

## EDUCATIONAL AND POLITICAL OUTREACH BY THE I.U.B.E.

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The establishment of the International University for the Bio-Environment(I.U.B.E.) represents a significant achievement in the furtherance of the goals of the Biopolitics International Organization (B.I.O.). Through the University, B.I.O. will be able to extend its reach worldwide and provide an important framework for students, teachers, researchers, scholars and policy-makers of all disciplines to examine and act on the many issue now confronting the bio-environment. As an international center of exploration and discussion of bio-environmental issues, the University will play an instrumental role for advancing a coordinated global response to the problems of the bio-environment. There is no better time for the University to be established as the world community prepares to address the pressing environmental issues in the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) in Brazil in 1992. Indeed, establishment of the University in time for UNCED would enhance its prestige internationally.

In this critical phase of world affairs it is essential that such a University be established. The vision and purposed articulated by B.I.O. will be given form and substance through the University. Among its goals, the University should be a facilitator for developing and encouraging integration of the concepts developed by B.I.O. into educational programs throughout the world. In addition the University will be a unique institution in which the integration of academic, legal and policy experts can work together to arrive at specific policy proposals for implementation at the national, regional and international levels. In these ways, the work of the University will not be limited to those directly involved in its work, but will be disseminated to a wider audience to simultaneously encourage critical and creative thinking related to all topics discussed under the rubric of B.I.O. and effect real policy change to improve bios.

### **Educational outreach**

Using educational outreach on the primary, secondary, and university levels, the University will be able to educate a wide range of future decision-makers as to the concerns raised by B.I.O. The University would create a new way of looking at education by integrating the various concepts that have thus far been departmentalized into the study of separate disciplines into an approach which integrates study of the bios into every discipline. Set forth below are three specific programs to be included in the plans for the University to increase its ability to reach a larger constituency:

- A. Training of Educators and Curriculum Development. A series of institutes for teachers, university faculty and community leaders should be developed and conducted under the auspices of the University. These institutes would gather together an international group of educational leaders for a week of intensive discussions and demonstrations employing model curricula on topics related to the B.I.O. agenda. These individuals would learn about the B.I.O. and its goals and be given sample methods for integrating study of bios in their teaching and other activities. Other institutes should be organized to develop educational materials and simulations which would include educators and specialists from a wide range of disciplines and countries.

The initial seminars would take place directly under the auspices of the University and would include a diverse international grouping of educators and community leaders who would be selected on the basis of their ability to effect changes in their national or local educational structures. They would be brought together for intensive training in the methodology and substance developed by the University and would supply critical analysis of the materials presented. They would then be expected to implement these methods in their respective institutions, reporting back to the University as to their successes and failures, allowing the University to both use this experience to improve its materials and encourage others to learn from the experience of each participant in the process. It is essential that the participants in these exercises publish the results of their work so that others can learn from their experience.

Once the initial group of seminars is held directly under the auspices of the University, participants in the seminars would be encouraged to conduct local and regional seminars using the models developed by the University to reach a wider group of educators and community leaders.

- B. Roster of Scholars, Specialists and Professionals. The University should develop, maintain and publish a list of scholars, educators, specialists and professionals in numerous fields who are experts on the topics of the B.I.O. agenda and whom organizations, schools, governments and individuals throughout the world can call upon when working on programs, research, curricular materials and other activities relating to B.I.O. These individuals would serve as a resource for groups developing teaching materials, community events

and governmental lobbying efforts and could eventually undertake the responsibility for organizing local institutes as described above which increase the reach of the University's programs.

- C. University Research and Development Teams. The University should sponsor interdisciplinary research and development teams to conduct ongoing theoretical and applied research on the B.I.O. agenda and to develop eclectic approaches to the teaching of these topics in schools, colleges and universities throughout the world. The teams should include relevant scholars, educators, students and professionals in the private and public sectors. The publication and dissemination of the findings and results of these teams will further advance the goals of the University and the B.I.O.

## **Political Outreach**

One of the most important functions the University can serve is to effect real change in society by developing a program whereby the areas of academic expertise developed in the University can be translated into concrete policy proposals which, depending on the nature of the problem, would be implemented on the global, regional or national level. The University is intended to be a unique forum where individuals with expertise in a multitude of disciplines would be brought together to study a problem and arrive at a mutually acceptable way of tackling that problem.

