

# Bio News



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## Quality of Life – Building a Civic Society



### Bios Prize Award

*To engage everyone in the race to save the environment, we need models of ethics and vision to lead the way. Humanity is not safe on a planet ravaged by war, pollution and hunger. World leaders have the challenge and responsibility to turn despair into hope and inspire society with values for the protection of life.*

*In Ruud Lubbers, the world has seen an enlightened statesman and steward of the environment. B.I.O. honoured his contribution to humanity by awarding him the Bios Prize at a ceremony in Athens on March 11, 2003.*



### Bio-Policy – Green “buffer zones” for peace

The world seems to be witness to an endless stream of conflicts, wars, hostilities, civil disturbances and violence. Many of these conflicts stem from the differences of peoples in religion, ethnicity and culture.

The placement of international borders often seems arbitrary, separating groups that share a sense of community and creating minorities within countries that are subjected to discrimination and abuse.

Some countries have managed to adapt to cultural diversity and allow a variety of ethnic, cultural and religious communities to thrive in harmony. In other countries, however, interethnic violence seems to be the rule rather than the exception. On occasion, the violence and hatred in these areas reach such extremes that physical separation of the opposing groups seems to be the only answer. However, separation is not always possible or desirable.

The Biopolitics International Organisation (B.I.O.) believes the world must find new approaches to achieving peace. The differences that often separate peoples – culture, ethnicity, language and religion – are the wealth of

the world. They should be cherished and protected. Just as the world's biology displays infinite varieties of plants, animals and microorganisms, which deserve our admiration and protection, so too, our human communities are invaluable repositories of culture and diversity.

When we view differing cultures with respect and tolerance, rather than hatred and mistrust, then the continuous state of conflict which ravages the world can be brought to an end. The key lies with the children and the young.

Imagine children of different religions or cultures playing and learning together. It is not too difficult, as children often lack the hardened attitudes of adults. Imagine, too, teenagers and young adults of different groups working together on projects of environmental restoration. By working in close proximity, these young people would develop ties of mutual respect and understanding rather than hostility toward each other.

B.I.O. proposes that in areas of conflict, green zones, or buffer zones be established between the warring parties. Within these zones, to be administered by an impartial, international body, young people from the two sides would

be brought together to work on projects of environmental restoration, including a training component. Depending on the area, the projects could entail erosion control, watershed management, forestry, fisheries, or agriculture. Programmes in environmental education or cultural exchange in the arts, music and literature could also be organised in order to strengthen mutual understanding.

Let us fast-track to a point in the future, say 10 or 20 years from now. Imagine these young people in positions of responsibility, in the professions, business or government. With the experience gained by working in the green zones with their one-time adversaries, these people would not be likely to pursue violent confrontation with their neighbours.

Peace, harmony and understanding would be a more likely outcome. In such a climate, the political leaders would be pressed to find peaceful solutions to the problems separating communities. B.I.O. urges world leaders to seek innovative solutions to the world's problems of war and conflict. Green buffer zones for peace could be one such answer.

#### Venomous snake

*Terror and suffering  
pressures of annihilation  
under the threat of force  
and all humans  
bowing to this show  
of power and injustice*

*Must destiny let war creep  
and crawl among us  
like a venomous snake*

*A. Vlavianos Arvanitis  
Oscillations, A Collection of Poems, 1980*

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### Green Salary – a proposal for environmental restoration

It is in everyone's long-term interest to build a society that enhances the potential of every citizen, based on initiatives for environmental appreciation and protection. Industrialisation and growth without concern for the environment will further marginalise disadvantaged groups in society (i.e., the handicapped) and also seriously limit regional aspirations to prosperity. Moreover, many young people are entering the labour market with few skills and even fewer opportunities for productive work.

This points to the urgency of developing a knowledge base to create opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. Sustainable employment in the environmental field opens the possibilities for disadvantaged groups and youth to develop their employment potential and also creates new jobs and work opportunities. Moreover, the magnitude and urgency of addressing the global problems of unemployment and environmental degradation suggest that a mutual solution may be available.

According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), 180 million people were unemployed at the end of 2002, representing an increase of 20 million for that year. Environmental degradation is also a serious global problem which is challenging the world's leaders on a daily basis. Taken together, these prob-

lems are not isolated issues; they reflect a crisis in values that threatens society and places the future of humanity in jeopardy.

The creation of new jobs, particularly for youth, is an imperative for relieving hunger and poverty and regenerating the world's economies.

*World unemployment rates continue to rise, reaching a new high of 180 million. Over 70 million young people are unemployed.*

*International Labour Organisation, 2003*

The destruction of the natural environment ultimately harms humans. This process must be reversed, and this calls for human skill and labour. The unemployed are a potential source of this labour.

Under the Green Salary proposal, put forward by the Biopolitics International Organisation (B.I.O.) since 1985, rather than providing conventional benefit payments to the unemployed, they would be offered the opportunity to work in some area related to the protection or restoration of the environment and earn a “green salary” for their contribution.

The opportunities abound. Many environmental problems exist today that can be ameliorated by human intervention. Some of the problems require advanced skills and knowledge; others call for more direct human labour, requiring supervision but less skill. A wide range of intermediate opportunities is also possible.

Uncertainty about the performance of the global economy for 2003 does not bode well for an early reversal of the trend of increasing unemployment. If the world is to achieve the goal set by the 1996 World Food Summit in Rome to reduce world hunger in half by the year 2015, the ILO estimates that 1 billion new jobs must be created over the next ten years.

Environmental degradation results from a broad range of human activities, yet, too often, people view the protection of the environment as someone else's job. They consider that industry or the government should have the responsibility for cleaning up pollution. If we are to succeed in reversing global environmental degradation, people everywhere must be imbued with a love and respect for the environment. We should feel a sense of stewardship of the natural environment. Working in the field of environmental restoration would serve to enhance a person's respect for the environment.

*Continued on page 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 2002 - 2003

European Commission  
Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
International Development Co-operation  
Department - Hellenic Aid  
Hellenic Ministry of Environment  
Physical Planning and Public Works  
National Bank of Greece  
Kitty P. Kyriacopoulos  
Hellenic Ministry of Culture  
Alpha Bank  
The Michael Marks Charitable Trust  
Irene Vassilopoulou  
Action Link/Action Synergy S.A.  
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

The global threat of widespread poverty and increasing environmental devastation is a sobering assessment of a planet in peril. Drought is becoming more intense, the capacity to produce and distribute enough food in developing countries is diminishing, and close to 800 million people are chronically undernourished.

The need to halt growing environmental inequity and eradicate poverty is an urgency that cannot be ignored.

To reduce poverty, we need to address land and water issues, air quality and sanitation. We need to provide adequate healthcare and health education. Economic efficiency and equity in poor and deprived areas of the world depend, largely, on environmentally sound agricultural policy, which can improve land use and protect freshwater resources.

Education is one of the most effective catalysts for change. Through a truly integrated environmental 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 lead to responsible and committed leadership.

Biopolitics strives to bring together the major human driving forces of change, the ones at the heart of policy and decision-making, and provides a framework for integrating ideas, concepts and insight in order to achieve a truly "biocentric" society, one that respects all forms of life and stresses human responsibility. In this edition of BioNews, we bring attention to the growing problem of hunger and poverty (p. 6), raise the issue of food ethics (p. 14), and also focus on the need to involve people with disabilities in all aspects of social development (p. 12-13).

To build a society of hope, we need leaders with a vision. B.I.O. honours UN High Commissioner for Refugees Ruud Lubbers with the Bios Prize, in recognition of his environmental stewardship and millennium vision (p. 8-11). In this way, we wish to promote new models of leadership and change, in the hope of inspiring a massive global commitment to save the environment and secure a brighter future.



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



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## Council of Europe receives international bioethics prize

The International Bioethics Society (SIBI) honoured the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, **Bruno Haller**, with its coveted "Bioethics Prize," in recognition of his contribution to the promotion of bioethical issues in the Council of Europe. The Prize was conferred in Strasbourg, by a delegation of members of the SIBI Scientific Committee, headed by **Professor Marcelo Palacios**, SIBI Founder and Chairman of the Scientific Committee.

As member of the Scientific Committee and Vice President up to October 2002, the B.I.O. President partici-



ated in the delegation, along with Dr. Conrad V. Fernandez, Rev. Professor Maurice Dooley, Professor Santiago Grisolia, Professor Carlos Maria Romeo Casabona, Professor Jose Egozcue

Cuixart, and the Mayor of Gijon.

The delegation visited Strasbourg on January 27 and 28, 2003, in order to confer the Prize, and met with members of the Parliamentary Assembly and other officials. A series of roundtable discussions took place among the members of the delegation, who planned the upcoming SIBI III World Conference on Bioethics to convene in Spain, in September 2004.

The visit to Strasbourg concluded with a reception in honour of Secretary General Haller, hosted by Ambassador de Grandes, Head of the Permanent Representation of Spain at the Council of Europe.

## Ethics of biomedical research - Pontifical Academy for Life

The Ninth General Assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life took place at the Vatican from 24 to 26 February. This year it was dedicated to a crucial theme with a strong social impact, "Ethics of Biomedical Research for a Christian Vision."

It is evident that, especially in recent decades, biomedicine has developed in an extraordinary way, owing to the enormous progress in technology and computer science that have vastly extended the possibilities for experimentation on living beings and, especially on the human being. There have been tremendous breakthroughs, for example, in the fields of genetics, molecular biology, as well as in transplants and the neurological sciences.

It follows that the experimental sciences, and biomedicine itself, as "instruments" in human hands, are not complete in themselves, but must be directed to defined ends and put in dialogue with the world of values.

In his keynote address at the General Assembly, **Archbishop Javier Lozano Barragan**, President of the Pontifical Council for Pastoral Assistance of Health Care Workers, dis-



cussed the need to place the whole issue of bioethics into a "New Paradigm" framework, one which includes values that can inspire a culture of peace:

*There is a need for bioethics to promote harmony with God, with the whole of mankind and with the total environmental context.*

love, sharing, care, comradeship, respect for life, freedom, justice and fairness, mutual respect and integrity. Furthermore, Archbishop Barragan referred to the need for an authentic, objective bioethics, that will be open to the pro-

ject of man and promote harmony with God, with the whole of mankind and with the total environmental context.

As Corresponding Member of the Pontifical Academy for Life, the B.I.O. President participated in the General Assembly and contributed to the deliberations by stressing the importance of an all-encompassing respect for bios and the environment by biotechnology and the medical sciences. In her speech, the B.I.O. President pointed out that:

"It is very encouraging to see a growing environmental awareness in bios. Respecting the environment and all forms of life is our fundamental responsibility towards the work of the Creator and the miracle of life. We cannot reconcile our existence with the deterioration of Creation. For bioethics to be effective in responding to the increasing challenges of society, it is necessary to exit the confines of medical issues and promote the protection of the environment and all forms of life. Bioethics should also be concerned with quality of life, which can only be afforded by a safe and well-balanced environment."

## Nature, science, technology, religion – our new bioethical issues

### An international dialogue – Chennai, India

The All India Bioethics Association, the Asian Bioethics Association, Korea/Japan and the Eubios Ethics Institute, Japan/NZ, are sponsoring a major bioethics conference, themed "Nature, Science, Technology & Religion: Our New Bioethical Issues - An International Dialogue," to be held on 25-29 November 2003, in the historic city of Chennai (Madras), India. The aim of the conference is to provide a common ground for diverse people from different backgrounds to face the challenges of the ethical, legal and social implications that arise due to scientific and technological advances, besides identifying common areas for fruitful co-operation in these areas of common interest.

Due to the rapid strides of science and technology, humanity is facing new challenges. These include the ability of human beings to decode the genomic information of natural organisms including human beings. The dictum "technology is power" is often replacing the familiar enigmatic statement "knowledge is power." The new issues that face humanity due to the biotechnological revolution are in the field of genetic engineering technology, by which nature can be modified by anthropocentric intervention.

Dialogue is an effective method of communication, which builds bridges among groups of people. Between religion and science there has been an engaging dialogue among theologians and scientists to understand the theological reasons and scientific basis of nature. Both religion and science agree that there is an intrinsic vital value in nature, which is the web of human survival in the biosphere. Such a fundamental agreement has led to the common belief that nature is intelligible and amenable for human understanding. Science has interpreted nature as having a cause while religion holds that there is meaning in natural order. The Conference will therefore focus on

the following themes:

- ▶ Philosophy and sociology of science and technology
- ▶ Environmental ethics, biodiversity, food crop varieties, natural resources and pollution
- ▶ Medical ethics, ethics of health care, AIDS and support for people living with HIV, NGOs, bioethics committees, institutional review boards, gene therapy, cloning, status of the embryo, genetic screening, human stem cell research
- ▶ Globalisation, intellectual property rights, privatisation of natural resources, role of multinational corporations, globalisation of ecological justice

*By focusing on the fundamental human right of living in a clean environment, every endeavour can contribute to the building of the necessary moral framework for a global appreciation of bios.*

- ▶ Genetic engineering, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), genetically modified food and food products
- ▶ Assisted reproductive technology, embryo transfer and surrogate motherhood, biological parenthood, euthanasia, problems of the elderly population, and child abuse.
- ▶ Information technology, business and professional ethics
- ▶ Nature, religion and culture, religious movements and environmental and natural resources, relationship between religious beliefs and environmentally ethical human behaviour
- ▶ Nature and human consciousness, grassroots environmental activism, spirituality in human ecology, spiritual empowerment and social justice
- ▶ Bioethics in education and the mass media
- ▶ International co-operation and global peace

The following workshops have been planned: (1) Science and religion, (2) Population pressure and food insecurity, (3) Bioethics education, (4) Challenges and promises of technology, (5) Medical ethics and faith.

