

Bio News



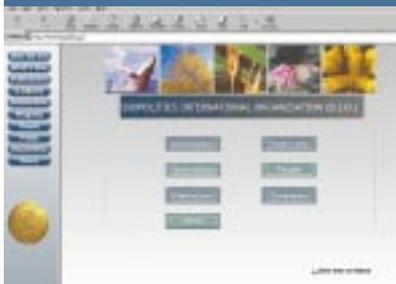
No. 38 - APRIL 2004

Bios may serve as a lever to lift the spirit of the world

www.biopolitics.gr

Bios Olympiads – Every individual wins in the race to save the environment

Biopolitics online



What's new on the B.I.O. website



The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and the BioFocus Foundation honour the B.I.O. President with their prestigious 2004 Biopolitics Award

International Media Coverage



Policy Consultant, Dr. Keith Suter, comments on B.I.O.'s work on Australia's Radio 2GB's Brian Wilshire Programme – page 7



"EuroHorizon" Extensive coverage of B.I.O. in EuroHorizon magazine, including an interview with the President

An Olympiad of values

To face the unprecedented challenges of our times, new ethics in society are crucial. As environmental deterioration is growing into a compelling issue of global importance, the need for an environmental vision with staying power becomes urgent. A new strategy, reaching beyond sustainable development, can broaden our horizons and lead humanity to a brighter future. By focusing on the fundamental human right of living in a clean environment, every endeavour can contribute to the reversal of destructive trends and to the building of ethics and values for a global appreciation and protection of bios.

The opportunity exists in the form of the Olympic Games. Why keep wasting this opportunity by limiting the Olympics to sports and feats of the body? The Olympic Spirit and the world's positively focused attention at the time of the Olympic Games can play a leading role in uniting the forces of culture and technology to instill the appreciation of the aesthetic value of life on our planet. **An Olympiad of values and not merely of physical prowess must evolve**

The Greek word "athlos" means achievement, therefore, the term athletics encompasses all possible achievements of humanity, be they physical, professional or intellectual. It is thus imperative that the concept regain its original significance and become redefined on the basis of a system of diachronic values.

Every profession participates in the Bios Olympiads

International competitions take place in various fields, but represent a fragmented view of human achievement. In order to re-establish the harmony and unity behind all expressions of creativity, Biopolitics has proposed the award of Bios Prizes as an overall recognition of achievement in the arts, science, technology, politics, economics, and a variety of other disciplines, **with the goal to ultimately include every profession**. Legislators, architects, corporate leaders, farmers, street-cleaners, teachers, doctors, could all be considered Bios Prize candidates for including environmental protection in their work. All human accomplishments are considered in the Bios Olympiads.

As proposed by B.I.O. in 1985, international committees could be set up in various disciplines to assess progress and nominate candidates at several levels. At the final stage of the selection process, three candidates would be considered for the awards.

- The global community would nominate candidates.
- International committees would receive the nominations and propose up to 150 candidates for awards.
- An elected 30-member international committee would select 15 nominations for final consideration.
- A 3-member committee would award 3 Bios Prizes to the finalists.

Inspiring society with new models

Society is going through a crisis in values, which has led to severe environmental deterioration and is threatening the continuation of life on our planet. To reverse this crisis new role models are urgently needed. Role models that place people and the planet before profits. To draw attention to the importance of leadership with a vision, B.I.O. has awarded Bios Prizes to distinguished individuals

Athlos means achievement. All human achievements can be honoured by the Olympic Spirit.

whose contribution has brought new hope and inspiration to humanity.

The first Bios Prize was awarded to Jacques Cousteau in 1996, for his unparalleled achievements in the protection of the biggest part of our planet, the oceans. In 1999, Mstislav Rostropovich and other leaders, including Dr. Anton Rupert, Founder of the Peace Parks initiative in South Africa, Kitty Kyriacopoulos, leading Greek industrialist, and the Founder of the Right Livelihood Award, Baron Jakob von Uexkull, were honoured with Bios Prizes during an inspirational ceremony at the Hermitage in St. Petersburg. In 2002, Ted Turner was awarded the Bios Prize for recognising the importance of a united world through his groundbreaking contribution in telecommunications and his support for the United Nations.

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B.I.O. in Portugal

B.I.O. branch created in Poprtugal under the auspices of Oporto University

At the initiative of Professors Daniel Serrao and Rui Nunes of the Department of Bioethics, School of Medicine, Oporto University, a Portuguese Division of the Biopolitics International Organisation (B.I.O.) was recently established. Its Board of Directors is comprised of the following distinguished personalities, who have pledged their commitment to the promotion and implementation of the ideals of biopolitics in Portugal:

- Professor Rui Nunes, President
 - Dr. Maria Barroso Soares
 - Professor Daniel Serrao
 - Dr. Jose Belmiro
 - Professor Cristina Nunes
 - Professor Guilhermina Rego
 - Dr. Sandra Aparicio
- The goal of the B.I.O. Division in Portugal, which has its headquarters

at the Department of Bioethics at Oporto University, is to promote issues of biopolitics and environmental ethics in Portugal and to help in the furtherance of bio-education and other projects on a worldwide level.

At a time when society urgently needs powerful instruments to develop and enforce policy for quality of life, environmental harmony, education, peace and security, social enterprises, civic groups, universities, academic leaders and other people of influence can join forces and contribute new perspectives for the future. It is hoped that the B.I.O. branch in Portugal will be one of the institutions contributing these new perspectives and that it will serve as a lighthouse of values, providing guidelines and a vision for global environmental policy and action.



What's new in BioNews

Mythos

Rivers & Mountains of Greece

The new B.I.O. CD-Rom links the environment and mythology (see pages 8-9)



AMAZONICA

Protecting the forest

The future is now. Education and technology guarantee the survival of the jungle (see page 16)



Symposium

Hellenic-Turkish Day

Hellenic-Turkish Cooperation in Biopolitics – On the Road to European Union Ideals (see pages 12-15)



BIO Goals

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF BIOS (LIFE) AND THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT

The environment recognises no ideological or geographical boundaries, no East-West, North-South or developed-developing countries. Bios provides the unifying force for the harmonious co-existence of all forms of life, leading to a new era of bio-diplomacy.

BIO-CULTURE - BIO-ENVIRONMENT

Two essential dimensions for building new societal values for the millennium.

PROMOTION OF BIO-EDUCATION

The International University for the Bio-Environment (I.U.B.E.) was launched to reform education worldwide by promoting biocentric curricula and satellite education.

BIO-ASSESSMENT OF TECHNOLOGY

A diachronic search for new societal values will channel technological progress in a direction that leads to a better quality of life through environmental appreciation.

INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION ON BIOS RIGHTS

It is important to protect all forms of life by enacting rules that prevent the deterioration of bios and ensure the fundamental right to a clean environment and to a better quality of life.

A WORLD REFERENDUM

This would allow people throughout the world to express their commitment to preserve bios on our planet.

RAISING AWARENESS OF THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

More people would realise that progress in the biological sciences relates to their own field of interest. This acknowledgement may lead to new fields of human endeavour, such as bio-legislation, bio-medicine, bio-ethics, bio-arts, bio-linguistics, bio-economics, bio-athletics, bio-communication, bio-history, bio-education and bio-diplomacy.

ENVIRONMENTAL OLYMPICS - BIOS PRIZES

Bios Prizes for every discipline with the participation of every member of society to reward excellence in environmental protection.

CEASE-FIRE DURING THE OLYMPIC GAMES

Since the 1980's, B.I.O. has promoted the introduction of a cease-fire during the Olympic Games, a proposal which has been adopted as a Resolution by the UN General Assembly.

PROPOSED ACTION

a **Bio-Syllabus** and new curricula for every level of education, as well as electronic and audio-visual materials on issues related to bios and the environment

a **Green Salary** in place of benefits for the unemployed, with the commitment to contribute to the protection of the environment

Environmental Action Groups drawing both on the enthusiasm of the young and the experience of senior citizens to tackle local issues

a **Bios-Supporting Economic Strategy** to replace destructive policies and promote a world-wide interdisciplinary exchange of information on the appreciation of the environment

an electronic **Bank of Ideas** to create a rich repository of information and reflections on bios.

SPONSORS 2003 - 2004

Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Hellenic Aid

National Bank of Greece

Kitty P. Kyriacopoulos

European Commission
Leonardo da Vinci Programme

OTE / OTENet

Hellenic Ministry of Environment
Physical Planning and Public Works

Hellenic Ministry of Culture

DHL International

The Michael Marks Charitable Trust

Hotel Herodion

Irene Vassilopoulou

Action Link/Action Synergy S.A.

Ioannis Vassiliou

Maramenos & Pateras

Hellas-on-Line

Xerox Hellas S.A.

BIO represented in 124 countries

Africa

Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chad, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe

The Americas

Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, USA, Uruguay, Venezuela

Asia

Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China and Hong Kong, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, The Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan

Europe

Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, FYROM, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, UK, Vatican, Yugoslavia

Oceania

Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands

Editorial

This is a time of dynamic changes, where policy must be continuously developed and adapted to new issues and challenges. Present choices lead to dead-end roads, as humanity seems to be addicted to patterns of hate and destruction. We are wasting our time and energy in keeping people enslaved, in exploiting children, in devising ways of destruction and deceit. We cannot have a future, unless we avoid the mistakes of the past. We urgently need a renaissance of values, a new awakening of the mind and spirit.



Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis
B.I.O. President and Founder

Technology provides uncountable new choices which, with the proper assessment, can help us to increase our knowledge, to reach a common understanding and to establish a platform for action. However, to be effective in responding to the challenges of our times, we have to cease re-inventing the wheel.

The wisdom of every individual is a treasure we need to appreciate. An electronic "Bank of Ideas," where any interested party may contribute information or thoughts concerning the environment, can promote an expedient transfer of know-how that will help to harness pollution and environmental deterioration and put an end to wasteful and damaging practices.

Information, ideas and cultural values are a crucial factor in the development of society. Every culture, language and tradition must be preserved. This is the wealth and beauty of our planet, along with the awe-inspiring diversity of bios. To exit the present crisis in values, we need to implement policy with a vision. As proposed in 1992 by Biopolitics, cease fire at the time of the Olympic Games can inspire humanity to come together in a global appreciation of the environment and life on our planet. This B.I.O. proposal was adopted as a United Nations resolution by 75 countries in 1993.

No one can profit from destruction. Defence "for" life should be our goal for the millennium. We need the will to change. Without hurting any vested interests, we can convert existing war equipment to clean the oceans, to protect the ozone layer from further deterioration, to save animal populations from extinction, to protect precious forest and water resources from acid rain.

Global environmental governance based on a life supporting strategy for the planet can provide the necessary framework to end wars and civil strife and to achieve a world in which large scale poverty has been eliminated.



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Annual World Bank Conference on Development Economics – ABCDE Europe

**Palais d'Egmont, Brussels
May 10-11, 2004**

The post-Cancun challenges and Monterrey commitments in a regional and global perspective will be discussed by leading economists, theorists and other experts at the Annual World Bank Conference on Development Economics, otherwise known as ABCDE-Europe, to be held by the Office of the Prime Minister of Belgium and the Ministry of Development Cooperation of Belgium, at the Palais d'Egmont in Brussels on May 10 and 11, 2004. The Conference is themed "Between Monterrey and Cancun: Getting Back on Track," and will address key issues

such as: Global governance and development; the investment climate in developing countries; policy coherence and the development process in east Asia; trade flows; human capital flows; migration and its impact on development; foreign direct and technological transfer; millennium development goals.

The ABCDE has become a key event in Europe for the discussion of development issues. It is a unique platform for many of the world's finest development thinkers and experienced

policy-makers to present their perspectives and to challenge researchers and senior staff of the World Bank and other multilateral organisations with their views.

ABCDE has become a key event in Europe for the discussion and understanding of development issues.

The ABCDE-Europe has been designed to expand the flow of ideas between thinkers, practitioners and policy-makers within the field of international development, and to provide a forum for discussion on key international development issues. By bringing together an array of academics, politicians, institutes, think

tanks, students and journalists, the ABCDE-Europe provides an excellent opportunity to foster an exchange of knowledge on and understanding of development issues.

Speakers at this year's ABCDE will include: **Romano Prodi**, President, European Commission; **James D. Wolfensohn**, President, World Bank; **Guy Verhofstadt**, Prime Minister, Belgium; **Jean-Francois Rischard**, Vice-President for Europe, World Bank; **Marc Verwilghen**, Minister of Development Cooperation, Belgium; **Francois J. Bourguignon**, Chief Economist and Senior Vice-President, World Bank; **Pascal Lamy**, Commissioner for Trade, European Commission;



Andre Sapir, Economic Advisor, Group of Policy Advisors, European Commission; **Annika Soder**, State Secretary, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden; and other leaders.

Environmental Security in the 21st Century – Peace Palace, The Hague



**Environment, Security and Sustainable Development
The Hague Conference**

Experts predicted that environmental change was to be the security concern of the 21st century. Today, however, competing crises brought on by terrorism, infectious diseases and economic instability are at the top of the security agenda. Is the environment still a security concern? How does a focus on environmental security help us in coming up with practical solutions for making the world a safer and more sustainable place?

How do the various international environmental conventions relate to environmental security? Are new approaches to governance needed? Or is it just a matter of better implementing the existing ones? Can new and innovative finan-

How does a focus on environmental security help us in coming up with practical solutions for making the world a safer and more sustainable place?

cial mechanisms and payment systems for environmental goods and services promote global environmental security? How can education, training and awareness building programmes contribute to meeting emerging environmental security challenges?

These and other issues will be the focus of a comprehensive international **Conference on Environment, Security and Sustainable Development**, to be attended by senior decision makers and representatives from governments, NGOs, development institutions, the private sector, and academia, at the **Peace Palace in The Hague**, from **9 to 12 May 2004**. The Conference is an initiative of the **Institute for Environmental Security (IES)**. The **Biopolitics International Organisation (B.I.O.)** has been invited to participate in the **Organising Committee**, which is comprised of the following prestigious institutions: Adelphi Research, Andlug Consulting, Biopolitics International Organisation (B.I.O.), Brookings Institution, Carnegie Foundation, Environment & Development Resource Centre (EDRC), Environmental Change and Security Project of the Woodrow Wilson Institute Center for Scholars, EuroCampus Institute, European Centre for Public

Affairs (ECPA), European Commission - DG ENV, Green Globe Network, Global Environmental Governance Project, Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy, Institute for Environmental Security, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), IUCN - World Conservation Union, Ministere de l'Ecologie et du Developpement Durable, France, Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, The Netherlands, Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), SarVision, TransGlobal Ventures, Inc. (TGV), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), University for Peace.

Pathways to Environmental Security

The ultimate objective of the Conference is to promote more sustainable relationships between people, their environment and the natural resources they depend on for their well-being on the basis of precaution, equity, efficiency and choice. This will require building understanding of the relationship between the environment and security, and how this relationship affects sustainable development.

The Conference also has as its short-term goal to:

- ▶ Define integrated science-based, diplomatic, legal, financial and educational approaches for increasing environmental security for all, as a basis for sustainable development;
- ▶ Demonstrate the need for and motivate policy changes among governments, international organisations, environment and conservation organisations, the military and security

community, development organisations and donor agencies, and the private sector;

- ▶ Bring together key actors in this field and forge new partnerships among them; and,
- ▶ Define the framework for a multi-sector initiative by the international community to identify and implement cost-effective tools for enhancing environmental security, thereby reducing the growing human and economic costs of humanitarian crises.

