

# Bio News



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

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## Biopolicy – Eradicating the poverty in values Building a society of vision and hope

Winning the battle against world-wide poverty requires a renaissance of values. To embark on a millennium of hope, we need to avoid the mistakes of the past and create a society which respects and promotes bios - all living beings on the planet. Environmental protection, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democratic governance, and the elimination of discrimination, be it social, economic or cultural, are prerequisites in this endeavour.

New education and a millennium vision in policy can bring about the necessary societal transformations to

eradicate poverty and promote development with a view to the future. Since its inception in 1985, the Biopolitics International Organisation (B.I.O.)

*Poverty needs to be understood in broader terms than only the lack of monetary income.*

has been championing these ideals and has been imparting guidelines to motivate humanity to halt destructive trends and build a future of hope.

B.I.O. brings together the major human driving forces of change, the ones at the heart of policy and decision-making, to provide a framework for integrating ideas, concepts and insight in order to enrich sustainable development with new values. To make a difference in the fight against poverty

and to achieve a civil society we need to inspire humanity with new values and search for responsible and committed leadership.

Reconciling economic development, social equity and environmental quality are of the essence in the fight against poverty. Improved environmental quality meets demands for job creation, economic security and better living standards. It also allows the pursuit of objectives that are key elements of quality of life, such as health and education. Through a truly integrated environmental education, we can achieve a developmental framework that places people and the planet before financial profit, allowing for cultural differences to emerge as the beauty and wealth of humanity.

### Environment and poverty

Environmental problems such as loss of biodiversity, desertification, deforestation, inadequate rainfall and pollution are often found alongside poverty. Together, such conditions contribute to a cycle from which people are hard-pressed to escape. Poverty is self-perpetuating, passed on from generation to generation. It breeds despair, lack of hope for a better life in the future, political unrest and even terrorism. The greatest tragedy concerning poverty is that today's society has the ability and the means to eradicate it, yet it

does not fully commit itself to this vital an consequential task.

Although most prominent in Africa, this expanded view of poverty can be seen throughout the world. All these issues are inter-related, and all stem from humanity's failure to place respect for bios and the continuity of life on earth as its top priority. Rather, societies are racing to gain economic wealth, political power and social advancement in a short-sighted manner that has led to a serious crisis in values. Like a tsunami of unequal proportions, this crisis in values has multiplied the threats faced by society today.

*The tsunami of the crisis in values has multiplied the threats faced by society today.*



**Hellenic Turkish Cooperation in Biopolicy**  
Foreign Press Association  
Athens, 28-29 January 2005  
(p. 12-14)



**Profit and the Environment Building a Culture of Social Responsibility**  
Athens Money Show  
14 December 2004 (p. 6-7)



**Dag Hammarskjöld A Vision of Peace**  
Athens  
16 June 2005 (p. 3)

## Threats to bios and cultural diversity

### Poverty of the land

Degradation of land in areas of little rainfall and moisture is a serious problem that threatens humans and the environment alike. It destroys habitats, impairs farming, and contributes to poverty. Dryland ecosystems, which cover over one third of the world's land area, are extremely vulnerable to over-exploitation and the inappropriate use of land. Poverty, political instability, deforestation, overgrazing, and bad irrigation practices all contribute to the deterioration of the fertility of the land. Desertification is another dimension of the problem of poverty. Over 250 million people on five continents are impacted by desertification,

and about one billion people in over one hundred countries are at risk.

### Water resources

Clean, fresh water is under constant attack as a result of improper management. Competition for water is growing throughout the world due to population growth, industrial expansion and the needs of agriculture. **Over one billion people do not have access to safe drinking water and two billion people do not have access to safe sanitation facilities.** Inadequate supplies of fresh water and unavailability of sanitation is an integral element of the persistent cycle of poverty afflicting today's society.

### Loss of cultural identity

The world's cultural diversity is also under attack. Clearing forests and draining wetlands not only destroy plant and animal habitats, but human habitats as well. Cultures that were previously isolated are rapidly losing their languages, traditions, religions, food types and social institutions.

Also lost are traditional styles of agriculture and knowledge of genetic diversity of plants. In some cases national policies have hastened this process by insisting on conformity with the dominant national culture. Although members of threatened cultures have resisted these unwanted changes, their efforts are often futile.

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## B.I.O. activities and events



### Saving our planet's forests Cooperation with BTRF

B.I.O. and the Borneo Tropical Rainforest Foundation (BTRF) have launched a fruitful cooperation in the promotion of education and action to save our planet's forest resources (p. 8-9).



### Bio-education to enrich sustainability 14 new e-learning courses

B.I.O.'s 14 e-learning courses place a uniquely rich source of training material at the fingertips of teachers, students and professionals around the world. Cooperation with 52 countries (p. 16).



### Bioethics and bios rights

Protecting the rights of all forms of bios  
The Global Declaration of Plant Rights (p. 10)



### Youth – Bios-Olympiads – Bios Schools

Youth Bios-Olympiads and Bios Schools take place annually in St.Petersburg with the participation of school children, students and young adults from Russia and several other countries (p. 11).

## Bioethics and social justice

Poverty has many faces. Unless all its dimensions are addressed, the problem will never be solved. **B.I.O. believes that a new structure in society is needed to overcome these trends, one that is founded on enlightened leadership and a value system that respects every individual and every form of life.**

Poverty needs to be understood in broader terms than only the lack

of monetary income. Poverty leads to the deprivation of basic freedoms, such as health care, lack of sanitation, exclusion from education, exclusion from market activities, and basic civil rights. Although most prominent in Africa, this expanded view of poverty can be seen throughout the world. All these issues are inter-related, and all stem from humanity's failure to place respect for bios and the continuity of life on earth as its top priority. Rather, societies are racing to gain economic wealth, political power and social advancement

in a shortsighted manner that is often more harmful than beneficial.

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. 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. If we are to succeed in reversing global environmental degradation and limit poverty, people everywhere must be imbued with a love and respect for the environment. **It is our bioethical responsibility towards future generations to eradicate the poverty in values that is threatening the very continuation of bios on our planet.**

*Bio-education and bioethics in every profession are the key to societal and economic welfare.*

## 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

**Local Genetic Banks** to save the biodiversity of endemic plant and animal species and to 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 2004 - 2005

Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Hellenic Aid Department - YDAS

Coca-Cola

Kitty P. Kyriacopoulos

European Commission  
Leonardo da Vinci Programme

Alpha Bank

Ministry of Culture

OTE

OTEnet

DHL International

Aspis International MFMC

A.G. Leventis Foundation

Hotel Herodion

Hellas-on-Line

Xerox Hellas S.A.

