

## Point of View

**Editor's note:** The "Point of View" essay series reflects the UNU's mandate to provide scholarship that clarifies pressing global issues. This issue's "Point of View" was contributed by Dr. Kennedy Graham, Director of the UNU Leadership Academy (UNU/LA). The views expressed are personal opinion and do not necessarily reflect the views or policy of the UNU.

### Leadership ethics for the future: Tread lightly on the planet

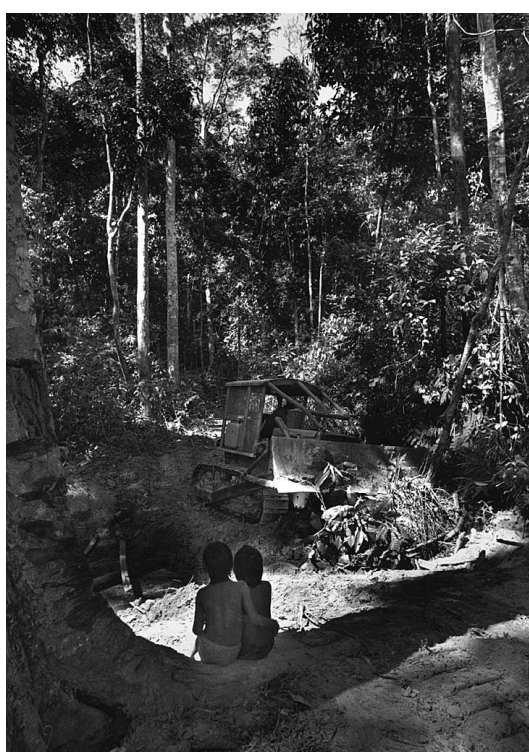
by Kennedy Graham

Humanity faces serious challenges in today's world, but the chief concern has to be over a certain "cognitive dissonance" that distracts the global community and its leadership from the central problem of our time. The focus of the political-military establishment, the gaze of the world's media and the attention of most people is on, relatively speaking, trivial pursuits. Meanwhile the planet continues its slide towards irreversible unsustainability.

Slaughtering each other in the name of religion is a red herring. As the sages inform us, and political leaders generally agree, the true tenets of all our various faiths counsel us to share the land, cooperate to enjoy its bounty, and extend a compassionate hand to one's fellow humans.

The magnitude of the "sustainability challenge" is severe, and this is what gives rise to our modern "cognitive dissonance." For the leaders, the media and the public are so preoccupied with the manifestations of our contemporary problems – political disputes and military conflict – that we lose sight of the longer term threat to humanity and its causes. We need to recognize the scale of the problem, quickly, and we need to devise new political means of coping with it, quickly and effectively.

The "Earth Summit" of 1992 was a milestone in reorienting the international community's attention to the problems of global sustainability and the environment. Sanctified at Rio was the concept of "sustainable development" – the ability of the current generation to meet its needs without jeopardizing the ability of future



Surui Indian children watch a logging road being cut through their reservation, the Amazon. M. Edwards, Still Pictures

generations to meet theirs. It has become the philosophical lodestar of our age.

The most promising conceptual tool for helping to promote sustainability, Agenda 21, is a direct child of the Earth Summit. Agenda 21 called for more research to better understand the carrying capacity of Earth as conditioned by its natural systems. There was a need, it said, to develop and apply new analytical and predictive tools in order to assess more accurately the ways in which Earth's natural systems are increasingly influenced by human activity. Standardized audits should help refine the character and pattern of development, examining the capacity of global life support systems to meet the needs of human and non-human life forms.

#### Our expanding ecological footprint

Perhaps the most useful analytical concept that has been developed in response is the *ecological footprint*. It is now critical that this concept be embraced by the citizenry and political leadership around the world.

The "ecological footprint" depicts the amount of the planet's biological productivity that an individual, a city, a nation-state or humanity occupies at any one time. It measures the area of biologically productive land and water required to produce the resources consumed and assimilate the wastes generated, using prevailing technology.

The "footprint" is measured in "area units." An area unit equates to one hectare of biologically productive space

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## UNU events mark launch of the UN International Year of Mountains

Mountains serve as vast reserves of valuable resources and as key centres of culture and recreation. Yet mountains are also among the world's most vulnerable bio-geographical areas. The rapid pace of globalization, urbanization and mass tourism is threatening mountain resources and communities as never before, with mountain areas worldwide facing increasing marginalization, economic decline and environmental degradation.

As part of an effort to increase international awareness about the global importance of mountain ecosystems, the United Nations General Assembly has designated the year 2002 as the International Year of



Ms. Junko Tabei at the Public Forum on 31 January

Mountains. The aim of the International Year of Mountains 2002 (IYM 2002) is to ensure the well-being of mountain and lowland communities and environments by promoting the conservation and sustainable development of mountain regions.

The UNU has been working closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, lead agency for IYM 2002, and other organizations to ensure that the broadest possible range of expertise is focused on reaching the goals of sustainable mountain development. To mark the start of the International Year of Mountains, the UNU hosted three events at UN House in Tokyo: a public forum on mountains, an international symposium on conservation of mountain ecosystems,



At the Symposium on 1 February, from left: Prof. Bruno Messerli, University of Berne; Dr. Jack D. Ives, Carleton University; and Prof. Hans Hurni, University of Berne

and a mountain photography exhibit. These events were organized by UNU in close collaboration with the Graduate School of Environmental Earth Science at Hokkaido University, where the IYM 2002 Japan Committee Secretariat is based.

The "Public Forum on Mountains: Environment and Human Activities" was held on 31 January 2002 in the U Thant International Conference Hall. This forum featured lectures by Ms. Junko Tabei (Chairperson, Himalayan Adventure Trust of Japan), Prof. Yugo Ono (Hokkaido University), and Prof. Jack D. Ives (Senior Adviser, UNU Environment and Sustainable Development programme). Forum moderator was Mr. Hatsuhsa Takashima (Director, UNIC, Tokyo).

This public forum was followed on 1 February by an "International Symposium on Conservation of Mountain Ecosystems." This symposium, held in the Elizabeth Rose Conference Hall, was attended by Japanese and international mountain researchers and educators, government officials and representatives of non-government organizations. More than two dozen lecturers and panellists shared their expertise.

A key aim of the symposium was to contribute to improved understanding of the status of different mountain systems in relation to global change, the pressures these mountains are exposed to (including the consequences for natural, human and economic resources), and the responses of indigenous social groups and mountain societies. The core themes of the symposium were

"People in Mountains: Social and Livelihood Aspects," "Sustainability of Mountain Biodiversity and Natural Resources" and "Development of Japanese Mountain Studies."

Running in conjunction with these events was "Mountain Prospects: Images for the International Year of Mountains," an exhibition of mountain photography displayed in the UN Gallery. This exhibition



Dr. Jack D. Ives at the official opening of the UNU Mountain Photograph Exhibit in the UN Gallery

opened on 25 January and will run through 29 March. It features photographs by Prof. Jack D. Ives, who has been involved with mountain research all his life, and has photographed mountains and mountain peoples and communities worldwide (including in the Himalayas, Thailand, Tibet, Tajikistan, China, and the Andes). Images from the exhibit are displayed online at <http://www.unu.edu/mountains2002/photoexhibit/>.

For more information about the International Year of Mountains 2002, see the official IYM 2002 website (<http://www.mountains2002.org>) and the IYM2002 Japan Committee website (<http://www.iym-japan.org/index-e.htm>). ■

## UNU launches U Thant Distinguished Lecture series

In June 2001, the United Nations University inaugurated the U Thant Distinguished Lecture Series. This new series of lectures, co-organized by the UNU Centre and the UNU Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU/IAS), will be a forum through which eminent thinkers and world leaders will speak on the role of the United Nations in addressing the challenges facing the world's peoples and nations in the twenty-first century. Each year, up to four prominent individuals will be invited to share their insights and experiences with scholars, policy makers, business leaders and also the general public.

It was U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations from 1961 to 1971, who originally proposed the establishment of a "United Nations University" that would be devoted to researching pressing global issues and promoting "international understanding both at the political and cultural levels." The dedication of this lecture series to the former Secretary-General is a reflection of the University's continuing efforts to encourage the exchange of ideas regarding the UN's role in addressing our shared global challenges.