Themes and Speakers

Distinguished specialists will be asked to present their views and exchange ideas on some of the most pressing issues of our times:

- ▶ The Environment and Security Challenge
 - ▶ Managing Resources and Sources of Conflict
 - ▶ Designing International Law and Global Governance
 - ▶ Investing in a Secure and Sustainable Future
 - ▶ Environmental Opportunities for Peace Building
 - ▶ Building Environmental Knowledge Capital for the 21st Century
 - ▶ Science Based Approaches to Environmental Security
 - ▶ Impact of Military Conflict on the Environment
 - ▶ Pathways to Environmental Security
 - ▶ The Way Forward: From Policy to Practice
 - ▶ Education - Preparing Civil Society and Nurturing tomorrow's Leaders
- Speakers will include, among others:

Tom Spencer, Visiting Professor of Global Governance, University of Surrey and Former Chairman of the Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy Committee of the European Parliament; **Tjaco van den Hout**, Secretary General, Permanent Court of Arbitration; **Ronald A. Kingham**, Deputy Director, Institute for Environmental Security; **Steven Lovink**, President TransGlobal Ventures/Vice-chair IES; Professor **John McNeill**, Cinco Hermanos Chair of Environmental and International Affairs, Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University; **Wouter Veening**, Director, Institute for Environmental Security; Former Policy Director, Netherlands Committee for the IUCN; **Klaus Topfer**, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme; **Frits Schlingemann**, Director and Regional Representative, Regional Office of Europe, United Nations Environment Programme; **Maria Ivanova**, Director, Global Environmental Governance Project, Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy; **Mohamed El-Ashry**, former CEO, Global Environment Facility; **Margaret Brusasco-Mackenzie**, Member Green Globe Network / former Advisor for Sustainable Development DG Environment, European Commission; **Alexander Carius**, Co-founder and Director, Adelphi Research; **Gottfried Leibbrandt**, Chairman, EuroCampus Institute and Former Director-General for Higher Education and Research, The Netherlands; **Nigel Purvis**, Brookings Institution; and **Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis**, President, Biopolitics International Organisation.

Bioethics and Human Dignity

Dignity of human reproductive technologies – anthropological and ethical aspects

The Pontifical Academy for Life's Tenth General Assembly convened at the Vatican's New Synod Hall on February 19-22, 2004, in order to discuss issues

pertaining to the dignity of human procreation and reproductive technologies, as well as their anthropological, psychological, spiritual, moral and ethical extensions. These issues were studied from an interdisciplinary viewpoint, including scientific, anthropological, theological, ethical and legal aspects.

The B.I.O. President is a Corresponding Member of the Academy

Respect for all forms of life is the core of the B.I.O. philosophy, which promotes bios as our primary responsibility.

and was invited to participate in the General Assembly's deliberations.

Respect for all forms of life on our planet is the core of the B.I.O. philosophy, which promotes bioethics and the preservation of bios as our primary responsibility towards future generations. Within this framework, reproductive technologies are seen as a means to respect human dignity and to promote and protect life.

This year's General Assembly at the Vatican coincided with the tenth anniversary of the foundation of the Academy. The Pontifical Academy for Life was created by Pope John Paul II in 1994. Its purpose is to offer analysis and advice on how the Catholic Church can defend and promote the dignity of human life.

Seventh German World Bank Forum, Munich

Responsible growth in southeast Europe will be the topic of the Seventh German World Bank Forum, to convene on May 12, 2004, at the Bayerischer Hof hotel in Munich. The event is placed under the auspices of **James D. Wolfensohn**, President of the World Bank; **Dr. Otto Wiesheu**, Bavarian Minister of Economic Affairs,

A region of high potential for economic development, southeast Europe offers many opportunities and challenges for growth.

Infrastructure, Transport and Technology; and, **Randolf Rodenstock**, President of the Bavarian Business



Association. As a region of high potential for economic growth and development in various sectors, southeast Europe offers many opportunities and challenges. Government representatives, high-ranking experts, and other leaders will exchange ideas and present their views on these opportunities and challenges at plenary sessions and workshops with the following themes: Governance; connectivity; human and social development; and, private sector development.

Among the distinguished officials

and experts asked to participate in these discussions are: **Thea Petrin**, Minister for Economy, Slovenia; **Goran Pitic**, Minister of International Economic Relations, Serbia; **Anastas Angjeli**, Minister of Economy, Albania; **Dragan Doko**, Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina; **Lydia Shouleva**, Minister of Economy, Bulgaria; **Laszlo Magyari**, Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport, Hungary; **Radmila Sekeirinska**, Deputy Prime Minister, FYROM; **Heinrich von Pierer**, President and CEO, Siemens AG; **Mikolos Marshall**, Transparency International, Germany; **Erhard Busek**, Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for South-East-Europe; **Michael Rutkovski**, Director Human Development, The World Bank, and others. The B.I.O. President was invited by **Jean Francois Rischard**, World Bank Vice President for Europe, to attend the Forum.

B.I.O. PUBLICATIONS

PROCEEDINGS

- ▶ BIOPOLITICS - THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT - VOLUME I, A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis, Ed. First BIO International Conference, May 1987 (English, 400 pp.) 1988
- ▶ BIOPOLITICS - THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT - VOLUME II, A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis, Ed. Second BIO International Conference, Oct. 1988 (English, 543pp.)1989
- ▶ BIOPOLITICS - THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT - VOLUME III, A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis, Ed. Fourth BIO International Conference, Jan. 1991 (English, 683 pp.)1991
- ▶ BIOPOLITICS - THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT - VOLUME IV, A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis, R. Keles, Eds. Fifth BIO International Conference, Istanbul, May 1992 (English, 527 pp.) 1993
- ▶ BIOPOLITICS - THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT - VOLUME V, A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis, Ed. Sixth BIO International Conference - International Sakharov Festival, Athens, July 1994 (English, 671 pp.) 1996
- ▶ BIOPOLITICS - THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT - VOLUME VI, A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis, J. Morovic, Eds. Seventh BIO International Conference, Bratislava, June 1997 (English, 527 pp.) 1998
- ▶ BIOPOLITICS - THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT - VOLUME VII, A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis, L. Kapolyi, Eds. Eighth BIO International Conference, Budapest, September 1998 (English, 271 pp.) 1999
- ▶ BIOPOLITICS - BIO-CULTURE - BIOS OLYMPIAD, A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis, Ed. BIO International Conference, Ancient Olympia, August 1999 (Greek, 299 pp.) 2001
- ▶ BIOPOLITICS - THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT - VOLUME VIII, A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis, Ed. BIO International Conferences, 2000-2001 (English, 335 pp.) 2001

BUSINESS

- ▶ BUSINESS STRATEGY FOR THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT I (Greek), A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis, Editor. First Conference on Business Strategy for the Bio-Environment, Athens, Nov. 1992, 132 pp., 1994
- ▶ BUSINESS STRATEGY FOR THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT II (Greek), A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis, Editor. Second Conference on Business Strategy for the Bio-Environment, Athens, Dec. 1993, 180 pp., 1994
- ▶ BUSINESS STRATEGY FOR THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT III (Greek), A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis, Editor. International Conference on Profit and the Bio-Environment, Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Oct. 1995, 271 pp., 1996
- ▶ BUSINESS STRATEGY FOR THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT I (English), A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis, Editor. Proceedings from the Second Symposium on Business Strategy for the Bio-Environment, Athens, Dec. 1993, 168 pp., 1995
- ▶ BUSINESS STRATEGY FOR THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT II (English), A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis, Editor. Proceedings from a Corporate Symposium, Harvard Club of New York City, Feb. 1995, 105 pp., 1996
- ▶ BUSINESS STRATEGY FOR THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT III (English), A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis, Editor. International Conference on Profit and the Bio-Environment, Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Oct. 1995, 239 pp., 1996

DIPLOMACY

- ▶ BIOS IN THE NEXT MILLENNIUM, A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis, Editor. Proceedings from a Francophone Symposium, October 1987
- ▶ BIOS IN THE NEXT MILLENNIUM, Lecture by the Right Honourable Lord Ennals sponsored by the British Council and BIO, May 1988
- ▶ BIOPOLITICS - PROTECTING THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT, Lecture by His Excellency The Ambassador of Israel, Mr. Moshe Gilboa, at the Third BIO International Conference, June 1989
- ▶ BIOPOLITICS - THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT, Presentation at the General Assembly of the Academy of Athens by Academician Professor C. Bonis (Greek), March 1990
- ▶ THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION, A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis, Editor. A Hellenic-Turkish Symposium, Athens City Hall, May 1990 (English, 79 pp.) 1990
- ▶ BIO-DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION, A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis, Editor. Proceedings from a Hellenic-Russian Symposium, Athens, December 1991 (English 74 pp.) 1993
- ▶ POPULATION GROWTH, FOOD SECURITY AND EQUITY, A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis, Editor. Proceedings from a Hellenic-Indian Symposium, Athens, April 1993 (English, 47 pp.) 1993
- ▶ BIOPOLITICS - THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT - BIO-CULTURE IN THE NEXT MILLENNIUM, A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis, Editor. Proceedings from a Hellenic-Czech Cultural Symposium, Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry, April 3, 1995 (English, 104 pp.) 1995
- ▶ BIOPOLITICS - BIO-CULTURE, A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis, Editor. Hellenic-Ukrainian Symposium, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Athens, October 20, 1998 (Greek, available electronically)

TEXTBOOKS

- ▶ BIOPOLITICS - DIMENSIONS OF BIOLOGY A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis (Greek, English, French) 1985
- ▶ BIOPOLITICS - METHODS OF IMPLEMENTATION A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis (Greek, English) 1985
- ▶ BIOPOLITICS - BIO-SYLLABUS OUTLINE A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis (Greek, English) 1989, 1990
- ▶ BIOPOLITICS - THE BIOS THEORY A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis (Greek, English) 1990, 1991
- ▶ THE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY FOR THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis (English 1991, Greek 1991-1992)
- ▶ BIOPOLITICS - THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT: BIO-SYLLABUS A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis and A. Oleskin (English 1992, Russian 1993)
- ▶ BIOPOLITICS - THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT- BIO-CULTURE A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis (Greek, 192 pp.) 1994
- ▶ BIOPOLITIQUE - LE BIOENVIRONNEMENT A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis (French, 48 pp.) 1998
- ▶ BIOPOLITICA - EL BIO-AMBIENTE A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis (Spanish, 48 pp.) 1998
- ▶ BIOPOLITICS - BIOS OLYMPIAD A. Vliavianos-Arvanitis (Greek, 111 pp.) 2000
- ▶ BIO-SYLLABUS FOR EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (English, 880 pp.) 2003

PERIODICALS

- ▶ BIONEWS Newspaper, English and Greek (1987, 1994-2003)

CD-ROMS

- ▶ BIOPOLITICS - THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT (English) 1999
- ▶ BIO-SYLLABUS FOR EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (English) 2002
- ▶ PATMOS - BIO-ENVIRONMENT - BIO-CULTURE (2002)

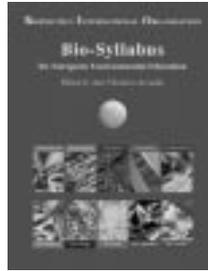
VIDEOS

- ▶ ENVIRONMENTAL OLYMPICS - BIOS PRIZES, St. Petersburg, Russia, September 1999 (English, Greek) 1999
- ▶ ENVIRONMENTAL OLYMPICS - BIOS PRIZE, The Kogi, Santa Marta, Colombia, October 1999 (English, Greek) 1999
- ▶ ENVIRONMENTAL OLYMPICS - BIOS PRIZE, R. Lubbers, UNHCR, March 2003 (English) 2003



Biocentric Education and Olym

e-Learning programmes in environmental education Call for participation



Based on its pioneering "Bio-Syllabus for European Environmental Education," B.I.O. is ready to launch of series of e-learning courses, placing environmental education at the fingertips of every concerned citizen. The courses will cover topics such as health, agriculture, waste man-

agement and bioethics – with several more to follow – and will soon be available online. The purpose of these courses is to raise awareness of current trends and provide information and know-how in certain key areas of environmental concern, including agricultural practices, prevention of health hazards, and options for safe waste management. The hope is to also stimulate interest in further research and study.

As promoted by B.I.O. since its inception in 1985, the role of bio-education is to place environmental thinking at the core of educational curricula everywhere. Bio-education raises awareness of our responsibility to appreciate life and to protect the environment as a duty to our future. A future presently at stake due to the absence of universal values in policy and governance.

Time is of the essence, yet humanity is choosing pathways of destruction instead of embarking on a coordinated effort for peace.

The environment touches every aspect of our lives, and concerns every profession and every initiative. Increasingly, with information and communication technologies empowering individuals everywhere, our future rests with environmentally committed leadership. Through a truly integrated bio-education we can achieve a developmental framework that places people and the planet before profits. Allowing for cultural differences to emerge as the beauty and wealth of our planet, can inspire society with new values and strengthen efforts for international cooperation and peace.

If you or your university/organisation/business/public sector department are interested in information on how to enrol, please contact our offices at the following e-mail address: bios@otenet.gr



Seminars – Events



Bio-Syllabus for European Environmental Education



Diplomacy



Proceedings

Olympic Values – the B.I.O. Vision for a Brighter Future



What's new on the web



Olympics and the environment
B.I.O.'s pioneering contribution to the "greening" of the Olympic Games is recognised by Professor Donald Huisingh, Advisor to the Organising Committees of the Lillehammer and Sydney Olympics.



Environment & agriculture
B.I.O.'s contribution to two European programmes in environmental education. Training modules and e-learning courses in environmentally sustainable agriculture and rural development.



Bio-tourism
Bio-tourism, environmentally friendly tourism promoting the appreciation of our natural and cultural heritage, is the subject of B.I.O.'s CD-Rom on the Greek island of Patmos. View entire CD-Rom on the web.



Bio-education at your fingertips
Bio-Syllabus for European Environmental Education is available on CD-Rom. Links to B.I.O.'s pioneering electronic library, provide a wealth of information and cross-references on a variety of environmental topics.



International Court of the Environment
B.I.O. fully supports the efforts for the creation of an International Court of the Environment to handle environmental disputes and promote a vision of environmental harmony and hope. These efforts have been launched by leading justices, legislators and scholars from around the world.



Youth Bios Olympiads St. Petersburg, Russia
The IXth Annual Youth Bios Olympiad, a celebration of science and the arts, will be held in St. Petersburg, Russia, in September 2004. Bios Schools, with the participation of university students and school children, are also held annually in the St. Petersburg region.

★ **B.I.O. CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2004 Past Years**

B.I.O. web-links

Bio-Syllabus Comments and feedback on B.I.O.'s leading "Bio-Syllabus for European Environmental Education" from scholars, civic leaders and other people of influence in 124 countries.

Publications An extensive e-Library on the environment is available on-line. Contributions from high-level international experts on key environmental issues of global concern.

Cease fire and the Olympics As proposed by B.I.O. in 1992 and endorsed by leaders worldwide, cease fire and the Olympic spirit can inspire every citizen in the world to actively engage in the race to save the environment.

Bio-Culture Bio-culture encourages the cooperation of technology and the arts in environmental protection with a view to creating a "biocentric" society. Every human endeavour can contribute to the reversal of destructive trends and to the promotion of bios.

Royal Swedish Academy The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and the BioFocus Foundation honour the B.I.O. President with their prestigious 2004 Biopolicy Award in recognition of her leading contribution to global environmental awareness and policy.

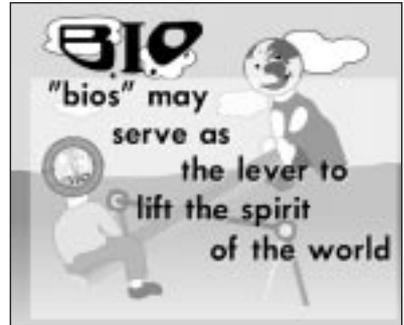
BioNews All issues of BioNews to date are available online. Please help us to save on mailing costs by asking for the online edition. We will also inform you regularly by e-mail on our new activities and projects.

World Referendum Cast your vote in B.I.O.'s World Referendum and join in the race to save the environment. Voice your willingness to save bios on our planet.

International Media Coverage See what people around the world have published or broadcast about our work.

Recent Events Programmes and proceedings from recent events, including the Symposium on "Hellenic-Turkish Cooperation in Biopolitics: On the Road to European Union Ideals," held in Athens on February 9, 2004 (see pages 12-15).