Hewlett-Packard Hellas

## BIO in 130 countries

### Africa

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, 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, Trinidad and Tobago, USA, Uruguay, Venezuela

### Asia

Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Dubai, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, 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, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, UK, Vatican

### Oceania

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

## Editorial

*A real democracy is based on the participation of every citizen, yet millions of people on earth do not have access to basic needs such as food, water, health, and education. We live on a small and fragile planet, and the crisis in values which characterises our times has driven us towards a dead end.*



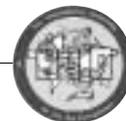
*Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis  
B.I.O. President and Founder*

*The tsunami in Southeast Asia, an environmental disaster of enormous proportions, threatened life, which has been evolving on our planet for hundreds of millions of years. The tsunami of the crisis in values has multiplied the dangers faced by society today. No one can profit from environmental destruction. Sooner or later, nature and the environment will take revenge.*

*In order to appease the destruction and curb negative trends, the participation of every citizen is crucial. By drawing inspiration from the Olympic spirit, every human endeavour can contribute to the restructuring of society on the basis of bios promoting values.*

*The environment knows no boundaries. Bio-diplomacy, as promoted by B.I.O. since its inception in 1985, is an international effort in defence of the environment. Bio-economics contributes towards economic development and technological advancement aimed at the protection of the environment and natural resources, and the promotion of clean and renewable energy. The bio-assessment of technology, encourages the cooperation of technology and the arts in environmental protection and draws upon the deeply rooted past to infuse society with new values. Bioethics in every profession can draw inspiration from diachronic ideals such as the Hippocratic Oath, and lead to the protection and appreciation of bios.*

*Education is the key towards societal and economic welfare. With the development of the information society, education can reach every citizen in the world. Tools such as e-learning can grant equal opportunities in making education accessible to everyone. B.I.O.'s extensive e-learning programme has put a wealth of educational material and resources online with the aim of placing environmental education at the fingertips of all concerned citizens (see page 16).*



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## Dag Hammarskjöld A vision for peace

B.I.O. will be hosting a book presentation in celebration of one hundred years from the birth of Dag Hammarskjöld, second Secretary-General of the United Nations, in Athens, on June 16, 2005. Ambassador **Kai Falkman**, distinguished diplomat and B.I.O. Trustee, will be presenting his recently released book themed "To speak for the world - a selection of speeches and statements by Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General of the United Nations 1953-1961." The event will pay tribute to the eminent Swedish economist and statesman, who enhanced the prestige and effectiveness of the United Nations.

Many illustrious speakers will join B.I.O. in honouring the ideals and contribution of a unique leader who combined moral force with subtlety in meeting international challenges. Professor **Carl-Goran Heden**, f. President of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, will also be participating as a speaker in the event.



## World Academy of Art and Science

### The future of knowledge WAAS General Assembly, Croatia

The President of the World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS), Dr. **Walter Truett Anderson**, has invited the B.I.O. President to co-chair a discussion on "Human Responsibility and Evolution - Was Huxley Right?" along with **Jacques Delors**, f. President of the European Commission, and Professor **Carl-Goran Heden**, f. President of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. The discussion will take place during



the General Assembly of the World Academy of Art and Science, to convene in Zagreb Croatia, on November 17-20, 2005. The General Assembly is themed "The Future of Knowledge - Evolutionary Challenges for the 21st Century," and is expected to be an inspiring and productive event, in which distinguished scientists, thinkers and government leaders will explore a wide range of cutting-edge issues.

### Honour bestowed upon B.I.O.

The B.I.O. President, Dr. Agni Vlianos-Arvanitis, was appointed Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS) in February 2005. The World Academy of Art and Science is a non-official network of approximately 500 individual Fellows from diverse cultures, nationalities, and intellectual disciplines, chosen for eminence in art, the natural and social sciences, and the humanities. Its activities focus on the social conse-



quences and policy implications of knowledge, and the challenges confronting people in a rapidly changing global civilisation. It has in several instances chosen to concentrate on cutting edge issues, well ahead of general public recognition of their importance. The founding president of the World Academy, elected in 1960, was Lord John Boyd Orr, Nobel Laureate and first Director General of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation.

## Environment for Europe Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro

A symposium themed "Environment for Europe" will convene in Belgrade on June 5-8, 2005, on the occasion of **World Environment Day**. The symposium will focus on the importance of the environmental sector in the process of European integration and is organised by: Environmental

Ambassadors; the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia; the Secretariat for Environmental Protection of the City of Belgrade; and, the Union of Chemists and Chemical Engineers. The B.I.O. President will be participating with an introductory speech on biopolicy and European integration.

## Environment and human health Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro

The B.I.O. President contributed a paper on "Health and the Environment - Biopolicy with a View to the Future" to the proceedings from the International Conference on Environment and Human Health, which was held in Belgrade, under the auspices of the Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia, on April 20-22, 2005.

The Conference was co-organised by the Society for Development and Application of Science and Practice in Environmental Protection of Serbia and Montenegro (ECOLOGICA), by the Chamber of Commerce of Ser-

*Human health and the health of the planet go hand in hand.*

bia and by the Association of Engineers of Serbia and Montenegro. The aim of the conference was to promote the close connection between human health and the environment and to bring together researchers, physicians, engineers, health inspectors and legislators to discuss the importance of acting responsibly towards the environment. Topics included: Sustainable development and human health; Degradation of soil and food production; Management of municipal and hazardous waste; Quality of water and diseases associated with it; Natural aspects used in the prevention and cure of diseases.

## How on earth can we live together? The Tallberg Forum, Sweden

In celebration of its 25th Anniversary, the Tallberg Foundation will be hosting a Forum themed "How on earth can we live together? Exploring Frameworks for Sustainable Global Interdependence." The Forum will be held in the beautiful Swedish village of Tallberg from July 30 to August 3, 2005. Their Majesties the King and Queen of Sweden, who support this event, will highlight the occasion.

This open Forum will unite approximately 450 leaders from all over the world. The range of expertise is widespread among participants, therefore the event is foreseen to have a successful outcome provided with enlightening conversation and dialogue which will aim for increased global cooperation and understanding. Discussions will focus on the need for more effective institutional structures and leadership, promoting the principles of democracy, human rights, and sustainability.

The Tallberg Foundation is a non-



profit, independent organisation aimed at bringing together diverse people in open conversations on leadership, values and institutional change. At the invitation of **Bo Ekman**, President of the Tallberg Foundation, the B.I.O. President will be participating in the Forum. Other invited participants include: **Goran Persson**, Prime Minister of Sweden; **Kofi Annan**, UN Secretary-General; **Shakukat Aziz** Prime Minister of Pakistan; **James Wolfen-**

**sohn**, President, The World Bank; **HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal** of Jordan; **Gro Harlem Brundtland**, former Prime Minister of Norway; **Sonia Gandhi**, President of the Congress Party, India; **Vaclav Havel**, former President of the Czech Republic; **Stipe Mesic**, President of the Republic of Croatia; **Ivan Miklos**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Slovak Republic; **Par Nuder**, Minister of Finance, Sweden; **Marcello Palazzi**, Founder and Chairman, Progressio Foundation, the Netherlands; **Jean Francois Rischard**, Vice President for Europe, The World Bank; **Mikhail Saakashvili**, President of Georgia; **Aram Sarkassian**, former Prime Minister of Armenia; **Desmond Tutu**, Archbishop Emeritus, South Africa; **Jacques Wagner**, Minister of Planning, Brazil; **Margot Wallstrom**, Vice President of the European Commission; **Anders Wijkman**, Member of the European Parliament, Sweden.

## Environmental protection is a must Alexandria, Egypt

The 15th Conference on "Environmental Protection is a Must" was held on May 3-5, 2005 in Alexandria, Egypt. The aim of this annual initiative is to open a discussion among scientists in many different countries on a wide spectrum of environmental problems. Some of the diverse topics addressed at the conference were: recent environmental changes and pollution; updates on the present knowledge of the impact of chemical pollution of soil, water and air on wild life and man; the evaluation of freshwater and marine pollution; legal and technological measures to reduce pollution levels; and recommendations and suggestions for concerned authorities. The conference was held under the auspices of the Ministers of Petroleum, Electricity, Health and Population, High Education and Scientific Research, Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, and the President of Ain-Shams University.