The inaugural lecture, held on 7 June 2001 at the UNU Centre in Tokyo, was presented by Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia since July 1981. In 1990, Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir created a blueprint for his country's future called "Vision 2020," which has contributed to the pivotal role that he has played in Malaysia's advance towards fully developed status. In his lecture, "Globalization, Global Community and the United Nations," he addressed such questions as "Why has globalization turned sour so quickly?" and "Why are so many people protesting and demonstrating?" The draft text of Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir's speech is available online at <http://www.unu.edu/uthant%5Flectures/lec1/speech.html>.

On 2 October 2001, President Thabo Mbeki of the Republic of South Africa gave the 2nd U Thant Distinguished Lecture. President Mbeki's lecture, which focused on the "New African Initiative," was held in cooperation with the South African



Prime Minister Mahathir Bin Mohamad

Embassy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

The New African Initiative outlines a strategy to reduce poverty and place Africa on a path of sustainable growth and development. The Initiative, which calls for a new relationship between Africa and the international community, was discussed at the G8 summit in Genoa.



President Thabo Mbeki

In his presentation, President Mbeki outlined his views on how Africa can tackle its enormous economic and social problems and make a contribution to the international community in the twenty-first century. A transcript of President Mbeki's lecture is online at <http://www.unu.edu/africa/mbeki/oct2001.html>. ■

## UNU/INWEH awarded contract to address Mid-East water crisis

Projects to help address the twin problems of water poverty and pollution in the Middle East will be implemented under a major contract signed between a billionaire philanthropist in Dubai and the UNU International Network on Water, Environment and Health (UNU/INWEH). Haji Saeed Bin Ahmed Al-Lootah will provide CDN\$4.4 million to UNU/INWEH over two years to undertake projects to improve regional water management skills, conduct water-related research, and facilitate the development and transfer of helpful water technologies to the arid Middle-East. A UNU/INWEH Project Centre, including offices, administrative staff, communications and access to laboratory facilities are being donated through the World Al-Lootah University in Dubai.

The projects will take place in Dubai, other Emirates of the United Arab Emirates, and possibly elsewhere in the region. The first two projects will address coastal zone management in the UAE and the upgrading and certification of aquatic

environmental laboratories in Dubai. Commitments for additional resources to expand the programme after successful initiation of the first projects have been made.

"The global water crisis seriously hampers efforts to alleviate poverty worldwide and threatens future progress towards sustainable development," said UNU/INWEH Director Dr. Ralph Daley in announcing the contract. "Projects such as those to be undertaken under this agreement will help alleviate water shortages and water-borne diseases, which kill or seriously harm more people on a global basis than any other health problem."

With a small team at its headquarters, UNU/INWEH to date has used a networking approach to initiate and coordinate 23 projects involving 20 countries. Over 1,000 people have received water management training. Some 44 cooperation agreements with partner organizations have been signed or are pending in Canada and 12 other countries. ■

with average productivity for the world. Land varies in productivity, with the most productive land being used for crops and the least productive for grazing animals. Thus, 1.0 area unit is equivalent to 0.3 hectare (ha.) of cropland, 0.6 ha. of forest, 2.7 ha. of grazing land, or 16.3 ha. of coastal sea.

This concept was introduced by researchers in the mid-1990s, and its initially rudimentary character has been refined over the past five years. It is on the basis of this conceptual development that national and global measurements, in particular, have been made that carry implications for future negotiations – and pose the challenge to leadership for the stewardship of the planet.

In 1996, the studies show, the earth's biosphere had 12.6 billion ha. of biologically productive space corresponding to one-quarter of the planet's surface, comprising 9.4 billion ha. of land (49 per cent grazing land, 35 per cent forest, 14 per cent cropland, and 2 per cent built-up land) and 3.2 billion ha. of ocean fishing ground. In 1996, with 5.7 billion humans on the planet, this equated to 2.18 hectares per person. With a worldwide population of 6.3 billion today, this "average earthshare" has shrunk to 2.1 ha. per person over the past five years.

In reality, however, humanity's footprint is larger than this, at 2.85 units per person. The existing "ecological draw-down" on the planet exceeds its biologically-productive space: the area required to produce food and wood, to give room for infrastructure, and to absorb the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions associated with energy use was 30.7 per cent larger than the area available. This excess is known as the "ecological overshoot" – the measure by which the current generation is depleting the planet's natural asset base, drawing on ecological credit from our children's generation – reducing the ability of future generations to meet their own legitimate needs.

What are we to make of this situation? Where is the public outcry over this morally indefensible and potentially disastrous over-consumption of the planet by

humanity's current generation? Where (and who) are the political leaders drawing this global plight to the attention of their followers? Which among us are urging the attainment of "sustainable consumption" to mirror "sustainable development," especially in the North?

Most of us assume that we carry at least the normal quota of moral or ethical virtue – as individuals, and also as a nation. We do not enjoy being told that we are culpable of wrong-doing, especially in matters of morality and ethics. But the statistics make it clear that the culpability sticks. The national analyses of the "ecological footprint" go a long way to indicting many of us who might otherwise instinctively claim some "moral high ground."

The latest study (Living Planet Report 2000) measures 151 nation-states – some three-quarters of the UN Member States, and almost all of humanity (since all the largest countries are included). Noteworthy are the following details:

- 75 countries exceeded the "earthshare," while 76 are below it;
- the 75 countries above "earthshare" account for 21% of humanity;
- the three highest "over-consumers" are the United Arab Emirates (at 16 units) and Singapore and the United States (at 12 each, or more than five times higher than the "earthshare");
- the three "most modest consumers" are Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Eritrea (at about 0.5, 0.5 and 0.2 units, respectively);
- three countries living at "earthshare" are Ecuador, Azerbaijan and Cuba.

Thus, while the majority of humanity is living below "earthshare," a minority is living far above it and is responsible for the global ecological overshoot that constitutes the threat to future generations. Most countries are running a "national ecological deficit" (the relationship between their population density, footprint and natural resources).

Statistics can, of course, lead the mind in any particular direction, and it is important to temper derivative judgements with a political appreciation of the real world. Are Americans prepared to live at the level of Cubans? Undoubtedly not – "the

American lifestyle," said the US president at Rio, "is not subject to negotiation." But, are they happier? Not necessarily. "Liberty" and "happiness" are subjective pursuits and must answer to the inter-generational principle. Put another way, the question is more difficult: Are Americans prepared to over-consume in the knowledge that "life" for their children will be at a lower level? Probably not, if they would just think about it. Certainly, humanity cannot live at the North American level on prevailing technology; it would take many planets to sustain this.

Equally, ideological instincts can get in the way. It is often claimed that, as in the past, technological fixes applied by an ingenious species will overcome any global resource constraints. But, unlike in the past, the planet's natural resource base is now deteriorating rapidly. And the "precautionary principle" embraced at Rio precludes making any such assumptions. Playing global roulette, with future generations as the stake, is a moral iniquity of historic proportion.

### **National vs. planetary interests**

We need to reflect upon what this means for humanity as a whole, and for each nation-state. It is time that the "*planetary interest*" became the principal political concept guiding decision-making on survival issues such as sustainability and environmental integrity. It is time that our "sovereign nations" pursue a "legitimate national interest" that is, in each case, compatible with the greater good of us all.

This can translate into the real world of environmental diplomacy. On true global issues, a new approach for decision-making is required. Instead of negotiations being the consequence of competing claims of all national interests, the global objective needs to be identified first and accepted as binding, with subsequent negotiations determining what national obligations must arise from this. Environmental leadership lies in promoting this approach and ensuring that states duly observe it. This was advocated by former United Nations Environment Programme

chief Mustafa Tolba, in the context of negotiations over climate change. A climate convention, he said, should establish global goals regarding future emissions, and protocols to establish national requirements to ensure their attainment.

If this pure vision had been properly realized, the planetary interest and the “legitimate national interests” of all would have been reconciled long ago. Kyoto would have been realized faster, more harmoniously and more effectively, with no scope for spurious national energy crises.

The relationship between national and the planetary interests has been the focus of explicit pronouncements by international leaders for many decades now:

- In 1966, Barbara Ward urged that “the most rational way of seeing the whole human race today is to see it as the ship’s crew of a single spaceship on which all of us, with a remarkable combination of security and vulnerability, are making our pilgrimage through infinity. Our planet is not much more than the capsule within which we have to live as human beings if we are to survive the vast space voyage upon which we have been engaged for hundreds of millennia without yet noticing our condition. This space voyage is totally precarious. We depend on a little envelope of soil and rather larger envelope of atmosphere for our survival.... We are a ship’s company on a small ship. Rational behaviour is the condition of survival.”
- In 1980, an independent commission on development headed by West German Chancellor Willy Brandt affirmed that its aim was to point out the immense risks threatening humankind, and that “the legitimate self-interest of nations often merges into well-understood common interests.”
- In 1995, a commission headed by former Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson and former Commonwealth Secretary-General Shridath Ramphal declared “the idea that people have common interests irrespective of their national or other identities and that they are coming together in an organized way across borders is of increasing relevance to

global governance.”

