

From Monterrey to Johannesburg; Looking back and forward

The idea made sense, a high level meeting on Financing for Development half a year before the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). The cross-cutting issue of finance played a decisive role in the disappointing result of the Rio plus Five meeting in 1997. Declining aid flows and lack of technology transfer are among the most significant breaches of Agenda 21. Hence, industrialised nations have the primary responsibility in revitalizing the international commitment to implementing Agenda 21. Increasing aid levels and improving access to technology are essential to enhance the faith of developing countries in the WSSD process.

Besides, the world has changed since 1992. Global financial flows have dramatically increased, also to developing countries and corporations are much more mobile than ten years ago. Foreign direct investment was hardly on the agenda in 1992 and now it is widely regarded as the most important factor in the international economy. Besides, the international financial architecture, the continuing debt problem, corruption and the lack of corporate accountability all affect the amount of resources that are available for sustainable development. All in all, there is a clear need for a comprehensive and ambitious strategy on finance.

What came out of Monterrey?

Keeping that in mind, the results from the Monterrey meeting should be carefully analyzed. The commitments from the US and the some countries in the European Union to increase aid is an important step towards enhancing international cooperation. It would be for the first time since the end of the Cold War that aid levels would be rising, even though we are nowhere near the international target of 0.7% of the GDP of donors.

The increase in aid is a necessary, but not a sufficient condition for a substantial increase in resources for sustainable development. The Monterrey Consensus -

the action plan that was adopted at the meeting - stresses the need to improve governance and fight corruption, to untie aid flows, alleviate debt, provide microcredit and improve policy coherence. The negotiators had a broad vision of the relationship between finance and development. However, the message of the action plan in all these issues is unclear. For instance, the document continuously stresses that trade *can* contribute to a worldwide development, but it is not automatic. It also states that *meaningful* trade liberalization is important for sustainable development. It is particularly outspoken on the need to improve cooperation between UN institutions and the World Trade Organization. All these references are indicative of the need to fit the WTO in a broader system of international financial governance. Trade rules should support sustainability, not the other way around.

Yet, the Monterrey plan of action is completely uncritical of the outcome of the Doha Ministerial Meeting of the WTO in 2001. The Monterrey document just states that the Doha commitments should be implemented as such. There is no recognition that trade should be made supportive of sustainable development, the Monterrey programme merely assumes trade will do so.

What did not come out of Monterrey?

For a serious assessment of the Monterrey plan of action, we also should point out the omissions. First, the document totally ignores the concerns expressed by civil society about the global economic regimes and the power of corporations in those regimes. Emphasis is on good corporate citizenship, but there is no mentioning of eliminating bad corporate citizenship(!) The influence of corporations is noticeable in the Monterrey Consensus; any suggestion that business creates problems is avoided.

Even more important, the plan of action does not recognize basic rights, such as the right to a sustainable livelihood. This makes the starting point of the Monterrey programme questionable. The achievement of sustainable livelihoods for all citizens should be both the starting point and benchmark of the international financial system. If such rights are not achieved, the global economic rules should be altered. The recommendations of the Monterrey consensus are far from such a rights based approach. In fact, the recommendations are more concerned with the sustainability of international financial institutions, than with the sustainability of people.

From Words to Action

Notwithstanding the shortcoming of the Monterrey plan of action, the promise to increase aid flows and the wider recognition of a comprehensive policy on finance are significant. Now the only problem is that we have seen those commitments before, but they were never kept. The only way to ensure a positive contribu-

tion of the Financing for Development process to the WSSD is if we can see a clear start with the implementation of the Monterrey plan of action *before* the WSSD starts. That means first of all a reverse of the declining trend of aid flows, but also more attention for governance issues. If the Monterrey meeting proves to be just another 'zero emissions event', it will be a devastating blow to the international commitment to sustainable development

Sander van Bennekom

ANPED - the Northern Alliance for Sustainability

Targeted youth

Who says young people do not read enough? Thanks to the new Chair's compilation, this problem is tackled and the youth caucus is already presenting its opinion on issues like education and governance as well as unsustainable patterns of consumption.

