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OUTREACH - 99

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Who Stole the Dialogues?

NGOs, U.N. representatives, and even governments were stunned on Monday when the reading of the main document on tourism appeared without any mentioning of the results of the Major Groups/ Governments Dialogue Sessions.

The text – read by CSD Acting Chair Navid Hanif – included only the previously written Chair's conclusions from the Intersessional meeting in February. It left out any reference to, or substance from, either the Chairman's Summary of the Dialogue Suggestions or the Focus Points Document that was written after the High Level Segment that concluded last Friday.

Omitting texts

By omitting those texts, particularly the Dialogue Suggestions, the reading left out major discussions of core labor standards, tourism carrying capacities, industry initiatives like Agenda 21 for Tourism, a Code of Ethics, and the entire Dialogue's call for a multi-sectoral approach to assess financial leakages, improve capacity building, and support local and indigenous rights to land, water, and other natural resources.

The reading started at 4 PM with no

explanation from the Vice Chair of this strategy. When finally questioned by the European Union, Mr. Hanif replied that he would only be reading the intersessional text – and that it was for governments to add any elements of the Dialogue Session that they wished included into the conclusions of the CSD.

Governments, understandably surprised, said they were disappointed that the Dialogue conclusions on Tourism had not been included – and that they had not at least been informed of that decision. Otherwise, they might have been prepared to add such interventions themselves.

Dialogues ignored

But the reading continued. Towards the end of the session, following a question from New Zealand, the chair said the Bureau would try to incorporate some items from the Dialogue text, but only two were mentioned, both rather minor, and weakly worded.

Beyond this wholesale attempt to ignore the entire Dialogue discussion, the Tourism issues faced a focused attack on specific areas. Brazil blatantly vetoed any attempt to include references to *(continues on the next page)*

The Agenda 21 process

Words or Action?

Youth is a "major group" – and has always had a significant presence at CSD. OUTREACH presents 3 very thoughtful contributions from youth in this issue on page 2 and 5.

Monday afternoon the Swedish youth NGO q2000, presented their findings based on a national survey on the status of the Agenda 21 process. They choose to present their findings as a medical examination.

Mother Sweden is sick

Mother Sweden called in sick and was rushed to the medical expertise at the UNAMC, the UN Agenda 21 Medical Center. Doctor Henrik had examined the patient seven years ago in Rio, and had at the time put her on a treatment plan. But this prescription was obviously not followed. Several experts at UNAMC now examined her heart (energy), blood pressure (transportation), immune deficiency (tourism) and CNS (Agenda 21 and political participation). They found signs of a self induced stress syndrome as a result of an extreme life style. This life style will have to change if the pa-

tient is to regain her strength. As you may well understand, the prescriptions included cuts in energy consumption, changes in transportation patterns, and improved Agenda 21 coordination between the central government and local authorities.

Poor remedies

Common to this field, the q2000, found a lot of policy suggestions and paperwork in the different municipalities but not enough action and actual implementations.

During the discussion that followed the presentation at the CSD, there was consensus that this kind of work is very important but that it needs to be a continuous process so that change can be seen over time.

Similar study by q2000

q2000 conducted a similar survey two

years ago which was presented at the Earth Summit II here in New York. "Word or Action 99" is a good example of how a youth NGO can do meaningful work that is also quite easy to execute. There has been a total of 60 youth all around Sweden involved in the project that is actually one of the largest analyses preformed in this area in Sweden.

The report is available at the Learning Center (CR.B) or you can contact one of the six Swedish q2000 representatives here at CSD or at <ua21@swipnet.se>.

Who Stole the Dialogues?

(continued from the front page)

define sustainable tourism, a code of behavior for tourists, or linkages to local tourism – claiming that 'human rights don't belong here' at the CSD, but should be discussed at the U.N. Commission on Human Rights. Behind the Brazilian government's position, lurked the distinct possibility that it was trying to block any language that would hinder that country's lucrative commerce in sex tourism – even that abominable practice involving children. This despite its own Tourism Department's honorable campaign to warn away tourists from such behaviour.