Information in Spanish For our Spanish speaking friends in many parts of the world, information on our goals, activities, publications and projects is available online.



Business Strategy



Culture and the environment – CD-Roms

Periodicals

The Bio-Syllabus in Australia – Keith Suter Comments

Dr. Keith Suter – Consultant for Social Policy

Comments Broadcast on 23 January 2004 on Australia's Radio 2GB's Brian Wilshire Programme



Environmental issues have once again been in the news headlines this week. There are various major environmental problems that humankind has to deal with. One response is to encourage greater attention to this subject in educational institutions.

I have just been reading one of the world's leading publications that will be of great use to people wishing to develop their own environmental education courses: "Bio-Syllabus for European Environmental Education".

The Biopolitics International Organization (B.I.O.) is based in Greece and headed by Dr Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis, who edited this book. "Bios", by the way, means "life". The decline of the environment threatens the continuity of bios – life – on this planet. Dr Vlavianos-Arvanitis decided in 1985

to do something about that threat.

We now take awareness of environmental issues for granted but two decades ago that was not the case. After all, back in 1985, Australia's Department of the Environment was then only 13 years old – and it was already one of the world's oldest. In 1985, there was a lot of work to be done.

B.I.O. was formed to raise awareness of current environmental problems and to accelerate the implementation of new and more effective approaches to safeguarding the earth for the generations to come. It has a network of contacts in 123 countries. This was the vision of Dr. Vlavianos-Arvanitis, who had spent the previous two decades teaching and researching into biology and who is now one of the world's most famous champions of international environmental education.

This book is one of the heaviest I have ever picked up! It has almost 900 pages, A4 size. Luckily the generous sponsorship of DHL International has enabled her to get the book distributed around the world.

Although the book's title refers to "European" environmental education, in fact the material could be applied just as easily in Australian schools, universities and other educational institutions. The course material has universal applicability.

The book examines 10 subjects (architecture, diplomacy, economics, energy, ethics, health, history, law, assessment of technology and tourism) from the point of view of giving attention to environmental considerations. In other words, instead of just creating yet another course – "the environment" – and adding it to the educational system, Dr. Vlavianos-

Arvanitis and her team have taken the existing subjects and given them an additional dimension. This is a very innovative approach. It builds on what is already being taught. It should therefore make it easier to introduce this material into educational institutions.

For each of the 10 subjects, this huge book gives information on: a theoretical background; key environmental questions; information on current concepts, facts and trends, policy and action; models for study and implementation; directions for further research; a comprehensive bibliography; and a list of cross references from B.I.O.'s extensive reference library (which is also accessible through the Internet).

Australian teachers in a variety of educational institutions could use this book immediately to design educational courses. The work has all been done for them. Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize – she certainly deserves it.

B.I.O. is one of the world's most famous champions of international environmental education.

Wheel of the environment

Out of radiant light and energy arise new forms orderly connections and communications blossom

Out of molecular attractions in a primordial soup sprout origins of life

Despite recapitulation new dimensions lead to variety the wheel of the environment leads to evolution

Is this a game of choices of unlimited combinations or an ordered pathway in the crossroads of infinity?

A. Vlavianos-Arvanitis, 1983

Biopolitics on the air and online

Bio-education online

OTEnet, a leader in telecommunications and the biggest internet service provider in Greece, is lending its support to Biopolitics for the development and dissemination of a series of e-learning courses that will soon be

B.I.O. - OTEnet cooperation to make e-learning courses available online.

launched worldwide. The goal is to make bio-education available to every citizen on the planet and to place a variety of educational materials and information on bios at the fingertips of students, scholars and educators in 124 countries.

Education is evolving. More than ever, educators and trainers are seeking innovative ways to achieve quality teaching and motivate students. In the digital age, the tools provided by technology can promote higher order thinking and make knowledge acces-



sible to virtually every citizen on the planet. B.I.O. is working harder than ever to make a wealth of educational material and resources available online and to prepare a broad range of e-learning courses promoting pioneering dimensions in bio-education.

Culture and the environment B.I.O.'s weekly TV programme

In cooperation with a prominent television station in Athens, B.I.O. has launched a weekly hour-long television programme, hosted by the B.I.O. President. The programme is themed "Biopolitics – Culture and the Environment" and features a different guest speaker every week.

The programme aims to stimulate thinking in environmental issues and to raise awareness of the intricate link

between culture and the environment. In an informal discussion setting, the B.I.O. President and her guests exchange views and ideas on a variety of topics including business, science, health, nutrition, international cooperation, history, mythology and the arts.

Some of the distinguished speakers that have participated in the programme include:

Panayotis Koutsikos, General Secretary of the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry; **Dimitris Efraimoglou**, Chair of the Foundation of the Hellenic World; **Panayotis Karafotias**, Professor of International Relations at the University of Indianapolis Athens Campus; **Professor Marios Nikolinos**, Chair of the Olympia Forum; **Dr. Constantine Kourogenis**, Head of the Policy Planning Directorate at the General Secretariat for Research and Technology; **Professor Theoharis Provatakis**, Director, Ministry of Culture; and **Dr. Christos Efthymiopoulos**, Center of Astronomy and Applied Mathematics, Academy of Athens.

Olympic values

Olympia Forum

The Olympia Forum aims to create a permanent international organisation promoting dialogue and discussion, in the spirit of the Olympic principles with headquarters in Olympia, Greece.

This initiative is headed by **Marios Nikolinos**, Professor of Economics, and is supported and promoted by an important number of notable Greek and international personalities.

The B.I.O. President, as a Member of the Board, supports this initiative and participates in several of its activities. She was recently invited to take part in the opening of a major conference on "Olympic Values," sponsored by the Foundation of the Hellenic World, as well as in a seminar at the Chamber of Commerce of Patras. Both events aimed at strengthening the role of the Olympics as a vehicle for peace.

Youth Bios Olympiads

Thanks to the support and unfailing commitment of **Professor Alexander Shishkin**, the **IXth Youth Bios Olympiad** is scheduled to be held in St. Petersburg, in September 2004.

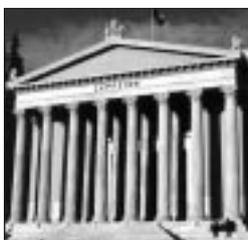
The Youth Bios Olympiads are a manifestation of creativity and vision – a celebration of science, culture and the environment.

Through educational projects, song, dance, music and athletic competitions, the Youth Bios Olympiads impart a message of environmental appreciation as a vision of hope for the future.

Bios Schools, a project complementary to the Youth Bios Olympiads, are also organised every spring and fall in the St. Petersburg region. The purpose of this initiative is to encourage school children and students to develop a greater awareness of nature and the environment.



Stability and cooperation in the Euro Atlantic area



Greek Association for Atlantic & European Cooperation 13th Annual Symposium

The Greek Association for Atlantic and European Cooperation held its 13th Annual Symposium in Athens, on 12-13 December 2003. The Symposium was chaired by **Theodossis Georgiou**, Chairman of the Greek Association for Atlantic and European Cooperation (GAAEC) and by **Dr. Aliki Mitsakos-Georgiou**, Chairman of the Education Committee of the

GAAEC, and covered a wide range of challenging themes and topics.

The B.I.O. President was invited to speak at the session on "Security Perceptions Through Gender," and focused on the importance of environmental cooperation for the attainment of global security and peace.

Her contribution received enthusiastic comments from many partici-

The war is ongoing.

Polar icecaps are melting, fish populations are declining, the ozone layer is being depleted.

pants, and **Professor Panayotis Karafotias**, f. Director of the United Nations Office for Greece and Israel, recommended that it be sent as a resolution to all NATO and UN headquarters worldwide.

Themes and speakers

Asymmetrical threats, solutions to

combating terrorism, the role of NATO and the EU, the Euro-Atlantic integration of Southeastern Europe, security and civil society in the 21st century, the role of the economy in security and stability, as well as other issues on solidarity and defence, were discussed by many distinguished diplomats, scholars, civic leaders and members of parliament, including: **Stefan Sofianski**, Mayor of Sofia, Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria; **Pavli Zeri**, Vice Minister of Defence of Albania; **Gian Paolo Cavarai**, Ambassador of Italy in Greece; **Bruno Delaye**, Ambassador of France in Greece; **Loic Bouvard**, MP and f. President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, France; **Ram Aviram**, Ambassador of Israel in Greece; **Atif Halasa**, Ambassador of Jordan in Greece; **Bernardino Gomes**, President, Atlantic Committee of Portugal; **Troels Froling**, Secretary General, Atlantic Treaty Association, Denmark; **Dusan Batakovic**, Ambassador of Serbia and Montenegro in Greece; **Arian Starova**, MP,

President, Albanian Atlantic Association; **Radu Podgoreanu**, MP, Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee, Parliament of Romania; **Wilhelm Van Eekelen**, Senator, The Netherlands.

The B.I.O. vision for stability and peace

The environment and diversity in nature and culture are the true wealth of humanity. To protect this wealth we need to influence decision-makers to avoid mistakes of the past and to build a new society of hope, one based on principles of defence for life. Every trace of civilisation, language and religion must be preserved. Respect for our cultural heritage is not a threat; it is the beauty of our world. Can we imagine the earth with only one type of tree growing on it? Diversity in the forms of life and in human culture makes us all richer.

NATO could emerge as the agent needed to meet the pressing challenges of our world. There

Winning the fight against poverty and desolation requires a renaissance of values. This is our goal for the millennium.

is an ongoing war around us. Polar icecaps are melting, fish populations are declining, the ozone layer is being depleted, natural resources are being polluted, and more than half of the world's population lacks safe drinking water and food. Who will stand to profit from this destruction?

The greatest challenge for the 21st century is to eradicate poverty and engage in a collective endeavour in defence of the environment and civil society. Harmony and coexistence can replace destruction if we have the will to use technology to protect bios. NATO can be a leader and beacon of hope in this effort, by providing the power and vision necessary to urge humanity to join together in a battle for a brighter future.

Bios Olympiads – Every individual wins in the race to save the environment

Continued from page 1

In 2003, UN High Commissioner for Refugees and f. Premier of The Netherlands, Ruud Lubbers, was awarded the Bios Prize for his contribution as an enlightened statesman and steward of the environment.

Humanity can seek inspiration from the cultures of the past in order to build a millennium of hope. To impart this message globally, B.I.O. awarded a Bios Prize to the Kogi of Colombia in 1999. The Kogi are an indigenous people of the Sierra Nevada. They have retained their ancient culture and are closely connected to nature. The preservation of the time-spanning values of our world can help us to embrace a new perspective in attaining the future.

Progress and values

Greedy and short-term planning are endangering our planet's health and survival. Have we the wisdom to control progress or is it leading us to destruction? Phaethon, son of the sun god Helios, failed to control his father's celestial chariot because he lacked the wisdom to assume such a responsibility. Technology is a revelation of the truth, but also a tremendous responsibility. It can lead to light, it can also lead to destruction.

We have to use the knowledge gained from science and technology to improve quality of life and create a better world for the generations to

come. We can be inspired by the beauty and wealth of cultural and historical diversity and build a society of hope, one that fully respects the environment and bios. Waves of energy and light, waves of communication, can bring us together as a global community to decide on a joint pathway for the future. New ethics have to govern our action and thought, in order to make full use of the benefits of progress and eliminate destructive trends.

We wish that humanity will choose pathways of hope and show respect for the rights of future generations. Better public health, the alleviation of poverty and the conservation of biodiversity constitute a "genuine profit" for society.

Drawing inspiration from myths and culture

Science and technology alone cannot cope with growing environmental challenges. To be effective in reversing destructive trends, we need to draw inspiration from the deeply rooted past and seek wisdom in the time-spanning ideals that have defined human culture and tradition. "Mythos" and the ancient traditions of the world could help us to restore the vital equilibrium between nature and society that we seem to have lost.

In all human cultures, the origins of myth pre-date written records. They relate to all aspects of human life and experience, blending the divine with the mortal, man with nature, heaven with earth. Myths convey beliefs, superstition, ritual, social ideas, philosophy and ethical values. They speak of the origin of the universe and of man, of the deluge, of epic battles among the gods, and of men who knowingly and unknowingly interact with the gods.

We cannot envisage a future of hope without access to the environment, culture, and meaningful citizenship.

The wonders of nature come alive, and our interdependence with all living beings acquires more tangible dimensions.

We cannot envisage a future of hope without access to culture, active and full participation, meaningful citizenship. Meeting these challenges requires new ways of stimulating creativity in politics and policy-making, in technology, industry and commerce, in education and the arts, and in social and community development. Culture, tradition and myths can inspire this creativity and help us to achieve a brighter future.

Environmental governance

Global environmental governance with a vision can play an important role in preventing conflict, restoring peace, and creating a society that

can resist destructive tendencies. Policies with no consideration for human rights, social welfare, economic equity or environmental damage cannot be accepted. Bioethics – the ethics of bios – must exit the confines of medical science and apply to every human endeavour. The Olympic spirit and the diachronic ideals it represents can become the cornerstones of a society that respects all its citizens, be they young, old, weak or handicapped. This society, if realised in the future, could allow for the continuation of bios.

Building a society of peace

Hope and new perspectives for peace can arise from the Olympic spirit, and the global community can learn to appreciate the value of a harmonious co-existence as a vehicle for a better quality of life. In the spirit of bio-culture, B.I.O. has been promoting the revival of the ancient ideal of cease-fire during the Olympics, a proposal adopted as a UN resolution in 1993 and endorsed by leaders. The hope is that the environment will act as a uni-



ifying force for peace, leading to a new social structure, where respect for bios – life – will be at the core of every action and thought.

But time is running out, and immediate action is of the essence. A society based on environmental ethics and ideals can be a lighthouse of values, so desperately needed by humanity. New ethics, "green" diplomacy, culture, education and an international effort in defence of the environment, can promote technological and societal development with a view to a global appreciation and protection of the environment.

Bios is a gift shared by all living beings. It is a message of joy and hope, a source of inspiration and encouragement. The joy of possessing bios should infuse every aspect of our lives and lead to creativity and vision.

Paralympic Games – The second largest sporting event in the world

Year	City	Participants
1960	Rome, Italy	400 athletes from 23 countries
1964	Tokyo, Japan	390 athletes from 22 countries
1968	Tel Aviv, Israel	750 athletes from 29 countries
1972	Heidelberg, Germany	11000 athletes from 44 countries
1976	Toronto, Canada	1600 athletes from 42 countries
1980	Arnhem, The Netherlands	2500 athletes from 42 countries
1984	Stoke Mandeville, UK New York, USA	4080 athletes from 42 countries
1988	Seoul, Korea	3053 athletes from 61 countries
1992	Barcelona, Spain	3020 athletes from 82 countries
1996	Atlanta, USA	3195 athletes from 103 countries
2000	Sydney, Australia	3843 athletes from 123 countries

Equity and values for an equitable society

From 18 to 23 September 2004, athletes from all nations will come together in Greece, to compete in a top-level sporting event - the 2004 Paralympic Games. By focusing on the



athlete and not on the disability, the Athens Paralympic Games will provide the spectators, viewers and volunteers with a unique experience. The Paralympic athletes' strength and skill to compete at the highest level will inspire the world to celebrate this great sports competition, leaving a legacy for the generations to come.

The Paralympic Games have evolved into a major sports event, second only to the Olympic Games. They originated at Stoke Mandeville hospital in

Aylesbury, England, where games for people with spinal injuries were first held in 1948. The games were organised to coincide with the London Olympic Games by Dr. Ludwig Guttmann, who realised that sporting competition provided real physical and mental benefits to his injured patients. Four years later, competitors from the Netherlands joined the games, and an international movement, now known as the Paralympic movement, was born. Dr.

The Paralympic Games have evolved into a major sports event, second only to the Olympic Games.

Guttmann died in 1980, but his message of the healing power of sporting activities left a legacy that has grown into an inspiring symbol of human achievement and athleticism.