Children and young people (particularly in developed countries) are the favorite target for advertisement. The pressure that confronts the young in their micro society by their peers is one of the reasons for an over-consuming way of life. Parents become hostages of the many trends and their children's "needs."

Speaking of poverty eradication sheds a new light on the word "need". Water sanitation, clean water to drink, is just one striking example of the basic elements necessary for a better and more sustainable life.

We should foster a culture which demands responsibility in advertising, in the media and especially in public spaces. The youth caucus suggests that private television channels commit to a policy in which each advertisement promoting an unsustainable object is matched by one which promotes a non buying/green advertisement or NGO's propositions. In other words, after the advertisement for a beautiful Mercedes, you would have an ad for the train, or after the Pokemon ad for visiting hospitals or retirement houses.

Another related concern raised by the young people is the objectification of women in the public environment. Children and adolescents are exposed daily to advertisements on walls that fail to respect the human dignity inherent to every person. Sustainable communities must keep a balance between social, economic and environmental aspects of our lives. We hope that being hip does not necessitate a poverty of spirit.

Leila Ansembourg, Youth Caucus

Trade Unions Welcome New Text

Trade Unions Welcome Key ILO, EU, G77, and Individual Government Amendments at Prepcom III and Urge Delegations To Support Worker and Trade Union Proposals in The Final Round of Negotiations.

During the first week of Prepcom III, trade unions highlighted the significant contributions that they and the world's workers can make to the WSSD and in implementing its outcomes, through joint workplace actions with employers and other stakeholders, and by promoting positive policy initiatives to make them possible.

Members of the trade union delegation attending the first week of

the WSSD Prepcom III managed to make direct personal contact with at least one member of each and every country delegation in attendance. As a result the trade union delegation is pleased to find many of their concerns reflected in the new text recently tabled by the Chair and produced by the separate working groups.

During the 1st week trade union delegates were also closely involved with NGO's and other stakeholders forming a new "International Steering Group" to plan the NGO Global Forum that will precede the official WSSD events in South Africa this summer. Trade unions at Prepcom III have highlighted their commitment to the success of WSSD.

DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF PREPCOM III

In the text emerging from their first week of negotiations at Prepcom III, Governments have included references to workplaces, workers' rights and trade union roles. In this, the second week of Prepcom III, trade unions will lobby for the strengthening of the language and for its final adoption.

Trade unions consider wording such as the following to be essential:

POVERTY ERADICATION AND THE SOCIAL DIMENSION:

"Address poverty eradication by integrating social and employment factors through social indicators and impact assessments, and promote these instruments for national and sector peer reviews upon which to base economic and environmental policies. Build on the intent of the Marrakech Accord, which specifically calls for social impact assessments of climate decisions on developing countries."

PROMOTE LINKAGES BETWEEN CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION:

"Link consumer information to workplace target-setting, programmes and reporting measures through verifiable and trustworthy eco-labels and related tools. Strengthen overall awareness regarding personal and domestic consumption issues through integrated training and education programmes for workers aimed at joint programmes of action undertaken with employers at the workplace level."

LINK OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH TO PUBLIC HEALTH:

"Promote the ILO's 'Decent & Safe Work' programmes to reduce death, injury and illness that originate in unsustainable work practices and conditions. Support the 1999 WHO Ministerial Declaration that links occupational health to public health, and build on occupational health and safety structures, institutions and experiences to promote public health practices."

CAPITALISE ON WORKPLACE ACTIVITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS:

"Promote good industrial relations practices, including framework agreements and voluntary agreements as part of a mixture of solutions for sustainable development that are based on full worker and multistakeholder participation in: workplace assessments, target-setting, implementation, monitoring and verification, reporting, and accountability."

ENCOURAGE DIALOGUE & UNDERSTANDING

"Expand institutional provision for multistakeholder involvement at all levels, particularly at the community level, and promote pub-

lic/public partnerships to ensure the capacity of local government to fulfill its responsibilities in such key areas as water. Promote cooperation among international agencies for research to provide the basis for social and employment transition programmes that are key to gaining consensus on such threats as global climate change.”

ENSURE LABOUR STANDARDS

“Encourage ratification and enforcement of ILO Core Labour Standards, and related Conventions, and strengthen global governance for employment equality, occupational health, an end to child and forced labour, as a way to remove labour standards from the realm of international competition.”