The nearest thing to a global conscience, as distinct from a global sovereign, is the voice of the UN Secretary-General. Successive incumbents have consistently referred to a “common” or “higher” interest:

- In 1950, Trygve Lie spoke of the “true interests of the world at large.”
- In 1960, Dag Hammarskjöld believed that the UN Member States would find it “increasingly necessary to maintain (the UN’s) strength as an instrument for the world community ... in efforts to resolve problems ... in a spirit reflecting the common overriding interests.”
- In 1964, U Thant contended that “all governments have an overriding long-term interest in protecting and preserving the framework of peaceful international communications and the simple rules of responsible behaviour on which human society is necessarily based.”
- In 1991, Javier Perez de Cuellar noted “the unique opportunity that is now being presented to the world should be the subject of reasonable discussion and negotiation in the best interests of the world community.... The way we treat the new generation of global problems that now confront humanity may very well determine the quality of life for all peoples living on the planet.”

Over the past decade, the concept of the “planetary interest” itself has begun to be articulated. In 1993, the president of a global parliamentarian group, Senator Silvia Hernandez of Mexico, spoke of such a notion. “The hallmark of our organization,” she said, “is the planetary interest – perceiving the world as a single whole, and responding, politically, with global solutions that reflect an enlightened national interest, not one that is narrowly conceived and competitively pursued.”

A year later, in March 1994, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali contended that “States have always defined their national interests. Today, States must be prepared to accommodate the concept of a common – global or planetary – interest.”

While such leaders, at the level of

the UN or national governments, have pioneered contemporary political thought through such statements, it remains now for today’s leaders to emulate them. That is the tough part. National leaders must carry their national populations with them in responding to a political interest higher than their own traditional national interest. Are they – are we – capable of this?

One of the national leaders most recognized for a “global consciousness,” at least in environmental matters, was former Senator Al Gore, who revealed an acute insight into the requirements of a global ethic. Now that we have developed the capacity to affect the environment on a global scale, asked Gore, “can we also be mature enough to care for the Earth as a whole?” He spoke of a “larger spiritual purpose” that guided his search for a “better understanding of my own life and of what can be done to rescue the global environment.”

Gore had come to believe in a kind of “inner ecology” that relies on principles of balance and holism that characterize a healthy environment. “For civilization as a whole” he concluded, “the faith that is so essential to restore the balance now missing in our relationship to the Earth is the faith that we do have a future. We can believe in that future and work to achieve it and preserve it, or we can whirl blindly on, behaving as if one day there will be no children to inherit our legacy. The choice is ours: Earth is in the balance.”

### **The role of religious world-views**

The ecological footprint promises to form an increasingly central focus of future political thought as surely as the environmental integrity of our planet deteriorates. Already, it is entering mainstream thinking. In July 2001, the UN Secretary-General warned that “our ecological footprints on the Earth are heavier than ever before.” Humanity, said Mr. Annan, must solve a complex equation: we must stabilize our numbers, but equally important, we must stabilize our use of resources and ensure sustainable development.

If we are to lighten our collective footprint on the Earth, we shall

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## EU-UNU Tokyo Global Forum on Governance

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Citizens have a stake in the success of their society, and must have a say in running it. At the beginning of the twenty-first century, the world standard for good governance is democracy, tolerance, and pluralism, ensuring full and fair representation of citizens in governmental decision-making and full protection of human and minority rights. The number of countries committed to democracy has increased considerably over the past 50 years. At the same time, ideas of “good governance” have become important international issues.

On 24–25 January 2002, the UNU and the Delegation of the European Commission in Japan co-hosted the second annual EU-UNU Tokyo



Global Forum. The conference, supported by the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Asahi Shimbun, was entitled “Governance Across Borders: National, Regional and Global.” The conference addressed governance issues in four topic sessions: “Good Global Governance and International Security,” “Norms

of Justice: National, Regional, Global,” “Economic Governance and Sustainable Development” and “Comparing Regional Models of Governance.” The keynote address was delivered by Michel Barnier (photo), European Commissioner for Regional Policy and Inter-governmental Conference. Other speakers included Gareth Evans (President, International Crisis Group), Keizo Takemi (Member, Japanese Diet), Richard Goldstone (Judge, Constitutional Court of South Africa), Sakiko Fukuda-Parr (Director, Human Development Report Office, UNDP), and Emma Bonino (Member, European Parliament). ■

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require new modes of thinking that rest on a new-found compassion for the integrity of the planet and for one another. In all likelihood, this will spring from a re-interpretation of religious faiths and insights. Rather than teaching us who is morally superior to whom, which land was promised to whom, and who enjoys chosen redemptive status for the hereafter, our religious leaders need to inculcate a recasting of human responsibility for planetary stewardship. “The world religions,” observe Professors Mary Tucker and John Grim, “have been instrumental in formulating views of nature and in creating perspectives on the role of the human in nature. It should be clear, then, that the examination of different religious world-views may be critical in the task of analysing the roots of the environmental crisis as well as proposing solutions.”

No single religious or philosophical tradition, they conclude, offers the ideal solution to the environmental crisis. While we have moral teachings about homicide and suicide, there is none for “biocide.” Our religious ethics have remained largely anthropocentric and indifferent to the fate of the natural world. We need, say Tucker and Grim, an enlightened, eclectic approach, drawing from all – from the biocentric

position of native traditions to the anthropocentric positions of Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Baha’i, the ecocentric positions of Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism, as well as the anthropocosmic positions of Taoism and Confucianism. In each one, the needs of the natural order of the planet must have primacy.

It is a similar kind of rethinking of tradition that prompts one of Asia’s foremost theologians, Tissa Balasuriya, to call for a “planetary theology.” “Rejection of the false universalisms of the past,” he counsels, “should not dissuade us from at least trying to evolve the general outlines of a truly universal theology grounded in the basic elements of the human condition and the overall world situation.... By extension, the whole planet Earth, as an entirety, must also be seen as a context for theology.”

To the traditional religions must now be added the concept of Gaia, developed in the past few decades by James Lovelock and Lynn Margulis. The notion that Earth must be seen as a living organism – in the sense of a homeostatic equilibrium that demands respect from humanity and other terrestrial life-forms – has a spiritual dimension on what was initially conceived as a strictly scientific hypothesis. A comparable rethinking

of the human-earth-cosmos relationship can be seen in the organismic philosophy of Alfred North Whitehead, more recently explored by biologist Rupert Sheldrake with his theory of “morphic resonance.”

#### **Seeking a spiritual-political consensus**

But none of the traditional faiths, none of these post-modern insights, will alone unlock the key to humanity’s crisis concerning its style of living and planetary sustainability. Each is a microcosm of a gathering recognition that humanity needs to change, on two levels: the philosophical-spiritual level and the level of political-secular action.

What is needed now is a call by our political leadership, those currently in office, for a spiritual-political consensus that will underpin collective action by humanity for a sustainable future – as the cardinal principle of our time. Only when our religious beliefs and our political world-views are brought into alignment for a coherent and consistent pattern of action at the global level will humanity begin the move towards such a future, with justice and equity for all, and less mutual slaughter for the sake of the divine. ■

## Symposium highlights Millennium Africa Recovery Plan



Each year, in celebration of the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the African Diplomatic Corps in Japan (ADC) and UNU jointly organize an international symposium focusing on pressing issues of human security and development in Africa. The theme of the 2001 Africa Day symposium, held on 22 May at the UNU Centre in Tokyo, was the Millennium Africa Recovery Plan (MAP).

The keynote lecturer at the 2001 Africa Day symposium was His Excellency Chief Olusegun Obasanjo (photo), President of Nigeria, who, along with President Mbeki of South Africa and President Bouteflika of Algeria, has been instrumental in creating this development strategy for the continent.

The intent of the 2001 symposium was to familiarize stakeholders in Japan with the background and substance of the MAP as well as to gain constructive feedback from Africa's partners in development: academia, the business community, civil society and other concerned groups. The symposium emphasized the timeliness of the MAP initiative, building on the consensus of the UN Millennium Assembly and the commitments of the Millennium Declaration to eradicate poverty in Africa.