Olympic-style games for athletes with disabilities were first organised in Rome in 1960, immediately following the summer Olympics. These games were considered the first official Paralympic Games. About 400 athletes from 23 countries competed in eight sporting events, six of which (archery, swimming, fencing, basketball, table tennis

and athletics) are still part of the Paralympic Competition Programme. Since then, the Olympics and the Paralympics have almost always moved across the globe together; being held in the same city, or in the same country, every four years.

The fundamental philosophy guiding the Paralympic movement is that elite level athletes with physical disabilities should have opportunities and experiences equivalent to those afforded elite athletes without disabilities. The Paralympics are recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and are governed by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).

A new page in Paralympic history was written when, in 1988, the Paralympic Games were held immediately following the Olympic Games in Seoul, Korea, using the same facilities as the Olympic Games. History was repeated in 1992 when Barcelona welcomed the athletes of the IXth Paralympiad to twelve days of glory and spectacle that attracted over 1.5 million spectators and received unprecedented international media coverage. The 2000 Sydney Paralympic Games featured 4000 athletes, from six disability categories, taking part in 18 different sports. Wheelchair rugby and sailing were the two new medal sports for these Games. The other disciplines included archery, swimming and equestrian events.

There have been eleven Summer and eight Winter Paralympic Games since

their official birth in 1960. The Paralympics have grown immensely in size since their start in Rome. The number of athletes, the number of countries and the number and scope of events programmed have all increased dramatically since the first Paralympic Games. Also, new technologies have facilitated the participation of athletes with varying degrees of disability. Amputees use sophisticated prosthetics made out of advanced materials such as titanium and carbon fibre to hurl themselves down the track or across the courts. Wheelchairs are now highly engineered and tailored for particular sports.

On the day of the Opening Ceremony of the 1948 London Olympics, the International Wheelchair Games were first held.

facilitated the participation of athletes with varying degrees of disability. Amputees use sophisticated prosthetics made out of advanced materials such as titanium and carbon fibre to hurl themselves down the track or across the courts. Wheelchairs are now highly engineered and tailored for particular sports.

Accessibility and social justice

Environmental values and ethics must be directed towards the enhancement of quality of life as defined by all the stakeholders in society. A society that is open and accessible to all should be our goal for the millennium. Barriers to the disabled need to be identified and removed. Poverty and social exclusion can be tolerated no longer. Changing attitudes towards people with disabilities in the area of employment is a key issue, along with accessibility and social justice. The environment belongs to all. It is a precious gift, a fundamental human right. Accessibility to all elements of society and the environment is a critical responsibility we have towards the present and the future. Barriers to access are



not only related to physical obstacles. The concept of access is much more pervasive, encompassing information services, economic activity, job availability, education, culture, religion, and language, as well as the physical environment. In addressing the need for

The 2004 Paralympic Games will constitute a top-calibre athletic event integrated with a unique historical, cultural and natural environment.

universal access, we must take into account conceptual, political and practical perspectives, and encourage the involvement of every citizen in the development of a truly civil society.



Mythos – Rivers &



The rich mythology of the ancient Greek world comes alive in the rivers and mountains of modern Greece. The myths related to these rivers and mountains explain the origin of life and illustrate the intricate linkages between gods, men, and nature; others express cultural and moral values, and others create a rich and mystical portrait of the universe, blending the divine with the mortal, man with nature, heaven with earth.

All of these myths are available on a new CD-Rom, soon to be issued by B.I.O. A brief preview is presented below, continuing the series begun in the October 2002 issue of BioNews.



PENEIUS

The legend of the **Peneius River** in Thessaly, a region of central Greece, speaks of a river god, the son of Oceanus and Tethys, who married the nymph Creusa, or "sovereign being," and gave birth to Ipsea, Andreus, king of the Lapiths, and Stilve. Stilve became the mother of the Lapiths and the Centaurs, creatures who were half man and half horse. One of the most famous Centaurs was Cheiron, a great teacher and doctor, who raised Jason, leader of the Argonauts.

Jason

When he first descended from **Mount Pelion** on his way to Iolcus, Jason encountered the goddess, Hera, who had fallen in love with him. She assumed the appearance of an old woman and, standing on the bank of the Peneius River, asked him to carry her across. In doing so, Jason lost one of his sandals.

The waters of the Peneius River pass through the Tempe gorge between Mount Olympus and Mount Ossa, enroute to the sea. Ancient historians and geographers believed that the gorge of Tempe was the product of an earthquake and claimed that Poseidon had split the mountains, while others attributed this work to Heracles.

Apollo

In any event, the pass of Tempe was associated with the worship of Apollo, who was believed to have gone there to receive purification after the slaughter of the

serpent Python and afterward to have returned to Delphi, bearing in his hand a branch of laurel from the valley. To commemorate this event, the Delphians sent a procession of well-born youths to Tempe every ninth year. Their leader plucked a branch of laurel and brought it back to Delphi. On this occasion, a solemn festival was celebrated at Tempe in honour of Apollo Tempeites. Inhabitants of neighboring areas also took part.

Leto and Zeus

The Peneius River is also linked to the story of Leto, the mother of Apollo and Artemis, the virgin goddess of the hunt. Pregnant by Zeus and persecuted by his jealous wife, Hera, Leto searched for a place to give birth. Setting out from Arcadia, she travelled to Thebes, Achaia and, finally, Thessaly. However, at each stop, the evil Hera caused the cities to disappear before her eyes just as Leto reached them. In Thessaly, the river Anaurus, the city of Larissa and Mount Pelion all disappeared. When she reached the river Peneius and saw it disappearing as well, she begged the river god Peneius to take pity on her. Peneius was moved to tears by her plea and agreed to accept her in his waters regardless of the consequences. But Ares, the god of war, became very angry at this prospect, and caused an earthquake in the area to eliminate the river. Upon seeing this, Leto refused Peneius' hospitality and continued her search for refuge.

STRYMON

The **Strymon River** originates in present-day Bulgaria, flows across the Haemus Peninsula, and empties into the Aegean Sea. In mythology, Strymon was a river god and the king of Thrace.



Heracles

Heracles' tenth labour was to steal the oxen of Ceryones, which were located on the mythical island of Erytheia and were guarded by Orthus, a two-headed hound. Heracles proceeded to kill Orthus, Ceryones and the herdsman, and then drove the cattle back to Mycenae, encountering many adventures. When he finally reached Thrace in northern Greece, the goddess Hera caused the oxen to

Dionysus

The **Strymon River** is also connected with Dionysus, the god of wine, who in his crazed wanderings, travelled from Greece to Egypt, Syria, Phrygia and Lydia, near **Mount Tmolon**. From there he crossed to Edonis, a land on the bank of the Strymon River, in which Lycurgus was king. Lycurgus took offense at Dionysus, and insulted and expelled him, taking the Bacchic women and satyrs who worshipped Dionysus as prisoners. The god took refuge in the sea, returning later and causing Lycurgus to go mad. The insane king killed his own son with an axe, thinking that he was cutting down a vine. As a result of this brutal murder, a famine fell upon Edonis. Speaking through an oracle, Dionysus proclaimed that the scarcity would be lifted only if Lycurgus was put to death. The Edonians obeyed by taking him to **Mount Pangaeum** and tying him to his horses which tore him apart. In compensation for their prior early rejection of Dionysus, the Edonians became famous for their orgiastic worship of the god.

EUROTAS

The **Eurotas River** crosses Laconia, in the south of the Peloponnese peninsula, flows through a gorge between Mounts Taygetus and Parion and reaches its mouth in the Laconian Gulf. In ancient Sparta, the river was used for bathing, and gymnastics were performed on its banks.

The Mythical King Eurotas

According to the famous ancient Greek geographer Pausanias, Eurotas was the son of Miletus, king of Laconia and grandson of the native King Lelex. His reign was considered important because he dried up the Laconian Plain by draining the swampy waters to the sea. He named the resulting river after himself. Eurotas married the nymph Eurydice and had only one daughter, Sparte, whom he married to Lacedaemon, the son of Zeus and the nymph Taygete. As he had no sons, Eurotas left his kingdom to his grandson Amyclas.

The Birth of Helen

According to Homer, the beautiful Helen of Troy was the daughter of Zeus and Leda, the wife of a Lacedaemonian named Tyndareus. In order to seduce the fair Leda, Zeus turned himself into a swan and pretended to be persecuted by Hermes, who had metamorphosed into an eagle. Supposedly fright-stricken, the swan looked for shelter in the

arms of the unsuspecting Leda. One thing led to another and Zeus mated with her on the banks of the river Eurotas. From this mating, Leda gave birth to an egg, from which Helen came into the world.

ACHELOUS

The **Achelous River** in Acarnania, a region in western Greece, is also known as "the white river," due to the white sediment it collects from the many gorges it passes through. Achelous was the most powerful of the river gods. He was said to be the son of Oceanus and Tethys, a primeval creative force according to Homer's Iliad. Tethys was the daughter of



Uranus (sky) and Gaea (earth); she was a female titan, the sister and wife of Oceanus and mother of 3000 Oceanides and an equal number of rivers. Achelous became the husband of the muse Melpomene and the father of Callirhoe.

Achelous and Heracles

Legend tells how Achelous fought with Heracles over Deianera, the princess of the Aetolian Calydon. During the fight, Achelous metamorphosed himself first into a snake, then into a bull and, finally, into a human bearing bull's horns. But Heracles broke off one of his horns and defeated him. Heracles later took pity on Achelous and gave him back the horn so that he could compete again. In gratitude, Achelous offered Heracles the Horn of Plenty, which gave as much food or drink as one could wish for. According to another version of the tale, when he lost his horn, Achelous became so ashamed that he fell into the river, which would take his name, and drowned.

Hermes and Aphrodite

Hermes, messenger of the gods, is also associated with this site. Hermes loved Aphrodite, but, initially, she would have nothing to do with him. Zeus took pity on his son, Hermes, and sent his eagle to steal one of Aphrodite's golden sandals, as she bathed in the Achelous River. Hermes took the sandal and offered to give it back in return for her favours. Aphrodite was swayed by this kindness and eventually bore him

two sons, named Hermaphroditus and Priapus.

TAYGETUS

Mount Taygetus is the highest mountain in the Peloponnese. It rises to its greatest height immediately above Sparta. The slopes of Taygetus are covered in pine, which also abounded in ancient times.

Mount Taygetus was named after Taygete, the daughter of Atlas and Pleione. By Zeus, she became the mother of Lacedaemon and of Eurotas. According to some traditions, Taygete did not want to yield to Zeus, and in order to protect her from him, Artemis turned her into a cow. Taygete showed her gratitude towards Artemis by dedicating to her the Ceryneian Hind, a deer with golden antlers, whose capture later became one of the labours of Heracles.

Dionysus and Carya

Carya was a daughter of Dion, king of Laconia in the vicinity of Mount Taygetus. Apollo endowed her and her sisters with the gift of prophecy in return for Dion's hospitality. However, this gift was given on condition that they did not betray the gods or seek forbidden things.

Dionysus, the god of wine, fell in love with Carya, but her sisters prevented him from seeing her. Since this violated a condition of Apollo's gift, the sisters were punished with insanity and climbed to the top of Mount Taygetus, where they were metamorphosed into rocks. Carya was changed into a nut tree, and the Lacedaemonians, on being informed of this by Artemis, dedicated a temple to Artemis Caryatis.

PINDUS

The **Pindus** is the chief mountain range of Greece, extending southerly 160km through northwestern Greece.



in the region of Epirus, between the Ambracian Gulf and Illyria, known today as Albania.

Aegimius Versus the Lapiths
Aegimius, king of the Dorians, was a just and wise king whose people lived peacefully. The Dorians' neighbours, however, were the Lapiths, a savage and warlike clan, who dwelled about Mount Olympus. Their king was Coronos, son of Caeneus.

Due to a border dispute, the Lapiths declared war against the Dorians and invaded their land. Aegimius prepared to confront them, but, as the Lapiths outnumbered the Dorians and danger was imminent, he realised that he had to ask for help. He thus turned to Heracles, offering him, in return, one third of his kingdom. Heracles arrived with a contingent of Arcadians and, in the ensuing battle, he defeated the Lapiths, killed Coronos, as well as their ally

Mountains of Greece

King Laogoras of the Dryopians, forcing the Lapiths to return to their homeland.

Nymphs of the Pindus

The gorges of the Pindus range was the area where the river god Peneius married the nymph Creousa and gave birth to Ipseia, Andreus, and Stilve, who



became mother of the Lapiths and the Centaurs.

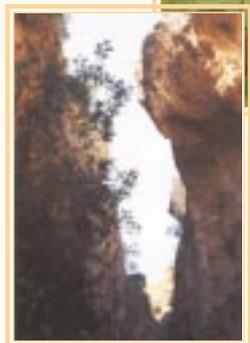
The Pindus was also home to the Nymph Cyrene, who lived in the forests to protect her father's herds. One day, Apollo saw her fighting and defeating a lion, and he instantly fell in love with her. He abducted her on his golden chariot and guided her to Libya, flying over many lands and seas. From his affair with Cyrene, Apollo had a son, Aristaeus, and the land of Libya became known as Cyrene.

Athamas

The Pindus is also where King Athamas of Boeotia, a region in central Greece, settled after being exiled from his homeland where he fell victim to a plot and killed his son Learchus. To find out where he would settle, Athamas consulted the Delphic Oracle, receiving the answer to dwell in whatever place he was entertained by wild beasts. After much wandering, he reached the slopes of the Pindus and saw a pack of wolves devouring a herd of sheep. As soon as they sensed his presence, the wolves abandoned their kill and fled. Athamas interpreted this as the oracle's fulfillment and settled in the area. From then on, the land was called Athamantia.

PELION

Mount Pelion is a tall mountain on the eastern mainland. Its highest summit stands above the ancient city of Iolcus, from where



the Argonauts set sail for Colchis on their perilous mission in search of the Golden Fleece.

Origin of the Centaurs

Mount Pelion is mostly known as home of the Centaurs. According to early accounts, the Centaurs were a race of crude and savage men, who ranged over the mountains and forests of central Greece like wild beasts. Later writers describe them as mythical creatures, the upper half human, and the lower half, horse. They were born from the concert of Ixion and Nephele, a cloud, which Zeus had made in the shape of Hera. From this affair Centaur was born, and, from his union with the wild mares that dwell on Mount Pelion, the Hippocentaurs, or Centaurs, originated. Certain scholars maintain that the half-man, half-horse nature of the Centaurs was due to the fact that the Thesalians may have been the first to mount horses. The Greeks, even in Homeric times, yoked their horses to chariots but never rode them.

The Centaurs and the Lapiths

Often lecherous and inebriate, the Centaurs would abduct women and persecute men. They appeared at the wedding of Peirithus, king of the Lapiths, and Hippodameia. Peirithus had invited the king of the Centaurs, Eurytion, to the wedding feast. Under the influence of drink, Eurytion attempted to abduct the beautiful bride. In punishment, Peirithus slit his nose and ears and chased him away. Eurytion hastened to his companions, who, in united strength, attacked the Lapiths. A frightful battle ensued in which the Lapiths and their guests, under the leadership of Theseus, king of Athens, succeeded in defeating the Centaurs and driving them back towards the foothills of Mount Pelion.

There also existed among the Centaurs both wise and good individuals. Pholus and Cheiron were distinguished as tutors and healers.

The Centaur Cheiron

Cheiron had the reputation of being the wisest and most just of all the Centaurs. He was the son of Cronus and Philyra and lived on Mount Pelion with the other Centaurs, until he was expelled by the Lapiths.

Cheiron's original home was his cave/sanctuary on the summit of Mount Pelion. He received instruction from Apollo and Artemis, and was famous for his ability in hunting, medicine, music, gymnastics, and the art of prophecy. The most celebrated heroes, such as Jason, Achilles, Asclepius and Actaeon, were pupils of Cheiron in these arts. Asclepius inherited Cheiron's vast knowledge of medicine, while Actaeon became extremely proficient at the

sport of archery. Cheiron was also a very talented sculptor, and when Actaeon met his unfortunate end at the hands of Artemis for having caught a glimpse of the goddess bathing in the nude with her female companions, Cheiron fashioned a statue of the hunter to comfort the lonely hounds he left behind.