The B.I.O. President participated in the Scientific Committee of the conference and delivered a keynote address at the opening session. Her address focused on biopolicy as the needed vision for improving quality of life and for every sector of society and every profession to engage in environmental appreciation and action. Other distinguished speakers at the opening session included:

**Samy El Gindy**, Secretary General of the Conference, Member of the Egyptian Parliament, and Vice President of the Euro-Arab Cooperation Center; Professor **Mourad**



*Distinguished decision-makers and dignitaries participated in the conference's opening session.*

**Abdel Kader**, Vice President of Aim Shams University; **Mohammed Halil**, Deputy Minister of Environment; **Mohamed El Gazer**, Director, Ministry of Energy; **Mohamed Abdella**, President of Alexandria University and former President of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee; **Mohamed Abdel-Salam El Mahgoub**, Governor of Alexandria; and Dr. **Osman Assal**, Governor of El Behara.

During the conference, the B.I.O. President was also honoured with one of five Environmental Prizes conferred to personalities of international acclaim for their contribution to environmental appreciation and preservation. Dr. Vlianos-Arvanitis was honoured for promoting the environment and bio-diplomacy as a vehicle for peace.

## Deconstructing democracy Brussels, Belgium

The twenty-first Aurelio Peccei Lecture on "Deconstructing Democracy: The Limits to Privatisation" was held by the Brussels-EU Chapter of the Club of Rome on March 2, 2005, at the Royal Academy of Belgium. The lecture was presented by Professor **Ernst Ulrich von Weizsaecker**, Member of the German Parliament and Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. Professor von Weizsaecker is also a distinguished B.I.O. Trustee, and has participated in several B.I.O. international conferences and events.

The subject of the lecture - a topical issue in all democratic societies - was dealt with, starting from an analysis

of the dominant worldwide trend towards privatisation. Professor von Weizsaecker is co-author of the new book "Limits to Privatisation," the first thorough audit of privatisations from around the world.

The book outlines the historical emergence of globalisation and liberalisation. From analyses of over 50 case studies of best- and worst-case experiences of privatisation, this important treatise provides a wealth of guidelines for policy and action that will restore and maintain the right balance between the powers and responsibilities of the state, the private sector and the increasingly important role of civil society.

## Imagining a sustainable future - Kefalonia, Greece

A conference themed "Imagining a sustainable future: the rebirthing of blue village" will be hosted by AWISH Hellas from 29 September to 3 October 2005 on the island of Kefalonia in Greece. The event is held at the initiative of **Nicholas Zafaratos**, Professor at the Huxley College of Environmental Studies, Western Washington University, and President and CEO of AWISH Hellas. The conference kicks off the start of a university programme in sustainable community development in Kefalonia, beginning in Fall 2005.

The mission of AWISH Hellas (A World Institute for a Sustainable Humanity) is to foster and promote knowledge, understanding, social interactions, and creative endeavours addressing the human and global dimensions of sustainable community development. AWISH Hellas promotes learning, creative programmes and activities advancing community wellness, the preservation of natural resources,

sustainable economies, and community prosperity. The mission is carried out through a multi-dimensional programme of activities that include academic training, applied research, university partnerships, field internships, and international seminars, workshops and conferences in sustainable development, the arts, personal and community wellness and healing.

The B.I.O. President, who serves on the Board of Advisors of AWISH Hellas, will be one of the guest speakers at the conference. Another eminent guest speaker will be Professor **Bradley Smith**, Dean of the Huxley College for Environmental Studies and distinguished B.I.O. Trustee. Prior to his appointment as Dean of Huxley College in 1994, Professor Smith had served for three years as the first Director of the Office of Environmental Education for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and as a Special Assistant to the Administrator of the EPA.

**B.I.O. PUBLICATIONS****PROCEEDINGS**

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- ▶ 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, 303 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
- ▶ BIOPOLITICS 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
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**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
- ▶ PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY IN MODERN SOCIETY (English, Greek) 2004

**PERIODICALS**

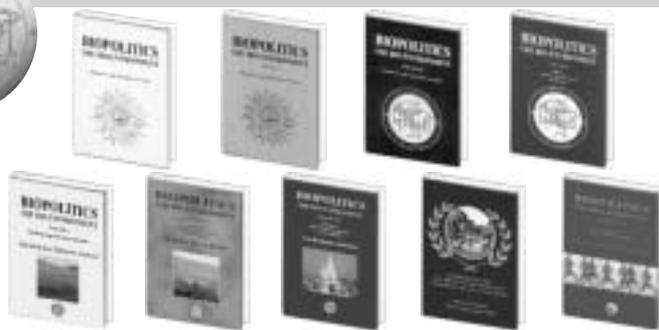
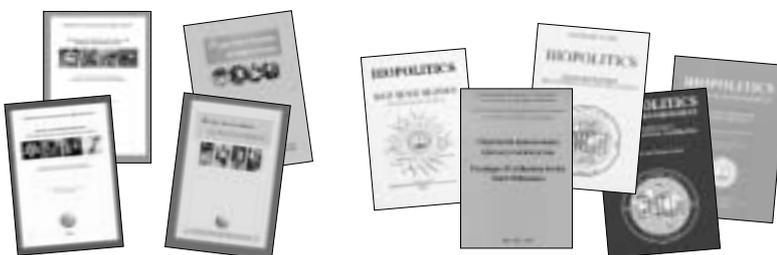
- ▶ BIONEWS Newspaper, English and Greek (1987, 1994-2005)

**CD-ROMS**

- ▶ BIOPOLITICS - THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT (English) 1999
- ▶ BIO-SYLLABUS FOR EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (English) 2002
- ▶ PATMOS - BIO-ENVIRONMENT - BIO-CULTURE (2002)
- ▶ MYTHOS - RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS OF GREECE (2005)

**VIDEOS**

- ▶ ENVIRONMENTAL OLYMPICS - BIOS PRIZES, St. Petersburg, Russia, September 1999 (English, Greek) 1999
- ▶ ENVIRONMENTAL OLYMPICS - BIOS PRIZE, The Kogi of Colombia, October 1999 (English, Greek) 1999

**INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY****Proceedings****Bio-Syllabus for Environmental Education****Business Strategy****Social Issues****Diplomacy****Seminars - Events****Culture and the environment - CD-Roms****Periodicals**

# VERSITY FOR THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT

**Biopolitics  
online**  
www.biopolitics.gr

Visit the B.I.O. website for information on our latest activities, events, educational projects and publications

Who We Are  
What's New  
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Home

Biopolicy – a vision for peace

International support for the work of B.I.O.