PROMOTE CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

“Integrate sustainable development objectives into policies, practices and agreements governing trade, investment and financial decision-making, as well as corporate accountability. Promote a greater emphasis on global governance, based on such international standards and instruments as ILO Conventions, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Corporations, and the principles underlying the Global Compact, through implementation strategies that utilizes the strength inherent in multistakeholder dialogue and partnerships.”

Lucien Royer, ICFTU

Water – A key to Sustainable Development

Excerpts from - **The Bonn Keys Recommendations for Action**

Actions in the Field of Mobilising Financial Resources

13. Ensure significant increase in all types of funding All sources for funding in developing countries – public funding from general budget revenues, water tariffs and charges, external assistance, and private investment – must be strengthened to bridge the gap between current and required levels of expenditure. [Bonn 13]

14. Strengthen public funding capabilities Public budgets are now, and will continue to be, the biggest source of investment in water, particularly in low income countries. Even where the mobilisation of private investment is successful, public funds will generally be needed to support complementary investments and for instruments to protect the public from hazards and reduce risk to investors and suppliers of goods and services. [Bonn 14 para 1]

Macro economic growth is necessary to strengthen the national and local public revenue base in developing countries, and hence to give the governments the opportunity to put more money into the water sector. For many developing countries, the prospects for such economic growth are linked to broader issues of equitable international trade. [Bonn 14 para 2]

15. Improve economic efficiency to sustain operations and investment Water service providers should aim for financial sustainability through receiving sufficient income from their customers to finance operation, maintenance and capital costs. Balancing this aim, however, cost recovery objectives should not be a barrier to poor

people’s access to water supply and sanitation. Where the poor cannot afford to pay the full cost of water supply and sanitation services, tariff systems that allow social targeting should be established. Options include transparent subsidy arrangements from public funds and cross-subsidy from other customers. [Bonn 15 para 1]

16. Make water attractive for private investment In view of the high capital demand for water infrastructure investment, it is necessary to augment public funding by mobilising private funding for water utilities, wastewater treatment, irrigation and other water-related programmes. These could take the form of public-private partnerships, noting that privately-managed service delivery does not imply private ownership of water resources. [Bonn 16 para 1]

Investors seek confidence that their legal and financial interests are protected for the full contract duration, and that they can recover their investment over time. This implies appropriate regulatory arrangements, transparent contracting procedures, reliable cost recovery mechanisms, and public acceptance of such arrangements.

17. Increase development assistance to water Mobilising funds: The donor community should use its expertise and leverage to help developing countries to mobilise investment financing from all sources, including commercial ones. [Bonn 17 para 4.]

The international donor and lending community should aim to raise the priority that it gives to water in the developing and transition countries. Developed countries, which have agreed to, but not yet reached, the agreed UN target for official development assistance of 0.7% of GDP should exert their best efforts to do so. . [Bonn 17 para 1]

Development assistance should be complementary to domestic sources of funding and serve a catalytic role, building capacity and helping local and regional institutions to define their own solutions and models, and creating an enabling environment attractive to potential investors. Private sector participation should not be imposed on developing countries as a conditionality for funding [Bonn 17 para 2]

South Africa Ratify Kyoto Protocol

The Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Mohammed Valli Moosa, has today welcomed the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by the South African Parliament.

Commenting on the ratification, Minister Moosa said: "The ratification is important for South Africa, particularly as the host of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. It demonstrates our seriousness in dealing with environmental issues."

Present to observe the ratification was Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Minister Jan Pronk. Minister Pronk was instrumental in the development and international negotiation for the Protocol.

www.environment.gov.za

Update on Operations & Logistics for WSSD

INTRODUCTION :-

Held under the auspices of the United Nations, the World Summit on Sustainable Development will be hosted by the South African Government. Cabinet has delegated responsibility for the Summit to the Departments of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and the Department of Foreign Affairs. The South African Government has formed a Section 21 Company "The Johannesburg World Summit Company" (JOWSCO) to manage the operations and logistical arrangements for the Johannesburg Summit 2002 preparations.

The United Nations Johannesburg Summit 2002 will bring together thousands of participants, including Heads of State and Governments, National and International delegates, and representatives of the Major Groups identified in Agenda 21.

