality. But I am sure that even the progress achieved so far would not have been possible without a global climate that encouraged and summoned national efforts. The role of global action is more obvious in matters of peace and security.

How do you connect the global neighbourhood with sustainable development and environmental protection?

The term "global neighbourhood" is a metaphor for a world in which distance has been bridged, interdependence has increased and we have all become neighbours of one another wherever we may live. Such a world requires all of us, as neighbours, to be aware of the need for development to be equitable so that all neighbours benefit from it rather than have some neighbours prospering and other neighbours languishing in poverty or misery; the latter situation would be a denial of the ethics of the neighbourhood which calls for neighbourly conduct. It also requires us to recognize the need for development to be sustainable, so that it is not achieved at the expense of our children's generation - or our neighbours' children's generation. And if we are to ensure that the neighbourhood that our children will inherit is at least as hospitable as it has been to us, we can only do so by protecting the environment. So the global neighbourhood, sustainable development and the protection of the environment are inextricably linked.

Country Updates

Cameroon

Nouvelle Afrique organized a round table discussion with the "Rotaract Douala Estuaire", the Association of the Rotary Youth Club. Main points of discussion were the dissemination of the Earth Charter and debate on theories within the Charter. Mathematician Moukoko Priso and the Mayor of Douala, Dr. Leolin Nja Kwa participated and brought their intellectual, political, and moral authority, as well as their dedication to the Charter. Several representatives of the Alliance for a Responsible World Network were also present.

Doctor Kwa spoke on the notion of interdependence of all life in the Earth Charter, contrasted with our increasingly individualistic society and making a critical analysis of modern times, dominated by technology and innovation where humans attempt to become masters of nature. He concluded that interdependence is an ideal for which we must strive, as individuals and as a community; though, dependence can be just as positive as it is negative and we must favor dependence that creates harmony and allows the perpetuation of species.

Moukoko Priso spoke on the role of the Charter in Cameroon where the concept of sustainable development is relatively unknown. He stated that this notion, though it has been around for a long time, must be adapted to the local realities. The Earth Charter, he stated, could be used to offer reflection on the issue of deforestation, to help use sciences and arts as a means to environmental education, and serve as a means to create dialogue for the need of artistic education for the formation of people's spirits.

Malaysia

The Local Agenda 21 Miri Action Planning groups have started a series of roundtable discussions regarding the details of the Action Plan on Pollution Control, Waste Management and Drainage system. The Earth Charter has been presented as a guide for this plan.

To date three seminars promoting the Earth Charter Principles have addressed local community leaders and members of the public in addition to its dissemination throughout schools and college libraries.

During the Local Agenda 21 Seminar of the Municipal Council, held during the first week of March 2001, the Council was encouraged to incorporate the Earth Char-

ter into the Local Agenda 21 planning. The Chief Minister of the State of Selangor has been asked to adopt and endorse the Earth Charter and the Chief minister has been informed of the initiative with hopes of support.

Mexico

"Just as humans have the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Earth needs its own declaration of fundamental ethical principles which guide us to conserve and rescue Earth's elements such as forests, animals, plants, oceans, and towns". Victor Meneguzzo Peruzzo, Xaverian priest and director of the Western Cultural Institute, referred to the Earth Charter as a universal guide for behavior towards a sustainable life for all. "We need a collective vision of fundamental values that guide us towards a common good, in other words, the development of a global ethic." This statement highlights the tone of his speech made on March 2, 2001 at the Cultural Institute of the Occident for the presentation and discussion of the Earth Charter.

Nepal

The Center for Community Development and Environment Research (CCDER) established the Nepal Earth Society (NES) to take care of Earth Charter related programs and activities in Nepal. They have translated the Earth Charter in two of the languages Nepali and Nepal Bhasa (Newari). They have also promoted the Earth Charter in schools, creating awareness of its principles within the educational community.

An Earth Charter seminar (March 10, 2001) was held in Pokhara, a tourist city in Western Nepal. Over 75 participants were present including representatives of the major political parties, academics and intellectuals from the university, locally elected representatives, lawyers, legal experts, environmentalists, sociologists, geologists, poets, actors, journalists, government agency officials, and civil society members. Major national and regional newspapers gave wide coverage to the seminar. The seminar generated public awareness in the region. NES intends to organize another seminar in other parts of Nepal in the near future.

Norway

On February 5, Earth Charter Norway officially launched Earth Charter at their meeting in Oslo. About 40 persons participated, including organizations from the region, which are anticipated to integrate the Earth Charter in their work. Though the media coverage for this meeting

was not as expected, hopes are still high for the wide-spread dissemination of the Charter. The Norwegian Earth Charter website has undergone some recent changes: www.earthcharter-norge.com

Sweden

On April 7 the Swedish Earth Charter was launched in the media with a press release and at the Green Cross Sweden (GCS) Annual Meeting in Stockholm with special guest speaker Karl Erik Edris, author of "The Enlightened Executive" who helped start Corporate Citizenship, based on Kofi Annan's Global Compact. Jan Danielson, GCS chairman spoke on the Earth Charter. An issue of the GCS newsmagazine was entirely dedicated to Earth Charter including the Swedish translation.

The Netherlands

During the Global Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil from January 25-30, the Dutch Institutions Cedar and ICCO organized a seminar on economic human rights. Professor Aziz Ab'Saber and Patricia Morales presented the Earth Charter and the relationship between human rights, sustainable development, and environmental protection. Prof. Aziz Ab'Saber also spoke during 'Open Space' on the radio about the significance of the Earth Charter as a global ecological ethic.

