

A RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT

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It is a great pleasure to welcome you to participate in the Fifth International Conference, organized by the Biopolitics International Organisation. When we first met in East Berlin with the President and Founder of B.I.O., Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis, during the World Federation of the United Nations Associations General Assembly in 1986, it was no more than a dream for us to create such an international organization to be at the service of humanity for the preservation of the bio-environment.

This outstanding organization now has members in over 50 countries, comprised of well-known scientists and experts in their fields. In less than six years, the B.I.O. has succeeded in publishing more than a dozen books dealing with political, economic, social, ethical, legal, technological and further aspects of the issue. This is a remarkable achievement, and most of the recognition for this considerable success should go to Dr. Arvanitis, the dedicated and charming president of this organization.

This Fifth International Conference will discuss the issues concerning the bio-assessment of technology and education in relation to the preservation of the bio-environment. It is a mixture of such great personalities such as Mr. Andreas Politakis, whose efforts towards the promotion of peace and friendship are beyond all appreciation. As I always try to stress, perhaps the greatest contribution of such international gatherings, is to further strengthen friendly ties, and to enhance mutual understanding among our nations. It is only through such grassroots meetings and civil society activities that we can really nourish the conscious public awareness concerning the future of human existence and heritage. Thus, it will become possible to reach the ultimate goal, which is the happiness of humankind, in a way that compartmentalized, mostly selfish and rather artificial political institutions can never achieve.

In a world of continuous conflict and strife, both internal and external, I believe there is a moral responsibility for the people of neighboring friendly countries to co-exist. Within this context, you may consider the organization of this Fifth B.I.O. International Conference as a fruitful, joint venture of two neighboring Mediterranean countries, Turkey and Greece, which share deep historical and cultural ties.

Professor Rusen Keles is Director of Environmental Studies on the Faculty of Political Science at Ankara University. He has served as President of the United Nations Association of Turkey and, in addition to providing advisory services to local government agencies, he has also been a consultant to the Council of Europe and the United Nations. Recipient of the Abdi Ipekci Prize for Peace and Friendship, he has published more than 30 books and reports and is a member of a number of national and international organisations, including B.I.O. trustee