“Bio-education to enrich sustainability”  
B.I.O.’s 14 course e-learning project promoting new dimensions in education

International youth projects  
Bios Olympiads, Bios Schools, Youth Farm

B.I.O. cooperates with 130 countries  
Events and projects listed by country, 1985 to 2005

Recent events, programmes, proceedings

Information in Chinese for our friends in China

Media and the environment

Accessibility and social justice

Bio-culture, mythos, past, present, future

Bio-tourism – protecting nature and culture

“Profit and the bio-environment”  
Publications, lectures, events promoting biodiversity, education, and culture as the true wealth of humanity

New publications, periodicals, CD-Roms

Information in Spanish for our friends worldwide

Environment and agriculture

Environmental values and cease fire during the Olympics

World Referendum to save the environment



Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences  
2004 Biopolicy Award  
The B.I.O. President receives the 2004 Biopolicy Award at the RSAS. From left: Dr. Walter Anderson, President of the World Academy of Art and Science; Academician Carl Goran Heden; Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis; and Professor Erling Norrby, f. Secretary General of the RSAS.

## Progress 2004 – 2005

### 2004

#### Honours and distinctions

- ▶ B.I.O. President receives 2004 Biopolicy Award from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the BioFocus Foundation and the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences
- ▶ Nomination for the J. William Fulbright Award for International Understanding

#### New B.I.O. divisions

- ▶ B.I.O. Division created in Portugal, under the auspices of the Oporto University Medical School. Dr. Maria Barroso Soares is President of the Division.

#### B.I.O. international conferences

- ▶ “Hellenic-Turkish Cooperation in Biopolitics – On the Road to European Union Ideals” under the auspices of the Turkish Ambassador to Greece and the Office of the European Parliament Representation in Greece
- ▶ Inauguration of B.I.O. Division in Portugal, Oporto University
- ▶ 9th Annual Youth Bios Olympiad, St. Petersburg, Russia
- ▶ Press conference and presentation of the new B.I.O. publications on “People with a Disability in Modern Society,” with the participation of Euro-parliamentarians, diplomats, journalists and business professionals. Office of the European Parliament in Greece, Athens

#### Programmes in bio-education

- ▶ Development of 14 tutor-supported e-Learning programmes in Agriculture, Architecture, Diplomacy, Economics, Energy, Ethics, Health, History, Legislation, Technology, Tourism, the Common Agriculture Policy, People with a Disability in Modern Society, and Waste Treatment and Management.
- ▶ 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
- ▶ Participation in “Youth Farm” Leonardo da Vinci educational programme for young farmers, coordinated by Intercollege Cyprus
- ▶ Participation as academic liaison in the World Bank’s European Academic Action Network for Development

- ▶ Co-operation in the development and teaching of biopolicy courses with the Eastern University of Science and Technology, Shandong, China
- ▶ Working group for bio-education within the framework of the European Union programme on “Prospects for Technology and Investigation”
- ▶ “Family Concept in Modern City Life” a youth workshop in cooperation with Fatih University Istanbul
- ▶ Bios Schools organised throughout the year in St. Petersburg, Russia

#### Seminars/conferences/special events

- ▶ Keynote address, Olympia Forum, Athens
- ▶ Keynote address, 11th International Conference of the World Society for Hellenism and Orthodoxy, Union of Greek Journalists, Athens
- ▶ Participation in the tenth Annual General Assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life, The Vatican
- ▶ Keynote address at the kick-off meeting of the “Youth Farm” Leonardo da Vinci Programme, Nicosia, Cyprus
- ▶ Keynote address at the conference on “Problems of the Modern World and the Cultural Role of Greece” organised by the municipality of Patras in cooperation with Olympia Forum
- ▶ Keynote address, steering committee meeting of the “Bios & Environment Transnational Network” Leonardo da Vinci programme in Palermo, Italy
- ▶ Special keynote address, Women’s International Club, Athens
- ▶ Participation in the Organising Committee and keynote lecture at “The Hague Conference on Environment and Security in the 21st Century,” Peace Palace, The Hague
- ▶ Participation in the Annual World Bank Conference on Development Economics, Brussels
- ▶ Participation in the Seventh German World Bank Forum, Munich
- ▶ Keynote speech, Youth Women’s Christian Association of Greece, Athens
- ▶ Participation in the Environmental Technology for a Modern Society Symposium, organised by the Norwegian Embassy and Innovation Norway, Athens
- ▶ Keynote speech and chair at the III International Congress on Bioethics, Cuenca, Spain
- ▶ Keynote address at the conference

- on “Mass-Individualisation of higher education for the knowledge-based society,” The Netherlands
- ▶ Participation in the Economist Meetings on defence, e-government, and biotechnology
- ▶ Presentation of the B.I.O. publication “People with a Disability in Modern Society” to the Paraplegic Society of northern Greece

#### B.I.O. publications

- ▶ People with a Disability in Modern Society (English, 168 pp.)
- ▶ People with a Disability in Modern Society (Greek, 152 pp.)
- ▶ Quarterly publication of “BioNews,” the official B.I.O. newspaper

#### Awareness raising

- ▶ Extensive B.I.O. campaign to improve accessibility to beaches for people with a disability
- ▶ World Referendum to invite every individual on the planet to vote for the protection of the environment

#### Media coverage

- ▶ Hour-long television programme hosted weekly by the B.I.O. President
- ▶ International television interviews and press coverage
- ▶ B.I.O. website www.biopolitics.gr features news and information on all B.I.O. activities and projects.

### 2005

#### Honours and distinctions

- ▶ The B.I.O. President is elected Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science
- ▶ The B.I.O. President is appointed Visiting Professor at the Department of International and European Studies, Panteion University, Athens
- ▶ The B.I.O. President receives an Environmental Prize by the Euro-Arab Cooperation Center

#### B.I.O. international conferences

- ▶ Symposium on “Hellenic-Turkish Cooperation in Biopolitics” under the auspices of the Turkish Ambassador to Greece, held in Athens
- ▶ Symposium on “Hellenic-Turkish Cooperation in Biopolitics” held at Ankara University, Turkey
- ▶ “To speak for the world – a selection of speeches and statements by Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General of the United Nations 1953-1961,” Symposium held in Athens

- ▶ Xth Youth Bios Olympiad held in St. Petersburg

#### Programmes in bio-education

- ▶ Launching and implementation of 14 tutor-supported e-learning courses in agriculture, diplomacy, economics, energy, ethics, health, history, legislation, technology, etc. Cooperation with 52 countries.
- ▶ Cooperation with the Huxley College of Environmental Studies, Western Washington University, USA, in the conference on “Imagining a sustainable future – the rebirthing of a blue village” hosted by AWISH Kefalonia, Greece
- ▶ Participation in “Youth Farm” Leonardo da Vinci educational programme for young farmers, coordinated by Intercollege Cyprus
- ▶ Participation as academic liaison in the World Bank’s European Academic Action Network for Development

#### Seminars/conferences/special events

- ▶ Keynote speech, 12th International Conference of the World Society for Hellenism and Orthodoxy Athens
- ▶ As Corresponding Member of the Pontifical Academy for Life, the B.I.O. President participated in the eleventh Annual General Assembly of the Academy, The Vatican
- ▶ Participation in the “Symposium on the Worldwatch Institute Report, State of the World: Redefining Global Security” European Parliament, Brussels
- ▶ Participation in the Aurelio Peccei lecture on “Deconstructing Democracy – The Limits of Privatisation,” hosted by the Club of Rome, Brussels – EU Chapter at the Royal Academy of Belgium
- ▶ The B.I.O. President participates as Official Delegate of the Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO at the “First intergovernmental meeting of experts aimed at finalising a draft of a declaration on universal norms on bioethics,” Paris
- ▶ Keynote address and participation in Scientific Committee, International Congress on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources in Industry & Construction, Bulgaria
- ▶ B.I.O. establishes cooperation with the Global Marshall Plan initiative, based in Germany
- ▶ B.I.O. establishes cooperation with the Borneo Tropical Rainforest