Human Rights not for CSD

It was not only Human Rights and other

'NGO'-type issues that were dismissed during Monday's debate – or lack thereof. Intergovernmental agencies and industry groups paid a price, too, as G77 called for removal an apparently innocuous reference to WTO, the Earth Council, and the WTTC as the authors of Agenda 21 for Tourism. This, despite a plaintive comment from Canada that "you can't pretend the document was written by governments."

What next?

Governments will have another chance to question the Chair's process when the drafting group resumes its review of the text on tourism on Tuesday morning. But the entire process has left many CSD delegates visibly shaken.

"Actually, we were shocked," said one NGO who has worked actively on tourism. "Here we all just went through three days of intense meetings, and months of preparations before that – not to mention the considerable expense of the three major groups flying in whole delegations to New York.

"And while there were still differences, we achieved lots of positive suggestions and agreements. And then it all gets ignored. What's the point of that?"

MS & JWJ

- Consumption and Production
- Oceans

NGO CAUCUS VIEWS

and what they want

- SIDS
- Tourism

To the Point

A South view on Oceans

Interview with Novelette McFarquhar (Jamaican Environmental Youth Network / Women's Environment and Development Organisations), co-cordinator for the NGO Ocean Caucus.

- What are the important issues for the South, regarding the oceans?

- For us in the South the issue of marine pollution is extremely important. Marine pollution causes problem for the fragile eco-system, the coastal area, fishing possibilities and even tourism. In the Caribbean and in many other small islands marine pollution is a threat to the resources, that so many people depend on. Marine pollution sometimes results in dead fishes found in heaps on the coast. This has an effect on consumers convincing them that all fish are poisoned. In the end they are not interested in purchasing fish, even if the catch is from deep sea fishing.

- Do you have any possible solution to these questions?

- On solution could be *Port State Control*, whereby ships coming to a port are inspected to ensure that they meet national, regional and international safety requirements and compliance. Controlling transportation of nuclear material and hazardous substances is extreme important for small islands states, that do not have the necessary equipment to handle even a small spill. Without the

necessary equipment the situation can develop into a major disaster and among other things, destroy the habitats for fish, coastal areas such as beaches as well as creating health problems for women and youth.

- Strict rules can scare away foreign investors.

- What foreign investors sometimes are looking for is political and economic stability. However, there should be some level of control which protects the interest of vulnerable groups such as women, youth and children.

- Could an institution such as a global forum for oceans in institutional matters be helpful to solve these problems you have mentioned here?

- It can bring together different bodies that are working with these issues in an integrated manner. But it is of immense importance and a requirement that there is equal representation from the North and South in this forum.

ØLP

Tourism

Surprising Development

After one week of Dialogue Sessions and High level Session, yesterday the first negotiations on tourism took place yesterday.

There were high expectations on how the results from the multi-stakeholder process of the last week would be reflected in the negotiations. An opportunity was missed since, although summaries on the results of last weeks sessions were produced, these were hardly reflected in the contributions by the delegates nor in the discussions that followed.

Some issues were not or hardly addressed such as the important item of the multi-stakeholder working group, and others were disputed. Surprisingly there was a question whether the CSD tourism debate should deal with items such as Human Rights, because this is dealt with in other U.N.-bodies and conventions. This argument could have serious repercussions on the discussion on sustainable development. The CSD has the mandate to address the economic, ecological and social impact of development and if this mandate is reduced to only these items which are not covered by other U.N.-bodies, the whole process will turn into a toothless monster.

Trained to be worth more than a television set

By Daphne Davies, (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions)

\$125 is the price of a television set in Thailand. It is also the amount paid to parents for their daughters when 'the black van' comes to north Thailand villages to take them "South" (a euphemism for the brothels of Bangkok). This used to be one of the few 'job options' for teenage girls.

UNICEF and Tourism

However, now, thanks to a scheme involving UNICEF and Pan Pacific Hotels group, young Thai girls, and their sisters in Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh and the Philippines have the chance to enter a 20-week hotelier's training scheme, with the opportunity of employment in hotels afterwards.