Presentations and discussion highlighted numerous issues related to the MAP in particular, and to African human security in general. Five key concerns that emerged were:

- putting "the peoples" front and centre in any strategy, with the goal

- of improving the lives of ordinary African men, women and children;
- investment in improving the educational levels and standards in Africa, especially in terms of primary school enrollments and gender equity, and linking education and training programmes more closely to national development needs and local economic conditions and labour markets;
- realizing the opportunities of regional dynamism through regional cooperation and integration, including building regional and continental transport and telecommunications networks;
- strengthening Africa's infrastructure as a means of spurring economic growth and reducing poverty; and
- increasing resource flows, reducing the debt burden, and leveraging trade and investment into accelerated economic growth.

A transcript of President Obasanjo's keynote speech is available online at <http://www.unu.edu/africa/africa-day/obasanjo.html>. A draft of the MAP is available at <http://www.unu.edu/africa/africa-day/map.htm> ■

## UNU hosts international water systems workshop

While there is much discussion about the ways and means of managing international river systems, there has been less awareness of the nature of lakes as international water systems. Even though many of the world's large lake systems are shared by two or more countries, lakes have been discussed mainly in terms of water quality, wetland ecosystems, fauna and flora, and catchment management – and only rarely from an international perspective.

On 14 November 2001, the UNU hosted a workshop on "Lakes and Reservoirs as Important Elements of International Water Systems" at the Otsu Prince Hotel (Otsu, Japan). This workshop was conducted within the framework of the 9th International Conference on the Conservation and Management of Lakes, which was held in Otsu on 12–16 November.

The workshop provided conference participants with an opportunity to discuss how

international lake systems can and should be managed to achieve harmonization of the environment and socio-economic development. A major objective of the workshop was to contribute to development of the World Lake Vision, which is being led by the International Lake Environment Committee (ILEC), based in Shiga, Japan. The World Lake Vision will be a guiding document for the future management of lakes.

As host of the workshop, the UNU sought to make best use of previous experience and knowledge in international water system management by taking responsibility for the international water system part of the World Lake Vision development. The workshop served as an initial step toward UNU participation in the World Lake Vision development.

Speakers at the workshop were leading global experts in the field of

international water system management, including Prof. Chris H.D. Magadza (Lake Kariba Research Institute, Zimbabwe), Prof. Jose Galizia Tundisi (International Institute of Ecology, Brazil), Prof. Genady N. Golubev (Moscow State University, Russia), Dr. Libor Jansky (UNU), Prof. Mikiyasu Nakayama (Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology) and Dr. Juha I. Uitto (Global Environment Facility Secretariat, USA). UNU Vice Rector Prof. Motoyuki Suzuki delivered the workshop's keynote address, and Prof. Yutaka Takahashi (UNU) moderated a panel discussion.

One product of the workshop is *Lakes and Reservoirs as International Water Systems: Towards World Lake Vision* (ISBN 92-808-8003-9), a 110-page compendium of contributions to the November 14 workshop published by the UNU Environment and Sustainable Development Programme. ■

## International conference caps events for UN Year of Dialogue among Civilizations 2001

In November 1998, the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed 2001 as the “United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations” (GA Resolution 53/22, 4 November 1998). The General Assembly expressed its firm determination to facilitate just such a dialogue, with the aim of increasing mutual understanding and tolerance among peoples of different cultural and professional backgrounds through the active exchange of ideas, visions and aspirations.

Drawing upon its unique characteristic as an academic institution rooted in the United Nations system, the UNU, in cooperation with UNESCO, organized a series of workshops, conferences and other events to contribute to the Dialogue among Civilizations, with particular emphasis on a scientific exploration of the dialogue itself. Reflecting the global perspective of the UNU, these conferences and workshops brought together persons from diverse cultural backgrounds for in-depth discussions aimed at developing a better understanding of what is necessary to realize a meaningful dialogue among civilizations.

Events in the series included the International Conference on Global Ethos, five issue-focused UNU workshops, and a UNU Children’s Essay Contest. The series culminated in the four-day International Conference on the Dialogue of Civilizations in late July/early August.

### Global ethos conference

The International Conference on Global Ethos was held on 24–26 October 2000. As well as representing part of the UNU’s contribution to the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations: 2001, this initiative also formed a major input into the UNU Institute of Advanced Studies project exploring Global Ethos as it relates to sustainable development issues. The conference brought together academics, practitioners and thinkers from around the world to contribute to a global dialogue focusing on various current issues and dilemmas that challenge



Kyoto session of the International Conference on the Dialogue of Civilizations held at the Kyoto International Conference Hall

our traditional frameworks of values and ethics.

Conference attendees participated in four interrelated, issue-based thematic discussions: global capitalism and sustainable development; science, knowledge and ethics; international society, justice and equity; and religion, gender and culture. Several specific practical issues provided focus for the thematic discussions, with the discussions then drawn together and considered within the broader context of global ethos.

For more information about this event, see “UNU conference considers issues of global ethos” in the August 2001 edition of UNUNexions.

An International Youth Symposium on Global Ethics and Values was held on the day following the international conference, providing an opportunity for open discussion focusing on the same issues discussed within the conference.

### Children’s essay contest

As a means of encouraging children and the general public to think about how we each can contribute to the enhancement of the dialogue among civilizations, UNU organized an essay contest for elementary school and junior high school students in spring 2001. Nearly 900 children from Japan and abroad participated in the Japanese-language contest, which was supported by the Asahi Shimbun and the Ministry of Education, Culture,

Sports, Science and Technology.

The ten award-winning essays were posted (in Japanese and in English translation) on the UNU website. For more about this contest, see “UNU children’s essay contest winners receive awards” in the August 2001 edition of UNUNexions.

### UNU workshops

Four workshops in Japan and one in Jordan were held in 2001 to facilitate in-depth discussions on cross-cutting issues as part of preparations for the International Conference on the Dialogue of Civilizations. These were:

- UNU Workshop on “The Contribution of Science to the Dialogue of Civilizations” (19–20 March 2001)
- UNU Workshop on “The Contribution of Media and Communication to the Dialogue of Civilizations” (26–27 April 2001)
- UNU Workshop on “The Role of Education in the Dialogue of Civilizations” (3–5 May 2001)
- UNU Workshop on “The Role of Ethics in the Dialogue of Civilizations” (24–25 May 2001)
- UNU/LA Workshop on “The Role of Leadership in the Dialogue of Civilizations” (17–18 June 2001; Amman, Jordan)

Between twelve and fifteen experts participated in each of the workshops, which addressed topics at the centre of the International Conference on the Dialogue of Civilizations from the perspective of



their individual themes. Workshop summaries are available online at <http://www.unu.edu/dialogue/workshops.htm>.

### **International Conference on the Dialogue of Civilizations**

From 31 July through 3 August 2001, the UNU and UNESCO organized the International Conference on the Dialogue of Civilizations. This conference focused on in-depth analyses of the prerequisites and characteristics of meaningful dialogue across cultural, religious, language, political and other divides of modern-day societies. It was held at the UN House in Tokyo on 31 July and 1 August, and continued at the Kyoto International Conference Hall on 2 and 3 August. The conference was supported by Asahi Shimbun; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan; Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan; and the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO.

Reflecting the UNU's global perspective, the conference brought together academics, policy makers and other professionals from diverse backgrounds for in-depth discussions aimed at exploring such questions as: What is necessary to realize a meaningful dialogue among civilizations? What can we learn from past dialogues? What effect could increased dialogue have on the substance and process of international relations? Is there such thing as a "global ethos" – a common overarching human value system that transcends cultural and civilizational differences?

More than 1,000 persons attended the conference, which featured over 40 speakers from 23 countries. Keynote speakers for the conference were Dr. Ataollah Mohajerani, Director of the International Center for the Dialogue among Civilizations in Tehran, Iran; Mrs. Vigdis Finnbogadottir, former President of the Republic of Iceland and Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders; and Dr. Hayao Kawai,

Professor Emeritus of Kyoto University. A special session on "Political Dimensions of the Dialogue of Civilizations" was chaired by UNESCO Director-General Koichiro Matsuura.

Video highlights of the conference, transcripts of the presentations and a report of its outcome are available online at <http://www.unu.edu/dialogue/dialogue.html>.

### **Framework for Action**

The observations made, analysis undertaken and recommendations given during the International Conference on the Dialogue of Civilizations, along with the results of the five workshops organized within the framework of the UNU Project on the Dialogue of Civilizations, were



At the first day session in Tokyo, from left: HE Mr. Aladji Amadou Thiam, Ambassador of the Republic of Senegal to Japan; Prof. Hayao Kawai; Mrs. Vigdis Finnbogadottir; and Dr. Ataollah Mohajerani

translated into a "Framework for Action." This document was submitted to the Delegations to the United Nations in time for the General Assembly deliberations on the Dialogue among Civilizations.