STATE OF READINESS – OPERATIONS & LOGISTICS:-

ACCESS TO SANDTON CBD:-

Major routes towards, into and out of Sandton will be demarcated as key access points into the UN Precinct but will not be closed completely, although additional routes might be identified for closure as planning continues.

SOUTH AFRICA WELCOME CARD:-

The SA Welcome Card has been developed to help delegates access the logistical infrastructure that is being set in place in Johannesburg over the Summit period. This Card can be purchased for approximately R600 (US\$ 60) dependant on exchange rate. The card will give delegates access to :

- Use of the inter-hub Summit transport system
- Access to special events and hospitality
- Access to the Ubuntu Village and the Ubuntu Exhibition (Best Practice Exhibition on Sustainable Development)
- Access to the Call center and Medical assistance.

TRANSPORT:-

South Africa has designed transport grids to cater exclusively for Summit delegates. Access to these grids will be through the purchase of the SA Welcome Card.

Zone 1 Shuttle System:-

This grid has been designed as a daily schedule circular shuttle that will operate exclusively in Zone 1. Delegates residing outside Zone 1 will be able to access this shuttle via UBUNTU Village if they are accredited to the UN Summit.

Inter-Zone Transport Systems:-

This grid has been designed to transport delegates across Zones 2 to 10. All delegates who purchase the Welcome Card will be able to access this grid.

Airport / Transport Grid

This grid will offer an airport transfer service for delegates to and from airport and accommodation both in terms of arrivals and departures.

VENUES:-

Venues that have been confirmed in Johannesburg that can host the Summit and support activities are as follows :

UN SUMMIT

- Sandton Convention Centre (SCC)

United Nations Precinct, hosting the Heads of State and Government Delegates.

PARALLEL EVENTS

Parallel Events are events that take place in and around Johannesburg over the period of the UN Summit. Should you wish to set up a parallel event, please visit the website www.joburgsummit2002.com or the JOWSCO Stand, B1 lower level basement between the lifts and Vienna Café.

Registering your parallel event with JOWSCO will permit the organization to configure your venue into its logistical matrix.

Bookings for venues should be undertaken as soon as possible, through the JOWSCO website to ensure that your requirements are met.

The Expo Center (Nasrec)

Forum for Major Groups delegates.

Over 42 000 square meters of covered space will be provided to facilitate the expected 40 000 delegates. In addition to this a further 11 000 square meters of outdoor space will be configured to provide for social interaction between delegates.

Hilton Hotel

- Business Action for Sustainable Development (BASD), operating under the auspices of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) are expected to be covering a series of meetings during WSSD. Between 500 and 700 business leaders from around the world are expected to gather to discuss issues surrounding Sustainable Development.

Crown Plaza

- Hosting International Council on Local Environment Initiatives (ICLEI) Forum.

- ICLEI is the International Environmental Agency for Local Governments. With the support of the United Nations and Major International Associations of local Government authorities, it will be convening a forum centered around the unique ability of local Government to achieve tangible improvements in global environmental and sustainable development conditions through cumulative local action. Between 500 and 800 representatives from around the world are expected to attend this forum from the 27th August to 30 August 2002.

UBUNTU Village @ Wanderers Precinct

- It will be the one forum where all delegates from the UN Summit, Major Groups and Civil Society can meet on common

ground.

Facilities at Ubuntu Village will include:

- The Ubuntu Exhibition
- Earth Arena
- Arts & Crafts market
- South Africa Pavillion
- Tourism Village and Theatre
- International Food and Beverage Court
- Media Centre
- Commercial Business Centre
- WSSD Open University
- Information Centre

ACCOMMODATION :-

Global DMC is the JOWSCO’s appointed accommodation and travel agent and are in the process of finalizing contracts with hotels and airlines to ensure that these are available to delegates. 43 000 rooms have been catalogued for Summit Delegates. Bookings are via the website : www.joburgsummit2002.com

Accommodation will be allocated on a first come first serve basis in Zones 2 to 10. it is suggested that reservations are made as early as possible to ensure that delegates have access to preferred accommodation.