The scheme is the brainchild of Lyndall De Marco, a warm Australian woman, corporate director of education for Pan Pacific, who is at CSD to demonstrate that some luxury hotels, at least, have their hearts in the right place. (see *Tourist Views*, The Below-Stairs side of the Tourist Industry - Outreach April 22)

"Girl Guides Hostel"

Under the scheme, each year 80 17-year old Thai girls receive training in 8 luxury hotels in Bangkok - Lyndall has persuaded other hotel chains to take up the scheme. The on-the-job training consists of learning 'hotel skills', such as laundry, kitchen work, housekeeping, etc. plus a

course in English. The girls are paid pocket money and UNICEF pays for their lodging in a Girl Guides' hostel.

When I wondered whether they were in fact apprentices, and so might be paid as such, Lyndall assured me these girls weren't really carrying out hotel work, just on-the-spot training. At the end of the course, they receive certificates, and high school credits. Those who wish can seek employment in the hotels, while some (currently 30%) choose to return to their villages, with better job prospects.

Safe Schemes

In Indonesia, Pan Pacific runs a modified scheme in 'household skills' for orphaned girls. Local embassies then find them suitable posts as maids. Having read a terrible account of an employer in the Middle East pouring acid down the throat of his Sri Lankan maid, for drinking a glass of milk without asking, I was concerned about these girls' safety. However, this is assured as they are being monitored by UNICEF over a 10 year period.

Being familiar with the pay and working conditions of hotel staff, I wondered about the sort of wages and conditions these girls would face once employed by Pan Pacific, a 5 star hotel where single occupancy starts at \$150. However it appears that the news is good for trade unionists too. According to Lyndall, there is a strong hotel workers union in Malaysia, with a good collective agreement. She believes that there is

also a good union in Bangladesh, and says in the Philippines, Pan Pacific workers are paid three times the market rate.

No Exploitation

In general, Lyndall did not believe that anyone was being exploited in Pan Pacific Hotels, as she explained that international hotel chains have to keep their good name.

She also explained the workings of the hotel industry- Pan Pacific Hotels is a hotel operator called in by hotel owners to operate their hotels for which they receive a contracted fee. The girls' training scheme is paid for purely out of Pan Pacific's and not the owners' profits.

Positive for the Girls

Obviously the final question about these luxury hotels in Asia concerns the effects of the economic downturn. As many of these hotels are now running well below capacity, will positive schemes like this one have to be cut? Lyndall didn't think so. She reported that so far Pan Pacific has not had to retrench anyone, including at hotels which are currently running at 30% capacity.

So whatever concerns one might have relating to these girls' rights as hotel workers, one has to agree that this admirable scheme is a considerable improvement on their previous job prospects. And they will soon be able to buy that \$125 TV set themselves.

Lyndall De Marco attended the CSD as part of the International Hotel and Restaurant Association delegation.

Decreasing youth participating on CSD

“Right Here, Right Now!”

The numbers of young people participating in the Commission on Sustainable Development has dramatically decreased year after year. Why is this? When young people make up almost 50% of the entire world population, it begs the question of why, for example, when there are well over 500 NGOs present at this CSD, there are less than 25 youth delegates.

This inequity of representation of the UN Major Groups, of which youth are a part, is also reflected in the minute number of young people represented on government delegations. At CSD+7, only 3 governments have included the voice of their young citizens by bringing a youth member on their official delegation. Congratulations to the United States, Canada and the Netherlands for their leadership in this regard.

However, there is still much to be accomplished. For those countries that have introduced youth to their delegations, one delegate is a good start, but not necessarily representative enough. It has also been a fundamental challenge for governments, as well as NGOs, from the South to include young people, as financial resources may be limited. There must be, then, a supportive and collaborative effort between Northern and Southern governments to ensure that young people from all regions are included in this process. Youth are demonstrating, by their full participation in all aspects available to them in the CSD process, that they are ready to take on the challenge of fulfilling their role as major stakeholders in every aspect and level of the issues being discussed. Youth must be an integral part of decision making at the CSD as they will obviously bear the burden or the fruits of what is committed to here.

ted to here.

