

## BIOPOLITICS - THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT - VOLUME II

### *BIOS IN THE NEXT MILLENNIUM*

*Proceedings of the Second B.I.O. International Conference  
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- U.S.A.** -The Need for Biopolitics F.T. Liu, Former Assistant Secretary General, United Nations

#### *Bios and Literature*

- U.S.A.** -The Role of Literature in the March Toward Biopolitical Sanity Professor David R. Weinberg, Michigan State University

#### *Bios and Youth*

- U.S.A.** -The Future of Bios and Youth James Muldoon, Jr., Assistant Field Director, UNA USA Jordan A. Horvath, Esq., New York State Bar
- France** -Bio-Ethics and Youth Dr. Guy Sergheraert, Center for the Exploitation of Glucides
- France** -Bios and Youth Responsibility Philippe de Braeckelaer, Centre de Valorisation Agro-Industriel
- Singapore** -The Role of Youth Bert Koh, Board of Directors, UNA Singapore Paul Ng, Board of Directors, UNA Singapore
- U.K.** -Global Cooperation - a New Vision for Youth Nikki Malet de Carteret, Consultant, Global Cooperation for a Better World
- Poland** -International Youth Movement and Bios Pawel Graniewski, Secretary General, UNA Poland
- Greece** -Development Versus Environmental Order Hercules Roupas, Financial Consultant

#### *Bios and the Role of Women*

- Belgium** -Women and Biopolitics Dr. Huberte Hanquet, Senator, President of the Council of Belgian Women
- Finland** -Women and Bios Hilkka Pietila, Secretary General UNA, Vice-President WFUNA

#### *Technology and Health*

- U.S.A.** -In Praise of Technology's Humanity Professor Elias P. Gyftopoulos, Ford Professor of Nuclear Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Greece** -The Progress of Biological Sciences and the Future of Bios Professor George M. Maniatis, Biology Department, University of Patras  
**France** -Biotechnology in the Service of Agriculture - Arid Zones George Martin, Ingenieur IAN, Chevalier de l'Ordre du Merite  
**Philippines** -The Future of Science and Technology in Asia Dr. Frederick So Pada, President, Technological University of the Philippines  
**Philippines** -Relevance and Responsiveness of Technology Transfer Dr. Gloria C. Gatchalian, Director, Science High School, Eulogio Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology  
**Switzerland** -Bios and the Use of Telecommunications Dr. Peter Stavroulakis, Nynex International Company  
**G.D.R.** -Health for All by the Year 2000 Professor Erich Taubert, University of Weimar

*Law, Education, Media*

**U.K.** -The Management of the Air The Right Honourable Lord Ennals, Member House of Lords, Former Cabinet Minister  
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**Poland** -Bio-Security - Legal Dimensions  
Dr. Josef A. Haber, Technical University Gliwice, Vice-President, UNA Poland  
**Philippines** -The Teacher as Agent of Change in Biopolitics Dr. Gloria C. Gatchalian, Director, Science High School, Eulogio Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology  
**Sri Lanka** -Outline of a Biopolitics Curriculum Henry D.A.H.P. Karunaratne, Chairman, Executive Committee, UNA Sri Lanka  
**Greece** -The Future of International Education Dr. Achilles C. Kanellopoulos, Dean and Director of Studies, Southeastern College  
**Greece** -Bio-Communications Haris Livas, Director of International Relations, Ministry of the National Economy

*Bio-Environment, Urban Planning and Architecture*

**Turkey** -Bios and Urban Planning - Dimensions for the Future Professor Rusen Keles, Director, Centre for Urban Studies, Faculty of Political Sciences, Ankara University, President UNA  
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**Turkey** -The Golden Horn Project Professor Ahmet Samsunlu, Istanbul Technical University