Home Stays Programme

Formal accommodation in the homes of everyday South Africans is being devised for all those who will avail their private homes to summit delegates. Booking will be via the DMC from the second quarter of 2002.

ACCREDITATION:-

Accreditation to the Johannesburg Summit is the responsibility of the United Nations. The UN through its formal process will accredit all Government delegates, Major Groups and Media affiliated to the United Nations. Application forms for the UN Accreditation is available on www.johannesburgsummit.org

Accreditation to the Civil Society NGO Global Forum will be done by the Civil Society Secretariat who are arranging the Global Forum in South Africa. Accreditation will undertaken via www.joburgsummit2002.com as of 20 April 2002.

The United Nations Pass Office in Johannesburg will be at the Sandton Art Gallery and UN Media accreditation will take place at the Sandton Library which will also act as secondary Media Centre.

AIRLINES:-

The South Africa National, carrier South African Airways, is presently ensuring through its code-shared partners that enough airline seats are available to South Africa. Presently 42 000 seats have been secured over a 3 week period leading up to the Summit.

In order to ensure that sufficient airline capacity is put in place South Africa requests that delegates inform the Destinations Management Company (DMC) on www.joburgsummit2002.com where they will be departing from by the 31 May 2002. This will assist airlines in planning extra flights.

IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS:-

- TEL : +27 11 303 8200
- FAX : +27 11 303 8236
- E-MAIL : queries@wssd2002.com
- WEBSITE : www.joburgsummit2002.com



Feeding the 9 Billion?

The gap between production and demand for food could more than double in the developing world during the next 25 years (FAO). Some experts predict that the world's demand for food will grow by 50 to 60 percent by 2030 (IFPRI). If no progress is made against hunger, by the year 2050, half the world's population of some 9 billion could be living in conditions of malnutrition and poverty (IIASA).

Some experts believe that with proper management and adequate inputs, enough food can be produced on currently cultivated land. While many believe that intensification of agriculture is the most likely means to meet food needs (IIASA), intensification of food production brings with it mixed blessings – introduction of genetically modified organisms, increased agricultural chemicals and nutrient loading in agricultural runoff affecting freshwater and coastal systems – with possible implications for food production systems downstream, including fisheries, not to mention direct impacts upon biological diversity. It also assumes improvements in socio-economic conditions sufficient to allow small-scale farmers to acquire the needed agricultural inputs and skills.

An alternative is “extensification” of agriculture. The expansion of agriculture is one a major cause of loss of forest cover. Forest ecosystems constitute approximately 1.4 billion ha of potentially cultivable land reserves, with still significant potential for expansion of cultivated land in Africa, and South and Central America. However, conversion of forest areas to agriculture would result in severe consequences for biological diversity (IIASA), and would in any event only be a short-term solution.

Adding to the trade-off between intensification and extensification of agriculture is the impact of climate change. Global warming will modify the extent and productivity of land suitable for agriculture. Many developing countries could lose over a fifth of crop production, with serious food security consequences (IIASA). The Associated Press reports (July 15, 2001) that across Asia, a record lack of rainfall has destroyed crops and is forcing tens of millions of people deeper into poverty.

Intensification of agriculture seems critical, and at the same time, inequities and lags in socioeconomic systems appear to make conversion of additional lands to agricultural uses inevitable. Biological diversity and agricultural development are on a collision course, and the trade-offs appear to favour agriculture. Some experts calculate that if present trends continue, at least 25 percent of the world's wild plants and animals could be extinct by the middle of the century, with further losses coming at an accelerating pace (McNeely and Scherr).

But are biodiversity conservation and agricultural development really at odds? Agricultural systems are fundamentally ecosystems, and do not function independently of their environment. The pollination of crops, the regulation of the hydrological cycles, and the regenerative capacity of the soil are all biological in nature and dependent on biodiversity. Similarly the biodiversity between

crops and within crops (‘genetic diversity’) is an essential determinant of agro-ecosystem health, productivity and sustainability.

Moreover, agricultural policies are often weighted towards the production of export crops rather than food security, and do not necessarily have regard for resulting pollution or habitat destruction (McNeely and Scherr). While science offers tremendous opportunities for reducing production fluctuations and increasing productivity on small-scale farms in developing countries, little investment is being made in research into these farms (FAO, 2000). Likewise, fisheries research has until recently been dominated by a production-driven model of “commodity management” rather than management on an ecosystem basis.