The Framework for Action is divided into four sections. The first section outlines the basic qualities that characterize a meaningful dialogue of civilizations, based on the assumption, and reaffirming the conviction, that dialogue of civilizations can and should be developed into a new paradigm for international relations. The following three sections address what different actors on different levels of governance – local, national and international (including regional) – can do to foster those qualities. The draft text of the Framework for Action is available online at <http://www.unu.edu/dialogue/conf-report.pdf>. ■

## **UNU, NIES host arsenic pollution workshop**

**A**rsenic pollution of drinking water extracted from groundwater aquifers is a problem of tremendous dimensions throughout Asia, as well as for several Latin American countries. The effects of drinking arsenic-contaminated water include skin lesions and cancers, gangrene, and cancers of the bladder, kidney and lungs.

The number of people potentially impacted by this health crisis is far greater than that for any other individual problem facing humanity today. The arsenic pollution crisis is most severe in Bangladesh, where it is estimated that more than 35 million people are consuming arsenic-polluted water. Tens of thousands of patients suffering from arsenic-related diseases have already been reported in Bangladesh, India (particularly West Bengal) and China, while significant populations in Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam are at risk.

The problem is a complex one, involving both technological and policy challenges, whose solution requires a comprehensive strategic response. As a forward step in understanding the problem, on 18 February 2002, the UNU joined with the Japan National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) to hold an international workshop on "Arsenic Contamination in Groundwater – Technical and Policy Dimensions."

At this workshop, experts from Bangladesh, China and India presented the most recent updates on the arsenic crisis. Experts and researchers from a number of related institutions, including the World Health Organization, Hokkaido University and University of Tokyo, also presented findings of their latest research on the subject. A panel discussion at the workshop focused on specific recommendations for the research and international communities.

Further information is available on the workshop website at [http://www.unu.edu/env/water/arsenic/Workshop\\_Tokyo.html](http://www.unu.edu/env/water/arsenic/Workshop_Tokyo.html). ■

## Environmental symposium stresses importance of local initiatives

On Friday, 18 January 2002, the UNU hosted an international symposium on “Diversity and Homogeneity: Fostering Innovativeness for Local Environmental Management.” The key issue addressed by this symposium was the development of innovative capacities at the local level – mobilizing local resources and local solutions to solve local problems that, in turn, will have beneficial global impacts.

An offshoot of the recent trend toward globalization has been a sub-process that places greater emphasis and focus on the local dimension, since the unifying and all-encompassing pressures of globalization raise a need to retain and preserve local nuances and features. Symposium participants discussed case studies and good practices in local environment management that have clearly outlined the need for coherent and concerted action by different stakeholders at different levels of governance. They also

considered the complexity of issues and the actions required, noting that environmental management cannot be easily compartmentalized into a “one-problem, one-solution” strategy; there are always “problems behind problems” that require “solutions for solutions.”

Capacitating local stakeholders, including local governments, NGOs/NPOs and community groups, has become a priority. The urgency of translating global rhetoric into local action, and building the capacity to facilitate that action, was reflected in the symposium’s subtitle of “Fostering Innovativeness for Local Environmental Management.”

The Diversity and Homogeneity international symposium, which was cosponsored by the UNU, United Nations Environment Programme, Science Council of Japan and Japan Human Dimension Programme, was held in the Elizabeth Rose Conference Hall of the UN House in Tokyo. Keynote speakers were Mr. Sumitani of the Japan Ministry of Environment,

who explained the “Basic Concept of Environmental Policies in Japan,” and Akito Arima, former Minister of Education (Japan), who discussed “Upgrading and Promotion of Environmental Education for Environmentally Sound Nation-Building.” Steve Halls, Director of UNEP/International Environmental Technology Centre, discussed “International Trends of Environmental Management: Lessons for Japan,” and a two-hour round table explored the theme of “Multi-stakeholder Partnerships: Different Roles, Same Goals.”

The “Diversity and Homogeneity” symposium built on, and complemented, previous symposiums in the series. These included “Promoting Decision-making Processes for Environmental Management” (1999), “Promoting Public Choice Processes for Environmental Management” (2000) and “Localization of the Environment: Role of Civil Society in the 21st Century” (2001). ■

## Kids EMS Programme holds first accreditation ceremony at UNU

At an international accreditation ceremony held at the UN House on 26 January 2002, 75 children received a certificate for completing the primary level of the Kids EMS (Environmental Management System) Programme. The certificates were presented by UNU Rector Hans van Ginkel.

The Kids EMS Programme is an initiative of ArTech (International Art & Technology Cooperation Organization), an NGO based in Tokyo. It is modelled after ISO 14000s, the international standard for environmental management.

The aims of the programme are to foster environmental awareness and train children in proper environmental management. It also seeks to create an international network through which children can work together to help preserve the environment.

The Kids EMS Programme recognizes children who complete introductory level (2 weeks’) work or primary level (2 months’) work on

environmental management of the home in cooperation with family members. Typical activities are saving energy (reducing household consumption of gas and electricity), eliminating unnecessary water usage, and reducing quantities of household trash. Participants who show good accomplishment receive an award certificate.

The Kids EMS Programme started in Japan summer 2000; in 2001, more than 12,000 Japanese children participated in the programme. Initial results have shown that, through the programme, participants were able to reduce the carbon dioxide emissions inherent in home energy consumption by more than 10 per cent, thereby contributing to a cleaner atmosphere.



Recipients of the EMS certificate at the accreditation ceremony on 26 January

The UNU is supporting the ArTech’s Kids EMS Programme. Other supporters include the Energy Conservation Center of the Japan Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and corporations such as Sony, TEPCO and Fuji-Xerox.

More information about ArTech is available online in English and Japanese at <http://www.artech.or.jp/>. ■

## Prof. Van Langenhove named director of new UNU/CRIS programme

Effective 1 October 2001, UNU Rector Hans van Ginkel appointed Prof. Luk Van Langenhove as Director of the UNU Programme on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU/CRIS), the newest addition to the UNU's international network of research and training centres and programmes.

Director Van Langenhove previously served as Deputy Secretary-General of the Belgian Federal Services for Scientific, Technical and Cultural Affairs (from May 1995 through September 2001). For three years prior to that, he was Deputy Chief of Cabinet of the Belgian Federal Minister of Science Policy.

Prof. Van Langenhove teaches at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). He currently chairs a High Level Expert Group of the European Commission on Science and Technology Foresight, and is a member of the EC Expert Group on Benchmarking National RTD (Research and Technological Demonstration) Policies.

UNU/CRIS, based in Bruges, Belgium, was established in cooperation with the College of Europe and the Government of Flanders. The goal of the programme is to build policy-relevant knowledge about new forms of governance and cooperation, and to contribute to capacity building on issues of regional integration and cooperation through multidisciplinary research and training. UNU/CRIS aims to contribute to a better understanding of the processes of intra- and inter-regional integration and their consequences for the functioning of societies.

While part of the programme's activities entails research into "traditional" micro-regions and their relations with macro-regions, the primary focus is on comparative studies of regionalization, particularly in Africa and other developing countries. From its base in Bruges, UNU/CRIS is able to draw upon the rich experience of both the European Union and the regions within European countries.

For more information about



UNU/CRIS Director Luk Van Langenhove

UNU/CRIS, see its homepage at <http://www.cris.unu.edu/>.

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Following are excerpts from an interview with UNU/CRIS Director Van Langenhove that was recently published in *UNU Update*. The full interview can be found online at [http://update.unu.edu/issue14\\_7.htm](http://update.unu.edu/issue14_7.htm).

**UNU Update:** Regional Integration Studies ... will be unfamiliar to many people. Can you give us a briefing?

**Prof. Van Langenhove:** Regional Integration Studies is an interdisciplinary area of studies focusing on the processes and impacts of regions voluntarily working together in more or less geographical groupings. Classical examples of such macro-regional integration schemes between States are the European Union, Mercosur or ASEAN. But regions also occur within countries or even across borders of neighbouring countries, and the development of such micro-regions can be related to the development of macro-regions.... If we want to understand governance at an international or global level, we simply cannot ignore regions.