The Youth Caucus of the CSD invites further dialogue with governments, NGOs and Major Groups to explore ways that youth participation can be mutually beneficial and equitable. It is not enough to say that youth are the future, but to recognize that youth are very much a part of the present. Young people have time and time again proven their willingness and ability to be active participants in local, regional, national and international efforts for sustainable development. But they cannot do it alone. We challenge you to consider how you can support youth in this important cause.

Benson Obua-Ogwal and Jennifer Brammer

Young People and Their Role in the United Nations Future

Addressing the concerns of young people worldwide is critical to the success of sustainable development programmes. Youth are the future leaders of our communities. Encouraging civic involvement and investing in their key concerns must be an urgent priority of Governments and of Civil Society.

Youth are not an invisible constituency. They represent a significant portion of the population, especially in the rapidly growing developing countries. Youth and children constitute over 50% of the total population in the world. In developing countries over 60% of the population is under the age of 30. About 30% is between the ages of 15-25. Today more

than 84% of young people are concentrated in developing countries where the fastest urbanization occur. Recognizing that youth are among the most affected by problems of rapid urbanization, homelessness, unemployment, crime, violence, drug abuse and environmental contamination, they should also have an active role in addressing these problems and in creating sustainable human settlements.

Young people bring entrepreneurship, dedication and a sense of possibility to international policy planning. Yet in the pledges of the UN global conference agreements, Governments have shown their support more in rhetoric than results. In addition, the lobbying efforts of young

people, an energetic but transient group, have been inconsistent and poorly funded. Youth organizations must maintain sustained pressure on World Governments to help forge a coherent international follow-up to the UN world conference commitments.

Young people have always participated at UN Conferences held around the globe and contributed to every major UN document in the past five decades. However, the UN Commission recognized youth as a major group only in 1996 on Sustainable Development during their 4th Session after the Rio Earth Summit. (Continues on the next page)

Preliminary Results of Education Survey at CSD-7

Education has been suggested as being 'an essential tool for sustainable development' by NGOs, national governments and major groups alike. A survey of views on education for sustainable development is being undertaken this year on behalf of the NGO Education Caucus to determine whether education receives appropriate support through the CSD process and where efforts should lie in the future.

Education for sustainable development has origins in environmental education and today includes the achievement of a sustainable human society and environment. Education for sustainable development is recognised as being the whole environment, physical, social and temporal where education is not only formal education but informal and non-formal education. Education for sustainable development prepares people to live in a society which uses resources equitably and to maintain and enhance their qual-

ity for future generations.

The target audience for this survey is all national delegates, NGOs and representatives of major groups along with staff of the UN Division on Sustainable Development and other UN staff with responsibilities at the CSD. Response collection methodology has been through

- a) distribution through OUTREACH;
- a) distribution to NGOs at Steering Committee meetings and daily strategy meetings; and
- a) distribution to national delegates and UN staff through interception in- and out-side Committee Room One.

When considering the preliminary responses to this survey, it should be noted that statistical analysis and discussion have been brief as the data set is not complete. A full report on the results of this

survey will be posted on the CSDGEN list server available through the NGO web site (www.csdngo.org/csdngo).

Summary of Results

- The preliminary number of responses (n) is 63.
- The pie chart on the next page illustrates the balance between National Delegate, UN staff and NGO responses to this survey. Of the national delegates surveyed, 24 different countries are represented from northern and southern regions.
- 92% (r=58) of responses to this question indicated that education is **very important** in the process of building a sustainable world.
- 58% (r=35) of responses to this question gave a score of 3 when asked if education has been given appropriate prominence at the CSD

(Young People and Their Role in the United Nations Future continues from page 5)