In addition to the traditional biological foes – weeds, pests and diseases -- an entire array of man-made constraints faces the farmer in many parts of the world. These include inadequate policies and programs, inappropriate technologies, insufficient rural infrastructures and institutions. They lead to inefficiency and wastage of natural and human resources, inputs and products. The resource base itself is under threat, including from overexploitation, climate change, desertification, and loss of biodiversity (IFPRI). Given the complex and interlinked components of the food security challenge in the 21st century, it is clear that solutions that deal with one part only—for example, crop productivity, land use, water conservation, or forest protection—will not be sufficient (IIASA). An ecosystem approach is essential.

Sustainable agricultural development is therefore not just an option; it is an imperative (IIASA). Policies that provide an effective incentive structure for sustainable management of natural resources will help ensure that agriculture, fisheries, forestry and natural resource plans and practices are developed and implemented holistically.

As a response, Future Harvest, a non-profit foundation associated with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and IUCN – the World Conservation Union have worked together to elaborate the concept of “ecoagriculture”. Ecoagriculture is a scale-neutral approach to food production systems that incorporates ecosystem and broader landscape level management. In *Common Ground – Common Future*, IUCN Chief Scientist Jeffrey McNeely and Future Harvest adviser Sara Scherr have undertaken a survey of the interactions between wild biodiversity and agriculture around the world. This is further elaborated in a collection of success stories in ecoagriculture which will be published in September 2002 by Island Press, entitled simply *Ecoagriculture*.

At the Third Preparatory Committee meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, UNDP's innovative Equator Initiative (www.equatorinitiative.org) joined with IUCN and Future Harvest to host a delegates briefing and convene an experts group to further elaborate ecoagriculture. This workshop called for nothing less than a transformation of agriculture to harmonize food production and biodiversity conservation/sustainable use goals.

John Waugh, IUCN

References

FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2000*. FAO, Rome, Italy, 2000.

IIASA. *Global Agro-Ecological Assessment for Agriculture in the*

21st Century. Fisher, G. et al. 2001. International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Laxenburg, Austria. 44pp. (available online at <http://www.iiasa.ac.at/Admin/DI/images/IIASA-homepage/gaea.pdf>).

IFPRI. *The World Food Situation: recent developments, emerging issues, and long-term prospects*. Pinstrip-Andersen et al. International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington DC USA, 1997.

McNeely, J.A. and Scherr, S.J. *Common Ground – Common Future: how ecoagriculture can help feed the world and save wild biodiversity*. IUCN, Gland Switzerland and Future Harvest, Washington DC USA. 2001.

The World of Brackets

As the negotiations progress the text becomes cluttered with brackets. These represent what has not yet been agreed. If you are involved with the negotiations it is very important to understand that there are many different types of brackets.

It is important to understand the nature of why a bracket was put in place if you want it removed. Brackets will look the same in the text but they could be any of the following:

Alternative Brackets are alternative text for the same issue and may revolve around a substantive disagreement but tend to be similar wording for the same issue.

Contentious Brackets are there because of fundamental disagreement over a particular section.

Suspicious Brackets are used when one group thinks the others is up to something with a section or a phrase, and so the brackets are put in until it becomes clearer.

Tactical or Trading Brackets may be put in by one country to enable them to trade them with another bracket in another section or area. It is important to understand what might be traded to be able to unlock these brackets.

Uncertain Brackets are put where no one was quite sure what the proposed text meant or why the brackets were placed there in the first place.

Waiting Brackets are put when governments are waiting for instructions from capital on what to do.

Weary Brackets usually put in when negotiations go on into the early morning and are put there when people get too tired to negotiate effectively.

