

EARTH CHARTER INITIATIVE

- NEWSFLASH -



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1. EARTH CHARTER EDUCATION DATABASE GOES ON-LINE

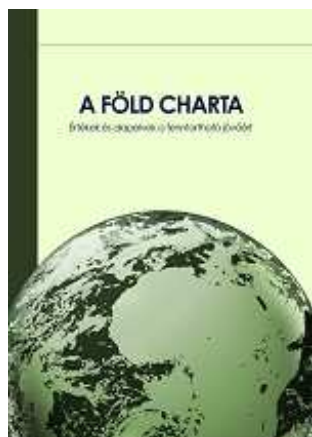
The education database brings together the educational materials that have been developed all over the world using the Earth Charter as a guiding framework. The resources have been classified by category. The Earth Charter International Secretariat will continue to update the database. We encourage all educators, that have used the Earth Charter as an educational tool, to send in any documents that you may have created to be included in this resource which you can access at: http://www.earthcharter.org/education/resources_new1.cfm.

2. THE EARTH CHARTER IS THE CENTRAL THEME FOR THE WORLD PEACE FORUM

This very successful 600 people event in Sidney, Australia, featured the Earth Charter as its central theme. Amongst the speakers were Earth Charter Commissioner, Rabbi Soetendorp, who delivered a remarkable speech which received a standing ovation. Brendan Mackey, Chair of the Earth Charter Education Advisory Committee, also spoke at the event. His wonderful speech, in which he concludes that, "Around one trillion US dollars per year is spent on the machinery of war. The opportunity costs are staggering. If we invested this amount of money each year to address the fundamental problems of poverty, environment degradation and injustice, we will soon achieve the necessary preconditions for peace – a true and lasting peace." can be seen at the NEWS section of www.earthcharter.org, as well as on the on the Peace Forum site at <http://www.worldpeace-conference.net/sydney/home.htm>

3. A POCKET-SIZED EARTH CHARTER BOOKLET IN HUNGARIAN IS PRINTED

The Country Office in Hungary for the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) translated the Earth Charter into Hungarian and have just printed a beautifully conceived Earth Charter pocket booklet in this language. Noteworthy is that the environmental expert *Tibor Farago*, Head of the International Environmental Policy Department of the Ministry of Environment, wrote the foreword of the publication. 300 copies were distributed at the Annual Meeting of the Hungarian Green NGOs on March 7-9 and will also be given to the participants at this year's traditional Earth Day events in Szentendre. More information about REC's activities can be seen at www.rec.hu and photos on their previous Earth Day events at www.rec.hu/thumb.html



4. COMMEMORATION OF THE EARTH CHARTER ORGANIZED IN SAN FRANCISCO

The *Club of Budapest USA* in partnership with the *International Diplomacy Council* organized an event titled, 'Science, Religion and Caring for the Environment: A Personal and Global Responsibility' that was held in San Francisco on April 1st. in commemoration of the Earth Charter and the UN Decade of Peace and Nonviolence for all the Children of the World. This unique panel explored the ideas of scientists, environmentalists, and religious faiths about the pathways and responsibilities for achieving global sustainability. For further information as well as the program and panelists involved please see: www.earthcharter.org (NEWS section).

5. A VERY ACTIVE NEW EARTH CHARTER COMMUNITY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

The people from Cowichan have been very active since they learned about the Earth Charter in January. Between informal "Charter Chats", a planned "Charter at the Market" booth, the Earth Charter Cowichan Website www.island.net/~ecc/, and training facilitators to speak in groups and organizations, they have devoted themselves to disseminating the Charter within their community.

Please find more detailed information on how they are carrying out these activities at the NEWS section of: www.earthcharter.org



6. THE EARTH CHARTER IS THE BACKBONE FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS COURSE

The Environmental Ethics Course is one of the regular courses taught within the Dual Masters Program in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development, implemented between University for Peace in Costa Rica and the American University in Washington D.C.

The Earth Charter provides the backbone of this course. The introductory lecture to the course is actually given by Earth Charter staff who explain the origins and scope of the Charter and discuss with the students its applications. An important element of students' research is finding out and analyzing the contribution of the Earth Charter to particular topics of the course. In this way, the Charter provides a unifying concept for the content of the course. More information on the overall Master's program can be seen at :

http://www.upeace.org/academic/masters/natural_resources.htm

7. 'PRAYER FLAGS': A BEAUTIFUL EXHIBITION BASED ON THE EARTH CHARTER

Inspired by the Earth Charter and on the invitation of the Pope John Paul II to rediscover the spiritual and religious profundity of the arts, Prayer Flags, made of embroidered textiles, were presented in March at the Children's Museum in Costa Rica (also the headquarters for the Earth Charter Costa Rican Group). A reading from the Preamble of the Earth Charter marked the opening of this outdoor evening display.



The Costa Rican artist Cali Rivera was the creator of the prayer flags, which consist of 6 meter long flags that transformed into peace symbols rotate with the wind. More information on his

work can be found at <http://www.calirivera.com/flash/index.html>