**Dr. Jayapaul Azariah**, President of the All India Bioethics Association, invited the B.I.O. President to participate as keynote speaker in the Conference and discuss our ethical responsibility to preserve bios on our planet.

## Asian-Pacific Economic Co-operation



The Ambassador of Thailand, **Precha Pititsant**, invited the B.I.O. President to be the keynote speaker at the monthly APEC (Asian-Pacific Economic Co-operation) luncheon, hosted at the Embassy of Thailand in Athens, on March 14, 2003.

Ambassadors from APEC countries – Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand – meet once a month, in an informal atmosphere, to exchange views with members and officials of the Greek government, as well as with outstanding personalities. The B.I.O. President discussed her thoughts on current events and environmental issues, stressing the need to strengthen international co-operation in environmen-

tal protection as a vehicle for peace.

The luncheon was attended by the following ambassadors:

Ambassador Tae Kyu Han, Korea; Ambassador Francisco Xavier Lopez Da Cruz, Indonesia; Ambassador Stuart H. Hume, Australia; Ambassador Zhenqi Tang, China; Ambassador Lourdes Morales, The Philippines; Ambassador Toshio Mochizuki, Japan.

APEC was formed in 1989 as a new mechanism for multilateral co-operation among the economies of the Asia-Pacific region. It aims to sustain growth, development, and improved living standards in the Asia-Pacific region and the world and to promote free trade. APEC provides a forum for ministerial discussion on a broad range of issues related to these goals.

## Bio-diplomacy – Balkan co-operation Institute of Inter-Balkan Relations

The B.I.O. President participated as keynote speaker in a conference sponsored by the Institute of Inter-Balkan Relations on February 2, 2003. The conference took place in Athens, with the participation of academics, diplomats, and other people of influence, and stressed the importance of co-operation among the Balkan countries in all areas of development.

In her speech, the B.I.O. President referred to the fact that, in the Balkans, traditional societies based on varying cultural backgrounds meet in the course of globalisation and are not only confronted with each other but also with the processes of new technologies and with environmental concerns. To meet the far reaching demands of change, new structures of cultural understanding and international co-operation have to be developed.

"The Balkan countries can join

forces in environmental initiatives, leading to long-term international strategy and co-operation. Concern over environmental questions is an international task; individual and social responsibilities and the fact that environmental protection involves confronting conflicting interests must be acknowledged. Every individual is encouraged to actively engage in the search for new paradigms and to join in bio-diplomacy, an international effort in defence of the environment."

Other eminent speakers included the Ambassadors of Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Yugoslavia, the Chairman of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation (BSEC) organisation, the President of the University of Indianapolis in Athens, and representatives from the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other government agencies.

## Biocentric curricula in Argentina

**Professor Francisco Parenti**, Director of the Interdisciplinary Bioethics Programme, and **Professor Dario Maiorana**, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Arts at the National Rosario University in Argentina, invited the B.I.O. President to visit the University and discuss the development of

Biopolitics programmes and academic curricula in Argentina.

The visit has been tentatively planned for June 2003, with the hope of leading to long-term co-operation in bio-education, within the framework of the activities of the International University for the Bio-Environment.

## Youth Bios Olympiad – Bios-Schools St. Petersburg, Russia



tance of co-operation among technology and the arts in the race to save the environment. Through scientific projects, oral presentations, poster sessions, theatre, song, dance and music competitions, the young participants develop their skills and creative thinking in relation to all aspects of bios and the environment.

The Youth Bios Olympiads have as their mission to promote: new approaches and methods of solving environmental problems; promising environmental youth projects; environmental development and the furtherance of biocentric values in society; bio-environmental, bio-cultural and bio-athletic values.

In addition, Bios Schools are organised in the St. Petersburg region, in March, April, October and November 2003. The purpose of this initiative is to encourage school children and students to develop a greater awareness of nature and the environment.

Owing to the dedicated efforts of **Professor Alexander Shishkin**, Head of the Laboratory of Ecological Standardisation at St. Petersburg State Technological University for Plant Polymers, the VIIIth Youth Bios Olympiad will take place in St. Petersburg, September 19-23, 2003.

The Youth Bios Olympiads bring together children and young adults from Russia and other countries, in order to raise awareness of the impor-

## B.I.O. PUBLICATIONS

### PROCEEDINGS

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

### BUSINESS

- ▶ **BUSINESS STRATEGY FOR THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT I** (Greek), A. Vlavianos-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. Vlavianos-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. Vlavianos-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. Vlavianos-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. Vlavianos-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. Vlavianos-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. Vlavianos-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. Vlavianos-Arvanitis, Editor. A Hellenic-Turkish Symposium, Athens City Hall, May 1990 (English, 79 pp.) 1990
- ▶ **BIO-DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION**, A. Vlavianos-Arvanitis, Editor. Proceedings from a Hellenic-Russian Symposium, Athens, December 1991 (English 74 pp.) 1993
- ▶ **POPULATION GROWTH, FOOD SECURITY AND EQUITY**, A. Vlavianos-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. Vlavianos-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. Vlavianos-Arvanitis, Editor. Hellenic-Ukrainian Symposium, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Athens, October 20, 1998 (Greek, available electronically)

### TEXTBOOKS

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



## 2003

### HONOURS AND DISTINCTIONS

- Renomination for the J. William Fulbright Award for International Understanding

### BIOS PRIZE

- UN High Commissioner for Refugees and former Premier of the Netherlands, Ruud Lubbers, is honoured with the Bios Prize in recognition of his global leadership and millennium vision, during a special award ceremony in Athens

### B.I.O. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

- "Ecological Protection of Planet Earth - Bio-Environment - Bio-Culture," National Palace of Culture, Sofia, Bulgaria. B.I.O. is co-organiser of the conference along with the International Research Centre, Greece; the National Technical University of Sofia, Bulgaria; Democritus University of Thrace, Greece; the University of Sunderland, UK; the Technical University of Dresden, Germany; the University of Rio De Janeiro, Brazil; the National Observatory of Athens, Greece
- Profit and the Bio-Environment, Athens Money Show. Roundtable discussions with the participation of environmental experts and business executives
- 8th Annual Youth Bios Olympiad, St. Petersburg, Russia

### PROGRAMMES IN BIO-EDUCATION

- B.I.O. participates as core partner in the EU Leonardo da Vinci "Bios & Environment Transnational Network" programme. Development of extensive educational material and networking in bio-education
- Working group for bio-education within the framework of the European Union programme on "Foresight: Prospects for Technology and Investigation"
- Bios Schools organised throughout the year in St. Petersburg
- Invitation for co-operation in the formulation of biopolitics curricula by the Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences at the University of Rosario in Argentina

### SEMINARS/CONFERENCES/SPECIAL EVENTS

- Participation in the delegation of the International Bioethics Society (SIBI) honouring the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe with the SIBI bioethics prize. Award ceremony and meetings in Strasbourg
- Meeting with the World Bank Vice Presidency for Europe and discussion of prospects for future co-operation, Paris
- Keynote lecture at the conference of the Institute of Interbalkan Relations, Athens
- Participation in the Annual General Assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life, The Vatican
- Keynote speech at the Heleco '03 Fourth International Exhibition and Conference on Environmental Technology, Athens
- Keynote speech at a luncheon hosted by the Ambassador of Thailand, with the participation of several Ambassadors from APEC (Asian-Pacific Economic Co-operation) countries
- Lecture on "Olympic values and environmental protection - the contribution of volunteers," Filothei City Hall, Athens
- Participation in the environmental law symposium on the "Role of the Judiciary in the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law" organised by the International Court of the Environment Foundation (ICEF) in Rome, Italy
- Keynote speech, 13th Conference on "Environmental protection is a Must," Alexandria, Egypt
- Participation in the Sixth German World Bank Forum, Petersberg, Germany
- Keynote lecture at the international conference on "Nature, Science, Technology and Religion - Our New Bioethical Issues, An International Dialogue," Chennai, India

### B.I.O. PUBLICATIONS

- "Bio-Syllabus for European Environmental Education" 10 volumes on Architecture, Diplomacy, Economics, Energy, Ethics, Health, History, Legislation, Technology and Tourism (English, 880 pages)
- "Mythos and the Bio-Environment. A Contribution to Bio-Culture" CD-Rom (in press)
- Quarterly publication of "BioNews," the B.I.O. newspaper

# BIO-SYLLABUS FOR EUR International Un

The new B.I.O. publication, "Bio-Syllabus for European Environmental Education," is an 880-page volume, spanning 18 years of B.I.O. achievement in the environmental field. It comprises information and directions for research and study in 10 different topics - architecture, diplomacy, economics, ethics, energy, health, history, legislation, technology and tourism - with a view to a better understanding and appreciation of the environment.

With "Bio-Syllabus for European Environmental Education," developed within the framework of the activities of the **International University for the Bio-Environment**, B.I.O. aims to contribute to the enrichment and expansion of the concept of sustainable development and to the participation of every human endeavour in environmental protection. The goal is not only to prevent further environmental deterioration, but to empower individuals everywhere to act in defence of bios.

The response from those who received the publication (owing to prohibitive mailing costs, we have been forced to restrict distribution) has been overwhelmingly positive, and we would like to share with you, our readers, some of their comments and feedback.

*I would like to thank you for the book you sent me and wish you all the best in the continuation of the remarkable work you have undertaken.*

**Constantine Vrettos, Vice President of Parliament, Greece**

*Let me express my sincere admiration for the impressive bio-accomplishments you have achieved in the last 18 years. As a professor in the fields of ecology and forestry with the University of Banja Luka in Bosnia-Herzegovina, I would be very honoured to co-operate with your esteemed organisation.*

**Ambassador Srdjan Ljubojevic, Bosnia-Herzegovina**

*The interesting and educational publication has been forwarded to the Brazilian Ministry of Environment, where I am sure it will be of great use. I seize this opportunity to congratulate you on your initiative and commitment to halt environmental deterioration and safeguard bios on our planet.*

**Ambassador Roberto de Abreu Cruz, Brazil**

*I would like to congratulate you for the excellent edition of "Bio-Syllabus for European Environmental Education." It will certainly constitute a very useful and practical tool for the office of the Ombudsman, and for all who are concerned with the resolution of environmental problems through the better understanding of environmental legislation, and the development of environmental strategy, thinking and ethics.*

*I hope this work stimulates further research and study, making environmental protection an integral part of education and decision-making on a global level.*

**John Michael, Assistant Ombudsman, Athens, Greece**

*I deeply admire the tireless and unwavering B.I.O. efforts to halt environmental deterioration and to inspire all of us with an appreciation of the value of life on our planet. This publication is amazing, a true treasury of environmental information and thinking, and I am absolutely sure it will be highly praised.*

**Evangelos Chronis, J.S. Latsis Group of Enterprises, Athens, Greece**

*I have received the publication you were kind enough to send me. I leafed through it with great interest and would like to congratulate you for your comprehensive work and for the stylish edition you have produced.*

**Professor Michael Dermitzakis, Deputy Rector, University of Athens, Greece**

*I found the "Bio-Syllabus" very interesting. Bio-diplomacy, aiming at environmental protection, is so inspiring. I strongly agree with the encouragement of everyone to welcome environmental ethics and act together in influencing governmental regulations, business leaders, scholars and educators. I wish to congratulate your excellent effort to educate people on the significant issue of the environment.*

**Ambassador F.X. Lopez da Cruz, Indonesia**

*I am writing to thank you for the fantastic publication "Bio-Syllabus for European Environmental Education."*

**Marina Lady Marks, Great Britain**

# gress 2002 - 2003



## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "International co-operation in defence of the environment - the Balkan countries" Proceedings from the conference of the Institute of Interbalkan Relations, Athens

## MEDIA COVERAGE

- International television interviews and press coverage
- B.I.O. website <http://www.biopolitics.gr> features extensive information on bio-ethics, bio-legislation, bio-diplomacy, etc.