Drawn from Fiona McConnell's explanation in the book The Biodiversity Convention – A Negotiating History. Fiona McConnell was chief negotiator for the UK Government in the Rio Preparatory Process

Links Between Natural Hazards, Environment & Sustainable Development

Taking action to reduce the risk to disasters
Welcome to our Online Internet Conference

15 April – 9 May 2002

www.earthsummit2002.org/debate/default.htm

"Here is how to become a disaster statistic. Move to a shanty town on an unstable hillside near a tropical coast. Crowd together as more and more people arrive. Wait for the world to get a little warmer. More evaporation means more rain, which means the slopes will get progressively more waterlogged. One day, the land will turn to mud, and the neighbourhood will begin to go downhill. Literally. What roads there may have been are gone. Clinics and health services will have been erased. Rescuers will not be able to get in, survivors will have trouble getting out. There will be no food, no clean water supply. The uncounted dead will remain in the shaking soil beneath your feet..."

Tim Radford, *the Guardian*

The objective of this conference is to provide a forum for all stakeholders to exchange experiences and identify the course of action needed. We will produce weekly summaries of the discussions. The results will be presented at the fourth PrepCom in Bali, May 2002 and at WSSD itself.

The issues of discussion during our conference will include: natural disasters impact on development and how to reverse vulnerability to disasters, early warning systems, community involvement and awareness, along with education and capacity-building. Every theme will look at facts and trends, lessons learnt, barriers to implementation, roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders and concrete recommendations and partnership initiatives.

Contact:

Helena Molin Valdés
Secretariat for ISDR
molinvaldes@un.org
www.unisdr.org

Jan McHarry
Stakeholder Forum
jmcharry@earthsummit2002.org
www.earthsummit2002.org

Events Diary

Tuesday 1.15 - 2.45	Ecological values for Development. Temple of Understanding. Conference Room 1
1.15 - 2.45	The Earth Charter: A Useful Tool for Governments. Brahma Kumairs World Spiritual University. Conference Room 6
1.15 - 2.45	Youth & Sustainable Development. World Youth Alliance. Conference Room B
6 - 8	Water Governance: Adapting to Climate Variability & Change. UNDP. DC-1, 3rd Floor
6.15 - 7.45	The Way to Bali. Greenpeace International. Conference Room 4
6.15 - 7.45	Powering Sustainable Development. E7 Fund for Sustainable Energy Development. Conference Room 6
6.15 - 7.45	Indigenous Peoples' Assessment of Ongoing Negotiations. TEBTEBBA Foundation. Conference Room B
Wednesday 1.15 - 2.45	Hope and Challenges in Protecting the Ecology of the Global South. Global Futures Network. Conference Room 1
1.15 - 2.45	International NGO Task Group on Legal and Institutional Matters. World Federalist Movement. Conference Room 4
1.15 - 2.45	Integrated Environmental & Economic Accounting. United Nations Statistics Department. Conference Room 6
1.15 - 2.45	Tools for Mainstreaming Gender in Sustainable Development Implementation. WEDO. Conference Room B
3.30 - 5.30	Briefing for Delegates on Prep. Comm. IV. Government of Indonesia. Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium.
6.15 - 7.45	Capacity 21: Past & Future. UNDP. Conference Room 1
6.15 - 7.45	Sustainable Agriculture in Africa. World Bank. Conference Room 4
6.15 - 7.45	Governance for Sustainable Development: Answers to Complexity. UNESCO. Conference Room 6
6.15 - 7.45	International Film Premiere: Empty Oceans, Empty Nets. Wildlife Conservation Society. Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium

Diary of a DSD Senior Advisor

I have neglected you Dear Diary. Its just that Friday was a disaster and I felt the need to get away. We had to close some of the sessions, which was fine, except I left my pass on the window sill of the delegates lounge, and the sun bleached it brown. No matter what I said security wouldn't let me in.

Still, I got away from it all on Sunday and went to Central Park to get some fresh air. I managed to unwind for a couple of hours until I bumped into my old friend from the low countries. He insisted on taking me out to Dinner to tell me how much he's enjoyed his globe trotting and that all the heads of state think things are going great. I should have known Smith & Wollensky's was a mistake. It appears I can't escape these Stakeholders no matter what I do.

Regardless, I'm determined to enjoy the second week. The Director assures me she has a plan to make everything go smoothly: We are going to go through the whole process up to Johannesburg giving the impression we are listening to every word, then we just reproduce Agenda 21 without any of the sub-headings and call it Agenda 21 part deux. She's convinced nobody will notice as long as we take out any targets.