- Foundation and submits joint proposal for the implementation of e-learning courses in environmental education to the Government of Malaysia

- ▶ Keynote speech, 15th Conference on “Environmental protection is a Must,” Alexandria, Egypt
- ▶ Participation in “Peace and Environment” prize award ceremony in honour of H.H. Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai, Dubai
- ▶ Participation in the Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics, sponsored by the World Bank, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- ▶ Honoured guest and keynote speaker at the conference on “Accessibility to Life” organised by the Paraplegic Society of the City of Drama, Greece
- ▶ Participation in the Tallberg Forum, Sweden

- ▶ Keynote speech at the “Greenaccord 3rd International Media Forum on the Protection of Nature,” Rome
- ▶ The B.I.O. President is keynote speaker with Jacques Delors and Academician Carl-Goran Heden, at the conference on “The future of knowledge – evolutionary challenges of the 21st century,” sponsored by the World Academy of Art and Science, Zagreb, Croatia
- ▶ Keynote speech and participation in the Scientific Committee at the IVth World Conference on Bioethics, sponsored by the International Bioethics Society, Gijon, Spain

#### B.I.O. publications

- ▶ “Mythos and the Bio-Environment. A Contribution to Bio-Culture” CD-Rom (in press)
- ▶ Quarterly publication of “BioNews,” the official B.I.O. newspaper

#### Awareness raising

- ▶ Extensive B.I.O. campaign to improve accessibility to beaches for people with a disability
- ▶ World Referendum to invite every individual on the planet to vote for the protection of the environment

#### Media coverage

- ▶ International television interviews and press coverage
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# Athens Money Show Profit and the Environ



A three dimensional approach to economics can promote policy with a vision and help to integrate culture and biodiversity as a measure of the real wealth of humanity.

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

To succeed in capturing new markets, the enterprises of the future will have to align their growth strategies with providing solutions to the world's most pressing challenges: clean energy, the protection of natural resources, water and safe food. Corporate social and environmental responsibility have entered the mainstream, as companies are facing growing pressure to be responsible citizens.

When companies minimise their environmental risks and foster ethical policies, they may also gain a competitive advantage by reducing costs, improving the quality of their products and services, and gaining access to new markets. As many public and private investors refuse to endow companies that pollute the planet and place the health of the world's population at risk, investments are increasingly directed towards businesses that meet the basic standards of environmental responsibility.

Around the world, corporate citizenship is being influenced by deeper social changes that make it necessary for companies to espouse environmental standards. For example, France requires all companies listed on the Paris Stock Exchange to include information about their social and environmental performance within their financial statements. Socially aware investors can choose among some 230 mutual funds, and more than 800 independent asset managers identify themselves as managers of socially responsible portfolios for institutional investors and high-net-worth individuals.

Indexes of social and environmental performance - like the Dow Jones Sustainability World Indexes and FTSE4Good - are becoming significant market factors in screening for good citizenship and corporate social responsibility. These indexes drop companies that fail to meet social responsibility standards. With pro-environmental shareholders entering into dialogue with decision makers, corporate behaviour on the environment can be steered towards a direction that can meet the needs and demands of the global public and civil society.

The creation of new jobs, particularly for youth, is an imperative for relieving hunger and poverty and regenerating the world's economies. Rather than providing conventional benefit payments to the unemployed, they could 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, as many environmental problems exist today that can be ameliorated by human intervention. If we are to succeed in reversing global environmental degradation and in limiting poverty, people everywhere must be imbued with a love and respect for bios and the environment.

*The environment, health, culture, education, and biodiversity are the true wealth of humanity.*

## Policy and decision-making with a vision

**Alejandro Diaz**  
Ambassador of Mexico

The concept of protected areas in Mexico has been known since prehispanic times. Ancient Mayan cultures used to include strictly protected zones and time periods in exploited areas. In the fifteenth century King Netzahualcoyotl reforested large areas in the Valley of Mexico and in the next century Emperor Moctezuma II founded zoological parks and botanical gardens.

In the world only 12 countries harbour 60% of the total biodiversity of the planet. Mexico is one of these, taking first place in reptile diversity, second in mammals, fourth in amphibians and vascular plants and tenth in birds. Mexico has an incomparable natural beauty and many valuable natural resources that have been recently better administrated in order to improve the standard of living, particularly of those in abject poverty.

In recent decades, Mexico suffered intensive and destructive use of natural resources. The environmental degradation affected the quality of life and the economic and social potential of Mexico. We are now facing the challenge of stopping and reversing the accumulated damage, a task that has been given the highest priority together with the fight to eradicate poverty and famine. **Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources represent a social mandate and a government commitment that requires the participation of all sectors of society.**

Mexico will host The Fourth World Water Forum next March 2006 to address how population growth and industrial development have triggered enormous increases in demand for water throughout the world. It offers

an excellent opportunity for strengthening cooperation ties among our nations and for facing the challenge of attaining sustainable water use. We are obliged to ratify commitments and to take more determined energetic, and solution-oriented actions. The Embassy of Mexico in Athens has broadly informed relevant NGOs in Greece and Cyprus about the Fourth World Water Forum and I invite every one of you to come to Mexico and participate. Together we may ensure local actions that enable us to successfully meet this global challenge.

Mexico has also been deeply involved in the Plan Puebla Panama, a proposal made by Mexico and seven of the Mesoamerican countries to strengthen regional integration and to boost development in the area. The PPP stimulates regional cooperation in order to enjoy, in a sustainable way, regional advantages of Mesoamerica, to overcome its physical infrastructure deficit and reduce the region's high poverty indexes as well as its vulnerability to natural disasters. The PPP ensures that all the initiatives entail environmental friendly practices that promote the conservation and sustainable administration of natural resources.

To find those areas of synergy where trade, environment and development can be mutually beneficial, we must address some important challenges. Climate change has serious implications for the health and well-being of our ecosystems. We should secure a future in which carbon dioxide emissions are drastically reduced, despite the economic cost. Electricity and other forms of energy are critical to social and economic development, but we should avoid the high social, economic and environmental costs related to use. The management of natural and renewable resources is a must for guaranteeing sustainable development. At the same time, we urgently need to improve the welfare of the nearly three



billion people who live in poverty.

Let us firmly reinforce laws and institutions for protecting the environment; let us implement effective public policies with participation of our citizens; and let us invest in infrastructure, research, and sanitation, and in the efficient use of water. We must concentrate on promoting and encouraging scientific and technological research for sustainable development action as well as to undertake joint research are of utmost importance. The example of NGOs working in the field, like B.I.O., is encouraging. These NGOs require further funding programs as well as better technical support in order to allow them a greater presence in the international fora and in the exchange of information or technical expertise.

We need a far-reaching change in the attitudes and behaviour of the citizens, governments and corporations in order to guarantee a sustainable future. This should be our common responsibility and our personal commitment.

**Petros Tsoungas**  
General Secretariat of Research and Technology

I am present here today as the representative of Professor Ioannis Tsoukalas, the General Secretary of Research and Technology, who is attending a government meeting in Thessaloniki. The purpose of this meeting is to address a critical issue regarding national policies concerned with innovation.