## 2002

### HONOURS AND DISTINCTIONS

- Re-nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize
- Nomination for the J. William Fulbright Award for International Understanding
- Founding Member of the Balkan Academy of Science, New Culture and Sustainable Development
- Member of the Academic Committee of the Regional Interdisciplinary Programme for Bioethics in Latin America

### B.I.O. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

- "Rio + 10 urgent steps beyond sustainable development," roundtable discussion in view of the upcoming Earth Summit in Johannesburg, Athens Money Show
- "The Environment is Profit" Biopolitics at the Athens Money Show. Roundtable discussion with the participation of environmental experts and business executives
- "Profit and the Bio-Environment - Vision of Hope" roundtable discussion at the Money Show in Thessalonica
- 7th Annual Youth Bios Olympiad, St. Petersburg, Russia

### PROGRAMMES IN BIO-EDUCATION

- B.I.O. participates as core partner in the EU Leonardo da Vinci "Bios & Environment Transnational Network" programme. Development of extensive educational material and networking in bio-education

- B.I.O.'s educational material translated in Romanian, Slovak, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish, within the framework of the EU Leonardo da Vinci "Bio-Environment and New Millennium" programme
- "Protecting the Bio-Environment: A priority in Bioethics" and "Bio-Environment-Bio-Culture: Mobilising Technology and the Arts in Environmental Protection" Biopolitics lectures at the summer course organised at the Universidad del Pais Vasco, San Sebastian, Spain
- Working group for bio-education within the framework of the European Union programme on "Prospects for Technology and Investigation"

### SEMINARS/CONFERENCES/SPECIAL EVENTS

- Lecture on "Olympic values and the bio-environment" at the Greek Language Foundation conference, Athens
- Participation in the Annual General Assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life, The Vatican
- Opening lecture, EURO-SUSTAIN conference, Rhodes
- Lecture at the Municipality of Filothei, Greece
- Keynote speech at the IVth International Conference of the Foundation for Mediterranean Co-operation, Athens
- Keynote speech, 12th Conference on "Environmental protection is a Must," Alexandria, Egypt
- Keynote speech, OECD workshop on "Innovative soil plant systems for sustainable agricultural systems," Izmir, Turkey
- Participation in the second Ministerial Conference on the Environment and Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, Hellenic Ministry of the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, Athens
- Speech at the "Christian Anthropology and Bio-Technological Progress" international conference, organised by the Orthodox Academy of Crete in co-operation with the European Society for the Study of Science and Theology and the Technical University of Crete
- Contribution to the commemorative programme for United Nations Day and the International Year of Mountains, United Nations Association of Singapore

### B.I.O. PUBLICATIONS

- "Bio-Syllabus for European Environmental Education" CD-Rom
- "Patmos - Bio-Environment - Bio-Culture" CD-Rom
- Quarterly publication of "BioNews," the B.I.O. newspaper

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "Biopolitics - Bio-Culture. International Co-operation for a Better Future." In Bioethics and Society, published by the Regional Interdisciplinary Programme for Bioethics in Latin America, Faculty of Humanities and Arts, Rosario National University, Argentina
- "The protection of life as a primary responsibility of Christian love," Proceedings of the VIIIth General Assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life, The Vatican
- "Bio-policy - a prerequisite for sustainable agriculture." Proceedings from the OECD workshop on Innovative soil plant systems for sustainable agricultural systems, Izmir, Turkey
- "Biopolitics - the bio-environment. A new vision in product development and policy" Proceedings from the Euro-Sustain 2002 conference, Greece

### MEDIA COVERAGE

- International television interviews and press coverage
- Weekly B.I.O. articles in the Athenian daily "Adesmeftos"
- New B.I.O. website <http://www.biopolitics.gr>

## EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION Diversity for the Bio-Environment

*I have just received your marvellous book, "Bio-Syllabus for European Environmental Education," and would like to offer my wholehearted congratulations. This is an impressive accomplishment. It was a pleasure to leaf through it and I found it extremely interesting. Knowing that you have invested years of intensive work in the field, this is, without doubt your most important publication to date. It is a tribute to your commitment to the environment and a testimony of the idealism with which you approach your noble cause.*

**Ambassador Fernand Kartheiser, Luxembourg**

*With thanks, I wish to acknowledge receipt of the publication "Bio-Syllabus for European Environmental Education." This publication covers a wide range of highly timely issues and I am sure will be appreciated by students and academics in the field. I wish you the best of success.*

**Ambassador Evarist Saliba, Malta**

*I would like to express my deep gratitude for the publications that you kindly sent to our Embassy. They have been posted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and will shortly be received by the Minister of Environment, H.E. Mr. Victor Lichtiguer.*

**Luis A. Barrero, Charge d'Affaires, Embassy of Mexico**

*Thank you for sending your publication "Bio-Syllabus for European Environmental Education" to Ambassador Javed Hafiz. The book is very informative and educational. Since the book is very useful, it has been forwarded to the library of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and I would like to request five more copies to be distributed to the Ministry of Environment and to Departments of the Ministry of Environment in four Provinces in Pakistan.*

**Aamir Shouket, Head of Chancery, Embassy of Pakistan**

*Thank you for the copy of the publication "Bio-Syllabus for European Environmental Education." The publication is especially timely in the wake of recent ecological disasters such as the sinking of the "MS Prestige" off the Spanish Atlantic coast. The Embassy has forwarded the publication to the*

*Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Should you be able to spare additional copies we would appreciate being able to furnish the Department of Foreign Affairs with a copy and to keep one for our own library.*

**Ambassador Lourdes Morales, The Philippines**

*I am impressed with the quality of the publication. I am also grateful that there are people like yourself who dedicated themselves to saving our fragile environment. I intend to keep this copy in my office, but will appreciate to have two more copies to forward to our Minister of Environmental Affairs and to the Chair of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Environmental Affairs. Congratulations for the publication.*

**Ambassador Jannie Momberg, South Africa**

*I wish to congratulate you for such a marvellous study in the field of the bio-environment, which mankind quite rightly pays an ever-increasing attention to. Contributions in this area, such as your book, serve to enlighten people about a more environmentally sound lifestyle and build up public awareness of the importance of environmental protection.*

**Ambassador Yigit Alpogan, Turkey**

*The book is magnificent, I shall treasure it, though I will also consult former Council of Europe colleagues on where its best location might be to make it optimally accessible.*

**John Hartland, International Policy Consultant**

*Very many thanks for sending me a copy of "Bio-Syllabus for European Environmental Education." As you requested, I am forwarding it to the Ministry of the Environment. Please accept my congratulations for this excellent work.*

**Sir David Madden, Ambassador of Great Britain**

*I would like to ask for four more copies of this publication to send to the Pontifical Council for Health and Pastoral Care, the Pontifical Council for the Family, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the Pontifical Academy for Life, since I believe that they will find this work very useful.*

*Please accept my congratulations for your valid contribution to the concept of sustainable development, so necessary for the future of the human family.*

**Archbishop Paul Fouad Tabet, Apostolic Nuncio**

*Thank you so much for sending me your book entitled "Bio-Syllabus for European Environmental Education." I recognise and applaud the contribution of your organisation in the fight to halt the rapid deterioration of our earth's environment and to safeguard life on our planet. I want to congratulate you on your excellent work.*

**Ambassador Thomas Miller, United States of America**

*Thank you for the complimentary copies of "Bio-Syllabus for European Environmental Education." I was indeed impressed by the work and quality. Your devotion and dedication to your dream, and the sensitivity with which you approach the serious problems of our age, are truly an example to us all.*

**Dr. John S. Bailey, President, The American College of Greece**

*It is a pleasure to write to you to thank you for sending the "Bio-Syllabus for European Environmental Education" publication in which I have read very interesting chapters on ways of safeguarding life on our planet. The book will be sent to the Ministry of the Environment in Venezuela, and I would appreciate a copy for my personal use.*

**Ambassador Lisan Stredel Balliache, Venezuela**

*I congratulate you on this extremely good and useful book, which you have spent a lot of time and energy to produce. We are going to recommend the book to students.*

**Professor Rusen Keles, B.I.O. Trustee, f. Director of Environmental Studies, Ankara University, Turkey**

*Thank you very much for the book "Bio-Syllabus for European Environmental Education." I am sending this publication to the Deputy Minister of Environment in Paris who will, no doubt, find it very interesting and useful.*

**Ambassador Jean-Maurice Ripert, France**

# Global Poverty and Hunger

*"We have means, we have the capacity, to wipe hunger and poverty from the face of the earth in our lifetime. We need only the will."*

*John F. Kennedy (1963)*

**I**n the 40 years since President Kennedy voiced these bold words at the first

World Food Conference, repeated efforts have been made to meet this challenge, yet all have failed. Poverty, hunger and despair. How can they exist in the world in the 21st century? Humankind has made remarkable progress in the sciences, technology and medicine, and yet poverty, hunger and despair persist.

The world's population reached 6.2 billion in 2002, and 6.4 million more babies join them every month. But more than 800 million people in the world – nearly one in eight – do not have enough to eat. How can this be? A look into the future reveals a global population growing by about 50% in the next fifty years, with virtually all of

the growth occurring in the developing countries. The implications are more poverty and more hunger. This situation will challenge the international community to provide emergency assistance where it is needed and the world's agricultural sector to provide the food needed to sustain this population level.

## The cycle of hunger and poverty

The dimensions of poverty are many. The World Bank has stated that poverty is hunger; poverty is lack of shelter; poverty is being sick and not being able to see a doctor; poverty is not

*200 million children do not receive sufficient nutrition to lead normal lives.*

being able to go to school and not knowing how to read; poverty is not having a job, fear for the future, living one day at a time; poverty is losing a child to illness brought about by unclean water; poverty is powerlessness, lack of representation and freedom.

Poor children are particularly vulnerable to hunger. 40% of all the children under the age of five in the developing world - about 200 million children - do not receive sufficient nutrition to lead normal lives. About six million succumb to hunger each year. Nor is this condition expected to improve very much.

The International Food Policy Research

Institute (IFPRI) projects that 150 million children will be malnourished in 2020. In Africa, the continent with the most severe food crisis, the number of malnourished children is expected to reach 40 million by 2020, an increase of 45% from 1993. The IFPRI projects that by 2020, one out of every three people in sub-Saharan Africa and one out of every eight in South Asia is expected to lack food security.

Conditions of hunger have many causes in addition to poverty. Periodic famines, droughts, wars and civil disturbances, corruption, urban growth all take their toll. The households that are most vulnerable to hunger are usually large, poor families in rural areas or in urban squatter settlements. Because these families must spend most of their incomes on food, little if any money remains for other basic needs such as education, health care, sanitation, or housing. This condition becomes a self-perpetuating cycle of poverty as the children born into such families are unable to attain an education to improve their condition in life.



## The impact of HIV/AIDS

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is linked to the problem of poverty and hunger and is having a devastating impact on the population of some countries, especially in southern Africa. During the next five years, AIDS will be responsible to 15.5 million excess deaths. Botswana has the highest prevalence of the disease at 36% of the population, while in Swaziland and Zimbabwe around 25% of the population is infected. In the 45 countries most affected by the epidemic, life expectancy at birth has been reduced by 3 years.



## Reading statistics



Despite this dismal picture, matters have actually improved in recent years. Since 1970, average incomes have risen, infant mortality rates have fallen, average life expectancy has risen and enrolment in primary schools has risen.

Statistics must be read with care, especially when they are aggregated on a worldwide or regional basis. The overall numbers may obscure larger problems in individual countries. To cite an example, the infant mortality rate in the world as a whole - the number of infant deaths per 1000 live births - fell from 107 in 1970 to 54 in 2002. Breaking this number down, the developed countries had an infant mortality rate of 7 (one out of every 143 babies), while in developing countries, it was 60 (one out of 17). In sub-Saharan Africa, meanwhile, the infant mortality rate was 91, in Somalia it was 126, in Mozambique, 135 and in Sierra Leone, the worst case, it was 153. More than one out of every ten infants born in Sierra Leone died at birth!

## International food conferences



security and malnutrition in 10 years, a goal that was not met.

In 1996, another World Food Summit was held in Rome, again bringing together heads of state to address the issue of hunger. The concept of food security was restated by this conference, as the notion that all the world's people should have access to safe and nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life. The conferees noted, however, that trends in agricultural production and international trade raised doubts about the ability of the world's food production and distribution system to overtake the growth in population in order to achieve food security. The delegates concluded by agreeing to a more modest goal than the one adopted in 1975: reducing by half the number of hungry people from 800 million to 400 million by the year 2015.

A follow-up conference called "The World Food Summit: Five Years Later" was held in Rome in August 2002 to review the progress toward meeting the 1996 goal. It was evident by then that conditions of hunger in the world were actually worsening. The possibility even existed that the extent of hunger in the world would increase by 2015.

For forty years, the international community has held meetings, established agencies, and provided food aid with the aim of eliminating or reducing world hunger. However, widespread hunger remains. The 1974 World Food Conference in Rome was devoted solely to food and hunger. More than 100 heads of state attended. The conferees declared that every man, woman and child has the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition in order to develop their physical and mental faculties, a concept that came to be known as food security. The conferees established a goal of eradicating hunger, food inse-

## The United Nations position on hunger

In 1948, the United Nations General Assembly affirmed the right of all people to be free from hunger and want when it adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Declaration recognizes the right of every person to food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability widowhood, old age.

The Food and Agricultural Organisation has stated that food and agriculture, and (their) economic benefits are means to ends that are inher-

ently ethical in nature. Food is essential for the survival of human beings; hunger results from neglect of the universal right to food. In other words, every society has an obligation to ensure that those able to work have the opportunity to do so, and those unable to feed themselves receive food. Failure to do this is deemed an injustice, an unethical act. According to this standard, many nations of the world today are committing injustices and unethical acts on a large scale. The problem, however, is larger than any individual country and must be addressed on a global basis.



## Overcoming world hunger and poverty

The same countries that have made commitments to reducing hunger in the world have adopted policies that have the effect of preventing this from happening. These include subsidies to their own agricultural sectors, trade liberalization, promotion of exports, elimination of price supports and subsidies in underdeveloped countries, patenting of crop genetic resources, allowing corporations to charge farmers for using genetic resources, and a bias in research toward large-scale technologies. Such policies support the development of large agri-businesses in the developed world and undermine small farmers in the developing world. The expansion of world trade, which is sometimes referred to as globalisation, has resulted in large quantities of foods being imported by developing countries where many of those who most need it cannot afford to buy it.

One round table at the 2002 World Food Conference observed that countries which belonged



to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development provide a billion dollars a day to support their own agricultural sectors, a figure six times greater than all development assistance. Another report observed that the annual loss of income to developing countries resulting

from the lack of access to markets is over \$100 billion. If the developed countries of the world are truly committed to eliminating world hunger and poverty, they should review all their policies to ensure that they do not work against this goal.

With three-quarters of the world's poorest people living in rural areas, the challenge of feeding growing populations is to expand economic activity in these areas. Food aid from the developed world alone will not solve the problem. The developing countries must provide as much of their own food as possible. A number of economic, social, and natural factors have converged to force many local producers away from farming. These include the high cost of credit, the unavailability of technical assistance, the rising value of land due to urban growth, the lack of water and the encroachment of deserts.