Heracles was a friend of Cheiron's, but during a struggle with the other Centaurs, Heracles accidentally shot Cheiron with a poisoned arrow. Cheiron, though immortal, chose to die and gave his immortality to Prometheus. Cheiron was married to Nais, and his daughter, Endeis, was the mother of Peleus, father of Achilles.

The Birth of Achilles

Following an unfortunate incident with Acastus, the son of the king of Iolcus, Peleus married Thetis the Nereid, by whom he became the father of Achilles. Thetis had been wooed by both Poseidon and Zeus, but upon hearing that Thetis' son would become more illustrious than his father, both suitors withdrew. Zeus, moreover, decreed that she should marry a mortal. The wise centaur Cheiron informed Peleus of this decree and instructed him on how he might win Thetis, as she could easily evade anyone using her power to change into different forms. Peleus, following Cheiron's instructions, lay in wait for Thetis in Sepia, the southern promontory of Magnesia. There, he conquered the shape-changing Nereid who was reluctant to marry him, by refusing to let her escape his strong grasp.

All the gods attended their wedding on Mount Pelion. Cheiron was later entrusted with the upbringing of their son, Achilles, whom he educated and instructed in the arts of riding, hunting, and playing the phorminx. Cheiron fed his pupil the hearts of lions and the marrow of bears. Cheiron also instructed him in the art of healing, using medicinal herbs which abounded on Mount Pelion.

Jason and the Argo

Saved from assassination by his relatives who pretended he was dead, Jason was entrusted to Cheiron for his education. According to some, he came from Mount Pelion to Iolcus, found his aged father, Aeson still living, and demanded the throne from Pelias, who had usurped it. Pelias consented to surrender the throne but on the condition that Jason fetch the Golden Fleece from the land of Colchis.

The Argo, the famous ship of fifty oars that sailed with Jason and the Argonauts to the Black Sea in search of the Golden Fleece, was constructed from timber from the Pelion region, under the supervision of Athena. The Argonauts, a band of fifty heroic men, supported Jason on his quest to redeem his birthright, the throne of Iolcus. The famous Greek poet, Hesiod, relates that Jason and Medea finally settled happily in Iolcus and that their son Medeus was educated by Cheiron on nearby Pelion.

IDE

Mount Ide, commonly known today as Psiloreitis, is the central and highest point of the mountain range that traverses the island of Crete from west to

east. Mount Ide was the locality often connected with the legends of Zeus; a cavern on its slopes was sacred to him. The common tradition was that Zeus was born on Crete either on Mount Dictae or Mount Ide, and that his mother, Rhea, concealed his birth from his father, Cronus. She entrusted the baby to the Curetes and the nymphs Adrasteia and Ide, the daughters of Melisseus, the king of Crete. The king's daughters fed Zeus with milk from the goat Amaltheia, and the bees of the mountain provided him with honey.

King Minos

Every nine years, King Minos of Crete was said to withdraw to Mount Ide. He isolated himself in the cave where Zeus grew up and remained there for a considerable period of time. When he returned to his people, he always brought a new set of laws with him. No one ever saw him writing these laws, and some said that while inside the cave, Minos consulted Zeus, who was also his father and who had made him king of the whole of Crete. Others said that they heard Zeus' voice dictating what he was to write, adding that Zeus not only gave his son the laws to be imposed on his people but, with parental care, had educated Minos since the age of nine and taught him how to govern.

The Birth of Paris

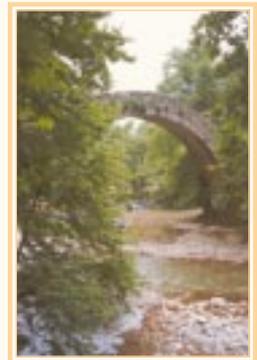
Mount Ide was also associated with the birth of Paris. Before his birth, his mother, Hecabe, had a terrible dream. She dreamt that she gave birth to a burning torch which dripped blood and set fire to Troy. The seer Aesacus, an illegitimate son of Priam, the father of Paris, advised him to kill the child as soon as he was born; otherwise Troy would be destroyed. However, Priam did not want to kill his own child, so he entrusted the task to one of his slaves, instructing him to take



the infant to Mount Ide and kill it there. At the last minute, the slave took pity on the baby and left it in the wilderness, certain that the beasts of the mountain would devour it. Instead, the child was found by Archelaus, a shepherd, who, on seeing how beautiful it was, decided to keep it as his own. As the child was too young to stand on its feet, the shepherd lay it down in his bag, his "pira," from which he gave it the name Paris.

The Judgement of Paris

Mount Ide was also the site of the famous Judgement of Paris.



When Zeus' daughter, Thetis, married a mortal, Peleus, on Mount Pelion, gods as well as mortals attended the feast and celebrated together. All the gods were present and offered gifts, except for Eris, who was not invited. This snub made Eris very angry. In order to take revenge, she threw an

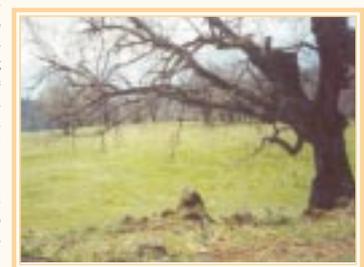


apple into the midst of the gathering, saying that it should be given to the most beautiful woman. Instantly, the three great goddesses, Hera, Athena and Aphrodite, all claimed the coveted prize. To resolve the issue, Zeus ordered Hermes to lead the goddesses to Ide, where Paris was tending his father's flock. Paris was directed to judge the contest.

When the procession of goddesses reached Mount Ide, Paris was startled and he ran away in fear. Hermes restrained him, giving him Zeus' order. In the proceedings, the three goddesses exchanged bitter words, and each proclaimed her own merits. Hera said that she was the wife of the King of Heavens. Athena claimed that she was distinguished for her sword. Aphrodite said that she was able to offer the gift of love to mortals and gods alike. Each goddess also made certain promises to Paris if he would pronounce her the winner. Hera promised to make him the king of all Asia and Europe. Athena vowed to make him a strong warrior, and Aphrodite promised to offer him the love of Helen, the most beautiful woman in the world.

Paris chose Aphrodite's gift and gave her the apple leaving the other two goddesses embittered. With the aid of Aphrodite, Paris carried Helen to Troy, leading to the epic ten year struggle for the City of Troy.

Photos: N. Arvanitakis



Agriculture and health – “Bios & Environment Transnational Network”

Reducing agricultural risks to human health and the environment

Citizens everywhere are becoming increasingly concerned about the impact of agriculture on the environment and human health. Agriculture's long-term vitality and prosperity depend on its ability to co-exist with the natural environment.

Water pollution from agriculture can impose economic costs on farmers, other industries, and the public, as well as cause negative environmental effects on ecosystems and biodiversity. The link between farming and the quality of surface and groundwater has long been recognised, and it is now a key environmental and health issue. To reduce water contamination and the associated negative health effects, it is important to find ways of using existing water more efficiently and learn to farm with less water. In addition, properly guided biotechnology can enhance agriculture through management practices that limit agricultural wastes, such as pesticides and nutrients, from entering into water courses.

Farming methods and practices produce different types and levels of emissions and create new management options for improving air quality and helping to mitigate the atmospheric accumulation of greenhouse gases. Some of these

options may reduce the emission of a number of air pollutants at the same time. For example, improving manure management practices can reduce the emission of gases responsible for unpleasant odours, as well as those that contribute to climate change. Some soil conservation practices can reduce emissions of particulate matter, such as dust and smoke.

Ensuring compatibility between biodiversity and agriculture

Biodiversity, which comprises genetic resources, and species and ecosystem diversity, is of great importance to agriculture, since it provides many environmental and economic benefits to agro-ecosystems. As an industry based on natural resources, agriculture depends on a healthy biodiversity and has a direct impact on the protection of this biodiversity.

Agricultural practices which include wetlands drainage, grazing, and use of fertilisers and pesticides can adversely affect biodiversity, although, when applied properly, the impact on wild flora and fauna is minimised. In most parts of the world, the conversion of wetlands and wooded areas to agricultural land has reduced wildlife habitat extensively and has also brought about soil degradation.

Soils are crucial to our survival and well-being, and their degradation from wind and water erosion, salinisation, loss of organic matter, or compaction, is a concern in every agricultural region of the world.

Farmers depend on healthy soil for their livelihood and, therefore, have a direct economic incentive to ensure it is sustained as a medium for growing crops. Less well known are other ways in which agricultural soils benefit society, such as by providing habitat for some species, retaining and filtering water, and by sequestering carbon, thus helping mitigate the greenhouse effect. Through good soil management practices, farmers can enhance the public benefits of soils.

Educational activities in agriculture and health

These and other issues are extensively analysed and presented in two educational modules prepared by the Biopolitics International Organisation (B.I.O.), within the framework of its participation as a core partner in the “Bios & Environment Transnational Network” project. The project is sponsored by the European Commission's Leonardo da Vinci Programme, Second Phase 2000-2006, and is coordinated by Action Link/Action Synergy S.A. The Network com-

prises partners from 16 different countries and aims to provide a platform for environmental education, offering information and training on a European and international level. The educational material available is based on the extensive work and experience of B.I.O., which has



paved the way for the environment to exit the confines of pure environmental science and become part and parcel of every academic discipline and professional initiative.

More information about the Network, its activities and the partners involved can be found at www.bios-environment.net

“Youth Farm” – Promoting entrepreneurship among young farmers

Cyprus, Greece, UK, Italy, Poland, Czechia, and Slovenia cooperate in agricultural education

At the initiative of Intercollege's Research and Development Center, one of the leading educational institutions in Cyprus, a partnership between ten associations in Cyprus, Greece, the UK, Italy, Poland, Czechia, and Slovenia was recently formed to promote agricultural education and the environment within the framework of the European Commission's Leonardo da Vinci Vocational Training Programme. The partnership will develop a project themed “Youth-Farm,” which aims to promote competitiveness in agriculture and entrepreneurship among young farmers in candidate countries, thus contributing to the restoration and enhancement of the competitiveness of rural areas and to the creation of new employment opportunities in those areas.

The goal is to provide young farmers with critical knowledge and information on areas that, despite their important role in the survival and modernisation of agriculture, have not been addressed



before in such a holistic approach. These areas are: a) The European Union and the Common Agricultural Policy, b) Environment and agriculture, c) Occupational health & safety in agriculture, d) Quality and safety in food production and e) Non-agricultural complementary economic activities.

The specific objectives that the project will strive to fulfil include:

- ▶ evaluation of existing educational materials in the above mentioned areas and review of existing literature
- ▶ identification of the needs of young farmers in candidate countries
- ▶ development of an innovative educational kit that will meet the identified needs, aims and objectives of the target group
- ▶ testing of the developed educational kit through a series of training seminars
- ▶ evaluation of these seminars and the adaptation of the educational kit according to the results of this evaluation
- ▶ dissemination of the final product to potential users

The project is aimed at farmers between 25

and 35 years of age and was conceived in an attempt to assist candidate countries to tackle structural problems in rural areas, to help young farmers from these countries to overcome the major challenges that joining the EU's single market and common agricultural policy presents, and to pave the way for their integration into the common agricultural policy. Restructuring is necessary in order to make farming competitive. This is why it is important to support the development of new skills and competencies among young farmers.

“Youth Farm” is coordinated by Professor Andreas Theophanous, Director General of Intercollege's Research and Development Center, and is comprised of the following partner organisations: Biopolitics International Organisation, Greece; Department of Environmental Studies, University of the Aegean, Greece; Technological Educational Institute of Kalamata, Greece; Advanced Research Partnership (ARP), a consortium of six universities in the UK; Italian Agricultural Confederation (CIA); Agricultural Federation of Ammochostos, Cyprus; Institute for Building, Mechanisation and Electrification in Agriculture (IBMER), Poland; Department of Education (DE) of the Czech University of Agri-

culture (CUA) in Prague; Institute for Sustainable Development, Slovenia.

Concerns and future prospects

Over the coming years, agriculture in the European Union will have to adapt to new realities and further changes in terms of market evolution, market policy and trade rules, consumer demand and preferences and the European Community's next enlargement. In the future, farmers will not be paid for overproduction, but for responding to what people want – safe food, quality production, animal welfare and a healthy environment. These changes will affect not only agricultural markets, but also local economies in rural areas in general. As a result, farmers will need the necessary qualifications to make agriculture greener, healthier and more consumer-friendly.

Vocational training in agriculture represents one of the main EU tools in its effort to enhance the implementation of the CAP. It is hoped that the Youth Farm project will assist farmers to become competitive and successful entrepreneurs in the complicated environment of an enlarged European market.

Youth-Farm promotes competitiveness in agriculture and entrepreneurship among young farmers in candidate countries.

New challenges for agriculture as Cyprus joins the European Union

Agriculture is no longer the driving force of the Cyprus economy, but careful water management, the adoption of more modern methods of farming, an increased emphasis on the earliness of production, and the opportunity of a larger market as results from the European Union,

The agriculture sector in Cyprus employs more than 8% of the fulltime labour force and provides materials for local industry.

can ensure that it remains a vital and important economic sector.

Cyprus has a small agricultural sector, which is highly protected. Due to the very important historic socio-economic role of farming, it has been necessary to also provide the maximum possible support to the agricultural sector. Government irrigation projects, subsidies, and tax policies have encouraged farming's existence, as has research in new crops and new varieties of crops

already in cultivation.

Despite its relatively low contribution to GDP (approximately 5.5%) because of extraordinary growth in other sectors of the economy, including tourism and services, agriculture in Cyprus still accounts for about 8% of the fulltime labour force. This share of employment is much greater if we take into account part-time farmers, who are complementing their income through farming. As Cyprus prepares to officially join the EU in May, the first challenge is to create the conditions for strengthening existing agriculture, so as to be able to maintain farming on a competitive basis and develop new areas of farming that can effectively compete and contribute to EU farming. The desire is to mobilise farmers to meet these challenges and to secure, in the medium and longer-term, better standards



of living in a friendly and secure environment.

The agricultural sector spans a diverse range of activities, including animal husbandry, forestry, fishing and crop production with potatoes, other vegetables, citrus fruits, grapes and cereals being the main crop products. The scarcity of water and the precariousness of rainfall constitute the major single problem for agriculture in Cyprus. This is particularly true in the case of cereals, which depend entirely on rainfall.

Agricultural exports are seasonally concentrated with citrus products making their way to Europe mainly in the winter, and white seedless and black grapes being in demand in the summer.

Recent years have also seen a major expansion of out-of-season salads and vegetable exports to the European Union with items such as okra and tomatoes doing especially well.

The Cyprus-EC Customs Union Agreement has boosted the island's exports of fresh fruits and vegetables. Total agricultural exports to European Union countries reached C€60 m by 1995. The first ten-year period of the Agreement provides for the gradual abolition of duties and an increase in quotas for major items such as grapes and potatoes. Reference prices, one of the main forms of European Union protection in fruit and vegetables, were also adjusted in favour of Cyprus for oranges, lemons and table grapes. At the same time, European Union financial aid and Government incentives, such as low interest loans for greenhouse construction or investment expenditure for the promotion of mechanisation, have helped agriculture in Cyprus to improve and have enabled the exploitation of market opportunities.

Sources: www.cosmosnet.net/cyprus/reference.allrefer.com/country-guide/Cyprus

Bio-assessment of technology

Ethics and guidelines for equitable trade and food security

Technology has made enormous progress, offering numerous new tools for education and learning. These tools can increase human potential, especially in deprived regions of the world, and provide a new and expanded vision in improving quality of life and creating a better world for the generations to come. No human resource should remain untapped. With the proper guidance, every human endeavour can contribute to saving biodiversity and ensuring a future of hope.