**UNU Update:** How and why does regional integration occur?

**Prof. Van Langenhove:** Regional integration occurs whenever there is a will of sovereign states to work together. And undoubtedly, regional

integration schemes have multiplied in the past few years. For instance, almost half of the regional trade arrangements in effect have been established since 1990. But it is also true that many integration attempts have failed. This is especially the case in Africa.

The most often quoted reason for regional integration is the creation of bigger markets that should boost trade and thus prosperity in the region.... But integration can also be triggered by political reasons, such as the management of border and ethnic conflicts: when countries work together in a regional way, there seems to be less drive and room for inter-state conflicts.

Next to economic and security reasons, states and their citizens can have many other specific reasons for regional collaboration: for instance, co-investing in costly infrastructure or in programmes for poverty reduction. Furthermore, regional collaborations in combating global problems such as global warming, diseases, etc., can also be effective, as most of those problems cannot be stopped at national frontiers.

**UNU Update:** What are UNU/CRIS's most important events and undertakings in its first full year of operation?

**Prof. Van Langenhove:** In research, nothing can be more important than human resources, so now our top priority is to attract top researchers. Meanwhile, there are already some events scheduled: there will be an academic opening event in May with the Flemish Minister of Education and UNU Rector van Ginkel in attendance, and we are currently planning several workshops on topics such as regional trade arrangements and the development of indicators to monitor regional integration.

We also have started to build a database on regional integration worldwide, and there is a project running on the building of an Internet-based educational module on integration. Such projects are laying the foundations for our future research and capacity building activities. ■

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## UNU/WIDER lecturer awarded Nobel Prize

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On 10 October 2001, Professor Joseph E. Stiglitz (photo) from Columbia University and two other American economists, George A. Akerlof from the University of California at Berkeley and A. Michael Spence from Stanford University, received the Nobel Prize in economic sciences. The three were honoured for their work on the “analyses of markets with asymmetric information,” which demonstrated how the control of information influences everything from used-car sales to the boom in high-tech stocks during the late 1990s.

The laureates laid the foundation in the 1970s for a general theory on how players with differing amounts of information affect a wide range of markets. Their research in “asymmetric information” gives economists a way to measure, for example, the risks faced by a lender who lacks information about a borrower’s creditworthiness, and shows how those with inside knowledge of a company’s financial

prospects gain an edge over other investors who don’t fully understand the corporate finances. The theory also helps economists to better understand and explain the recent bursting of the bubble in high-technology stocks.

In announcing the award, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said that the contributions of Stiglitz, Akerlof and Spence “form the core of modern information economics.”

Professor Stiglitz delivered 1998 UNU/WIDER Annual Lecture on “More instruments and broader goals: Moving toward the post-Washington consensus.” In it, he discussed the new thinking in development economics that goes beyond the Washington consensus about macroeconomic fundamentals and examined how the government can act as a complement to markets. A transcript of his lecture is available online at <http://www.wider.unu.edu/events/anneel1998.pdf>.



Professor Stiglitz is the sixth Nobel Prize winner who has contributed to the work of WIDER, joining Professors Amartya Sen, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in economic sciences in 1998, John C. Harsanyi (1994), Robert William Fogel and Douglass C. North (1993) and Robert Solow (1987). ■

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## Conference considers issues of international justice

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On 26–28 November 2001, the UNU and Netherlands Institute of Human Rights, Utrecht University, organized a conference on international justice in Utrecht, The Netherlands. Titled “From a Culture of Impunity to a Culture of Accountability,” this conference focused on issues involving international criminal tribunals, the International Criminal Court, and human rights protection.

Conference participants explored the changing political and human rights context that gave rise to the establishment of the tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, and adoption of the Rome Statute. They examined the political, legal and institutional experiences of these tribunals and the Rome Statute from an interdisciplinary perspective. Particular emphasis was given to the actual and potential role of international humanitarian law in building peace, conflict settlement and reconciliation, and promoting international norms of justice and

accountability.

The key question considered at the conference was: “Does the establishment of the tribunals and the International Criminal Court represent a turning-point in the history of international human rights protection?” Or, in other words, do they “give rise to the emergence of a new political and legal culture in which immunity and impunity are being significantly challenged by individual responsibility and accountability?”

Conference objectives included capacity development (disseminating experience of international criminal law to advanced legal students, legal practitioners, and public servants), raising awareness and understanding in support of international criminal law as an integral element of international peace and security, and strengthening broad-based support of international cooperation in the area of criminal law and the International Criminal Court.

The conference’s keynote speech on “Justice and Accountability: Local or International?” was presented by

President Martti Ahtisaari, former President of Finland (1994–2000) and founder of an NGO called the Crisis Management Initiative. President Ahtisaari was winner of the 2000 J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding.

The conference’s six sessions focused on:

- the establishment of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and International Criminal Court (ICC);
- the legal basis and jurisdiction of the international war tribunals and the ICC;
- the position of the victim;
- the rights of the defendant;
- national sovereignty versus international jurisdiction; and
- alternatives and conclusions.

The conference was supported by the K.F. Hein Fonds Foundation, Netherlands Royal Academy of Science, and the Province of Utrecht. ■

## Seminar considers preservation of historic Asian cities

On 21 February 2002, the UNU hosted a regional seminar on East-Asian historic cities. The theme of the seminar was "Recreation of Historic Landscape and Revitalization of Traditional Cities."

The accelerating process of economic globalization has engendered growing concern about the preservation of unique "local" socio-cultural identities. One important aspect of preserving local individuality and character is ensuring the conservation and regeneration of historic cities. Cities worldwide are struggling to preserve their indigenous socio-economic structures, unique cultural assets, and natural environments. The problem is especially acute in East Asia, where rapid and large-scale industrialization and urbanization are threatening many valuable world cultural heritage sites and traditional buildings.

The conservation of historic buildings and districts typically has been administered by public agencies in both developed and developing countries, with varying degrees of success. But while city-level urban landscape conservation policies are now being positively implemented in the United States, Canada and West European countries, socio-economic mechanisms for coping with this issue have not yet been established in East

Asian countries.

The critical issue of how to organize appropriate mechanisms for conserving and regenerating East Asia's precious cultural heritage properties was the focus of the seminar. In East Asian countries, urban planning initiated by the local residents is still underdeveloped. Therefore, plan-making by the participatory approach among local communities, governments, enterprises and NPOs was the key subject.

The seminar was co-organized by the UNU Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU/IAS), Architectural Institute of Japan (AIJ) and Ishikawa International Cooperation Research Centre (IICRC). Presentations by representatives of the participating countries were followed by several lectures and a panel discussion.

Experts from East Asian countries discussed what kinds of measures and techniques can effectively promote revitalization of historic districts in the old inner city areas, recreation of not only two-dimensional level but also three-dimensional historic landscapes and role of traditional culture in relation to sustainable development. Through these discussions, direction of future activities in this field was substantially identified. ■

## 5th nutrition graduate course completed

The fifth International Graduate Course on "Production and Use of Food Composition Data in Nutrition" was conducted from 1 through 19 October 2001 at the Graduate School VLAG (Advanced Studies in Nutrition, Food Technology, Agrobiotechnology and Health Sciences) in Wageningen, the Netherlands. This course is co-organized by the UNU, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Union of Nutritional Sciences.

The aim of the course, intended for those involved in nutritional database programmes as analysts, compilers or users as well as those teaching nutrition and nutritional aspects of food chemistry, is to show how those involved in the production of analytical data for nutrients in foods, and the compilation of this data into food composition tables and nutritional databases, can contribute to the quality and usefulness of these compilation. The course focuses on how this understanding can be achieved, and the benefits that flow from the collaboration of users, analysts and compilers. It also reviews ways in which nutritional databases are used and analytical methods to give nutritionally relevant values. ■

## UNU moves ahead with wetlands research initiative

UNU is making progress with its plan to establish a new research facility in the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso for the study of integrated land management of fragile wetland ecosystems. Initially, the new institute will focus on the Pantanal, a vast (160,000 km<sup>2</sup>) wetland region located on the basin of the upper reaches of the Paraguay River, shared by Bolivia, Paraguay and Brazil. Recently included on UNESCO's World Heritage list, the Pantanal is the world's greatest undivided flood plain. In the rainy season, almost the entire area is flooded.

In early 2001, UNU Rector Hans van Ginkel signed a memorandum of understanding with the Governor of Mato Grosso, Dante Oliveira, and the

Rector of the Federal University of Mato Grosso (UFMT), Prof. Paulo Speller, to jointly undertake a feasibility study on the need for a research training centre or programme on the Pantanal. The study team recently reported to the UNU Council that the Pantanal is a priority in the development programmes of the Brazilian government and such international organizations as the World Bank, UN Development Programme (UNDP) and Inter-American Development Bank.