The small farmers of the developing world are an important source of food. Greater efforts are

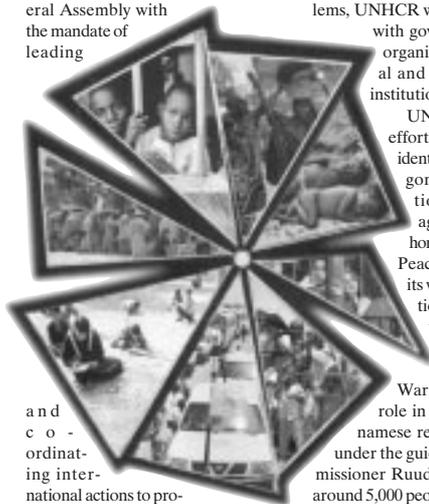
needed to keep them farming the land. Additional steps must be taken to retard the encroachment of deserts, to improve water supply, to provide credit and technical assistance, and to prevent the conversion of agricultural land to urban uses. Such measures would serve to protect agriculture in the developing world, so that it can provide employment to a segment of its population and provide food to its hungry.





## The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was established on December 14, 1950, by the United Nations General Assembly with the mandate of leading



and coordinating international actions to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems primarily in war torn Europe. However, in its evolving history and to the present day, UNHCR's primary purpose has been to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees wherever they may be in the world.

The work of UNHCR has been continuous and responsive to changing circumstances in history. In the 1960s and 1970s, UNHCR worked to help refugees from areas of struggles



for independence in colonised states; today their work has been invaluable to the protection of refugees resulting from conflicts in the Balkan region, Rwanda and Afghanistan, among other countries. UNHCR's efforts are mandated by the organisation's statute, and guided by the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol.

In more than five decades and in different regions of the world, the agency has helped an estimated 50



million people find protection where governments have been unable to provide it. In its efforts to protect refugees and to promote solutions to their problems, UNHCR works in partnership with governments, regional organisations, international and non-governmental institutions.

UNHCR's continuous effort and commitment to identify solutions have not gone without recognition, as this refugee agency has been twice honoured with the Nobel Peace Prize: in 1954, for its work in finding solutions for refugees who were still homeless in the aftermath of the Second World War; and in 1981, for its role in managing the Vietnamese refugee crisis. Today, under the guidance of High Commissioner Ruud Lubbers, a staff of around 5,000 people in more than 120 countries continue to help an estimated 22 million refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons.

### Environment - vital to the security, safety, and well-being of refugees

UNHCR's mandate is to ensure that international protection is provided to refugees and to seek durable solutions to their plight. Environmental protection is of central concern to the Office, both in precluding further refugee outflows and in restoring environmental damage caused by mass displacements. UNHCR focuses on proactive refugee camp-site selection in areas far from sensitive ecological sites and draws up strict management practices for any sites within such zones. Appropriate strategies for camp closure are defined with an emphasis on environmental restoration, drawing in the resources and experiences of other qualified partners.

During the 1992 Earth Summit, UNHCR pledged to make environmental issues an integral part of its operation, a commitment that High Commissioner Lubbers has aimed to maintain and further, working closely with other UN agencies and partners. Although UNHCR is not an environmental agency, it is indeed gratifying to know that an agency with such an important mandate, to identify solutions for the world's refugees, also has a vision to care for the environment.

### Global priorities

With operations in Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, the

Pacific, South America and South-eastern Europe, UNHCR brings relief to millions of people, all over the planet, from Afghanistan, Liberia, Angola, Somalia and Zambia, to Sri Lanka, Nepal and Colombia. At the end of 2001, the total number of persons of concern to the UNHCR - refugees, asylum seekers, returnees, stateless persons, and internally displaced persons - was 19.8 million. To further its mission, UNHCR has set the following priorities:

#### Refugee women

Ensuring equal rights and access by refugee women to all aspects of protection and assistance provided by UNHCR is central to the Office's refugee protection mandate.

#### Refugee children and adolescents

They make up close to 40% of the refugee population worldwide and



remain a priority for UNHCR. The Office's Refugee Children Co-ordination Unit (RCCU) works to incorporate the concerns of refugee children including adolescents into the mainstream of all UNHCR activities.

#### Older refugees

Country offices are being encouraged to ensure that the distinct needs and resources of older refugees are reflected in UNHCR's protection and assistance work.

#### Community development

The policy involves UNHCR and implementing partners engaging refugees as active partners and empowering refugee communities to find ways to protect and support themselves. It also calls for involving them in all phases of the community development programmes.

#### Health projects

UNHCR has developed a strategic plan for 2002-2004 on HIV/AIDS and Refugees, which builds on lessons learned from HIV/AIDS programming. The Strategic Plan is based on a human rights framework and is divided into three major areas: (a) prevention with an emphasis on behavioural change and communication; (b) care and treatment, including programmes to reduce discrimination against and improve quality of life among people living with HIV/AIDS; and, (c) surveillance, monitoring and evaluation of HIV/AIDS programmes. Voluntary testing and counselling services and programmes on the prevention of parent-to-child-transmission will be implemented in refugee camps and settlements throughout the world. Work will continue on "youth-friendly" projects, emphasising education and peer counselling and novel approaches to communicating information.

#### Emergency and security management

The Office supports enhanced emergency and security management - continuous monitoring of emerging and actual refugee emergencies, institutional preparedness and stand-by emergency response resources and

mechanisms - for the more timely and effective protection of refugees, returnees and other persons of concern.

#### Promotion of refugee law

The Inter Parliamentary Union and the UNHCR jointly produced a



"Handbook for Parliamentarians: A Guide to International Refugee Law" to promote the dissemination of refugee principles among law makers. The Handbook is available in 14 languages.

#### Refugee registration

Registration is a key priority for UNHCR, as it is an important element for successful voluntary repatriation, resettlement and local integration. Recent experiences in Afghanistan, as well as throughout Africa, amply demonstrate the need for reliable registration data to prepare for and manage return movements, and to organise equitable and secure resettlement activities.

#### Education

Education plays a central role in the provision of protection to refugees, in all phases of operations. UNHCR tries to ensure that educational programmes are planned on the basis of information analysis and with due regard to the needs identified by refugees.

People of Concern to UNHCR - Source: UNHCR Global Appeal Report 2003

Region	Refugees	Asylum seekers	Returned refugees	Internally displaced persons	Returned IDPs	Total population of concern to UNHCR
Great Lakes (Africa)	1,211,429	34,420	53,337	23,458	42,000	1,364,644
West and Central Africa	570,074	21,110	101,079	196,116	0	888,379
East Horn of Africa	966,757	13,758	99,243	0	0	1,081,178
Southern Africa	366,051	21,798	13,117	202,000	0	602,966
North Africa	183,639	581	2	0	0	213,722
The Middle East	463,388	29,264	2,200	0	0	632,852
South-West Africa	4,066,803	580	26,105	1,200,000	0	5,293,488
Central Asia	97,757	2,606	2,343	0	0	202,706
South Asia	322,684	270	297	683,286	0	1,006,537
East Asia and the Pacific	616,134	18,955	18,184	0	0	655,629
Eastern Europe	294,294	7,934	375	1,281,464	47,362	2,310,217
South-Eastern Europe	459,578	640	146,072	741,626	151,588	1,584,504
Central Europe and the Baltic States	18,711	23,228	39	0	0	46,430
Western Europe	1,717,569	300,974	0	0	0	2,018,543
North America and the Caribbean	644,742	441,696	1	0	0	1,086,439
Central America	25,831	2,660	10	0	0	28,501
South America	10,510	5,203	183	720,000	0	735,896
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,035,951</b>	<b>925,677</b>	<b>462,587</b>	<b>5,047,950</b>	<b>240,950</b>	<b>19,752,631</b>



**Ruud Lubbers**

Ruud Lubbers, a former Dutch Prime Minister, began his appointment as UNHCR's High Commissioner in 2001. High Commissioner Lubbers was appointed to a three-year term to head one of the world's principal humanitarian agencies with a staff of more than 5,000 personnel worldwide who help over 20 million people in more than 120 countries.

Dr. Lubbers was born on May 7, 1939, in Rotterdam and educated at Canisius College in Nijmegen and the Netherlands School of Economics. After managing a family company, he began a long political career in 1973 when he joined the government as Minister for Economic Affairs.

In November 1982, Ruud Lubbers was elected Prime Minister for the first time. He led three successive governments to August 1994, becoming the longest-serving post-war premier. During this time, he was instrumental in enhancing and securing closer European co-operation and integration, and hosted the high level meeting which became one of the cornerstones of the European Union, notably the Maastricht Treaty (1992), giving way to the creation of a single European currency. He was also responsible for introducing the "Dutch Model" that led to the successful turn-around of the Dutch economy.

Once his national political career was completed, Ruud Lubbers held many positions in both the public and private sector. As a statesman with extensive knowledge in European and world affairs and as an economist by trade, he took the opportunity to return to academia. In 1995, he accepted a professorship on the faculty of economics at Tilburg University, in the Netherlands. He was also a visiting professor at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in the United States.

Throughout his professional career, Ruud Lubbers has demonstrated a firm commitment towards the maintenance and management of the environment in a sustainable and participatory manner. His involvement as a member of the Earth Council and of the Earth Charter Commission, also as the vice-chairman of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans, not to mention his former presidency of the World Wide Fund for Nature, are just some examples of his dedication to environmental issues. He acknowledges that the welfare of refugees is closely related to how the UNHCR and other agencies manage the environment within and around refugee camps and settlements, and that, in order to promote sound environmental management, an essential contribution would be to stop and prevent wars and refugees.

## The Bios Prize for millennium

*We cannot look forward to a millennium of hope, unless we have leadership with a vision. In these times of global crises, terror, despair and lack of time-spanning ideals, humanity needs to be inspired by enlightened models, who can turn misery into hope and serve as a lighthouse of values.*

*A gifted statesman and man of vision, Ruud Lubbers guided an entire nation for twelve years and was instrumental in shaping the future of the European Union. Now, as United Nations*

*High Commissioner for Refugees, he has the added privilege and responsibility of helping millions of displaced people seek a better and more just future.*

*We believe he has the vision and initiative to make a difference in the world, and the Biopolitics International Organisation chose to honour him with the Bios Prize at a special ceremony in Athens, on March 11, 2003.*

*A. Vlavianos-Arvanitis*

### Ruud Lubbers

#### Enlightened statesman and steward of the environment

##### A long association with environmental issues

Ruud Lubbers has had a long association with environmental issues. In 1989, along with Gro Harlem Brundtland (former Prime Minister of Norway) and Michel Rocard (the then Prime Minister of France) he convened a conference in the Hague, resulting in a declaration that set the agenda for the UN-sponsored Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

After 12 years as Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Dr. Lubbers became the vice-chairman of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans (IWCO), an organisation established in Tokyo, in 1995, under the chairmanship of Mario Soares, former President of Portugal, with the aim of promoting world awareness of the unique role of the oceans in planetary survival and the critical importance of rational ocean management. As IWCO vice-chairman, Ruud Lubbers developed and formulated several recommendations for the protection of the oceans, including the responsibility to:

- ▶ invest in the capacity to govern
- ▶ co-operate regionally
- ▶ promote public awareness of the importance of oceans
- ▶ expand the quality of oceans for international reasons
- ▶ involve business
- ▶ create laws
- ▶ do research on new environmental friendly technologies

In 1999, Dr. Lubbers was elected President of the Board of Trustees of (World Wide Fund)WWF International, a position he held up to January 1, 2001, when he began his appointment as UNHCR's ninth High Commissioner, succeeding Mrs. Sadako Ogata, a Japanese diplomat and academic, who had served since 1991.

##### The environment in refugee operations we need to care

Caring for the environment in refugee operations is not an option. As a direct part of its mandate, it is something that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



cannot afford to ignore. To do so would be to jeopardise the basic rights and needs of refugees – the institution of asylum.

Ruud Lubbers places environmental concerns as a priority in refugee operations; there is no doubt in his mind that environmental issues are closely intertwined with our collective welfare, regardless of whether we are talking about urban populations, rural dwellers or refugees, viewing this as a global priority and

one that the UNHCR must continue to address. For Dr. Lubbers, the environment is something that concerns us all, whether or not we are aware of it at the time. The situation surrounding refugee operations is particularly complex, as these people, who have lost so much, are guests of a particular country. Keeping environmental issues clearly focused in our minds, and in the minds of refugees and government agencies, is therefore essential.



##### Promoting sound environmental management

For Ruud Lubbers, environmental issues and concerns are vital to UNHCR's global programme. The physical location of camps, for example, or the organisation of these camps involve crucial decisions with regard to future environmental management actions. These actions are not only important when it comes to safeguarding the environment, but are absolutely vital to the security and safety of refugees.

The welfare of refugees is closely intertwined with how the UNHCR and other agencies manage the environment within and around refugee

camps and settlements. Some considerations, wisely taken at the right time, can go a long way towards ensuring that environmental issues are not seen as an add-on, even as an additional burden, but are taken into account in a correct and

*We need to be more operational in caring for the Earth to achieve a just, sustainable and participatory society.*

*Ruud Lubbers*

responsible manner. Mainstreaming environmental management into UNHCR's global programmes offers many exciting prospects that could be explored and could help to provide incentives to refugee youth to develop their understanding of environmental issues or to lead to



the creation of new initiatives such as partnerships with qualified conservation and environmental management organisations.

##### Keeping environmental issues in the spotlight

Under Ruud Lubbers' guidance, UNHCR has been quick to react to the impact of refugees on the environment through a series of carefully co-ordinated actions, aiming at safeguarding and managing the environment and protecting and improving the livelihoods of refugees worldwide.