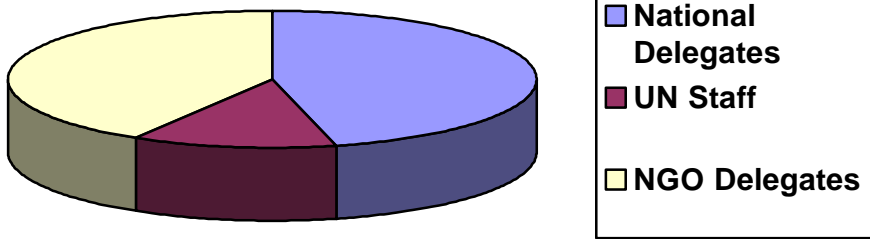
In 1997 during the CSD5, the UNCSO went a step ahead by giving the youth a chance to have their first ever "Youth Dialogue Session" to be held in the history of the UN. On April 11th we had our first chance to voice our concerns about global sustainable development issues that directly affect our lives to the Environment Ministers of the UN member states. Youth should ensure that this practice is continued, by making sure that NGOs themselves don't waste this

opportunity through their own lack of coordination. Youth NGOs can help by preparing and presenting a united, if diverse input to the governmental initiatives. The key above all is good will and an inclusive decision making process.

As future care takers of this planet, youth should take the leadership and work with Governments and communities in helping them build our Global Home in a sustainable way. We should be far sighted enough to think seven generations ahead of us and learn to respect the wealth that the earth has given us. I would like to end by saying

that youth is not a time of life, it is a state of mind. It is the freshness of the deep springs of life. Youth means a temperamental predominance of courage over timidity; an appetite for adventure over the love of ease. This often exists in a man of 60 more than in a boy of 20. Nobody grows old merely by a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals.

Bremley W.B. Lyngdoh, World Youth Commissioner, World Commission of Young Leaders for the United Nations



as a whole. This could infer that i) the CSD could give greater prominence to education and/or ii) that a strong positive or negative opinion is difficult on this issue.

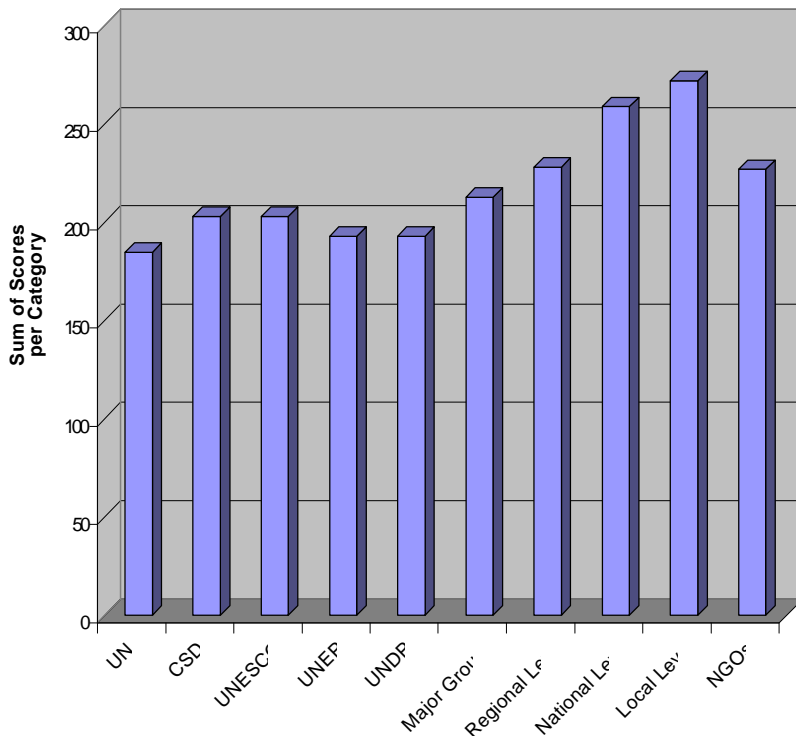
centrated to make the contribution to sustainable development more effective. The chart below illustrates the results of question three.

- Efforts for education should be concentrated to make the contribution to sustainable development more effective.
- The chart below shows that efforts should lie relatively equally at in-

ternational, regional, national and local levels. Although effort at the national and local levels should be particularly enhanced to make education contribution to sustainable development more effective.

To avoid giving an erroneous impression before the CSD has concluded the results for other questions cannot be reported at this preliminary stage.