*Bio-Environment and International Cooperation*

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**F.R.G.** -Industrial Restructuring for Sustainable Development - Three Strategic Elements Professor Udo E. Simonis, Director, International Institute for Environment and Society, Science Center of Berlin  
**Hungary** -Economic Factors and the Environment Professor Gyula Bora, Vice-Rector, Karl Marx Economic University  
**Netherlands** -Good Environmental Practices - Good Business Practices Professor Donald Huisingh, Environmental Consultant  
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**Ghana** -The Future of Bios in Africa Mike Awua-Asamoah, Secretary General, UNA Ghana  
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## RESOLUTIONS OF THE SECOND B.I.O. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

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At the end of the Second B.I.O. International Conference held in Athens in October 1988, the following resolutions were accepted unanimously by the participants, who re-dedicated themselves to the task of achieving the basic goals of B.I.O. as enunciated at its inauguration in 1985. All participants stressed the need that a scientific technological expertise be created to deal with the increasing moral and material complexities of bio-research, and proposed the recommendations stated below:

*Recommendations*

As mankind enters the next millennium, the issue of bios will grow in complexity. More than just the protection and promotion of bios in all its varied manifestations, mankind will have to confront fundamental moral, legal and political dilemmas based on cumulative advancements made in bio-research. These scientific and technological breakthroughs could be life-enhancing or life-threatening depending on mankind's ability to understand the various implications, as well as the readiness to preserve the common good. The urgent task ahead is to create an informed public regarding the challenge and promise for bios in the next millennium, so as to achieve both moral and mental preparation in facing the uncertainties ahead. In this connection, B.I.O. recommends that:

- an integrated and systematic approach be adopted to solve problems associated with bios and its promotion;
- various concerted efforts be made to re-evaluate the current bases of human action and behaviour, in particular, the logic underlying economic behaviour to achieve a balanced non-exploitative condition conducive to the promotion of bios;
- further and more comprehensive efforts be made to enhance the physical conditions promoting bios, among them, the control and reduction of chemical and toxic substances in the air;
- the protection of the natural environment such as the tropical forests, the conservation of soils, and greater realization in land utilisation including urban planning and development – to ensure a clear and healthy atmosphere, an International Commission on Atmospheric Pollution, pursuant to a UN General Assembly Resolution on Atmospheric Pollution in 1989, should be established to propose and enact international legislation in cases where bios is threatened;
- non-sustainable activities should become uneconomical. This will require intervention in various forms such as prohibiting the use of toxic substances, imposing high standards in the supply of utilities such as water, and the initiation of taxes to render resource consumption and pollution less profitable than resource conservation;
- appropriate information be disseminated to the public concerning the linkage between product consumption and the destruction of the environment, so as to stress the environmental costs involved. In this regard, a fund should be initiated to solve the problems created by environmental degradation;
- dependency on non-renewable resources be gradually alleviated in order to achieve a sustainable world economy. Steps that could be undertaken include: diversifying resource use; optimizing resource use with regard to natural regeneration; and providing assistance to affected economies to achieve transition to a sustainable economy;
- legal solutions proposed should promote both research and development in bio-research without at the same time harming the legitimate interests of the public. Intellectual creativity should be afforded adequate legal protection nationally and internationally, with the more intensive efforts being made to redirect budgetary priorities, in particular, those relating to the military and security matters, so as to meet the more urgent needs of bios and its maintenance.

Given these urgent and fundamental concerns, the B.I.O. advocates the following program of action encouraging efforts to:

- design, construct and implement an all-embracing educational strategy both to create consciousness regarding bios, as well as to

provide feasible follow-up action plans for the achievement of B.I.O. objectives;

- design, construct and implement a comprehensive syllabus on bios and all its ramifications for schools, colleges and universities;
- mobilise all media resources, including the use of satellite communication to inform, educate and sensitise the public regarding bios and its future;
- mobilize the expertise and energies of scholars, professionals and creative artists to give purpose and direction in the promotion of bios;
- initiate programs of teaching and research relating to bios in educational institutions;
- promote cultural development and exchange to enhance both human understanding and the promotion of bios;
- develop and disseminate a bibliography on writings pertaining to bios, including literary writings in the form of novels, short stories, poetry and philosophical tracts.

Efforts in promoting bios through education should remove ignorance and fear, give hope and add new moral-ethical boundaries capable of sustaining and promoting bios in the next millennium.