Soka Gakai Holland has organized an exhibit dedicated to human rights and the Earth Charter which will be shown from May 25 to June 10, in Castillo, Zeist. Over 10,000 people are expected to visit this exhibit, most prominently schools, for which children's activities have been planned. Institutions such as the Zeist Mayor's Office and Amnesty International collaborated on this project.

Thailand

Colloquium on the International Earth Charter. In early February, a multi-stakeholder group of leading academics, government officials, business people and social critics gathered together at Rajabhat Institute, Bangkok, to discuss the fundamental ethical values for sustainable development using the Earth Charter as a guide. Participants generally agreed on the following main points:

Philosophies of His Majesty the King and Buddhism, and considerations of Thai culture must be included, for example:

- *His Majesty the King's philosophy of a self-sufficient economy*

- *Buddhist ethical foundation in beliefs, knowledge and behavior*
- *Thai educational system, together with religious-educational culture, while currently limited, still provides the best vehicle for incorporating Earth Charter values into Thai society.*

Literal translation of the Earth Charter into the Thai language has not been well understood by Thai people, which emphasizes the need to adapt the Charter text to the Thai culture and thinking. Discussions are progressing on possible next steps, perhaps including re-writing the Earth Charter from a Thai perspective, and summarizing it into a more concise document for easier, faster and wider dissemination.

United States

The Peace Studies Association and Tufts University presented a special seminar on March 30-April 1 to honor sociologist Elise Boulding and discuss her book, *Cultures of Peace: The Hidden Side of History*. Approximately 150 faculty and students were in attendance. An analysis of the connections between the Earth Charter and the concept of a culture of peace was presented by Virginia Straus, Executive Director of the Boston Research Center for the 21st Century. The Peace Studies Association is an organization of college and university programs for the study of peace, conflict, justice, and global security.

Straus spoke of how the inclusive and evolutionary process of creating the Charter reflected many of Elise Boulding's key principles of a culture of a peace: listening, faith in micro-level processes, the empowerment of civil society, and the necessity of balancing human needs for autonomy and bonding. She emphasized the value of the Earth Charter as a peoples' treaty, pointing out that, "The Earth Charter could become a stepping stone for a renewed UN in which global civil society takes its place as an equal partner with the governments of the world, acting as a co-shaper of international law and policy."

Virginia Straus is a public policy specialist who has directed the Boston Research Center for the 21st Century since its founding in 1993. An international peace and justice institute, the Center draws inspiration for its work from a philosophy of Buddhist humanism. The BRC's conferences and publications bring together scholars and activists from diverse cultural, religious, and educational backgrounds to engage in consensus-building dialogue on global ethics.

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Interview with Maritta von Bieberstein Koch-Weser

and we need to be just as connected in terms of thinking about global resources. The country by country approach does not meet the challenge anymore; in fact, it can at times stand in the way of meaningful, coherent environmental action.

Which priorities do you foresee for the Ombudsman Function (OmCED) -project shared by the Earth Council and the IUCN?

There are, there have been, and there will always be conflicts — diverse interests and understandings when it comes to the delimitations and interpretations of sustainable development. Where did such conflicts typically arise in the past? Examples include large hydropower projects or other “pyramid” size works. OmCED, our new independent international Ombudsman Centre for Environment and Development (operated jointly by the Earth Council and IUCN) can be called upon in the early, upstream phase of any such projects, to provide a fair airing of all interests prior to any decisions effecting long-lasting environmental change.

We saw a need for a neutral forum, that would bring together the opinions of proponents large and small, mighty and powerless. Governments, the private sector and civil society need to find constructive, mediated forums for dialogue. Too often, when conflicts arise, the discussion is out of balance, with the education-wise and financially well equipped proponents (e.g. bankers or construction companies) on one side, and poorer, and more poorly educated local stakeholders on the other.

In some cases the most directly affected stakeholders include people illiterate or marginalised populations. Some cases affect indigenous peoples. Local government offices, especially in developing countries, can equally be at a disadvantage when it comes to the understanding of large scale, complex projects — they may have no capacity to scrutinise a highly sophisticated environmental impact assessment.

In such situations we want to see whether OmCED can add value from the vantage point of all involved. An Ombudsman should not, as you know, decide one way or another, but it would help the parties to be respected, to have voice and to be as well informed as possible.

What innovative role will this Ombudsman Function have?

Let us start with a question: what is the difference between the Ombudsman function and the public audience requirements already existing in many countries? True, many of the environmentally more advanced countries have a public audience system, and a fair public audience may do justice to all. Where this is the case, you will not need an external Ombudsman.

However, even where audience systems exist, they can be quite perfunctory. They happen on one day, whoever hears about it goes there. The true stakeholders, affected people, may be not be well equipped to represent their interests, and this is where the Ombudsman Function offers a new avenue, adding fairness and thus rendering the process more meaningful. Even more importantly, it also offers a novel path in many places where audience systems are lacking altogether. That is where the Ombudsman function is most needed.

The OmCED is a concrete response to the need for a new international mechanism on sustainable development and global governance. What relationship will be established with the national sovereignties?

The Ombudsman function is designed as a service, which will be available on a demand basis. The Ombudsman will, whenever approached, consider helping, provided it can muster the help and expertise needed to assure a high quality process. It can only function where sovereign national entities involved would not object.

EOLSS: The Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems
<http://www.eolss.net>

For any questions, comments, or requests, please contact:

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