According to the High Commissioner, the ultimate goal is to empower people so that they might reach a situation where they are better able to act for themselves and make decisions for themselves: "Empowering people, rebuilding whole communities from the perspective of sound, and often collaborative, management of their environment is a major step towards achieving this goal."



# vision and global leadership



To strengthen our response to the challenges of the new millennium, a unifying vision is essential. This vision is provided by the joy of possessing bios - life - the most precious gift on our planet, currently threatened by environmental destruction and abuse. To save bios and to restore environmental harmony in the world, governments, the private sector and civic society need to unite their efforts in a global appreciation of the environment. The goal is not only to change attitudes, but also to motivate and empower people everywhere to act in defence of the environment.

Humanity is suffering from a crisis in values, and has difficulty in identifying the right priorities for the future. This crisis in values is a great threat, not only to the environment but also to peace. This is why there is a pressing need to use the diachronic ideals of the past to motivate every member of society to actively engage in the race to save the environment.

The Olympic Spirit can play a leading role in uniting the forces of culture and technology to instil the appreciation of the aesthetic value of life on our planet. At present, international competitions take place in various fields, but represent a fragmented view of human achievement. An overall recognition and award of achievement in environmental protection can help to re-establish the harmony and unity behind every initiative and action. Bios Prizes for each speciality, celebrating positive contributions to the preservation of life on our planet, can serve as incentives for environmental protection and as a guiding light for the future.

It is the goal of the Bios Prizes to reward excellence in environmental protection and to inspire society with a vision of hope and harmony. Through a truly international mobilisation to promote environmental appreciation, everyone can contribute to the spiritual renaissance of humanity. This constitutes the hope and the vision of the Biopolitics International Organisation for the generations to come.

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

*"..an extraordinary record of high-level achievement, not only as a prime minister for 12 years, the longest holder of that office in his country's recent history, but also as a scholar, as a professor, and as an active participant in the work of various private sector and non-governmental organisations."*

UN Secretary General, **Kofi Annan**

## Honorary Committee

*Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis*

President and Founder, Biopolitics  
International Organisation

*Rodoula Zissi*

Deputy Minister of Environment,  
Physical Planning and Public Works,  
Greece

*Paul Brouwer*

Ambassador of the Netherlands

*Nikiforos Diamandouros*

Professor, European Ombudsman

*Tjaco van den Hout*

Secretary General, Permanent Court  
of Arbitration, The Hague

*Fred Matser*

Director, Sofam Beheer BV,  
The Netherlands

*Robert White*

UN High Commission for Refugees  
Representative in Greece

*Eleftherios Antonacopoulos*

Chairman and CEO, Greek

Telecommunications Organisation

*Kitty P. Kyriacopoulos*

Honorary Chairman, Silver and  
Baryte Ores Mining Co., Greece

*Iason Stratos*

Chairman of the Board,  
Aluminium de Grece

*Eleni Kokkalis*

*Fotini Livanos*

*Irene Vassilopoulou*

*Athanasios Arvanitis*

Secretary General, Archons of the  
Ecumenical Patriarchate

*Florinda Rojas Rodriguez*

f. UN High Commission for Refugees  
Representative in Greece

*Stefanos Costopoulos*

Chairman, Hellenic-American  
Chamber of Commerce

*Constantine Kanonis*

Chairman, Hellenic-Russian  
Chamber of Commerce

*Dimitris Randopoulos*

f. Chairman, Hellenic-British  
Chamber of Commerce

*Anastasios Balafoutas*

Chairman, Hellenic-German  
Chamber of Industry and Commerce

*Bashkim Zeneli*

Ambassador of Albania

*Raul Alberto Ricardes*

Ambassador of Argentina

*Stuart Hume*

Ambassador of Australia

*Srdjan Ljubojevic*

Ambassador of Bosnia-Herzegovina

*Stefan Stoyanov*

Ambassador of Bulgaria

*Philip Somerville*

Ambassador of Canada

*Daniel Bucan*

Ambassador of Croatia

*Jana Boulenova*

Ambassador of Czechia

*Dr. Magda Shahin*

Ambassador of Egypt

*Paul Fouad Tabet*

Apostolic Nuncio, Ambassador  
of the Holy See

*Csaba Korosi*

Ambassador of Hungary

*David Sasson*

Ambassador of Israel

*Tae Kyu Han*

Ambassador of Korea

*Fernand Kartheiser*

Ambassador of Luxembourg

*Evarist Saliba*

Ambassador of Malta

*Luis Alberto Barrero Stahl*

Charge d'Affaires, Embassy of Mexico

*Finn Fostervoll*

Ambassador of Norway

*Bertha Vega Perez*

Ambassador of Peru

*Lourdes Morales*

Ambassador of the Philippines

*Grzegorz Dziemidowicz*

Ambassador of Poland

*Dusan Batakovic*

Ambassador of Serbia and Montenegro

*Jozica Puhar*

Ambassador of Slovenia

*Jannie Momberg*

Ambassador of South Africa

*Maria Luisa Caroni*

Ambassador of Switzerland

*Precha Pitisant*

Ambassador of Thailand

*Yigit Alpogan*

Ambassador of Turkey

*Thomas Miller*

Ambassador of the United States  
of America

*Bakhtiyar Tursunov*

Consul General of Uzbekistan

*Lisan Stredel Balliache*

Ambassador of Venezuela



## The Bios Prize for millennium vision and global leadership

In these times of global challenges, humanity needs leadership with a vision. Environmental hardship, social exclusion, war and human rights abuses are ravaging major parts of our planet, condemning millions of people to live in conditions of devastating poverty or forcing them to leave their homelands. Humanity cannot be safe unless world leaders recognise the urgent need to turn despair into hope and to open new pathways for responsible leadership.

Throughout his career, Ruud Lubbers has demonstrated a proactive and constant commitment towards the environment, viewing it not just as an isolated topic, but as an issue that concerns everyone and is intertwined with other universal concerns, such as the eradication of poverty. As UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Ruud Lubbers has highlighted that environmental concerns also exist within refugee operations, proving the direct link between the movement of thousands of people and the state of the environment. He considers that being aware of this relationship is not only important when it comes to safeguarding the environment, but that the environment is absolutely vital to the security, safety, and well-being of refugees.

He is awarded the Bios Prize for his environmental stewardship and millennium vision.



## Bios Prizes

1996 – 2003

Paris, October 1996



The First Bios Prize for environmental leadership. **Jacques-Yves Cousteau** was honoured for his invaluable contribution to the better understanding and appreciation of bios, and for his unparalleled achievements in the protection of the environment and biodiversity. A pathfinder in exploring the planet's oceans, he offered unique insight into the intricacies and beauty of bios, making an indelible contribution to the future.

St. Petersburg, September 1999



The Bios Prize for offering us wings to enjoy the rhythm and harmony of life. **Mstislav Rostropovich** was honoured for his humanitarian ethic, talent and ingenuity. Through the harmony of his cello, he reaches out to every member of the universe, to every living creature, as a source of light for the soul. This understanding of the interconnection among all living forms serves as an inspiration for all.



The Bios Prize for clarity of vision and a generous contribution to future generations. **Kitty Kyriacopoulos** was honoured for being an enlightened woman business leader placing as a priority a biocentric version of profit, a philanthropist with discretion and humility, a sensitive personality supporting the environment, the arts, educational endeavours, health needs and family values.



The Bios Prize for visionary leadership in safeguarding biodiversity. **Anton Rupert**, founder of the Peace Parks, was honoured for his vision and his practice of bio-diplomacy, a pathway to co-operation and peace. His initiative has crossed the frontiers of neighbouring African countries and has brought them together in the protection of the environment and the unique natural resources they share.



The Bios Prize for providing recognition to dedicated safekeepers of our planet. With his generous donation of personal wealth to support initiatives in environmental protection and development that respects bios, **Jakob von Uexkull** exemplifies the acknowledgement that the environment constitutes a basic need of society and the real wealth of our planet.

Colombia, October 1999



The Bios Prize for saving the culture of the past, for acknowledging the value of our interdependence with the environment, and for safeguarding our future. The continuation of life on our planet is threatened because people are out of balance with nature. **The Kogi** believe in the interdependence among all forms of life and stand as safekeepers of the future.

Atlanta, March 2000



The Bios Prize for helping humanity sail into the future. **Ted Turner** was honoured for his visionary role in creating new communication models, strengthening international co-operation and supporting the environment. With his generous donation to the United Nations and by supporting environmental projects, he has confirmed the obligation of the economic driving force to contribute to the protection of bios.

Athens, March 2003



The Bios Prize for environmental stewardship and millennium vision. **Raud Lubbers**, an enlightened statesman, has recognised the urgent need to turn despair into hope and to open new pathways for responsible leadership. His was honoured for his contribution to the environment, viewing it not just as an isolated topic, but as an issue of global concern, vital to the well-being of humanity.

# Bios Pr

*With great satisfaction I learned that B.I.O. honours the work of a person, who stands like few others in the UN, for the serious undertaking to create commitment and responsibility at the International World Community level.*

*During these days, when the global consensus about the UN world order, aiming at universal human rights, equity and peace is under threat, where impatience is threatening the steady process of partnership across the world, the Bios Prize adds to the signs of sustainable hope in harmony for all truly "United Nations."*

*Congratulations, and courage on your way!*

**Dr. Gunter Klein**, Director, World Health Organisation  
European Centre for Environment and Health, Bonn

*The ceremony was a deeply moving event. The combination of the various speeches, piano by Mr. Dimitrios Papatheodorou, songs by Ms. Christa Pfeiler, and the exceptional video was, in my mind, perfect for the occasion. I was pleased and honoured that the UNHCR office in Athens was associated with this most important ceremony.*

**Robert White**, Representative, United Nations High  
Commissioner for Refugees in Greece

*It would have been an honour to attend the prestigious ceremony you organised. It would have reminded me of the one in Paris for Jacques, which initiated a long lasting friendship with you and the devoted people who work with you directly or indirectly. It is extremely important that a man who has devoted himself to peace and the environment be recognised by the special tribute of Biopolitics. I express my joy for this choice and all my congratulations. I wish you all a beautiful ceremony!*

**Francine Cousteau**, President, The Cousteau Society

**Rodoula Zissi**, Deputy Minister of Environment, Greece

**Madame President of the Biopolitics International Organisation, High Commissioner Lubbers, Mr. Ambassador of the Netherlands, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to congratulate the President of the Biopolitics International Organisation, Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis, for her initiative to award the Bios Prize to the f. Premier of the Netherlands and current UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Ruud Lubbers, a leader well known for his humanitarian and environmental action.

In the last years, considerable progress has been achieved in the area of environmental protection and sustainable development. The Greek Ministry of the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, has acknowledged the responsibility of promoting sustainable development, but also the need for the enrichment of the concept of sustainability with new prospects. The Biopolitics International Organisation has been a pathfinder in promoting these new prospects and in providing a new vision for environmental protection.

We therefore consider that today's initiative is of paramount importance to the protection of the environment, quality of life and human dignity on a global level. After all, it is a generally accepted truth that sustainable development is intricately connected to the promotion of peace, stability, human rights and human dignity.

The plight of displaced persons is a mani-



festation of a global crisis. It is a source of anxiety, not only for those directly involved, but for all who care about living in a more just, peaceful and equitable world. For this reason, the Greek government directly supports the efforts of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and we have always tried, despite many difficulties, to provide the best possible conditions to refugees. Within this framework, the General Secretariat for Equal Rights signed a memorandum for co-operation with the High Commission in the protection of women refugees in Greece, on March 7, 2002.

The Greek State recognises that the protection of human dignity and the right to a better life are basic needs that have to be safeguarded, regardless of nationality.

For half a century, the UN High Commission for Refugees has been working with governments all over the world to ensure the basic right of displaced persons to seek refuge in other countries. Since, without this

basic right, there can be no guarantees for their long-term safety and survival, I would like to personally congratulate you, esteemed High Commissioner, for your initiative and vision, which we wholeheartedly support.

Greece, being a country of refugees, a country which blossomed thanks to the contribution of its diaspora, has the legal, political, ideological, and ethical responsibility to support refugees and the work of the High Commissioner.

**Robert White**, Representative, UN High Commissioner for Refugees

I would like to express my personal appreciation and that of the UNHCR to B.I.O. and Dr. Vlavianos-Arvanitis for honouring the High Commissioner. The Prize is a tribute to his work in the protection of the environment, both as High Commissioner and in his various other capacities.

For many years, the environment has been one of the highest priorities for the UNHCR, along with other high priorities such as refugee women and



refugee children. The High Commissioner has continued these priorities since he assumed his position, in the context of self-reliance and empowerment of refugees, and for that I am also, personally, very grateful.

I would like to express again my sincere appreciation to the Biopolitics International Organisation and Dr. Vlavianos-Arvanitis for honouring the office and the High Commissioner.

# ize Award Ceremony



**Ruud Lubbers**

UN High Commissioner for Refugees

Thank you so much for the Prize, the event and the nice words. This has been a very positive experience, including the welcoming host and the video, linking together Biopolitics in terms of nature and the environment, and the UNHCR mission. It is a luxury to be here with such good friends and such a good programme, and, as we say in Dutch, I feel as though "I was born on a Sunday."

Devoting the rest of my professional life to people that have no government is a very gratifying experience. A key point in the life of refugees is the lack of harmony in their lives, the political deficiency, and the resulting violence and persecution. The promise we can make to refugees is that they can hope for new possibilities when they can return home. We have to understand that it is all about harmony. We have to try and convince people that there is a better way forward and, from there on, to contribute to harmony in life. This may seem a political concept but it is a very personal thing, so let me end these few words by wishing all of you, individually, harmony in life and harmony with yourself.