Overall, education is recognised as being very important at the CSD and progress to promote education for sustainable development must be through co-operation at all levels by all stakeholders.



VIDEO PREVIEW!!!

BEYOND PYRAMIDS EXPLORING ECOTOURISM IN EGYPT

TUESDAY APRIL 27, 4:00 - 5:30 @ THE LEARNING CENTRE (CR- B)

PRESENTED BY: EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN A GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT (EDGE), CANADA WORLD YOUTH

This *previews* a one - hour documentary video (final version will be available in May 1999) that was filmed by a group of young Canadians and Egyptians in August 1998. The video follows the travels of these youth from Cairo to Luxor, along the Red Sea coastline into the Sinai desert and across the Mediterranean coast. The video will include interviews with Egyptian environmentalists, government, hotel operators, ecotourism owners, and ecotourists.

Following the video, there will be a discussion on the proposed GLOBAL YOUTH CHARTER FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM and some of the ways in which youth are active in promoting sustainable tourism.

For more information contact: EDGE/CWY, 1657 Barrington St. Suite 125 Halifax, NS

Tuesday's Program

8:45 am	Women's Caucus, doors open at 8:30 am	CR-A
9:15 am	NGO Briefing Session NGO Steering Committee,	CR-A
10 am - 1 pm	Official Session: Work of the Drafting Groups	CR-1 / CR-2
10 - 11 am	Caucus meeting: Sustainable Production and Consumption Caucus (SPAC)	CR-A
11 am - 12	Sustainable Community Caucus	CR-A
10:30 am	Sustainable Development Education Kit, The Norwegian Forum	CR-B
1:15 - 2:45 pm	Side event: Briefing by the Secretary of the ACC Sub-committee on Water Resources, on current joint activities of organizations of the UN System involved in the field of freshwater	CR-2
1:15 - 2:45 pm	Side event: Briefing on the World Science Conference, UNESCO,	CR-6
1:15 - 2:45 pm	Side event: Improving Ocean Governance, Netherlands Committee for IUCN,	CR-1
1:15 - 2:45 pm	Side event: Demonstration of Malawi's Threshold 21 National Development Model. Government of Malawi and the Millennium Institute,	CR-A
1:15 - 2:45 pm	Side event: Results of a Study on Access to Genetic Resources and the Convention on Biological Diversity, Biodiversity Action Network and Colombia University,	Church C.
1:15 pm	Southern NGO Caucus Luncheon Meeting	U.N. Caf.
2:30 - 6 pm	Contact Group on Section D of the Co-chair's draft on SIDS, chaired by Ambassador J. Ashe	2 UN Plaza
3 - 7 pm	Official Session: Work of the Drafting Groups	CR-1 / CR-2
4 - 5:30	Video Preview: Beyond Pyramids. Exploring Ecotourism in Egypt	CR-B
6 - 7 pm	Contact Group on the Chapeau of the Co-chair's draft on SIDS	2 UN PLaza
6:15 - 8 pm	Side event: Presentation for GEF International Water Project GEF,	CR-2
6:15 - 8 pm	Side event: Extended Producer Responsibility as a tool for Sustainable Production and Consumption, ANPED,	CR-6
6:15 - 8 pm	Side event: The Role of Oceans and Climate Change, NGO Caucus on Energy and Climate Change,	CR-A
6:15 pm	Caucus Meeting: Southern NGO Caucus,	Church C.
7 pm	Official Session: Work of the Drafting Group II	CR-5

SUBMISSIONS TO OUTREACH

OUTREACH will be produced daily during CSD VII. NGO representatives are invited to submit articles and announcements via the following:

- 1) E-MAIL: northclear@csdngo.org
- 2) Labelled 3.5 diskette. Drop off (preferably with print out) at DC2-1764 (Two UN Plaza, 17th Floor).

Feature articles should be NO LONGER than 450 words. Information articles should not exceed 250 words. Deadline for announcements is 4:00 p.m. and deadline for articles is 6:30 p.m.. The editorial staff reserves the right to shorten/omit submissions.