Fairer World Forum Brussels, December 2003

The third Fairer World Forum took place at the Bibliotheque Solvay in Brussels on December 1, 2003. Over 40 senior figures from the worlds of commerce, science, trade unions, government and NGOs attended the conference, allowing an exchange of ideas on a wide range of globalisation topics. The conference dealt with two main questions: 1) Are multinationals the "unsung heroes" of development aid? and, 2) How are global commodities markets rigged against the Third World?

Among the distinguished speakers present were: **Klaus Leisinger**, President and Executive Director of the Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development; **Niels Christiansen** Vice President Public Affairs, Nestle; **Simon Webley**, Research Director at the Institute of Business Ethics; **Anthony Sampson**, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility at Aviva; **Dwight Justice** from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions; **Colum Joyce**, Global E-Business Strategy Manager for DHL; **Marcello Palazzi**, President of the Progressio Foundation; **Anton Mifsud-Bonnici**, Adviser in Corporate Responsibility at BP; Dr. **Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis**, B.I.O. President and Founder; **Brigid Gavin**, United Nations University; **Lise Lotte Isaksson**, from the European Commission's Directorate General for Development; **Gonzague de Beer**, Director of Max Havelaar Belgium; **Rudolph Deutekom** of UNICEF; **Eric De Keuleneer**, Executive Director of the University Foundation; and, **Karl-Friedrich Falkenberg**, Director responsible for Free Trade Agreements in DG Trade of the European Commission.

Getting Down to Detail in the Globalisation Debate

In providing a forum for the discussion of diverse and complex issues pertaining to globalisation, the third Fairer World Forum highlighted important areas of both agreement and conflict. New approaches to old issues were advocated and suggestions were



made as to how to tackle emerging issues like genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The role played by multinational corporations is seen as vital, but in need of clarification, in helping to manage the forces of globalisation. Forging links between seemingly disparate areas is of great importance when seeking to devise an integrated worldwide approach to globalisation.

During the discussion on GMOs, it was suggested that GMOs could be another way to get the current system working for the world's poor. However, ever since the Green Revolution in India in the 1970s, GMOs have received



a mixed press. It is argued that they are more expensive and require more fertilisers than normal seeds, but that their yields are greater and have a greater resistance to disease.

The B.I.O. President was invited to present her views, which follow below:

Changing role of biotechnology

Biotechnology has important implications in healthcare, agriculture, food production, trade and environmental protection. Applications of plant biotechnology have been transferred to developing countries in order to address the critical need for a more sustainable agriculture that could provide sufficient food and a cleaner environment. These applications have not been without controversy, however, as genetically modified organisms (GMOs) have been associated with very serious effects on the environment, food safety and human health.

Concerns over issues of biotechnology and genetic engineering is not new. In the 1960s, when Massachusetts legislation banned genetic research, scientists moved to California. Massachusetts then changed its legislation and the scientists returned. Biotechnology is a reality which cannot be ignored. We have opened Pandora's box and need to face the consequences. Short-term thinking and poor plan-

To help save bios, ethical guidelines such as the Hippocratic Oath need to be developed and implemented in all fields.

ning have created a crisis in values which needs to be reversed. Unlike Pandora, we have the option of controlling the consequences of our actions through proper priorities and ethics.

Up to now, bioethics has been limited to medical issues such as death and euthanasia, organ transplants, stem cell research and cloning. It is time for bioethics to exit the confines of medicine and apply to every human endeavour. Ethical guidelines such as the Hippocratic Oath need to be developed and implemented in all fields: the sciences, business and trade, education, policy. The "bio-assessment of technology" offers this needed expansion in bioethics and underlines our responsibility for equitable development which respects "bios," all life on our planet. Within this framework, the environment and

If companies worked hard and bioethics discussions were not limited to medical issues, guidelines on GMOs could exist in six months.

biological and cultural diversity become the cornerstones of future society.

GMOs and the food sector

Biotechnology is certainly revolutionising the food chain. By means of genetic manipulation, seeds can be modified, products can be transformed, and totally new varieties more resistant to pests can be created, thus reducing the need of pesticides. Over the last 15 years, applications of plant breeding and agronomy have resulted in steady, substantial increases in

yield in many parts of the world. However, caution has to be applied, as the effects of the introduction of new biological elements in ecosystems may take years or decades to be sufficiently understood. The emerging global debate on GMOs is a case in point.

It has been proven that many GMOs are harmful to the environment and health. The dissemination of pollen from genetically-modified plants on weeds makes them more resistant to herbicides, pests, and other treatments. Thirty percent of the bees that consume pollen from genetically-modified plants die within a few days, with disastrous consequences for pollination. Birds and other animals face the risk of dying from the lack of insects, which are eliminated by using high levels of pest control chemicals on crops genetically-modified to resist such dosages. Transgenic plants render other crop species unproductive, a phenomenon that affects both the ecosystem and agricultural production, and is a devastating problem for poor countries. For example, in India, food production has been severely affected by the lack of traditional plant varieties and the introduction of genetically manipulated seeds.

Corporate social and environmental responsibility

To succeed in capturing new markets, the enterprises of the future will have

to align their growth strategies with providing solutions to the world's most pressing challenges: clean energy, the protection of natural resources, water and safe food. Corporate social and environmental responsibility have entered the mainstream, as companies are facing growing pressure to be responsible citizens. The production of GMOs which harm the environment, jeopardise public health and create unfavourable market conditions for farmers and consumers, is not consistent with a corporate strategy that seeks to be environmentally and socially responsible.

If companies are actively participating in the discussions on ethics and GMOs, then they should not feel threatened by the process.

When companies minimise their environmental risks and foster ethical policies, they may also gain a competitive advantage by reducing costs,

improving the quality of their products and services, and gaining access to new markets. As many public and pri-



ivate investors refuse to endow companies that pollute the planet and place the health of the world's population at risk, investments are increasingly directed towards businesses that meet the basic standards of environmental responsibility.

Green stockmarkets

Around the world, corporate citizenship is being influenced by deeper social changes that make it necessary for companies to espouse environmental standards. According to an article recently published by "The Conference Board," France requires all companies listed on the Paris Stock Exchange to include information about their social and environmental performance within their financial statements. Socially aware investors can choose among some 230 mutual funds, and more than 800 independent asset managers who identify themselves as managers of socially responsible portfolios for institutional investors and high-net-worth individuals. Indexes of social and environmental performance - like the Dow Jones Sustainability World Indexes and FTSE4Good - are becoming significant market factors in screening for good citizenship. These indexes drop companies that fail to meet social

responsibility standards. With environmental shareholders entering into dialogue with decision makers, corporate behaviour on the environment can be steered towards a direction that can meet the needs and demands of the global public and civil society.



Prospects for development in biotechnology – II Moscow International Congress



Biotechnology and medicine, agriculture, industry, the environment, food products, nanotechnologies, biotechnologies, innovations, business and finance, education, fundamental

research, and the problems of biosafety and bioethics, were some of the topics addressed at the **II International Congress on "Biotechnology: State of the Art and Prospects of Development,"** which convened from **10 to 14 November 2003**, at the building of the **Moscow Government**. The Congress was organised by the Moscow Government, the Ministry of Industry, Science and Technology of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and Care, the Ministry of Agriculture,

the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, the Trade and Manufacture Chamber in Moscow, the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences, and Maxima JSC. The organising committee was headed by **Professor Pavel Sarkisov**, President of the D.I. Mendeleev Chemical Society of Russia.

Professor Sarkisov invited the B.I.O. President to participate in the **Programme Committee** and in the closing **Plenary Session** of the Congress, themed "Problems of Biosafety and Bioethics." Other distinguished speak-

ers included: **Professor M.P. Kirpichnikov**, First Deputy Minister of Industry, Science and Technology of the Russian Federation; **Professor Y.M. Lopukhin**, Chairman of the Russian Ministry of Health and the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences Bioethics Committee; **Professor B.G. Yudin**, Director of the Human Research Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences; and, **Professor K.G. Skryabin**, Director of the Bioengineering Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

In her speech, the B.I.O. President noted that: "The general tendencies

of the development of the world economy define the role of biotechnology as the driving force of scientific and technological progress, indicating that biotechnology is a priority in the national strategies of the leading countries of the world.

It is hoped that through the bio-assessment of technology – as proposed by B.I.O. since 1985 – the right bioethical guidelines will be set, in order to make full use of the potential of this valuable tool in agriculture, medicine and industry, without jeopardising human health or the environment."



Hellenic-Turkish Cooperation in Biopolitics

Hellenic-Turkish Cooperation in Biopolitics On the Road to European Ideals

Monday, 9 February 2004

Symposium Programme

Morning Session

Office of the European Parliament

Greetings, introductions meeting the Press

- ▶ Dr. Agni Vliavianos-Arvanitis, B.I.O. President and Founder
- ▶ George Cassimatis, Director, European Parliament Representation in Greece
- ▶ Yigit Alpogan, Ambassador of Turkey
- ▶ Professor Rusen Keles, Ankara University
- ▶ Professor Constantine Stephanou, Panteion University
- ▶ Professor Nicholas Markatos, f. Rector, National Technical University of Athens
- ▶ Panayotis Koutsikos, President, Hellenic-Turkish Chamber of Commerce

Afternoon Session

National Bank of Greece

Chairs

- ▶ Dr. Agni Vliavianos-Arvanitis, B.I.O. President and Founder
- ▶ Professor Rusen Keles, Ankara University

International cooperation & bio-diplomacy

- ▶ Lefteris Antonacopoulos, Chairman and CEO, Hellenic Telecommunications Organisation
- ▶ Yigit Alpogan, Ambassador of Turkey
- ▶ Nicholas Papageorgiou, President, Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO
- ▶ Alejandro Diaz, Ambassador of Mexico
- ▶ Jannie Momberg, Ambassador of South Africa

Environmental education

- ▶ Professor Christos Halkias, Dean, Athens Information Technology Center
- ▶ Professor Zafer Erturk, Rector, Eastern Mediterranean University
- ▶ Professor Ersi Abatzi Kalfoglou, Istanbul University
- ▶ Professor Berna Alpogut, Faculty of Letters, Ankara University

Business and the media

- ▶ George Ioannidis, Managing Director, OTENet
- ▶ Panayotis Koutsikos, President, Hellenic-Turkish Chamber of Commerce
- ▶ Stefanos Kostopoulos, President, Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce
- ▶ Constantine Kanonis, President, Hellenic-Russian Chamber of Commerce
- ▶ Stathis E. Nazos, CEO, ABN AMRO Asset Management

Agriculture and rural development

- ▶ Professor Ilhami Unver, Faculty of Agriculture, Ankara University
- ▶ Professor Umit Erdem, Director for Environmental Studies, Aegean University, Izmir

An environmental vision in governance

- ▶ Professor Kelly Bourdara, Deputy Mayor of Athens
- ▶ Fahri Yucel, Governor of Edirne
- ▶ Hasan Canpolat, Governor of Sivas
- ▶ Iris Senturk, Mayor of Antakya
- ▶ Professor Constantine Stephanou, Panteion University



Opening session at the Office of the European Parliament

On the road to European Union ideals

George Cassimatis
Director, European Parliament
Representation in Greece

The European Parliament, which I have the honour of representing here in Greece, hails and supports this meeting within the framework

Greece has benefited greatly from European integration and we wish Turkey every success.

of the general spirit of Hellenic-Turkish friendship and cooperation. All initiatives promoting this friendship must be commended and supported.

Cooperation in environmental issues is a particularly fruitful ground

Professor Rusen Keles
Ankara University

Principle 9 of the Rio Declaration emphasises the need to strengthen capacity building for sustainable development by improving international understanding through an exchange of scientific and technological knowledge. In fact, there are vast opportunities for closer cooperation between the two neighbouring countries, Greece and Turkey, in the field of the environment, since we both share similar geographic, historical, economic, social and environmental features. B.I.O. has always been one of the NGOs that, apart from its immediate specialised concerns, contributed greatly to the enhancement of a sustainable friendship between the peoples of Greece and Turkey. I believe that the only justification for me having the privilege and honour of sharing the Abdi Ipekci Special Peace Prize in 1993 lies exclusively in the constructive work of B.I.O.

Two years after the first B.I.O. Hellenic-Turkish symposium, the Rio Declaration advised that nations cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and the integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. B.I.O. had already launched its worldwide programme for international cooperation to safeguard natural assets and the historical heritage of mankind.

Sustainable development can be achieved only by increasing the governing ability of the state. In fact, sustainable development is not attainable without a sustainable state, which can undertake the responsibility to steer society towards sustainable development, and to plan

for the development of international understanding. Experience has shown that global and regional environmental problems have no borders and, as such, they cannot be solved on a national level only. Greece and Turkey can work together in finding the right solutions.

This place has a great symbolic meaning, as it represents the success of 50 years of European integration and is a tribute to those whose efforts have made this integration possible. Modern Greece has benefited greatly from European integration and we wish Turkey every success.

and implement towards this end. It is often asserted that wide-spread globalisation, with its policy directives of liberalisation, deregulation and privatisation, tends to favour the overall interests of society as a whole, including environmental values through the maximization of private interests. But recent experience in most Mediterranean countries suggests that, in order to achieve the policy objectives of sustainable development, we will

require, for a long time, considerable public intervention in environmental matters, so as to harmonise the long-term interests of society with those of the present generations.

With all these considerations in mind, I believe that our generation is faced with an important ethical responsibility for ensuring respect for all the biotic and non-biotic elements on Earth, and that B.I.O. will continue to contribute in the future, as in the past, to the happiness of the peoples in our region and in the entire world.

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Civic leaders, business executives, scholars and diplomats from Greece and Turkey met in Athens, on February 9, 2004, to discuss important issues in international cooperation. The initiative was themed "Hellenic-Turkish Cooperation in Biopolitics – On the Road to European Union Ideals" and was organised by the B.I.O. President, Dr. Agni Vliavianos-

Arvanitis, under the auspices of the Ambassador of Turkey, Mr. Yigit Alpogan. The meeting convened with great success at the Office of the European Parliament and the National Bank of Greece.

Following the success of previous conferences and symposia in Istanbul (1992), Ankara (1997), Trabzon (1989, 1993), Adana (1995) and Athens (1990), which focused

Yigit Alpogan
Ambassador of Turkey

Over the last four years, Turkey has been assisted by Greece in complex and complicated EU matters, and there has been extensive collaboration in many and diverse fields within the framework of the European Union. There is a sustained process of negotiations between the two countries, in order to resolve past differences, and, once both sides are ready to overcome dividing issues, bilateral relations will improve and there will hardly be any issue left for politicians or technocrats to ponder over. The only thing left will be to further Greek and Turkish cooperation.

One important issue that Greece and Turkey have been discussing is the transportation of natural gas from Turkey to Greece and then to Europe. Two agreements were signed very

recently concerning the construction of a pipeline which has already begun in Turkey and is also about to start in Greece. We will connect our natural gas systems and then we will be in a position to supply gas to the European Union, thus conveying a message that Turkey and Greece are helping each other and cooperating, not only for their own benefit but also for a larger cause, namely being suppliers of natural gas to Europe.

Our Minister of Transport was here about ten days ago, and another historic agreement was signed concerning the Egnatia highway.

"When the UN Commission on Environment and Development, headed by Prime Minister Brundtland, made public its discovery of the method of sustainable development in 1986, we, as the founders of B.I.O., were already discussing its implications for our nations in Athens. When the first B.I.O. Hellenic-Turkish meeting took place in 1990, the UN Summit in Rio de Janeiro had not yet happened. It is not too unrealistic now to express the hope that the next Hellenic-Turkish symposium will take place at a time when both Greece and Turkey appear as full members of the European Union."

Professor Rusen Keles, Ankara University

The highway is now being connected to Turkey; the portion between Thessaloniki and Istanbul will be joined and, hopefully, this will be of assistance to the European Union as well. We will complete it together; therefore this huge network of roads in Greece will not end at the Turkish border, but will be connected to Turkey and will also provide Turkey with a highway system to reach Europe.