**Bette Shifman**

Deputy Secretary General  
Permanent Court of Arbitration



It wasn't until Sunday night that Dr. Vlavianos-Arvanitis phoned and asked if I could say a few words at the Ceremony. I wasn't really prepared to make a speech, but I couldn't say no to Dr. Vlavianos-Arvanitis. I

am sure there are a lot of people in this room that have had the experience of being unable to say no to her. Not out of fear or intimidation, but out of deep affection and deep respect.

My task is now to establish a link between the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), the High Commissioner and the Biopolitics International Organisation. The PCA was established in 1899 in the Hague Peace Conference. The 1899 Peace Conference was absolutely unique as it was the first global conference to talk about peace during peace time. Other issues on the agenda of the Peace Conference was the humanisation of war. In this way historians have said that the Peace Conference was the precursor of true multilateral diplomacy such as the United Nations. So in that sense there is a link to the High Commissioner as a representative of a very important agency of the UN and one with a particularly humanitarian purpose. Having identified environmental dispute resolution as an area we would like to focus on, the PCA came into contact with B.I.O. and Dr. Vlavianos-Arvanitis.

I would like to close with something the High Commissioner, and everybody else in this room, could subscribe to, the Preamble to the first Hague Convention on the settlement for international disputes. The Convention was adopted at the Peace Conference in 1899. The Preamble was animated by a strong desire to work for the maintenance of general peace and recognised the solidarity uniting the members of the society of nations.

**Paul Brouwer**  
Ambassador of the Netherlands



It is a particular honour for me to be here for the Bios Prize Award Ceremony. It is a very special event, as it is the former prime-minister of the Netherlands that is being honoured. I want to assure you that we are very proud that B.I.O. has selected Ruud Lubbers to receive this award. The award also highlights that we, in the Netherlands, attach great importance to the protection of the environment and bios in general. The Bios Prize is an award that has been given to outstanding people like Jacques Cousteau and Mstislav Rostropovich. I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Vlavianos-Arvanitis for her great efforts and for honouring a compatriot who is so well known.

As High Commissioner, Ruud Lubbers has always had an open eye and a clean mind for the relation between the environment and between the lives of refugees. At this moment, the world is going through a difficult period with imminent crucial decisions but I find it a comforting thought that people like Ruud Lubbers are present to help face the consequences of such decisions.

It goes without saying that we, in the Netherlands, are extremely proud of our Ruud Lubbers because of his career, achievements and international prestige. Today's award can only be seen as a confirmation of this truth.

**Kitty P. Kyriacopoulos**  
Honorary Chairman, Silver and Baryte Ores Mining Co., Greece

I would like to thank Dr. Vlavianos-Arvanitis for her warm words. She is a wonderful human-being. I must admit that sometimes I despair about this world, but when I speak to Agni, I forget my desperation. She is really outstanding.

I am deeply honoured to welcome you today to this B.I.O. initiative in honour of an enlightened leader. The Organisation's endless efforts to protect bios are well-known, and certainly by most of this audience.

These efforts have been long, laborious and need all of our support. The protection of the environment concerns every human being on this planet, and unless we realise this fact, I am afraid we won't be able to protect our planet for future



**Fred Matser**, Director  
Sofam Beheer BV, The Netherlands



I have known Ruud Lubbers as a man with a vision and a mission, a man with a brilliant mind and a great heart. A man who had great leadership initiatives and who likes to bring people together, who is very creative in finding solutions and has the perseverance never to give up.

The Maastricht Treaty, which took place under his chairmanship, was a very difficult process that took days and nights to bring the European Union closer together, and I do not believe anyone else, other than Ruud, could have handled that job.

Ruud is a very modest man and on the inside he is a very enlightened being. He is a family man who loves his wife, children and grandchildren, and I know that when he receives the Prize he may see it as a recognition of his qualities. But I don't think Ruud is proud of his qualities. Rather, I believe that Ruud may see his qualities as a gift, and he uses this gift and shares it with humanity and the world.

Ruud, I feel great to be your friend and I feel honoured that I was allowed to speak on this occasion. I would like to invite all of you to pray and to see if we can change the course of this planet, because I think we are in pretty difficult times.

generations. Obligations to protect the environment should be imposed to all enterprises and industries. Ethics should be the number one objective for all governments of the world.

High Commissioner, you are truly an enlightened leader. You have guided an entire nation for 12 years, but now your mission is even more important, as the future and livelihood of millions of people throughout the world rest in your hands. You have proven your commitment to the protection and continuation of life and you fully deserve the Bios Prize for your initiative and vision. It is an honour to know you, and allow us to congratulate you and wish you every success in your future.

## Bios Prize Award Ceremony

Bios Prize Award Ceremony  
in honour of

**Ruud Lubbers**

under the auspices of

**Rodoula Zissi**  
Deputy Minister of Environment

**Paul Brouwer**  
Ambassador of the Netherlands

National Bank of Greece  
New Administration Building

Athens, 11 March 2003

### Programme

#### Greetings

**Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis**  
President and Founder, Biopolitics  
International Organisation

**Rodoula Zissi**  
Deputy Minister of Environment  
Greece

**Paul Brouwer**  
Ambassador of the Netherlands

**Robert White**  
UN High Commissioner for Refugees  
Representative in Greece

**Kitty P. Kyriacopoulos**  
Honorary Chairman, Silver and  
Baryte Ores Mining Co., Greece

**Bette Shifman**  
Deputy Secretary General  
Permanent Court of Arbitration

**Fred Matser**  
Director, Sofam Beheer BV  
The Netherlands

## Musical Programme

**Christa Pfeiler**: Mezzo-soprano  
**Dimitris Papatheodorou**: Piano

<i>S. Rachmaninoff</i>	Prelude
<i>F. Chopin</i>	Nocturne
<i>S. Rachmaninoff</i>	Prelude
<i>H. Berlioz</i>	(from "Les nuits d'ete") Villanelle
<i>F. Schubert</i>	Fruhlingsglaube
<i>E. Chausson</i>	Les Papillons
<i>G.F. Handel</i>	(from opera "Atalanta") Care selve
<i>F. Schubert</i>	Heidenroslein
<i>R.A. Millikin</i>	The Last Rose of Summer
<i>E. Chausson</i>	Le Colibri



**Dimitris Papatheodorou**

After completing his studies at the Athens conservatory, Dimitris Papatheodorou, received a scholarship from the Onassis Foundation to study at the Sweelinck Conservatory in Amsterdam, followed by a private grant from composer Manos Hadjidakis to study at the Manhattan School of Music. As the winner of a Special Presentation Award, he played his Carnegie Hall debut in 1995, under the sponsorship of Artists International Presentations, Inc. As a soloist, he has performed extensively, in recitals and with orchestras in Europe, North and South America, Cyprus and Egypt.



**Christa Pfeiler**

German-born mezzo-soprano, Christa Pfeiler, completed her musical education at the Sweelinck Conservatory in Amsterdam, receiving her soloist's diploma in 1982. She also studied Lieder-interpretation with Elizabeth Schwarzkopf in Switzerland. She has interpreted lead roles in operas by Mozart, Rossini and Handel, and has appeared throughout Europe and South-America with famous conductors. She was prize-winner at the International Vocal Competition in 's-Hertogenbosch and at the International Opera and Bel Canto Competition of the Belgian Broadcasting Company.





# European Actions for

Over 37 million people in the European Union have disabilities. This year, the European Commission, in collaboration with the European Disability Forum, is organising the European Year of People with Disabilities.

The main objectives are to highlight barriers and discrimination faced by disabled people and to achieve progress towards establishing equal rights for them.

The ultimate goal of this endeavour is to accomplish a better quality of life for people with disabilities.

In addition to designating 2003 the European Year of People with Disabilities, the European Commission has moved on several other fronts to make life easier for the disabled. These include adoption of a disability strategy, an employment initiative, and policies to improve accessibility to all aspects of society, including information resources and transport.

*"Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control."*

*Article 25, Universal Declaration of Human Rights  
United Nations General Assembly, 1948*

## European year of people with disabilities 2003



15 European Union member states starting in Athens in January, accompanied on its journey by disabled children, their friends and allies. The disability community in each country will organise events along the bus route. The European Year will be co-ordinated in each country by a National Co-ordinating Body. The candidate countries for EU accession have been invited to participate in the year by setting up the same structures as the EU member states.

According to EU Disability Commissioner A. Diamantopoulou, "Get on Board is an invitation to all. People with disabilities should be at the centre of the European Year, which is about raising awareness of the rights of disabled people to full equality and participation in all areas. It is about tackling barriers that people with disabilities face, wherever they occur. The European Year is also about raising awareness that disability is an issue of concern to all of us. I am confident that the Year will provide a strong impetus to set up these long term goals and the development of new initiatives through Europe. I want to encourage everyone to get on board this campaign."

In observance of the European Year of People with Disabilities, thousands of activities and events have been programmed all through 2003 at both the national and local level. Street festivals, competitions, demonstrations and much more, will be taking place in towns and villages throughout Europe. They will be linked through a People's March organised by the European Commission called *Get on Board*.

A specially designed European Year bus will travel through cities, towns and villages of the

## European Commission employment strategy

A new and more intense European Employment Strategy was introduced at the European Commission's Barcelona Council in March 2002 in response to current challenges. The strategy has three major objectives: (1) full employment, (2) the promotion of quality and productivity at work (better jobs), and (3) fostering cohesion and an inclusive labour market.

Its time frame is aligned with the Lisbon deadline of 2010, including an intermediate evaluation in 2006. The Commission proposes better governance of the strategy, especially through more involvement of social partners and civil society and streamlining the strategy with other EU policy co-ordination processes such as the broad economic policy guidelines.

The strategy recognizes that people with disabilities are a potential and under utilized pool of workers. Under the heading, "Cohesion and Inclusive Labour Market," the strategy notes as follows:

"Taking into account all unemployed and inactive persons wanting to work, the EU had an unused labour supply potential of well over 23 million in 2001. Disabled persons alone represent a population of 38 million in the EU; only 46% of those reporting a moderate disability and 24% of those reporting a severe disability are in work. As the EU launches the European Year of the Dis-



abled in 2003, it is crucial to recognise the difficulties faced by the persons concerned in accessing or remaining on the labour market and to take decisive steps to better exploit the employment potential of the disabled."

In their National Action Plans, EU member states are required to give special attention to people with disabilities, ethnic minorities and other disadvantaged groups. One aim is to develop appropriate forms of preventive and active policies to promote their integration into the labour market.

## Employment community initiative (EQUAL)

In order to fight discrimination and the exclusion of disabled and other disadvantaged people from the labour market, the European Commission adopted a Community Initiative known as EQUAL in April 2000. This programme is part of the European Social Fund, one of the EU's structural funds, and it will run from 2000 to 2006. A sum of almost 3 million euros from the European Social Fund has been allocated to the EQUAL initiative.

EQUAL replaces the previous Community Initiatives, *Employ and Adapt*. The fundamental role of EQUAL is to combat discrimination against disabled people in employment and pro-

mote concrete measures to facilitate access by disabled people to mainstream employment opportunities.

EQUAL focuses on developing new ways of tackling discrimination, whether it be directed at people at work or people looking for a job. Development partnerships consisting of key players, such as representatives of discriminated groups, are formed in order to test new ideas for job creation. The development partnerships will work on one of six themes.

All of the information, meetings, projects and other activities associated with EQUAL must be accessible to people with disabilities.

## Barriers to accessibility

Accessibility to all elements of society is a fundamental right - and a critical goal for the disability movement. People commonly associate barriers to access with situations like the wheelchair user who cannot enter a building because of flights of stairs, i.e. physical barriers. In fact, however, the concept of access is much more pervasive.

It encompasses information services, economic activity, culture, religion, and language, as well as the physical environment. Therefore, in addressing the need for universal access, society must take into account conceptual, political and practical perspectives.

The issue of accessibility has been addressed by the European Commission and the United Nations. A Communication on a **Barrier Free Europe**, adopted by the European Commission in May 2000, focuses on policies to give disabled people the right to mobility in the areas such as information, opening the internal market for technical aids, protection of disabled consumers' rights, developing better statistics and strengthening co-ordination.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted its **Standard Rules on Accessibility** in 1993, which make the following recommendations

regarding access to the physical environment:

- ▶ States should initiate measures to remove obstacles in the physical environment. Such measures should include the development of standards and guidelines and the enactment of legislation to ensure accessibility to various areas in society, such as housing, buildings, public transport services and private transportation, and outdoor environments.

- ▶ States should ensure that architects, construction engineers and other professionals involved in the design and construction of the physical environment have access to adequate information on disability policy and measures to achieve



accessibility.

- ▶ Accessibility requirements should be included in the design and construction of the physical environment from the outset of the design process.

- ▶ Organisations representing persons with disabilities should be consulted whenever standards and norms for accessibility are being developed. They should also be involved locally from the initial planning stage when public construction projects are being designed, thus ensuring maximum accessibility.

## Information society

Access to all types of information - whether it be news reports on an election campaign or one's rights as a citizen - is so basic today that many people cannot imagine not having it. Information technology is rapidly changing how society functions. Virtually all aspects of daily life are changing rapidly. Distances are shrinking and the world's information is available from the keyboard of your computer.

Advances in information technology have meant empowerment for some disabled people. For instance, information technology has had a pivotal role in promoting, training and providing employment opportunities for disabled people. In one of the common objectives on the fight against social exclusion, EU member states are

committed to exploit "fully the potential of the knowledge-based society and of new information communication technologies," but also to "ensure that no one is excluded, taking particular account of the needs of disabled people."