The General Secretariat of Research and Technology not only directs, but also designs,

**George Kremlis**  
Head, Judicial and Legislative Affairs, DG Environment  
European Commission

Corporate social responsibility is an issue of great concern within the European Union. It has also become an issue that will be of great concern in the future.

Corporate social responsibility includes environmental responsibility, within the framework of the concepts of economy, society, and the environment. This three-dimensional perspective reflects the European Union strategy which hopes to render the EU the most competitive and expansive economy on a global scale by the year 2010. Understanding that the guidelines for protecting the environment on a European level are much more stringent in comparison to similar provisions made by other strong economic forces, such as the United States, Japan, or Canada, is an advantage for European corporate development.

Owing to these strict environmental provisions, European companies have a competitive advantage, as the cost of complying with EU environmental laws has already been integrated in all corporate activities, as opposed to cor-

porate activities in other countries.

The European Union is a socially conscious democracy, a European community guided by the heads of governments who embrace the values of social freedom. Within the context of the Lisbon Treaty many new strategies have been developed. These strategies aim to strengthen the EU's economy by improving its competitiveness on a global scale. This, in turn, implies that we need to make the environment and social standards a major part of these strategies in order to ensure success.

The issue of corporate social responsibility has been handled by the European Council in a Green Paper, which was announced in 2001 and was accompanied by other activities throughout the following years. A new European Council announcement regarding corporate social responsibility is expected to be published by the end of 2005.

These are non-binding announcements, and serve to offer guidelines for policy, since corporate social responsibility falls under the "soft law" category according to Community law. Corporations, however, must adopt certain behavioural standards which will allow them to advance beyond the confines and provisions imposed by Community law.

*Corporate social responsibility includes environmental responsibility, within the framework of the concepts of economy, society, and the environment.*



and implements national policies. These national policies must be coordinated between the development of research and technology in Greece. This goal is gaining speed due to an important programme which is co-funded by the department of regional development of the European Union and by Greek national funds.

*B.I.O.'s unwavering efforts are commended by the General Secretariat of Research and Technology.*

The Biopolitics International Organisation's unwavering efforts to sensitise public opinion as to the urgent need for protection



and respect of the environment are admirable and are commended by the General Secretariat of Research and Technology. The Biopolitics International Organisation has the ability to effectively design and implement its activities within the spirit of development, technology, and research. It is a generally known fact that respect for the environment should be embodied in every developmental activity, whether it is scientific, technological, or business oriented. The environment encompasses all major policy issues, and serves as the driving force in European and in Greek national policy.

# ment – Building a Culture of Social Responsibility

## Profit and the Environment Building a Culture of Social Responsibility

Roundtable discussion held within the framework of the Athens Money Show, at the Hilton Hotel on December 14, 2004. The discussion was chaired by Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis, President and Founder, Biopolitics International Organisation.

### Themes and speakers

#### Policy & decision-making with a vision

- ▶ Professor Ioannis Tsoukalas, General Secretary of Research and Technology (repres. by Petros Tsoungas)
- ▶ Alejandro Diaz, Ambassador of Mexico
- ▶ George Kremlis, Head, Judicial and Legislative Affairs, DG Environment European Commission

## Accessibility & social justice – the role of business

- ▶ Dimitris Maniatakis, Managing Director, ICAP S.A.
- ▶ George Kazantzopoulos, Environment Manager, Athens 2004 Olympic Games Organising Committee
- ▶ Marily Christofi, Civil Engineer, Head of the Paralympic Facilities Project

The purpose of the event, which was attended by business leaders, diplomats and decision-makers, was to raise awareness of the urgent need to place corporate social responsibility at the heart of economic and development policies. 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. The environment, education and quality of life are a genuine profit for society.



## Accessibility and social justice – The role of business

**Dimitris Maniatakis**  
Managing Director  
ICAP S.A.

I would like to thank the Biopolitics International Organisation, and especially the President for her invitation which provoked my interest in addressing such a difficult yet important topic like Corporate Social Responsibility. This subject is challenging, with regard to ones personal responsibility as an entrepreneur, as well as a speaker.



This issue forces one to realise that profit, wealth, and economic development often increase the need to address the issue of corporate and social ethics.

The concept of corporate responsibility is two-fold, comprising an internal and external dimension. The internal dimension is concerned with the actions and activities that develop within a business. However, the external dimension is concerned with the activities and actions that develop outside of a business.

*Although, it is commonly believed that profit and wealth are associated with the lack of ethics and standards, such thinking is misconstrued.*

A business can not be entirely isolated from society, because it is not an independent entity. It is not placed in

the middle of nowhere, such as a factory in the Saharan desert, nor is it found in the freezing Antarctic. A company is often connected directly to society, through organisations, donors, and the consumers who use its products. A company lives and breathes among society. Companies do not act alone. They establish relationships with coworkers, partners, and advisors for the duration of their activities. Either as a group or as an individual effort, stakeholders affect and are affected by business activities. Such stakeholders often have an influence and play a major role in every action undertaken by a particular business.

Corporations should accommodate the interests of stakeholders, including both individuals and organisations. Each corporate act should welcome insight and opinions from all stakeholders in order to achieve success.

Although, it is commonly believed that profit and wealth are associated with the lack of ethics and standards, such thinking is misconstrued. If a company sets a long-term goal for future success, and avoids short sighted goals, then within this corporation, earnings and ethical behavior will go hand in hand.

My advice for a company to survive is three-fold. First, the company must be financially secure. Second, it must be able to minimise the negative impact it places on the environment through

risk assessment and management. Last, but not least, it must act according to and in consideration of its societal responsibilities.

The relationship among a corporation, the environment, and society must be evident. In the past, we were often solely preoccupied with the importance of economic indicators. Fortunately, success is measured by more than economic profit. Everything that we have previously mentioned has proven that our goals are more than just economic profit. Our goal is sustainable development, which entails the unification of economic development and social responsibility.

Our goal today is to adopt an economic biopolity. Bio-economics promotes an economy that develops alongside the protection of life. Many may rush to criticise and condemn others who are not adopting corporate social responsibility measures. There is no need for this, since consumers will eventually judge such socially irresponsible

*Our goal is sustainable development, which entails the unification of economic development and social responsibility.*

corporations.

Once consumers are able to identify threats to the environment, social cohesion along with sustainable development, will lead to stricter standards for companies and to the adoption of increased protective measures.

Today's reality invites everyone of us to espouse a new mentality, a new ethics. It is our duty to be motivated by such a responsible spirit. Let us deal with this responsibility with courage, faith, and strength.

**George Kazantzopoulos**  
Environment Manager  
Athens 2004 Olympic Games  
Organising Committee

In the past, I had the pleasure of participating in a similar discussion organised by the Biopolitics International Organisation, where I was able to observe to what extent social dynamics has developed. I mention this especially since today's participants at this meeting are comprised of powerful actors concerned with society and its citizens. Two years ago, in a similar

*The activities that B.I.O. is undertaking will not allow the Olympic legacy to go to waste.*

event hosted by Dr. Vlavianos-Arvanitis, I had the opportunity to present the Athens 2004 Organising Committee's dream for the Olympic Games along with our plan of action.