In the field of business, tax cuts have created new opportunities for the business communities in both countries. In the field of the envi-

Biopolitics is a very modern and new science, and the Turkish scientific community will have a lot to gain from it.

ronment, universities are developing many and diverse joint projects. This event is an example of the constructive cooperation between the two countries.

I would like to express my appreciation to Madame Arvanitis who is the real driving force behind this meeting. Without her help or contribution, none of these events would have materialised. At the conclusion of this meeting, we hope that Turkey will become a member of the European Union as well. Within the framework of the European Union, cooperation in Biopolitics will contribute to this end. Biopolitics is a very modern and new science, and the Turkish scientific community will have a lot to gain.



From left to right: Ms. Iris Senturk, Mayor of Antakya; Dr. Hasan Canpolat, Governor of Sivas; Mr. Yigit Alpogan, Ambassador of Turkey; Mr. George Cassimatis, Director of the European Parliament Representation in Greece; Dr. Agni Vliavianos-Arvanitis, B.I.O. President and Founder; Mr. Fahri Yucel, Governor of Edirne; Professor Rusen Keles, Ankara University.

Biopolitics On the Road to European Union Ideals



on Hellenic-Turkish cooperation and strengthened the friendship between the two countries. B.I.O. held this event in an attempt to promote bio-diplomacy, education, and environmental governance as the needed vision for the future.

The B.I.O. President thanked Ambassador Alpoğan and expressed the hope that the meeting would provide a forum for the promotion of

dialogue and cooperation in the most consequential task, that of preserving the environment and bios - life - on our planet.

"Arrogance and disrespect have led humanity to the edge of a cliff. International cooperation and bio-diplomacy, as proposed since 1985 by B.I.O., can inspire a new vision in society and lead to a future of hope. New ethics, with the environment at the

core of every endeavour, can help us to overcome negative stereotypes and build a truly civil society, where respect for all life will constitute the primary asset."

Distinguished participants from left to right: Governor Hasan Canpolat, Ambassador Yigit Alpoğan, Mr. George Cassimatīs, Dr. Agni Vliavianos-Arvanitis, Governor Fahri Yucel and Professor Rusen Keles.



An environmental vision in governance

Dr. Hasan Canpolat
Governor of Sivas

The environment is a very complex and fragile issue, so it is not very easy to develop environmental policies and apply them effectively in the real world. In many cases there is enough will but not a large enough budget or the regional capacity required to apply efficient environmental policies. To accelerate matters, it is necessary to search for coordination and technical support mechanisms on an international level.



Sivas is the second largest province in Turkey. We have 8 rivers, which are main basins of Turkey, 12 lakes and many wetlands. Water and soil are threatened by pollution from villages and some municipalities and industrial areas, and by soil erosion, because of lack of enough forest land. What we are planning to do in order to solve these problems is to implement a regional development plan extending from

now until 2023. We have started defining all the polluting points and the problems. We have invested enough money in our plan to solve these environmental problems and we are going to protect natural areas by developing educational programmes for Sivas and for its people. We are also opening an environmental and cultural "house of art" in our 16th district, to provide knowledge, especially to young peo-

The environment is a complex and fragile issue. It is not very easy to develop environmental policies and apply them effectively in the real world.

ple, on environmental subjects. We are planning to establish an urban forest, and we are in the process of establishing cultural parks promoting the cultural and historical heritage of Sivas. I would like to thank all the people of the Biopolitics International Organisation and to congratulate you for organising this very successful meeting on such an important subject

Fahri Yucel
Governor of Edirne

Environmental protection and water management are issues of primary concern in cross-border cooperation projects. It is particularly important to develop a network between Turkey and Greece to coordinate efforts and promote joint projects in tourism and development.



Our shared geography requires cross border collaboration. The Maritsa river, which comes from Bulgaria and empties into the Saros gulf, forms the natural border between Turkey

It is particularly important to develop a network between the two countries to coordinate efforts and cooperation in tourism and development.

and Greece. Intensive rice growing and the presence of wetlands have resulted in a large mosquito population in the region, especially during the summer season. There has been effective cooperation between Turkey and Greece in solving this problem through negotiations and joint activities.

The other important river in our region is the Ergene. Industrial and domestic waste pollution in the river have prompted the investigation commission of the Turkish National Grand Assembly to prepare a report concerning the pollution of the Ergene river basin and to suggest solutions.

The economic, social, and political conditions that shape environmental decision-making are evolving quickly, and the challenge for good environmental governance has become more complex. In the framework of national decisions and arrangements, the participation of local and regional actors, universities and NGOs in environmental decision-making is important. I believe that the Biopolitics International Organisation and meetings such as this will make a vital contribution to our work in this field.

Iris Senturk
Mayor of Antakya

Culture transcends national borders. In both government and private enterprise, there is no problem that cannot be solved once cooperation has been achieved. Cooperation among nations reaches beyond boundaries. Closer cooperation between Greece and Turkey will benefit both peoples. Elected officials, ambassadors and government agents can all work together to achieve this goal.



My mission as Mayor of Antakya is to protect the environment and the history of the city. I am an environmental specialist by training and I try to implement environmental policy. My first priority was to create urban green spaces and environmentally

There is no problem that cannot be solved once cooperation has been achieved.

friendly housing, as well as open recreational areas for children and their families.

Antakya, one of the most celebrated commercial capitals of the ancient world, has a rich cultural heritage that must be preserved. We have built museums, theatres and cultural centres, with the aim of contributing to our citizens' well-being. For our efforts in this area, we are candidates for UNESCO's City of Peace prize. You are all invited to visit Antakya and get to know the peace-loving nature of our city.

Professor Kelly Bourdara
Deputy Mayor of Athens

In the quest of a new vision in public administration, quality of life, hope and harmony are the building blocks of the environment that we should wish to achieve. Athens is a city with great responsibility. The past, alone, without a good strategy for the present and a vision for the future, cannot lead to the changes we desire. Today, the present is enriched by this meeting, and we would like to work closely with all the participants in the quest for hope and peace.



The environment, as promoted by B.I.O., is the core of a balanced and hopeful society.

The 2004 Olympic Games are a great moment for our city. Athens is preparing a series of initiatives, such as the unification of archaeological sites and the reconstruction of streets and squares. Reformation works in ten streets in the historical centre of Athens are already complete. For the success of the Games, it is necessary to ensure that everyone embraces the environment and includes environmental considerations in their day-to-day activities.

In the context of Olympic values, the city of Athens warmly supports today's meeting of Hellenic-Turkish friendship and cooperation. The environment, as promoted by the Biopolitics International Organisation, can become the core of a balanced and hopeful society.

Professor Constantine Stephanou
International and European Studies, Panteion University

The present meeting constitutes an appropriate and timely initiative for both countries, which have worked hard over the recent years to create a positive climate and to resolve their political differences. Greece and Turkey are partners in meeting environ-



mental challenges. The European Union framework is very valuable for both countries, which should work together in resolving international environmental problems and in implementing international conventions and treaties, such as those concerning transborder pollution. Of the many EU conventions signed, the Aarhus Convention of 1998 pertains to access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters. It is a model of participatory governance. And the area of the environment is the first area where participatory governance is being introduced.

A society of culture, education and sportsmanship

At the conclusion of the morning session at the Office of the European Parliament, Olympic champion Christos Papanikolaou declared that the Greek Olympic champions fully support the Biopolitics International

Organisation, which they consider a global effort in defence of the environment. "We support your struggle for a new society, based on models of education and sportsmanship. We would therefore like to pro-

pose a meeting of Greek and Turkish Olympic champions, cultural agents and business leaders, to be held under the B.I.O. auspices in view of the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. We would also like to ask the Amb-

sador of Turkey to place this initiative under his aegis. In this way, we hope that we can further promote the ideals of Biopolitics for a better environment and a society of culture, education and sportsmanship."



International cooperation and bio-diplomacy



George Argyropoulos
Chief Technology Officer, Hellenic Telecommunications Organisation
President, Hellas Sat

On behalf of the Chairman and CEO of the Hellenic Telecommunications Organisation, Mr. **Lefteris Antonacopoulos**, I would like to congratulate the B.I.O. President for her vision and tireless efforts for a better future for all. Biopolitics helps in the creation and expression of the common interests of nations by replacing confrontation with cooperation.

The protection of the natural environment has emerged, in recent years, as a primary problem on a global scale, a problem facing international organisations, multinational and large corporations, leaders of great countries as well as everyday people. Hence it is necessary to stress collectivity in the attempt to face these issues. The solution to environmental problems must be based on cooperation and not conflict. This is exactly the essence of biopolitics and bio-diplomacy; to provide an overall and binding framework

of addressing and confronting these problems of the new era. Today, the importance of bio-diplomacy is self-evident, as we have an abundance of international agreements that are binding to states. What is lacking is the building of common interests and a sense of urgency. The rapid growth of information technology and telecommunications provides a solution, by strengthening the role of citizens in decision-making.

In today's world, characterised by complexity and interaction, telecommunications are of vital importance for the development of a healthy environmental conscience. In this context, rapid exchange of information and ideas reinforces and shapes this participatory procedure to the benefit of the environment. By applying all its forces and

Biopolitics helps in the creation and expression of the common interests of nations by replacing confrontation with cooperation.

acknowledging current trends, the Hellenic Telecommunications Organisation is adopting "bio-environmentally friendly" actions in the fields of education, employment and culture.

Alejandro Diaz
Ambassador of Mexico

Mexico, is committed to enhancing environmental protection fully aware of the challenges concerning sustainable development, such as clean water management, forest protection, sound agricultural practices, responsible trade, implementation of renewable energy sources, care of wetlands, effective pollution control and also the

Solutions exist and it is up to us to identify them and to put them into practice through bio-diplomacy.

promotion of ecotourism. We have developed close cooperation with our neighbours in the north and south. The Plan Puebla Panama is a joint effort between Mexico and seven countries of Mesoamerica, from Belize to Panama, to raise the standards of living in these countries. There are many treaties written and signed for a better world, but with two minor inconveniences: developing countries lack the capabilities, the money or the will to enforce the agreements; and some developed nations evade their responsibilities by not ratifying important treaties. In these cases, diplomacy has to intervene to find wise solutions to common problems and restore international cooperation. Solutions exist and it is up to us to identify them and to put them into practice through bio-diplomacy.

Jannie Momberg
Ambassador of South Africa

I would like to thank Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis for her tremendous enthusiasm for Biopolitics and for the dedication to organise this event. It is also a great honour to be here today, under the auspices of my very good friend, the Ambassador of Turkey, Mr. Yigit Alpolgan.

In September 2002, my country, South Africa, hosted a very successful World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. We were proud that our young democracy was given such a huge responsibility and we were pleased when the whole world said "well done." At the conclusion of that conference the delegates issued a joint statement in which they reaffirmed their commitment to sustainable development. Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis, in

May this symposium be a building block for a better life for all.

1994, you stated that "guaranteeing a better quality of life for every citizen in the world holds the key to our harmonious and peaceful global society in the next millennium." South Africa became free in 1994 and inherited a vast legacy of poverty and crime, but a lot has been achieved since then. Of the 11 million people without clean water, today more than 9 million have access to water.

We know that without sustainable development we will not survive. May this symposium further enhance the growing strength of the relationship between the Hellenic Republic and Turkey and may this be a building block for a better life for all.

Nicholas Papageorgiou
President, Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO

To preserve the environment, in the manner in which the Biopolitics International Organisation envisages, technology and the arts need to join forces and contribute to a society of peace. In many areas throughout the planet, peace remains fragile. Poverty and conflict endanger human safety and dignity, as well as human justice.

The attempt to maintain peace in all dimensions is a continuous challenge for the international community, especially under the conditions of globalisation. We have an obligation to make various efforts to find better and

more adequate ways to deal with these multiple challenges.

This search must be based on universally shared values, while preserving the uniqueness of individuals and civilizations, and must aim at the urgent needs of the less privileged and isolated groups or geographical regions. Firmly bound to democracy, human rights, and basic freedoms, the key to this search is dialogue, as it is only through dialogue that long-term understanding and peace may be achieved.

Bio-Diplomacy – an international effort in defence of the environment

There is an ongoing war around us. Polar icecaps are melting, fish populations are declining, water resources are being polluted, soils are eroded, the hole in the ozone layer is increasing in size. Who will stand to profit from this destruction? The enemies are countless, and we cannot face them in isolation.

Governments, multinational corporations and every individual on this planet should join forces and wage war against environmental pollution and abuse.

Bio-diplomacy, as propounded by B.I.O. since its inception in 1985, is an opportunity for the aspirations of sovereign states and civil society

to converge in pursuit of long-term international environmental policy and action. Bio-diplomacy actively supports efforts to maintain biological and cultural diversity and promotes international cooperation in environmental protection to enhance quality of life and strengthen efforts for freedom and peace. AVA



Agriculture and rural development – Soil protection and agrotourism

Professor Ilhami Unver
Faculty of Agriculture
Ankara University

As global population increases, there is a greater demand for food resources. Hence, maintaining productive soils is critical. A healthy soil provides clean air and water, bountiful crops and forests, productive rangeland, diverse wildlife, and beautiful landscapes. Unfortunately, few of us are aware of the fact that it is the soil and the viable biological communities in it which help, not only to ensure long-term rangeland sustainability, but also clean water and clean air.

Soil is a vital implement for agricultural production, yet is increasingly exposed to diffuse or specific attack from a variety of sources, which makes it more vulnerable to degradation. Soil degradation is thus frequent and rapid, whereas the reconstitution process is as slow

as ever, if not impossible. Sustaining the multi-functionality of the soils is a primary principle in soil protection.

Soil protection should be systematically taken into consideration in all other policies, in particular farming, forestry, mining, industry, tourism, transport, urban planning and spatial development policy. Where there is a risk of serious damage to one of the ecological functions of soil and when there is scientific uncertainty as to the extent of future soil deterioration, caution and emergency measures should be adopted where necessary.

Participation is key in any protection policy. Women, local people, landowners and growers are among the primary potential participants. Any decision or operation should be absolutely based on the participation principle. Soil is a vital and largely non-renewable resource and has not been the subject of comprehensive EU action

so far. However, in response to concerns about the degradation of soils in the EU, the European Commission has outlined the first steps in a strategy to protect soils. Protection measures have been given particular importance in the 6th Environment Action Programme, which proposes a new thematic strategy for soil protection, with particular emphasis on reducing soil erosion, soil deterioration, contamination and desertification.

Soil is a repository of natural and human history, and underlies and shapes the landscape. The different sectors using land and soils have had their own policies and strategies on preventing soil degradation. For example, the protection of soils started as a secondary focus in water conservation and waste management. Air pollution control, nature conservation and efforts for the protection of our cultural heritage have also promoted soil protection.

Professor Umit Erden
Director of Environmental Studies
Ege University, Izmir

Anti-life and ad hoc activities have created a wave of extinction in biotic communities. An extinction of habitats by ten to one means an annihilation of biota by 50%. **Land degradation in this sense is "ecocide" and needs to be considered a crime.**

During last two decades, the European continent has lost 5 million hectares of arable land due to degradation from salinisation, physico-chemical and biological factors, erosion, urbanisation and industrialisation. In Izmir, over 5,000 ha are being used for non-agricultural purposes annually. The total cultivated area in 1970 was 30,000 ha, but was reduced to 6,000 ha in 1990 and to nearly 5,000 ha in 2000.

Agrotourism is an alternative activity in the rural development process, which

combines agriculture and tourism, improves natural resources, and contributes to the rural area both socially and economically. The introduction of agricultural activities in urban areas is a way to educate urban people in the contribution of agriculture to quality of life and the economy. More specifically, agrotourism:

- ▶ Helps to protect agricultural areas and the rural landscape.
- ▶ Creates diversity in agriculture and creates job opportunities in rural areas.
- ▶ Provides opportunities for the marketing of agricultural products.
- ▶ Increases the welfare level of the local population.
- ▶ Establishes social and economic relations between urban and rural dwellers and acts as a bridge between rural and urban areas.
- ▶ Meets the tourism and recreation needs of urban people.
- ▶ Improves the respectability of agricultural activity from the urban population's point of view.
- ▶ Educates urban people on the contribution of agricultural activities to the improvement of quality of life and the economy.