These advances however, can also have negative effects for people with disabilities. For example, teleworking - working from home through computers - can in certain circumstances enhance the feeling of social exclusion as there is little or no human contact for the disabled person with his co-workers.

In such situations, it would be beneficial to have the disabled employee report to the work site periodically in order to reinforce relationships with co-workers.

## Transport

Making transport accessible for disabled people will also mean improving comfort, quality and service for non-disabled people. The Euro-

pean Commission Communication, **Toward a Barrier-free Europe**, includes several commitments to promote accessibility for disabled people in a large number of areas, including air, land and sea transport.

Currently, disabled people face many and substantial obstacles when attempting to use public transport. For example, reading the timetable and finding the correct place to board can entail difficulties for blind and partially sighted people and for those with learning difficulties. It may not always be clear to them whether the bus, train or tram to their destination has arrived.

Boarding can impose obstacles to people without the full use of arms or legs, as it is quite hard of them to climb the high steps. For wheelchair users, the height difference is insurmountable. Most

aisles in trains and buses are narrow, making passage by the disabled difficult. In the rush hour, this often makes it impossible for people to reach a safe place before departure. Straps for standing passengers are not useable by people with impaired arm functions.

Blind and partially sighted people - indeed, all those who are not familiar with a particular setting - face the problem of not knowing where, when or from which side of the vehicle to disembark, even if the stop is announced. In general, people who have difficulty enough getting on a bus, train

or tram may face even more difficulty getting off. The EU must work toward more accessible transport systems that will bring added value not only to disabled people and older people, but also to people with reduced mobility, such as people with temporary injuries, parents with children, people with large and heavy luggage, and people with shopping bags.



# People with Disabilities



## United Nations Standard Rules for Persons with Disabilities

A major outcome of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992) was the adoption by the General Assembly of the Standard Rules on the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in 1994. Although not legally binding, the Standard Rules represent a

strong moral and political statement by governments to take action to attain equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities. The rules serve as an instrument for policy-making and as a basis for technical and economic co-operation.

The Standard Rules contain 22 rules

which summarise the message of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1982), and also incorporate the human rights perspective which had developed during the Decade. The rules concerning disabled per-

sons provide a framework for promoting participation, training and employment within all government ministries and on all levels of national policy-making, in order to equalise opportunities for persons with disabilities and to cover all aspects of their lives.

### The European Union disability strategy

A society that is open and accessible to all is the goal of the European Union Disability Strategy. Barriers to the disabled need to be identified and removed. This approach has been stimulated by the United Nations Standard Rules on Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. The European Union Disability Strategy has three main focuses:

#### Co-operation between the Commission and the Member States

Most of the practical work of making society accessible can best be achieved by the member states. The subsidiarity principle - that can be achieved better at a national level shall be done at national level - applies here. But even where the member states are the principal actors, the Commission may play a part by strengthening co-operation with and between the member states in the disability field, rais-



ing awareness of disability issues and taking account of disability issues in all the policy-making and legislative work of the Commission, both external and internal.

Changing attitudes towards people with disabilities in the area of employment is a key issue. Disability aspects are not included in the National Action Plans on Employment and in the National Action Plans against Poverty and Social Exclusion.

#### Mainstreaming disability in policy formulation



When the Commission creates or changes a policy, it aims to consider the needs and rights of people with disabilities. The Commission pays particular attention to disability aspects in its socio-economic policies, programmes and projects. The Unit for the Integration of People with Disabilities is responsible for mainstreaming disability matters within the Commission.

It organises regular meetings with representatives from other Directorates-General in the context of an Interservice Disability Group. Its purpose is to raise awareness of disability matters and to facilitate and encourage co-operation on disability matters among Directorates-General.

#### Full participation of people with disabilities

People with disabilities should be fully involved in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of changes in policies, practices, and programmes concerning the disabled, according to the Commission.

The Commission both encourages others to do this as well as doing so itself. The Commission's dialogue with the European Disability Forum is an example of such practice.



### Employment

Employment plays a significant role in assuring that disabled people avoid poverty and social exclusion. It is very important to stress, this is not exclusively about the financial security which having a job implies. It is also about participation, status, and a sense of community which having a job brings.

All of these factors contribute to an individual's social inclusion. In spite of all of this, the International Labour Office has pointed out that the unemployment rate for disabled people in industrialised countries has been two or three times that of non-disabled people.

One of the major commitments emerging from the European Council Lisbon Summit is to increase employment rates by 70% by 2010. Key to achieving this crucial goal is a concerted strat-

egy regarding the employment of disabled people, whose productivity capacity is largely underestimated.

According to the European Disability Forum: "the challenge is to achieve a social protection system which promotes disabled people's employment and participation but also provides the necessary security to encourage people to 'take risks', for example entering training or a working environment following long-term unemployment, in the knowledge that an adequate safety net exists to protect them, should insurmountable problems occur.

It is essential that disability-related benefits to compensate for the extra costs linked to their impairment should be maintained when a disabled person gets a job."

### Community based rehabilitation

Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) is an approach which has grown out of the debate between the so-called medical and social models of disability. Its supporters believe that it can meet the basic rehabilitation needs of four out of five people with a disability. CBR attempts to combine physical rehabilitation through medical care with empowerment and social inclusion through the participation of both the individual

with a disability and the community in the process of rehabilitation.

CBR is often claimed to be the best approach to inclusion and social integration, and an effective means of making the best use of scarce resources. The WHO believes that it promotes and protects human rights while also creating equal opportunities and making the best use of scarce resources.

### Social exclusion and poverty

One person out of every 20 has a disability, according to the United Nations. More than three out of four of these live in a developing country. More often than not they are among the poorest of the poor. Recent estimates by the World Bank suggest they may account for as many as one in five of the world's poorest. The discrimination disabled people face and the barriers they confront in an educational, employment, and social context mean that they are far more vulnerable than non-disabled citizens to social exclusion.

Poverty and disability seem inextricably linked in the developing countries. Poor people with disabilities are caught in a vicious cycle. Disability adds to the risk of poverty, and conditions of poverty increase the risk of disability. In other words, people living in poverty tend to become disabled because of aggravating factors, such as malnutrition, squalid housing, hazardous occupations, and heightened exposure to violence. Conversely, people with disabilities tend to be poorer or to become impoverished because they lack jobs or access to income, basic social and medical services, and rehabilitation.

Generally, median family income is substantially lower when the householder has a disability. This is due to periods of unemployment, underemployment, or incapacity to work during rehabilitation. Statistics show that earnings decrease as the severity of the disability increases. Studies from the UK have proven that fewer disabled than non-disabled people own their own homes and that fewer have substantial assets, rights to pension and other welfare benefits.

The studies point out that the lower incomes of disabled people observed during their working years continue into the senior years, since the higher rates of unemployment, interrupted employment, and employment in low paid jobs with poor prospects experienced by disabled people affect their income after retirement. Consequently, disabled people are less likely to have the level of provision that will adequately protect them from poverty in old age. Additional costs are also imposed on disabled people from medical expenses, equipment and aids (e.g. hearing aids, wheelchairs, etc) and also costs incurred in providing personal assistance and support.

*More than three out of four of disabled persons live in developing countries. They are among the poorest of the poor.*

### Societal poverty

Social exclusion is not related only to financial poverty. Societal poverty plays an equally large role in the lives of disabled people.

People with disabilities are often exposed to the devastating effects of discrimination, exclusion, prejudice or superstition, and the denial of participation and influence in society. These negative societal attitudes can worsen the disabling condition and in worse cases, may include abuse, both physical (beatings, rape) or psychological (isolation, confine-



ment, projections of guilt, inadequacy).

Such marginalisation of the disabled reduces their opportunities to contribute productively to a household and a community, and increases the risk of disabled people falling into a poverty trap. The enormous financial and emotional strain with which disabled people are confronted often lead to problematic personal relationships. There is a significantly higher divorce rate and separation rate among couples that include a disabled partner.

### Education

Education and social exclusion of the disabled are fundamentally linked. The area, the accessibility of the infrastructure, the policy priorities at the national, regional and local levels will govern whether a disabled child is able to receive a truly inclusive education, with all the social as well as academic benefits that this brings.

However, on average, disabled people receive less education and are likely to leave school with fewer qualifications than others. Recent UNESCO studies suggest that only 1% to 2% of children with disabilities in developing countries receive an education. Socialisation in education is an extremely important dimension for disabled children as it is for non-disabled children. Both groups can be mutually benefited from being in the same educational environment. An inclusive education is the basis of an inclusive society, as it contributes strongly to the breaking down of attitud-

dinal barriers. A majority of disabled children can benefit from a mainstream education. According to a survey by Danish authorities, less than 1% of children cannot take part in mainstream

schools. These are, for instance, children with complex dependency needs, such as autistic children.

The European Year of People with Disabilities will strongly focus on the "Education for all" concept. It will attempt to highlight the importance of

education and training in breaking barriers, making schools, higher education and training schemes more open and more accessible to all EU citizens.

*[The information used in this article has been extracted from the European Commission website and from the European Disability Forum, Disability and Social Exclusion Strategy Report and from its website.]*





## The Ethics of Food and Agriculture

*In the past, the production and distribution of food have rarely been considered within the realm of ethics. Recently, however, food and agriculture and the economic benefits of participation in the food and agricultural system have come to be seen as ethical in nature. The world's continuing inability to feed all its people at a time when agricultural production continues to grow and biotechnology is finding new applications in agriculture has given rise to the concept of food ethics. Food is essential for the survival of the human race; neglect of the universal right to food brings about hunger. Ethical systems in every society presume the right of access to food. The able-bodied should have the means to obtain food for themselves and their families; to those unable to feed themselves, food should be provided.*

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### Access to food is an ethical matter

Today it is essential that the world move toward an ethically-based food and agricultural system, in which the issues of hunger, malnutrition, diet and food safety are fully addressed. Such a system would enhance the development of conditions in which everyone had access to an abundant, nutritious and safe diet. A multi-faceted approach is needed to move in this direction; it includes policies that provide incentives for removing inequalities in access to food; scientific research to promote more efficient and safer food production, processing and distribution; rural infrastructure development including clean drinking-water; education about safe food handling practices; and the adoption of adequate safeguards and safety standards regarding the distribution of new food products.

The UN Economic and Social Council has defined the right to food as "the availability of food in a quantity and quality sufficient to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals, free from adverse substances, and acceptable within a given culture. Such food should be accessible in ways that are sustainable and that do not interfere with the

enjoyment of other human rights." If a society does not meet these obligations, it is considered unjust and unethical. Conversely, taking actions to eliminate hunger and malnutrition is considered proper. This principle was expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 and again in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security in 1996.

Most societies were formerly structured in a way that provided food to their people. Today, however, global trends in agricultural technology, production and distribution have the effect of disrupting those traditional systems without replacing the broken food chain. A global economy is emerging, but not a global society. The disparity between the "haves" and the "have-nots" is growing, and the most obvious sign of this disparity is hunger. A more equitable, ethically-based food and agriculture system must be developed that incorporates three widely-accepted goals: (1) reducing and eventually eliminating poverty; (2) sustainability and environmental protection; and (3) improving public health, by addressing the problems of hunger and diet, safe food and water, and sanitation.

### Reducing poverty and hunger

Consideration of human dignity and self-respect must be paramount in efforts to reduce poverty and hunger. Charitable donations are sometimes necessary to respond to emergency situations, but long-term improve-

ments to human well-being can only be accomplished when people are provided with the skills, access to capital, employment, and education so that they can look after themselves and their families. A viable rural infrastructure is essential in order that sustainable agriculture and

rural development can flourish. Today's agricultural system often works against the hungry and the poor. Whereas most societies were once structured so that even poor people had access to sufficient food for their survival, current social, economic and technological trends have changed this state of food security. The ties of many peoples to the land have been weakened or lost, making it very difficult for the poor to provide their own food. Famine has not only resulted from isolated cases of crop failure, but it has come increasingly from the impoverishment of rural populations and the degradation of natural resources.

Many farmers have had to turn to marginal lands or to deforestation in order to survive. In urban areas, living conditions are characterised by crowding, inadequate sanitation and water, poor housing, and longer food distribution networks that often promote the rapid spread of disease and malnutrition. Poor people are increasingly unable to care for themselves and their children. In this situation an education becomes virtually impossible.

### Creating a global society

In the face of these conflicting currents, a global society is needed that enables local cultures and societies to co-exist while retaining their identities and values. Goods, services and capital flow freely across national borders, but people are constrained by national borders. Nations, businesses and individuals must have a voice in the international marketplace. A global society must be structured in which poverty, hunger and malnutrition and hopelessness are reduced and eventually eliminated. Achieving this goal requires that many diverse interests are reconciled and methods found to resolve conflicts. All people must come to realize that their fate is bound to that of others and to the fate of the planet. The growing gaps between the poor and the affluent must be closed and food security must be provided to everyone.

Poverty is the greatest cause of human misery in the world today. A world society with an equitable, ethically-based food and agriculture system would work toward reducing and eliminat-

ing poverty by enhancing economic efficiency and the effectiveness of food and agriculture worldwide. An ethical food and agriculture system would help citizens, communities, nations and the world as a whole to transition from a global economy towards a global society. In such a society, interdependence would be acknowledged, each individual would have personal autonomy and dignity, and states would maintain their sovereignty. An ethical food and agriculture system would also modify the free trade system, in which special interests impose their own rules in the marketplace, to an ethics-based system of trade.