We are here today following the successful organisation of the Olympic and Paralympic events, and we should be proud of our accomplishments not only as an organising committee but mainly as a nation. The coordination and planning

*The environment and people with a disability became the focal point of the organisation of the Olympic Games.*

related to such grand events provides a basis for discussion and gives a good reason to address certain matters regarding society, its restrictions and what directions these matters should take.

There are as many issues that deal with the environment as there are social issues. Environmental problems, as well as accessibility concerns for people with a disability, are considered of primary importance. Both problems have many similarities as for the way in which society avoids dealing with these issues.

The concern regarding whether these issues will be understood by society, as well as the need for strengthening correct methods of approach, should not be overlooked.

As a result, we are seeking the lessons learned from the successful outcome of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, lessons which boil down to the way each stakeholder acknowledges the need for personal and corporate social responsibility. The concept of corporate social responsibility is best illustrated through specific individual actions, since each and every person has to play their own part in behaving responsibly in the spirit of good citizenship.

I am certain that the activities that the Biopolitics International Organisation is undertaking will not allow the Olympic legacy to go to waste. They are aimed at both corporations and individual citizens and urge them to actively engage in social and environmental responsibility.



**Marily Christofi**  
Civil Engineer, Head of the  
Paralympic Facilities Project

Following the success of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Greek society has adopted a different and more mature attitude towards people with a disability. I was fortunate enough to witness the tremendous strength and will power of these individuals throughout the Games, as well as their critical view of society. People with a disability demand that certain measures be taken to improve their quality of life and to secure their social integration.



After the Paralympic Games, the Greek government, as well as the business sector, have the ability to better anticipate the design, the cost, the efforts needed, the societal benefits, as well as the economic benefits, that are associated with providing accessibility services to people with a disability. For this endeavour to be successful, it should be based on three concepts:

accessibility, infrastructure, and services. These three concepts should work in parallel, in order to limit any obstacles stemming from prior poor management.

In the city of Athens, and in the rest of Greece, the barriers associated with the urban environment restrict people with a disability and turn them into "invisible citizens," since they are rarely seen in public. During the Paralympic Games, 3000 wheelchairs were seen circulating in the streets of Athens. This stirred interest among many businesses, which, following the Games, sought information on how to become accessible. They had realised that people with a disability were also consumers, and a business would have a lot to gain by being able to provide accessible goods and services. Provisions were made to integrate the needs of people with a disability in the design and construction of all Olympic facilities, not just certain designated areas. All facilities were accessible, and people with a disability received the same goods and services as everyone else.



The B.I.O. roundtable discussion on "Building a Culture of Social Responsibility" convened several distinguished speakers including: Ambassador of Mexico, Alejandro Diaz; George Kremlis, Head of Legislative Affairs at the European Commission's Environmental Division; Petros Tsoungas from the General Secretariat of Research and Technology; Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis, B.I.O. President; George Kazantzopoulos, Environment Manager for the 2004 Olympic Games; Marily Christofi, Head of the Paralympics Facilities Project; and Dimitris Maniatakis, Managing Director, ICAP S.A.

Society is finally coming to grips with its responsibilities. It is abandoning the easy but costly solution of institutionalising the elderly and the disabled, and is enforcing policy and measures that ultimately benefit all sectors of society. All sides are now wiser. The cooperation

has been fruitful, and we need to maintain and enhance the momentum gained.

Accessibility improves quality of life for all citizens. Let us not forget that we not only grow older, but we are all potentially "people with a disability."



### Poverty and the environment

At present, the "dollar per day" measure is the key indicator for monitoring global poverty. However, the current debate on global poverty has raised some fundamental questions regarding the first UN Millennium Development Goals target, which aims to reduce poverty by half by the year 2015. One important issue is to understand the links among national and global poverty estimates and the environment. The combined wealth of the world's 200 richest people hit \$1 trillion dollars in 1999 in contrast with the combined incomes of the 582 million people living in the 43 least developed countries is \$146 billion. Such contrasts reflect how globalisation has further widened the gap between the rich and the poor. Among several approaches in remedying this inequality, preservation of forests is considered to be a solution. This option may be viable although some environmental critics believe it is not necessarily sustainable.

Forests are important natural capital, however, most of the world's forests are located in regions where there is extreme poverty. Forests may seem insignificant to people

who live in urban areas, however poor inhabitants of rural areas may not view vanishing forests as frivolous due to the fact that the poor often depend solely on the forest for survival. According to the Future Harvest Organisation, although we often think of forests in terms of plants and animals, they are also a source of food for some 300 million people around the world. Forests provide fruits, nuts, and other foods as well as fibres, medicines, and oils. It is reported that in wooded areas of Thailand, 60% of all food comes directly from forests. Another 200 million people worldwide live near forests and derive most of their income from forest products other than timber. Even more people gain their income from forest-based industries. This solution therefore suggests that by ending the destruction of forests and preserving biodiversity we will be increasing the amount of available food which will alleviate poverty in many parts of the world.

The globalisation trend has proved environmentally destructive at times thus there are no simple solutions related to forests alleviating poverty all over the globe. Two conflicting goals exist, one short-term goal of saving those that are hungry versus a long-term goal in preserving biodiversity. Decision

makers should no longer treat these as separate conflicting issues and should shift discussions at the policy level to reflect the two interdependent global goals, since the non-preservation of biodiversity will have negative consequences for all human existence, both rich and poor.

### Deforestation

Deforestation affects global warming, soil erosion, and species extinction. Forests produce oxygen and serve as carbon filters. With the destruction of forests, less oxygen and more carbon dioxide are being produced. This



increase in carbon dioxide is one of the causes of global warming.

Not only are forests carbon filters but also they are also rich in biodiversity. The decreased amount of plant and animal species currently found within forests is the key issue to be addressed when we consider that forests may be utilised for poverty alleviation. Deforestation also increases soil erosion which is harm-

ful to the environment especially for the poor who often live within natural settings that are more susceptible to natural disasters. Forest cover often slows down the rain, therefore preventing the accumulation of water and preventing flooding. The FAO identifies that one of the leading causes of deforestation is the extension of subsistence farming which is quite common in Africa. Another contributor includes government-supported schemes which convert forests by clearing them to use the land for other uses such as coffee plantations or ranching. National planners often view the forest as a tool to stimulate economic growth and to absorb the growing population. There is also an urgent need for immediate action to put illegal forest activities to a halt.

As proclaimed by B.I.O. since 1985, "defence for life" should be our ultimate goal. No one can profit from destruction. Without hurting vested interests, current defence equipment can be used to protect forests and biodiversity, to plant trees, assist in reforestation and clean up contaminated soils. This is the real profit for humanity.

### Indigenous peoples

Indigenous peoples view the forest as their ancestral home, and as the foundation of their traditions and their continuity. They show a deep knowledge of forest ecology

and regenerative processes based on centuries of experience with agriculture. Some populations are plagued with natural disasters and are often under pressure to sell logging rights to ensure economic growth, a short-term solution but necessary. Guyana is an example of a country that has depended on forests for economic survival yet has focused on saving its forests. Guyana signed the International Tropical Timber Agreement whose objective of providing sustainable logging management was achieved. This model should be passed on to all countries in order to preserve our planet's precious forest resources.

### Future dimensions

The international discussion regarding the link between saving biodiversity and alleviating poverty must continue in order to ensure the best solution for these concerns. Policies may or may not be the simple solutions to deforestation. Within a policy framework, questions arise as to whether there are any differences between advanced economies and developing countries with regard to implementation of environmental policy.