Business and the media

George Ioannidis
Managing Director, OTENet

Biopolitics helps us to divert our attention from the human being in the sense of selfish and, quite often, short-sighted pursuit of personal strategies, dismissively referred to as "micro politics" in organisational theory. Conversely, it spurs us to focus on the human being as an integral part of the environment, who can exist within this environment and can perform satisfactorily while, at the same time, respecting it. This approach can lead us to adopt strategies of conscious support of the working and social environment, as well as all types of environment. It can also lead us to a point where the overall benefits are maximized, which is often referred to as a "win-win" situation.

It is this approach of harmonious co-existence and mutual respect that should govern the issues concerning Greece and Turkey. Businesses as well as nations at the government level are bound to find grounds for cooperation based on the concept of mutual benefit. The internet constitutes a new environment and its use can result in restructuring relations in economy, politics and society in general.

Being the leading internet service provider in Greece, OTENet plays a major part in the building of the "information society" and, from a wider perspective, the shaping of a new "digital" environment. This new technology allows small countries, such as Greece, to participate, on equal terms, in the European Union market as well as new global

The internet can render bio-diplomacy a part of a common public sphere, accessible to every citizen.



new ways of approaching art, theatre, music, literature and science, and to conceive global cultural policies encouraging an effective debate with the broadest possible public participation. In the development of these policies, it is essential for natural history museums to take into account the most recent aspects of biology and the environment, as well as the new challenges encountered.

Biopolitics, through its e-learning programmes, can bring Greek and Turkish scientists together in collaboration. It is a great pleasure to be participating in this Hellenic-Turkish symposium, and I would like to thank Ambassador Alpogan, Dr. Vlavianos-Arvanitis and Professor Keles for their timely initiative.

Stefanos Costopoulos
Chairman, American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

Viewed as one regional market of more than 115 million people, Southeast Europe is certainly a strong enough magnet for most companies interested in foreign direct investment. This is why the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce has initiated a plan that calls for cooperation among the region's bi-national American Chambers. Under the cooperation agreement, events, presentations, and internet-based resources are in the process of redefining a new market that offers opportunities in almost every sector. Moreover, we have actively encouraged increased trade and investment between Greece and Turkey and have urged businesses in the USA to take note of the huge potential that improved commercial

markets. It also allows other countries, such as Turkey, to take rapid steps towards modernisation and close the gap that sets them apart from the advanced countries of the West.

Bio-diplomacy is the branch of Biopolitics which aims to achieve environmental targets through diplomatic channels. The internet can render bio-diplomacy a part of a common public sphere, accessible to every citizen. Our common problems, which very often relate to the natural environment we all share, bring us together. What we should really be looking for is discussion for joint action for common problems with due respect for the human being and the environment.



relations between the countries of Southeast Europe would bring. In the transportation sector, reconstruction and development plans call for new and improved roads, highways, train lines, airports and sea ports, illustrating the potential for cross-border cooperation.

As Turkey prepares itself for EU membership, it is eligible for a variety of funds to upgrade infrastructure, the environment and its financial systems. Greece, as an EU member, has the experience of knowing the hows and whys of many of these programmes. The USA also offers know-how that is very often the best available.

The current level of trade between Greece and Turkey is 800 million dollars and will soon reach 1 billion dollars. We believe that this level could increase by another 20%, if more synergies are created so that Greece and Turkey become not only trading partners, but trading hubs, transport hubs, and tourism hubs. This can constitute a significant step toward promoting southeast Europe, and giving credibility to a region that deserves the serious attention of foreign investors.

Stathis E. Nazos
CEO, ABN AMRO Asset Management

Business and the media are the reflectors of societal values. The media disseminate information to the public. Their primary objective is to present unbiased information. How can this be achieved? Only if there is a true separation of the media and business. A true separation of the media and business promotes social welfare. In order to enforce this separation, appropriate sets of rules have to be applied, rules that are cross-country, cross border, and independent of cultural biases.



Constantine Kanonis
Chairman, Hellenic-Russian Chamber of Commerce

In the past, environmental considerations were not taken into account by financial institutions. This is why present society is neither as civilised as we imagine nor as healthy as we think.

For many decades we have financed pollution. International organisations have been more responsive with respect to the bio-environment than commercial banks. Today, all international organisations require environmental compliances and assurances for every project they finance. This is true for the World Bank Group, the International Finance Cooperation, EBRD,

Present society is neither as civilised as we imagine nor as healthy as we think.

and others. On the 1st of January 1997, a group of 93 commercial banks formed and signed a declaration on the environment and sustainable development. I am very proud that my bank, the Commercial Bank of Greece, or Emporiki Bank, has joined, following my suggestion, this visionary group of banks.



Panayotis Koutsikos
Chairman, Hellenic-Turkish Chamber of Commerce

Commercial relations between Greece and Turkey have greatly improved over the past four years. In 1999, business transactions between the two countries totalled 200 million dollars and reached 1.2 billion dollars by 2003. A treaty cancelling double taxation further enhanced commercial relations between the two countries.

However, economic development is inadvertently related to environmental problems. It is important to note that an agreement between Greece and Turkey, regarding environmental protection in the Aegean Sea area and providing for the governments and authorities of both countries to cooperate in environmental protection, is one of nine bilateral agreements signed in the framework of the improvement of Hellenic-Turkish relations and cooperation.

We cannot allow further squandering of natural resources. The diplomatic communities of both countries, together with the Biopolitics International Organisation, could cooperate in the organisation of seminars to inform industrialists and business executives on how to avoid development that harms the environment.



Environmental education

Professor Berna Alpogut
*Faculty of Letters
 Ankara University*

Bio-education is a bridge of cooperation between all peoples of the world and, in this context, the role of natural history museums in the preservation of our natural and cultural heritage is crucial.

Natural history museums have the possibility to invent new ways of approaching art, theatre, music, literature and science, and to conceive global cultural policies encouraging an effective debate with the broadest possible public participation. In the development of these policies, it is essential for natural history museums to take into account the most recent aspects of biology and the environment, as well as the new challenges encountered.

Biopolitics, through its e-learning programmes, can bring Greek and Turkish scientists together in collaboration. It is a great pleasure to be participating in this Hellenic-Turkish symposium, and I would like to thank Ambassador Alpogan, Dr. Vlavianos-Arvanitis and Professor Keles for their timely initiative.



Professor Christos Halkias
Dean, Athens Information Technology Center

Following the problems created by our permissive and consumer societies, what we really need is a "good society." In order to create a good society we must accept the following: Real fulfilment in life will come from striving with all of our physical and spiritual might for a worthwhile objective that helps others and that is larger than self-interest. We must also use our education, talent, and energy to build a world

Professor Ersi Abatzi Kalfoglu
Istanbul University

The environment controls our behaviour both socially and genetically. Behaviour, however, can often be criminal. The importance of international cooperation in organised crime prevention is a vital concern of modern



community that considers knowledge a gift to be shared, a healthy planet a place to be cherished, and human dignity and opportunity fundamental conditions to be enjoyed by all people. To achieve this goal, we need creative ideas, high technology infrastructure, risk capital and passion.

Within the framework of European integration, Greece and Turkey can work together to combat crime and improve quality of life.

Via education, universities in both countries can be key players in this endeavour, and international cooperation can be maximally beneficial. This cooperation is a potential reserve for the future of the region. Understanding through education can help to overcome even the most negative stereotypes. In fact, cooperation at every level is the only solution to enable us to strengthen peace.

Professor Nicholas Markatos
f. Rector, National Technical University of Athens

As a scientist extensively involved in pollution research, I can affirm that pollution is an international problem and provides fertile ground for the development of bio-diplomacy.

Technology is neither good nor evil. Globalisation entails the problems of expansionism and, to counter this threat, a new culture and way of life above and beyond technology are needed.

Cooperation between Greece and Turkey is vital in this effort, and Greek-Turkish friendship is something to which I fully ascribe.



Professor Zafar Erturk
Rector, Eastern Mediterranean University

We are living in an old world with all its offerings. People who deal with the environment generally take into account only physical changes, biological features and other such factors. However, we must not forget that we also live in a cultural and a social environment. Most probably, these aspects of the environment are more important than the ones which define its physical features.

Architecture and environmental issues are the most convenient subject for international cooperation on the road to European Union ideals. **An open European area for higher learning carries a wealth of positive perspectives,** which respect diversity but which also require a continuous effort to remove barriers and to develop a framework for teaching and learning that enhances close cooperation. There are numerous projects that could be implemented, and we could all work together to enhance cooperation and create a better future. We are all on the same road for a new and better world.



AMAZONICA – The future is now

Education and technology guarantee the survival of the jungle

The quality of a globalised world depends on how healthy nature can be kept. The tropical rain forest can be saved by aiding the development of its aboriginal population. Modern technology and

education enrich everyday life deep in the forest. The AMAZONICA project goes down to the roots and offers enduring solutions for indigenous peoples and the environment. Only extensive experience

and forward planning models based on knowledge of the local situation can enable initiatives like the AMAZONICA project to be on the right track. With some modifications, the project could also be trans-

ferred to Asia and Africa.

The Indios understand that all of us share one single global biosphere and they are prepared to assume their responsibilities. With common sense, all dreams can be realised.



Modern life and ancestral culture in full harmony with nature

Things work out when the right people meet in the right place at the right time. This is what happened in



Ecuador five years ago. Leaders of the indigenous peoples of the Shuar, Achuar and Lowland-Kichwa met Mascha Kauka, the German publisher and founder of "INDIO-HILFE," an NGO working with indigenous populations in South America.

"After such a long time and based on my experience, I knew I had to make several big steps forward to improve the situation," says Mascha Kauka. "Projects like school meals and chicken breeding are okay, but they don't really change anything." At the end of the 1990s, when she was managing a project on medical care in the Amazon



region of Ecuador, Mascha was already thinking about a new plan to save the tropical rain forest by encouraging the development of its aboriginal population. It began when some indigenous intellectual leaders asked her for advice and support for their initiative: they intended to live in the forest retaining their tradition, while espousing a modern way of life. They wished to offer a future to their youth and to protect the environment. Only if the indigenous peoples are able and willing to live in their ancestral forest territories, will they have the motivation and strength necessary to protect them. They under-

stand that all of us share one single global biosphere and are prepared to assume responsibility. "With common sense all dreams can be realised," notes Juank Papue, a Shuar leader.

For three years the indigenous peoples worked together with Mascha and her NGO to prepare their project, AMAZONICA, now a registered trademark. The project was first implemented in prototype communities, with the aim of including other forest communities in the Amazon Basin, once all the objectives and planned measures had ripened. "To propagate the essentials of the project, we shall install the Primeval Forest Academy with a consultative function," explains Mascha. "I hope we will be ready to start by 2005. Other indigenous peoples could learn and teach here, as well as students and professors from industrialised nations."

However, before inviting others to join the project, there is still a lot to be done. For example:

- ▶ All-round community development.
- ▶ Protection of indigenous territories by nature reserve surveys administered by the local Indios.
- ▶ Introduction of renewable energy sources for home use and for commercialisation purposes. Use of decomposing materials and garbage bags made of potato starch.
- ▶ Education in areas such as basic literacy, agriculture and handicrafts.
- ▶ Preservation of culture.
- ▶ Protection of primary forest resources and reforestation of former cattle fields with commercial timber.
- ▶ Creation of small enterprises.
- ▶ Introduction of a tax system, based on contributions in money, natural goods or work, to enable the independent execution of community duties and medical care.
- ▶ Ecotourism development.

"Right now I am very happy," says Mascha. "Everything works well. I have to keep my fingers crossed! Soon we are having the first AMAZONICA meeting with the three indigenous peoples involved. The Shuar have invited representatives of the Achuar and Kich-

wa to their prototype community. They are very proud to show their achievements. My last visit to the Kichwa was also very satisfying. Two years ago, they decided to stop hunting in the surroundings of their community. I saw them in the middle of their village



AMAZONICA combines the preservation of traditional values with the use of modern technologies. This laptop in the middle of the forest is powered by solar energy.

working on a laptop powered by solar energy. A toucan was sitting in the tree above. Monkeys were playing in the treetops downriver. This is how we intend it to be."

Games of the Forest

The AMAZONICA Games, placed under the patronage of UNESCO, are a sporting and cultural event to be held every two years in different locations, with all of the Amazon Basin participating. The first Games will be held in Ecuador in 2004. Indigenous peoples from all nine neighbouring nations of the Amazon Basin will compete in their traditional disciplines.

The AMAZONICA Games are an exotic and cheerful media spectacle. Their goal is to significantly contribute to the improvement of the future for indigenous peoples in the Amazon rain forest.

What we have learned yesterday helps us today to create tomorrow

The AMAZONICA project is an entirely new approach, based on years of experience and know-how. It is based on several key principles and characteristics:

- ▶ Projects in the rain forest are global in character and orientation.
- ▶ Forward planning models based on the knowledge of the local situation

are required.

- ▶ Innovative programmes encourage entrepreneurial initiatives.
- ▶ Common sense is crucial; experience, know-how, sincerity and solidarity are what counts.
- ▶ Help is offered only where and when it is desired.
- ▶ Collaboration is based on the ideas and motivations of the Indios.
- ▶ Everybody assumes responsibility: grandmother and grandson, the entire family and all the community members take part in the work.
- ▶ The projects are planned in a way that the Indios can carry them out by themselves, step by step.



- ▶ The Indios learn to develop and elaborate realisable plans, respect time schedules and handle money.
- ▶ There is never any interference in religious or cultural structures.
- ▶ Professional management, permanent control on the spot, maximal flexibility are encouraged. There is readiness to help the Indios until they are able to continue the project on their own, independently.
- ▶ Globalisation works from the bottom up, spreading out in horizontal and vertical directions.
- ▶ Sound progress can lead to a better future.

20 Years of INDIO-HILFE in Ecuador

1982-2002: Collaboration with the people of Chachi (7000 Indios) living in the last tropical rain forest, in the province of Esmeraldas on the Pacific coast of Ecuador. Projects included all aspects of daily life. Of special importance are the following dimensions:

- ▶ Land surveying and legal attribution of traditional territories by property titles/deeds
- ▶ Revival and protection of the Chachi culture
- ▶ Education and job training
- ▶ Agriculture

▶ Creation of medical infrastructure, such as the construction of the first and only hospital in this forest area with nine ambulance outlets.

1992-2002: Collaboration with the Pilahuines-Quichua (5000 mountain farmers) in the province of Tungurahua near Chimborazo. Projects include:

- ▶ Agriculture: production and marketing, construction of a big market hall and a slaughterhouse
- ▶ Major water project: at an altitude of 4000m (12,000 feet) two springs are merged and led downhill using 10 km of piping. The water supplied is used for drinking and for watering crops on the steep slopes.
- ▶ Purchase and renovation of an old building near the Indio market in Quito. The building can house up to 140 people and is used as a hostel offering shelter to the farmers coming to town on market days.

1998-2002: Nationwide health care project for Indios on the Ecuador coast, the highlands of the Andes in the Amazon region, and the peoples of Shuar, Achuar, Lowland-Quichua and Zapara. The project involved:

- ▶ Construction of seven new ambulance stations with radio connection
- ▶ Construction of the first photovoltaic plant in the rain forest of the Achuar territory for electricity and drinking water supply
- ▶ A campaign against recently imported serious diseases.

March 2002: Organisation of the "First Alternative Round for Renewable Energies" in Puyo, in the province of Pastaza, with the participation of 150 Indio-parliamentarians and the Ecuadorian government. Collaboration with the university of Weihenstephan, Germany, and Professor Ernst Schrimppf.

June 2002: UNESCO places AMAZONICA under its patronage.

October 2002: The AMAZONICA pilot project begins in the Amazon region of Ecuador. The project's goal is to save the tropical rain forest by aiding the development of the aboriginal population.



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