The discussion below outlines some of the steps to be taken to begin to integrate a policy component into the University's activities.

**Selection of Topics for Study.** An advisory committee of respected individuals in numerous disciplines would be selected by the governing authority of the University to identify one or more issues for a global study. The study would involve the commissioning of papers and research on various aspects of each issue, including its scientific, policy and legal ramifications. Once the initial research was conducted by individuals in their respective disciplines, the University would convene one or more in-depth seminars in which the participants would not only present the results of their individual work, but would conduct far-ranging discussions in which special emphasis would be placed on developing suggestions for specific programs and how they should be implemented to further the policy goals suggested. Specific measures are best, but, at the very least, the participating experts should develop broad outlines concerning the types of changes necessary to work toward a resolution of the problem presented.

**Identification of Methods for Implementation.** Based on the recommendations received from the individuals participating in the study, a Committee of Experts for that particular issue (the "Committee") would select two or three specific policy recommendations which would be developed into a particular program for implementation. The Committee would be composed of a small group of individuals who participated in the study as well as representatives of the University's governance board. It is likely that the study participants final report would list numerous policy recommendations. The University would not have the resources to develop more than two or three of these recommendations into concrete policy proposals, thus a selection process must take place.

Depending on the issue selected by the Committee, the forum for policy implementation of the proposal would be different. If the policy to be implemented is national in scope, specific legislation would be developed for introduction in various national legislative bodies throughout the world. If the policy relates to local issues, suggestions for regulations or legislation by local governments and municipalities would be developed. Similarly, if the target of the policy is non-governmental, specific programs that could be adopted by industry, unions, nonprofit organizations or other entities would be suggested. Global issues which require implementation by a supra-national body would lead to policy proposals in the form of resolutions, treaties or codes of conduct to be developed by entities such as the United Nations, one of its specialized agencies or related bodies or other appropriate regional or global organizations.

**Development of Means for Implementation of Policy.** Once the issue is selected and the proper forum and method of implementation is identified by the Committee, the specific means of implementation would be considered by a working group selected by the Committee based on the functional expertise of the members. For example, if the method for implementation of the policy is legislation, a code of conduct or a treaty, the Committee would appoint a drafting committee to arrive at a proposed working draft to be submitted to the appropriate body for action. The members of the drafting committee would be experts in the issue being addressed, attorneys familiar with legislative drafting and other individuals who participated in the study to assure conformity to the policy goals arrived at by the study.

Once the proposed law, resolution or treaty is drafted to the satisfaction of the Committee, a draft would be circulated and further discussions would take place with appropriate individuals from the related secretariat, delegation, legislative office or executive branch. Further modifications to the draft would be made at this stage prior to its formal introduction in the appropriate body. Consultations should also take place with individuals who would be critical in assisting in the adoption of the proposed measure. If the forum for introduction is the Economic and Social Council, for example, the University would most likely work with its memberstates and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with this body. Similarly, if a draft statute is suggested, members of national parliamentary bodies who are sympathetic to the policy should be approached.

**Introduction of the Measure.** Once a revised draft is acceptable to the Committee, a suitable sponsor would be approached to assist in its introduction in the appropriate forum. Its introduction would be accompanied by appropriate press relations and expression of support by the

governing structures of the University and B.I.O. The wide constituency which worked on the study which developed the proposal would be essential in garnering public support for the legislation or other measure.

This addition to the University would create a real contribution to the development of new international strategies which address the problems identified by B.I.O. This program would give the organization a tremendous sense of tangible accomplishment beyond the educational programs in which the results are often long-range and difficult to assess. It would allow the University to demonstrate that its unique strength—the ability to integrate various disciplines in improving the biosphere in an effective method for channeling global efforts into bettering the planet.

## **Conclusion**

A concrete work program for the University is essential to its success as well as its ability to attract respected participants and funding throughout the world. Establishing strong ties with national, regional and international institutions and organizations can only be done if the University can present a coherent and realizable program. For example, immediate steps should be taken to involve the leadership of the University and B.I.O. in the preparations for UNCED. The International University for the Bio-Environment has an important mission. The benefits to the planet that will emerge from its work are numerous. The suggestions listed above are intended to be starting point for discussion toward making the University a reality.

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