The UNU Council has endorsed establishment of a Research and Training Programme (RTP) whose work could involve state and federal governments, local and regional universities, and other independent

research organizations with expertise in the area. In preparation for the opening of the new RTP, officials of UFMT have obtained an area on a protected nature reserve for long-term ecological studies and secured start-up funds from the Mato Grosso government. Work has begun on formulating a project for integrated studies of ecological and social processes to support conservation.

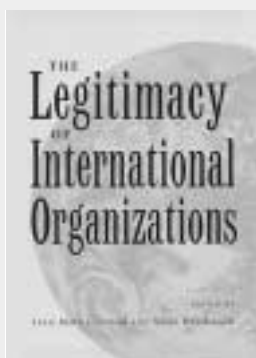
During an upcoming visit to Brazil, UNU Institute of Advanced Studies Director A.H. Zakri will discuss the Pantanal initiative with federal government officials, including the Minister of Science and Technology and the Minister of Education. ■

## New from UNU Press

### *The Legitimacy of International Organizations*

Edited by Jean-Marc Coicaud and Veijo Heiskanen

The end of the cold war and advancement of “globalization” have radically modified the operational environment of international organizations. While some international organizations have been able to retain or even reinforce their roles, and new organizations have been created, many other organizations with a “progressive” rather than market-oriented or technical agenda seem out of vogue. This book takes a fresh look at the philosophy of international organization by presenting the results of an interdisciplinary UNU research project.



ISBN 92-808-1053-7; US\$39.95

### *Power in Transition: The Peaceful Change of International Order*

By Charles A. Kupchan, Emanuel Adler, Jean-Marc Coicaud and Yuen Foong Khong



How long will America be able to sustain its current global preponderance? *Power in Transition* addresses the question of how to prepare for the waning of American hegemony, and the geopolitical consequences of diffusion of the concentration of power. The authors identify past cases of peaceful transition, seek to identify and understand the important variables, and draw

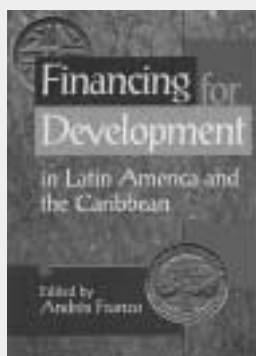
lessons about whether the transition to multipolarity can occur peacefully.

ISBN 92-808-1059-6; US\$26.95

### *Financing for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*

Edited by Andres Franco

Discussions about financing for development began in the 1980s, in the context of the North-South dialogue. It was not until 1997, however, when a financial crisis hit many developing countries, that a decision was made to convene an international conference on the issue. This book addresses the question of “What is the role, and what are the sensitivities and perspectives, of Latin America and the Caribbean in regard to financing for development?”

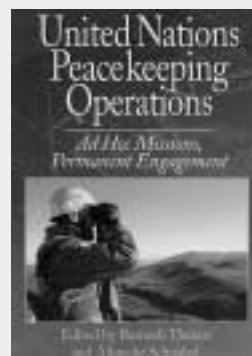


ISBN 92-808-1062-6; US\$21.95

### *United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: Ad Hoc Missions, Permanent Engagements*

Edited by Ramesh Thakur and Albrecht Schnabel

Peacekeeping has always been one of the most visible symbols of the UN in international peace and security. Disappointment with the performance of peacekeeping operations became symbolic of the UN’s failure to emerge from the ashes of the cold war as a rejuvenated key player in international (and, increasingly, internal) peace and security. This book explores the evolution of peacekeeping, reflecting some of the thinking, experiences, frustrations and hopes of the past decade, and examines the differences among academics, international civil servants and military leaders.



ISBN 92-808-1067-7; US\$29.95

### *Democracy in Latin America: (Re)Constructing Political Society*

Edited by Manuel Antonio Garretón M. and Edward Newman



This book examines democratic transition and consolidation in post-authoritarian and post-civil war Latin America. Its central premise is that the fundamental prerequisite of democracy is the existence of a “political society” – something that has been weak or under threat. It covers a range of issues, including human rights abuses, the integration of societies into global market

economies, the role of civil society, the perennial “indigenous issue,” and the manner in which external actors have conditioned or facilitated democracy.

ISBN 92-808-1068-5; US\$31.95

The UNU Press has more than 200 titles in print, covering a wide range of subjects including vital issues in the fields of the environment and sustainable resource development, peace and governance, economic and social development, and regional studies. Inquiries about books or requests for the current UNU Press Publications Catalogue should be addressed to the Marketing and Sales Unit (fax: +81-3-3406-7345; e-mail sales@hq.unu.edu).

See <http://www.unu.edu/unupress/> for catalogues of new and backlist books and related information.

## Recent UNU activities

### 2001

**3-4 September**, Tokyo: World Summit for Sustainable Development: Eminent Persons Meeting on Inter-linkages (UNU/GEIC)

**3-7 September**, Hayama, Japan: UNU Global Seminar – Shonan Session on “Issues and Prospects of the Global Environment”

**5 September**, Maastricht: INTECH Research Seminar Series – “Industrial Structure, Technology Intensity and Growth”

**10-14 September**, Beijing: Fourth International Workshop on “Soil Conservation Methodologies and Integrated Land Management”

**20-22 September**, Conakry, Guinea: PLEC National Meeting on “Agrobiodiversity and Rural Development Sustainability”

**25-28 September**, Otsuchi, Japan: Third UNU-ORI Joint International Workshop on “Marine Environment and Coastal Ecology – Nutrient Cycles and Marine Pollution”

**30 September-4 October**, Interlaken, Switzerland: UNU Mountain Photograph Exhibit: “Mountain Prospects – Images for the International Year of Mountains 2002”

**1 October**, Tokyo: “Building a Green Economy – Natural Capitalism and the Rebirth of Economics”

**1 October**, Maastricht: Amilcar Herrera Annual Public Lectures 2001 – “Technological Revolutions and Opportunities for Development as a Moving Target” (UNU/INTECH)

**2 October**, Tokyo: Second U Thant Distinguished Lecture on the “New African Initiative” by President Thabo Mbeki of the Republic of South Africa

**2 October**, Tokyo: Lecture on Worldwide HIV/AIDS Epidemic by Dr. Peter Piot, Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

**2-5 October**, Kobe: UNU Global Seminar – Kobe Session on “Building a New Asia and International Order”

**9-12 October**, Accra, Ghana: Sixth PLEC West Africa Cluster Regional Workshop

**10-12 October**, Singapore: International Conference on the project on “Non-Traditional Security Issues – East Asia and Southeast Asia”

**11-12 October**, Macau: UNU-RIVM International Workshop on “Framework for Globally-Integrated Modelling of Earth Systems”

**15 October-9 November**, Chennai, India: Training School on the Theoretical Aspects of Computer Science (UNU/IIST)

**16-24 October**, Accra, Ghana: Leadership for African Women Entrepreneurs: First

UNU/LA-UNU/INRA Leadership Course (UNU/LA)

**19 October**, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania: PLEC Technical and Policy Recommendations Workshop

**19-20 October**, Rome: Second Workshop of the Project on “European Financial Markets and Corporate Performance” (UNU/INTECH)

**21-26 October**, Otsuchi, Japan: Third UNU-ORI Joint International Workshop on “Marine Environment and Coastal Ecology – Nutrient Cycles and Marine Pollution”

**22-24 October**, Tokyo: 2001 Annual Conference of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres

**23 October**, Tokyo: UN Day 2001 Conference – “Reforming UN Peace Operations: New Challenges for Peacekeeping Training”

**25 October**, Maastricht: INTECH Research Seminar Series 2001-6 – “Social Capital and Economic Development: Local and Regional Clusters in Canada”

**25-26 October**, Tokyo: Zero Emissions Symposium 2001 – “Zero Emissions Economy and Utilization of Biological Resources”

**5-6 November**, Maastricht: UNU/INTECH Workshop on “Market-friendly Innovation Policies in Developing Countries”

**8-10 November**, Montreal: International Symposium on “Managing Biodiversity in Agricultural Ecosystems” (UNU, IPGRI and CBD)

**10 November**, Otaru, Japan: “International Forum in Otaru” (UNU, Otaru City & Otaru University of Commerce)

**14 November**, Shiga, Japan: UNU Workshop on “Lakes and Reservoirs as Important Elements of International Water System”