Some progress has been achieved over recent decades to alleviate hunger and improve the economic condition of the poor. Yet, far too many people continue to suffer from hunger, malnutrition, poor diet and unsafe food and water. These problems diminish the ability of people to participate fully in the daily affairs of their community or nation or of the world. Much remains to be done.

*"A more equitable, ethically-based food and agriculture system must incorporate concern for three widely accepted global goals, each of which incorporate numerous normative propositions: improved well-being, protection of the environment and improved public health."*

*United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, 2001*

### Protecting natural resources

The growth of the human population along with its massive modification of the natural world poses great threats to the natural resource base on which we all depend. Extensive agricultural development and the widespread use of chemicals have degraded the soils in many parts of the world and reduced their nutrient content. In the oceans, the improved ability to catch fish is depleting the seas of their plentiful stocks. Growing industrial production threatens local environments as well as the global climate. Global warming is expected to impact agricultural production by extending growing seasons in some

areas and reducing or eliminating them in others. The demand for water resources for agricultural, industrial and domestic uses is depleting surface and groundwater supplies. Overuse of water is leading to increased groundwater salinity and even to abandonment of some prime agricultural lands. Agricultural practices have harmed biodiversity, which is considered essential for maintaining life on earth. Specialization in agricultural production, referred to as monoculture, industrial pollution, deforestation and the introduction of invasive species have threatened entire ecosystems.

### Preserving cultural diversity

Agricultural and natural resource practices not only threaten the world's biodiversity but also its cultural diversity. Some cultures have not been able to withstand the rapid pace of change. Cultures that were previously isolated are losing their languages, traditions, religions, food types and social institutions. In some cases national policies have hastened this process by insisting on conformity with the dominant national culture. Although members of some threatened cultures resist unwanted change, their efforts are usually futile.

The simultaneous loss of biological and cultural diversity threatens both individuals and entire peoples. Some cultures have been forced to abandon their age-old ways in order to participate in what is considered as progress. Others prefer to deprive indigenous populations of the conven-

iences of modern life, so that they can maintain global resources such as plant germplasm. These extremes inhibit the rights of individuals and peo-

*Cultures that were previously isolated are losing their languages, traditions, food types and social institutions.*

ple to determine their own futures. Traditional practices that provided local people with an adequate supply of food have been displaced by the weakening of traditional family units, accelerated urbanisation and the globalisation of markets, information and culture.

### Toward an ethically-based food and agricultural system

In September 2000, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation convened a panel of experts on ethics in food and agriculture to examine the ethical issues related to agricultural development, food production and consumption. On the basis of the work of this committee, the FAO issued a report on ethics in agriculture in 2001 with a number of recommendations directed at individuals, states, corporations and voluntary organizations in the international community. These are viewed as a starting point that would lead to an ethical framework for the agricultural and food production system. A summary of the FAO recommendations follows:



- ▶ Encourage individuals, communities and nations to engage in dialogue and to act in an ethical manner. Incentives must be provided to encourage behaviour that promotes ethical values, while incentives to engage in unethical behaviour must be removed.
- ▶ Information must be prepared and widely distributed to permit all stakeholders to make wise and ethical decisions. The information can use various media, including print, television, radio and the internet.
- ▶ Decision-making procedures in international food and agriculture policy as well as the deliberations should be well-understood and open to public scrutiny.
- ▶ Science and technology should be applied for a more just and equitable food and agricultural system. Expert knowledge must be reconciled with indigenous knowledge and with diverse, deeply held cultural beliefs.
- ▶ Programmes, policies, standards and decisions should always take ethical considerations into account in order to lead to enhanced well-being, environmental protection and improved health. It must be recognized that these goals are not always compatible with each other. Even if all parties agree on the ethical goals, dialogue must continue to reconcile those goals in particular settings.
- ▶ Develop codes of ethical conduct where they do not currently exist. Codes of conduct are needed to guide individuals, states, corporations and voluntary organisations involved in the global food and agriculture system defining what constitutes ethical behaviour.
- ▶ Review ethical commitments from time to time to determine whether they are appropriate in the light of new knowledge and circumstances.

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Review ethical commitments from time to time to determine whether they are appropriate in the light of new knowledge and circumstances.

*[Most of the information in this article is based on information from the FAO's 2001 publication, Ethical Issues in Food and Agriculture]*

# Ecological Protection of Planet Earth – Bio-Environment – Bio-Culture

National Palace of Culture, Sofia, Bulgaria, 5-8 June 2003

**B**I.O. accepted an invitation by the President of the International Research Centre to join the co-organisers of an international conference to convene on June 5-8, 2003, in Sofia, Bulgaria, under the auspices of the Bulgarian Ministry of the Environment and Water, and the National Parliament. Other conference co-organisers include: the Technical University of Sofia, Bulgaria; Democritus University of Thrace, Greece; the University of Sunderland, UK; the Technical University of Dresden, Germany; the University of Rio De Janeiro, Brazil; the National Observatory of Athens, Greece.

The conference, which aims at rais-



ing greater awareness of the need to integrate the environment into all major policy areas, will promote an exchange

of views on the latest developments in the environmental field and propose directions for the future.

## Session on Quality of Life – Expanding the concept of sustainability – Building a civic society of hope and vision

### Session Chair and Co-ordinator

*Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis*  
President and Founder, Biopolitics International Organisation, Greece

### Ethical and Social Responsibilities for the Eradication of Poverty

*Kitty P. Kyriacopoulos*  
Honorary Chairman, Silver and Baryte Ores Mining Co., Greece  
*Dr. Michael Modinos*  
President, National Center for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Greece  
*Professor Dusan Kanazir*  
f. President, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Yugoslavia  
*Marc Luyckx*  
Director, "VISION 2020," Belgium

### Educational Challenges

*Ambassador Kyril Topalov*

President, Institute of Euro-Atlantic Security, Bulgaria  
*Professor Rusen Keles*  
f. Director of Environmental Studies, Faculty of Political Science, Ankara University, Turkey  
*Professor Yusufjan Shadimetov*  
President, ECOSAN International Fund, Uzbekistan  
*Professor P. Cosmopoulos*  
Department of Environmental Engineering, Democritus University of Thrace, Greece

### Media and Communications

*Eleftherios Antonacopoulos*  
Chairman & CEO, Greek Telecommunications Organisation  
*Professor Howayda Mostafa*  
Professor of Information and Media, Cairo University, Egypt

### Bio-economics - a new vision of profit

*Samy El Gindy*  
Member of Parliament and Vice President of the Euro-Arab Co-operation Centre, Egypt  
*Dr. Stanislav Sokolenko*  
Chairman of the Board, Ukrimpex, Ukraine

### Bio-policy - a view to the future

*Academician Blagovest Sendov*  
Vice President of Parliament, Bulgaria  
*Dr. E. Maslarova*, Deputy Chairman, Committee of Social Politics, Bulgarian Parliament  
*B. Mollov*, f. Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Public Works, Bulgaria  
*Dr. Kristalina Georgieva*  
Director, Environment Department, The World Bank

## Honorary Committee

*Ognyan Stefanov Gerdjikov*

President of Parliament, Bulgaria

*Dolores Arsenova*

Minister of Environment and Waters, Bulgaria

*Academician Blagovest Sendov*

Vice President Parliament of Bulgaria

*Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis*

President and Founder, Biopolitics International Organisation, Greece

*Stefan Sofyanski*

Mayor of Sofia, Bulgaria

*George Dimitracopoulos*

Vice President, European Parliament

*Manoela Georgieva*

Deputy Minister of Environment and Waters, Bulgaria

*Nikolai Kouyumdzhiev*

Deputy Minister of Environment and Waters, Bulgaria

*Rodoula Zissi*

Deputy Minister of Environment, Greece

*Dr. Kristalina Georgieva*

Director, Environment Department, The World Bank

*Catherine Guy Quint*

First Vice Chairman, Delegation to the EU-Bulgaria Joint Parliamentary Committee, European Parliament

*Anastasios Mantelis*

Member of Parliament, Greece

*Sami El Gindy*

Member of Parliament and Vice President of the Euro-Arab Co-operation Centre, Egypt

*Eleftherios Antonacopoulos*

Chairman and CEO, Greek

Telecommunications Organisation

*Ambassador Milan Dubcek*

Slovak Republic

*Professor Venelin Stoianov Jivkov*

Rector, Sofia Technical University

*Kitty P. Kyriacopoulos*

Honorary Chairman, Silver and

Baryte Ores Mining Co., Greece

*Ambassador Kai Falkman*

Sweden

*Professor Constantine Grammenos*

Pro Vice Chancellor,

City University, London, UK

*Professor Dusan Kanazir*

f. President, Serbian Academy of

Sciences and Arts, Yugoslavia

*Professor Rusen Keles*

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## Green Salary – a B.I.O. proposal for environmental restoration

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A Green Salary programme, as proposed by B.I.O., would be directed at meeting several objectives:

### Providing jobs for the unemployed

The most immediate and direct objective would be to put unemployed people back to work. Rather than being idle during their time of unemployment, these people would be productively used in jobs that improve the quality of the environment. The programme would serve both the temporarily unemployed and those who have permanently lost their job due to structural changes.

### Improving environmental quality

The unemployed are a pool of human resources which can be applied to projects for environmental protection and restoration.

### Providing training for long term employment in the environmental field

Structural changes in industry have resulted in the elimination of many jobs. Workers have been permanently laid off due to plant closings, downsizing of companies, changes in the type of business, relocation or the need for improved skills. A Green Salary programme could include a training component which would give people the skills needed to find permanent employment in the environmental industry.

**Promoting economic growth:** Green salaries would provide the worker and his family with money to spend, which is then recycled through the economy. The environmental projects that are established may require equipment and materials, which must be purchased. The eventual improvement to

the environment is itself an economic benefit, allowing for productive use of the restored environment for resource management, wildlife habitat, parkland or tourism.

### Meeting environmental emergencies

One component of a Green Salary programme could be training of individuals to respond to environmental

*A "green salary" promotes a better understanding of environmental ethics and of our responsibilities towards bios.*

emergencies such as oil spills, or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes and wildfires. Emergency response teams could be trained and formed which would be available to respond at the time of an accident or natural disaster.

### Instilling an ethical response to environmental issues

A Green Salary programme could enhance environmental appreciation and contribute to a better understanding of environmental ethics and of our responsibility to safeguard the environment and bios.

The proposed Green Salary programme would include two major components: (1) the provision of green jobs/green salaries to the temporarily unemployed as an alternative to receiving unemployment benefits, and (2) a training programme to assist those unemployed who lack the necessary skills for obtaining permanent employment in the environmental industry.

### Green jobs for temporarily unemployed

The programme, administered by a nation's employment security programme or labour department, would establish and maintain an inventory of needs in the area of environmental restoration, identifying "green jobs" (for example litter control, landscaping, wildlife management, recycling of wastes, open space conservation, forest resources, water resources management, etc.) in various agencies of the national or local governments, or in the private sector. The jobs inventory would identify the skills that are necessary to perform each job. Unemployed persons who are registered according to the country's existing policies would be offered the opportunity to work in one of the available green job positions as an alternative to receiving cash unemployment benefits.

The applicant would be interviewed and matched with one or more green jobs from the inventory. The applicant should possess a level of skills adequate to serve in the position(s) being offered. If he/she accepts a position, the salary for the green job would be equivalent to the unemployment benefit amount. The term of employment would also be equivalent to the term of the benefits.

This first component of the Green Salary programme is intended as a minimal cost programme. The only additional costs to the governments involved would be in administering the programme and providing necessary support in terms of materials, supplies, transport, etc. As a matter of policy, these conditions could be altered by administering countries. For example, unemployed workers could be offered a premium over the benefit amount. The term of employment in a green job

could also be extended beyond the normal term for receiving unemployment benefits. Either (or both) of these measures would provide an additional incentive for individuals to participate in the Green Salary programme.

### Employment training for long-term jobs

A second component of a Green Salary programme could be training to fill permanent positions in the environmental field. The training would mostly be directed to filling positions requiring higher skill levels (sewage treatment plant operators, irrigation specialists, forestry specialists, enforcement personnel for air and water quality regulations, etc.). This part of the Green Salary programme would be mainly directed at those unemployed who have permanently lost their jobs due to structural changes in the economy. Such individuals often possess a

*The unemployed are a pool of invaluable human resources who can be applied to projects for environmental protection.*

higher level of skills and are amenable to training. Additionally, unemployed applicants who demonstrate an aptitude to develop the necessary skills could also be accepted in the programme. A third potential category of trainees would be unemployed and untrained young people.

In the case of the temporary green jobs, most of the costs of implementing the programme would be borne by the existing employment security programmes. Some additional funds may need to be appropriated for pro-

gramme support. The training programme for environmental employment would require additional funding which could also come from private sources.

### Youth for the Environment, Australia

The state of Queensland has a programme for providing green jobs for unemployed youth in the 15 to 24 age group. The programme provides funding to public agencies and community organisations to create 1200 environmental training positions for a period of two years. The programme seeks equity targets of 50% female, 5% people with a non-English speaking background, 5% indigenous people and 5% people with a disability. The state government provides the funding and the local agencies provide the training and assist the applicant to be placed in an environmental position upon completion of the training.

### Recycling urban trash in Bangladesh

Dhaka is a crowded city with more than 10 million people who generate more than 3,500 tonnes of garbage every day. Disposing of this quantity of trash is a major logistical and environmental problem. Recognising the resource potential of the solid waste, two professionals formed Waste Concern, a nongovernmental research organisation, in 1995 to develop a recycling programme and recover some of the value of the discarded materials while at the same time providing needed jobs to the poor. In recognition of their achievement, the founders received the UNDP's Race Against Poverty award for 2002.



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