

EARTH CHARTER INITIATIVE



NEWSFLASH November / December, 2002

In this issue:

1. The Earth Charter encounters the Norwegian winter
2. Åre is the first municipality in Sweden to endorse the Earth Charter
3. A City in Australia applies the Earth Charter in its strategic planning
4. The Earth Charter as a participant in a French initiative
5. Papua New Guinea develops a Tribal Charter based on the Earth Charter
6. The first Earth Charter youth forum in Mato Grosso, Brazil
7. The potential of the Earth Charter in Scotland is examined
8. The Earth Charter for kids was launched in Porto Alegre, Brazil
9. Asian civil society forum ended successfully

Announcements from the Earth Charter Secretariat:

10. Seeking for pictures and stories...
11. New policy for endorsing organizations

1. THE CHARTER ENCOUNTERS THE NORWEGIAN WINTER

The Norwegian Humanetics organization had the Earth Charter on the front page of one issue of their member's magazine, and hosted a panel debate on this issue. The work was part of the promotion effort for the Earth Charter in several meetings and debates supported by the publication of a Norwegian brochure with the economic help of NIF, The Chartered Engineers of Norway. As a result of these actions, the local community of Lorenskog, a neighborhood of Oslo, has decided to use the Earth Charter as an ethical basis of their renewed ecological program. You may contact Earth Charter Norge for further information on this subject at ingo@earthcharter-norge.com

2. ÅRE IS THE FIRST MUNICIPALITY IN SWEDEN TO ENDORSE THE EARTH CHARTER

A meeting of the Åre Municipal Executive Board took place on Monday, December 2, 2002 where a resolution to endorse the Earth Charter was taken. The Chairman of the Executive Council Mr. Thomas Hägg is happy with the decision: "*The Earth Charter lies directly inline with that which was discussed in Johannesburg (WSSD) where I represented our region.*" For more information please refer to the following link at the Earth Charter website: http://www.earthcharter.org/country/country.cfm?id_country=201&id_language=1 or contact Tonia Moya at greencross@swipnet.se

3. A CITY IN AUSTRALIA APPLIES THE EARTH CHARTER IN ITS STRATEGIC PLANNING

The City of Joondalup is applying the Earth Charter as part of its Strategic Planning process. A comparison between the City Council policies and the Earth Charter demonstrates significant common ground between the two and the value of the Earth Charter as a tool in local government strategic planning. The city of Joondalup won a state government award for sustainable development planning. Read the report ([link to http://www.earthcharter.org/communities/joondalup.htm](http://www.earthcharter.org/communities/joondalup.htm)) and more on Joondalup web page ([link to http://living.joondalup.wa.gov.au/buorgnstrategic/sustainability/revised/living_services_sustainability_earth_charter.asp](http://living.joondalup.wa.gov.au/buorgnstrategic/sustainability/revised/living_services_sustainability_earth_charter.asp))

4. THE EARTH CHARTER AS A PARTICIPANT IN A FRENCH INITIATIVE

The French Government announced last spring that a Charter for the Environment will be linked with the French Constitution and ready by June 2003. A Commission is working on the drafting process. The Earth Charter Initiative is following up and participating in the process, both from the International Secretariat and from our French focal point. The other good news is that in Fall 2004 the next "Sommet de la Francophonie", meeting of 55 French-speaking states, will be focused on Sustainable Development in Burkina Faso.

5. PAPUA NEW GUINEA DEVELOPS A TRIBAL CHARTER BASED ON THE EARTH CHARTER

The 870 tribes of Papua New Guinea affirmed their endorsement of the Earth Charter in the Mama Graun Tribal Charter (2002) and are in the process of implementation. The Mama Graun Tribal Charter used the Earth Charter as a model, and it adopts the structure of the Earth Charter. Please view the Mama Graun Tribal Charter at: http://www.earthcharter.org/events/event.cfm?id_activity=459

6. THE FIRST EARTH CHARTER YOUTH FORUM IN MATO GROSSO, BRAZIL

A Youth Earth Charter Forum took place in Cuiaba, Mato Grosso, Brazil on December 14th. Its objectives were to promote reflection about the conditions of our world, exchange information about the state of life on Earth and discuss among young people the critical situation of human beings on this planet. From this reflection and exchange of experiences the organizers of the forum are planning to make a final document to be taken to the World Educational Forum that is going to take place in Brazil from 19 to 22 January and at the same time promote the Coalition on a national level.

7. THE POTENTIAL OF THE EARTH CHARTER IN SCOTLAND IS EXAMINED

Felix Dodds, formerly the director of UNED UK (The United Nations Environment and Development UK Committee) and now Executive Director of the Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future, was able to join the Earth Charter Scotland group to examine the potential of the Earth Charter in Scotland on Thursday 12th and Friday 13th of December. This occasion provided an opportunity to develop work with others to promote sustainable development at the local level as part of a growing global initiative. Mr. Dodds said *"UNED UK hopes to work with others in the UK in making the Earth Charter a critical tool for promoting sustainable development in the post Johannesburg period."* There will be follow-up meetings, starting in February 2003 with Georgina Ayre, UNED UK Co-ordinator, and a possible link up again later in the year with the Community Summits of Jan Roberts, USA.

8. THE EARTH CHARTER FOR KIDS WAS LAUNCHED IN PORTO ALEGRE, BRAZIL

NAIA (Nucleus of Friends for Childhood and Youth) and the Government of the State of Rio Grande do Sul officially launched the Earth Charter for Kids in Porto Alegre, Brazil at the Education Secretariat's Central Square on December 13th. You may refer to our web site:

http://www.cartadelatierra.org/eventos/event.cfm?id_activity=422&id_language=2 or contact Camila Thomaz at parola@cpovo.net.com.br for further information.

9. ASIAN CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM ENDED SUCCESSFULLY

The Asian Civil Society Forum held in Bangkok, Thailand from December 9-13 ended successfully. This was a project of CONGO (The Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations). At the Thematic Workshop on Educational Approaches for Human Rights and Sustainable Development, and the Earth Charter, a good presentation on the Earth Charter was made. Many Earth Charter brochures were distributed in this important event and a report on the Earth Charter promotion at the ACSF is being elaborated and will soon be available. For more information on the forum please visit <http://www.acsf.net/why.htm>

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE EARTH CHARTER SECRETARIAT

10. SEEKING FOR PICTURES AND STORIES...

The International Earth Charter Secretariat is preparing the "2002 Earth Charter Report", which we hope to have it ready by February 2003. In order to make it as lively as possible, we are looking for pictures and stories of activities you had for the Earth Charter during 2002. You can send them by e-mail or post them with the date and name of the activity as well as the country in which it was developed. We would very much appreciate your help in this process.

11. NEW POLICY FOR ENDORSING ORGANIZATIONS

The Secretariat for the Earth Charter has adopted a new policy for the organizational endorsements. These new measures are well explained on the website at the time of endorsing. The basic requirement is for the institution to send by fax or mail an official letter of endorsement. All those organizations that have previously endorsed on line and have not sent this letter are asked to please do so at their earliest convenience to our fax in Costa Rica (506) 249 3500. Individuals can continue endorsing directly on line as usual. Many thanks for your ongoing support!

BEST WISHES FOR THE YEAR 2003!