**19-22 November**, Kanazawa, Japan: UNU Global Seminar – Kanazawa Session on “Global Issues and the United Nations”

**21-23 November**, Hamburg: Author Workshop on UNU Project on “Civil-Military Relations and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding”

**22 November**, Tokyo: Public Lecture on “The Earth Charter: Voice of the Age to Come” by Dr. Kamla Chowdry

**26-28 November**, Utrecht: Conference on “International Humanitarian Law and Criminal Justice”

**26-28 November**, Arusha, Tanzania: PLEC Regional meeting for East Africa Cluster

**1 December**, Tokyo: 22nd Conference of Directors of UNU Research and Training

Centres and Programmes

**3 December**, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea: PLEC Conference on “Developing Policy Recommendations for Biodiversity Conservation in Papua New Guinea”

**3-7 December**, Tokyo: 48th Session of the UNU Council

**3-15 December**, Recife, Brazil: Training School on Software Engineering (UNU/IIST)

**4-7 December**, Macau: Eighth Asia-Pacific Software Engineering Conference (UNU/IIST)

**4-7 December**, Belem, Brazil: First PLEC National Forum on “Agrobiodiversity and Agrobiodiversity of Varzea”

**6 December**, Tokyo: Second Annual Michio Nagai Memorial Lecture – “Evolution of Higher Education and the Role of UNU in Japan on the Global Scene” by Dr. Yasuo Miyakawa

**12 December**, Tokyo: 2001 Fridtjof Nansen Memorial Lecture: “State Security – Human Security” by Mrs. Sadako Ogata, former UN High Commissioner for Refugees

**18 December**, Kampala, Uganda: PLEC “National Decision Makers’ Workshop on Policy and Technical Recommendations for Agrobiodiversity Conservation”

**20-23 December**, Naha/Sashiki-cho (Okinawa): UNU Global Seminar – Okinawa Session on “Cultures in Globalization: Towards World Peace”

### 2002

**17-21 January**, Yunnan, China: Annual Meeting of PLEC-China & National Workshop on “Agrobiodiversity Conservation in Southwest China”

**18 January**, Tokyo: International Symposium on “Diversity and Homogeneity: Fostering Innovativeness in Local Environmental Management” (UNU, UNEP, JHDP & SCJ)

**24-25 January**, Tokyo: EU-UNU Tokyo Global Forum on “Governance Across Borders: National, Regional and Global”

**25 January-26 April**, Tokyo: UNU Mountain Photograph Exhibit: “Mountain Prospects – Images for the International Year of Mountains 2002”

**31 January**, Tokyo: UNU Public Forum on “Mountains: Environment and Human Activities”

**1 February**, Tokyo: UNU International Symposium on “Conservation of Mountain Ecosystems”

**4-18 February**, Tamil Nadu, India: UNU-UNESCO International Training Course on

(Continued on page 16)

## Recent UNU activities *(Continued from page 15)*

“Coastal Biodiversity in Mangrove Ecosystems”

**7 February**, Maastricht: Seminar on “Growth Theories Revisited: Permanent Questions with Changing Answers” (UNU/INTECH)

**15 February**, New York: International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS) Report Seminar (UNHQ)

**15–16 February**, New York: First conference of UNU project on “Ethics in Action: The Successes, Compromises, and Setbacks of Transnational Human Rights and Humanitarian NGOs”

**18 February**, Tokyo: UNU-NIES International Workshop on “Arsenic Contamination in Groundwater – Technical and Policy Dimensions”

**18–21 February**, Wilton Park, UK: Wilton Park Conference on Japan and East Asia (findings of UNU research project on “Non-Traditional Security in East Asia”)

**20 February**, Maastricht: Seminar on

“Globalization of Technology and Developing Countries” (UNU/INTECH)

**21 February**, Tokyo: Regional Seminar on “East Asian Historic Cities: Recreation of Historic Landscape and Revitalization of Traditional Cities” (UNU/IAS, AIJ and IICRC)

**21–22 February**, Tokyo: First workshop of UNU project on “Culture of Solidarity and Geo-Strategic Culture”

**25–28 February**, Ibadan, Nigeria: Workshop of the UNU-INCORE project on “Researching Ethnic Conflict in Africa”

**25 February–1 March**, Kuala Lumpur: First Regional Training Workshop for South and Southeast Asian Region: “Climate Affairs Capacity Building Programme” (UNU, NCAR and University of Malaya)

**27 February**, Tokyo: Signing Ceremony Inaugurating the JSPS-UNU Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme

**6 March**, Maastricht: Seminar on “Financial Markets and Innovation Performance” (UNU/INTECH)

**8 March**, Tokyo: First Joint UN House Public Forum on International Women’s Day 2002, “Women Today: Realities and Opportunities – Women in Afghanistan”

**11–15 March**, Geneva: UN Department for Disarmament Affairs (DDA) Meeting on “Disarmament and Education”

**15 March**, New York: Dissemination meeting of the project on “Non-Traditional Security in East Asia” (UNHQ)

**18 March**, New York: UNU-UNHQ Expert Forum on “Conflict Prevention: The Secretary-General’s Report and the Way Forward”

**18–22 March**, Monterrey, Mexico: Dissemination meeting and book launch of UNU-University of Warwick project on “Civil Society and Global Finance”

**27–28 March**, Washington, DC: Review meeting of the UNU project on “Refugees and Human Displacement in Contemporary International Relations” ■

## Forthcoming UNU activities

For the latest information on UNU events, kindly visit our website at [http://www.unu.edu/hq/rector\\_office/events.htm](http://www.unu.edu/hq/rector_office/events.htm).

**2–4 April**, Beijing: UN Department for Disarmament Affairs (DDA) Conference on “A Disarmament Agenda for the 21st Century”

**12–14 April**, Bruges, Belgium: First workshop of the UNU project on “Regional Cooperation and Conflict Prevention in the Southern Caucasus” (UNU/CRIS)

**15–16 April**, Geneva: 23rd Conference of Directors of UNU Research and Training Centres and Programmes

**15–16 April**, Hanoi: UNU International Symposium on “Tracing Pollutants from Agrochemical Use: Focus on Endocrine Disruptor Pollution” (with Viet Nam National University)

**23–27 April**, New York: Fourth General Meeting of PLEC

**24 April**, Maastricht: Seminar on “Innovation Systems and Development Strategy” (UNU/INTECH)

**25–26 April**, Tokyo: First Workshop of the UNU project on “The Contestation of Globalization: In Search of New Modes of Governance”

**10–11 May**, Helsinki: UNU/WIDER Conference on “The New Economy in Development”

**13–15 May**, Tokyo: 10th International Philosophy Olympiad

**15 May**, Maastricht: Fourth UNU/INTECH-CERES WP3/EADI Conference on

“Innovation, Learning and Technological Dynamism of Developing Countries”

**17–19 May**, Ontario, Canada: First workshop of the UNU project on “The Ideas Institutional Nexus”

**23–24 May**, Tokyo: First workshop of the UNU project on “Women and Children in Post-Conflict Peacebuilding”

**27–28 May**, Tokyo: International Conference on “The United Nations and South Asia”

**May (date unconfirmed)**, New York: Workshop of the UNU project on “The UN’s Role in Democratization”

**6–8 June**, Geneva: Meeting of the Bureau of the UNU Council

UNU *Nexions* presents a “snapshot” of the UNU activities. It is published by the UNU Public Affairs Section in Tokyo.

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**10–12 June**, Geneva: Geneva Research and Policy Dialogue

**17–18 June**, Helsinki: 18th Session of the Board of UNU/WIDER

**21–22 June**, Tokyo: Second workshop of the UNU project “The Conflicting Sources of International Legitimacy”

**27–29 June**, London: Cornell/LSE/WIDER Conference on “Spatial Inequality and Development”

**June (date unconfirmed)**, Bangkok: Planning meeting of the UNU/UNDCP project on “Uncivil Society”

**1–3 July**, Kaunas, Lithuania: International Symposium on “The Role of Research and Higher Education in Developing National Forest Programmes in Countries with Economies in Transition” (UNU, European Forest Institute, Silva Network & Univ. of Joensuu)

**8–10 July**, Tokyo: UNU International Conference on “Conserving Our Coasts – Control of Endocrine Disruptor Pollution, Environmental Governance and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific”

**July (date unconfirmed)**, Tokyo: First planning meeting of the UNU project on “Spoilers and Peace Processes”

**August/September (date unconfirmed)**, Copenhagen: UNU/WIDER Annual Lecture 2002: “The Impact of Globalization on World Inequality” by Prof. Jeffrey Williamson ■