Advanced economies can afford to prioritise environmental policy unlike less economically developed countries which must prioritise the basic needs for their country. Another important question in the international arena is whether high indebtedness to the forest leads to increased natural resource exploitation as well as more unsustainable patterns of

## Protecting precious forest resources...

According to information from the World Resources Institute, the United Nations Environmental Programme, the United Nations Forum on Forests, and the International Labour Organisation:

- ▶ Between one third and one half of the Earth's land surface has been transformed significantly by urbanisation, agriculture, and various commercial activities.
- ▶ The loss of a single species has the ability to destroy an entire ecosystem of plants or animals.
- ▶ An average of 137 species of life forms are driven into extinction every day and approximately 50,000 annually.
- ▶ 60% to 90% of all species are found in tropical forests, despite the fact that they cover little more than 7% of the world's land surface, and around 2% of the surface of the globe.
- ▶ Tropical rain forests include many different forest types. They are, without doubt, overall the most diverse ecosystems on earth.
- ▶ Tropical forests are the most biologically diverse of any habitat in the world yet

they are all being cleared at an increasingly rapid rate.

- ▶ 90% of the wet lowland forests in western Ecuador have been cleared, along with 2500 species originating from there now extinct and the other 7500, scattered throughout various regions of the world.
- ▶ Although forests can be used to aid poverty, loss of plant diversity will lead to unforeseen economic costs.
- ▶ A chemical in the saliva of a leech has been developed to help prevent blood clots during surgery.
- ▶ The rosy periwinkle flower from Madagascar has helped cure Hodgkin's disease.
- ▶ Rainforests take up approximately 6 million square kilometres (2.5 million square miles) of the earth, an area the size of the contiguous 48 United States and rep-



resenting around 5% of the world's land surface.

- ▶ Countries with significant rainforest cover are among the world's poorest countries.
- ▶ Estimates of the amount of forest area being cleared: - 2.4 acres (1 hectare) per second; equivalent to two U.S. football fields - 149 acres (60 hectares) per minute - 214,000 acres (86,000 hectares) per day; an area larger than New York City - 78 million acres (31 million hectares) per year: an area larger than Poland.
- ▶ Regional Contribution to World Deforestation between 1990-2000: 50% Africa, 36% South America, 6% North and Central America, 4% Oceania & Australia, and 4% Asia.
- ▶ The world's forest cover amounts to 3.9 billion hectares (1 hectare about 2.5 acres).
- ▶ 47% of the world's forests are in the trop-

ics, 33% in the boreal zone (far north), 11% in the temperate zones, and 9% in sub-tropical areas.

- ▶ The 94 million hectares of forest lost from 1990-2000 represented about 2% of the world's total forest cover, or an area larger than Venezuela.
- ▶ After several years a once barren field can once again support vegetation in the form of pioneer species and secondary growth. Although the secondary forest will be low in diversity and poorly developed, the forest cover will be adequate for some species to return. The newly forested patch can be used for the sustainable harvest of forest products and low intensity logging and agriculture.
- ▶ In Malawi, most households derive about 30% of income from forests on average.
- ▶ Tropical forests can boost coffers of nearby plantations. Forest-dwelling bees cross-pollinate nearby bushes, raising coffee yields by up to 20% and farm incomes by up to 70%. Therefore coffeemakers should conserve tropical forest.
- ▶ Research and experience has shown that

# f poverty

will never be solved. Often accompanying poverty from which people are hard-pressed to escape. poverty.

resource use. Scientists continue to disagree over this question with evidence pointing in both directions.

Forest and tree stocks provide a reserve upon which people can fall back for subsistence and income, especially in times of crop failure, unemployment and other kinds of hardship, or to meet exceptional needs. Forest and tree foods are most extensively used to help meet dietary shortfalls during particular seasons in the year. In addition to food, forests and trees outside forests often play a significant role in meeting the needs of the rural poor, including those related to shelter and health. Problems such as uncontrolled access and poor management can be improved with increased knowledge of forests. Communities can play a key role in sustaining forests through contributing to the process of developing protection and management to minimize damage and also enhance the ability to renew nature. A policy, which balances aspects of who is to manage forests, is required to best incorporate development with sustainability. Instead of singling out the key players, whether they are forest companies, the state, or individuals, it is best to coordinate all these players in creating more effective policies whose primary goal is sustaining the environment while at the same time eradicating extreme poverty.

One feasible suggestion may include that a percentage of the land be developed for plantations, agriculture and fast growing timber. The larger percentage would be left to regenerate naturally under the protection of local communities. A compromise is the only viable solution to conflicts related to the forest. Indigenous peoples and their livelihoods must be considered when profit is to be reaped from the forest. The challenge lies in creating effective and fair policies not only for a nation but also for the people of that nation.



## Borneo Tropical Rainforest Foundation

B.I.O. has launched a close cooperation with the **Borneo Tropical Rainforest Foundation** and has submitted a joint proposal for the implementation of e-learning courses in environmental education to the Government of Malaysia. The Borneo Tropical Rainforest Foundation is founded and headed by **Marinah Embiricos**, an enlightened visionary and conservationist.

The pressures of civilization are threatening the rainforest. Throughout the world, efforts to protect rainforests from illegal logging, forest fires and other critical threats are often characterised by poor management, inadequate coordination, negligence and downright abuse. With the forest destroyed forever, many species of flora and fauna are pushed to extinction. Given their role as an essential planetary life-support system, the protection of rainforests has been universally recognised as a priority programme of Agenda 21, the Convention on Biological Diversity and similar initiatives emanating from the international community.

The Borneo Tropical Rainforest Foundation, an independent, non-profit agency, has a mandate from the Government of Indonesia to promote constructive cooperation between the range of stakeholders;

including the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and regional authorities, business and development interests active in neighbouring zones as well as, most crucially, the international scientific and



► To raise awareness of the planetary importance of rainforest protection and its positive impacts for humanity.

An integral part of biodiversity conservation and the promotion of sustainable development is education about the reasons for these endeavours. B.I.O. and the BTRF are working together in the hopes of creating a structured environmental education programme that will have a positive impact on the environment and decision-making.



conservation communities. The objectives of the BTRF are:

- To establish and safeguard large protected areas in order to foster conservation of the tropical rainforests of Borneo and other threatened regions.
- To provide efficient management, finance and infrastructure for the strict preservation of such protected areas as reservoirs of biological diversity for ecological, genetic, economic, scientific and educational purposes.



## ...and the future for forest survival

the restoration of entire ecosystems is most possible in regions where parts or at least remnants of the original forest still remain and there are few human population pressures.

- 12.9 million people are employed in the industrial forest sector and twice that many may be expected to be involved in the informal sector.
- Tens of millions of people depend on forests as a major source of subsistence and cash income, while hundreds of millions of people depend on forests to supplement their livelihoods.
- A fully grown deciduous tree can pull 1 ton of water from the soil each day.
- One acre of trees can absorb over 2.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide in a year. Forests are a major factor in the climate change and global warming issue.
- Forest ecosystems contain more than half of all terrestrial carbon, and account for about 80% of the exchange of carbon between terrestrial ecosystems and the atmosphere.
- Deforestation in the 1980s may have

accounted for a quarter of all human-induced carbon emissions, the second greatest emitter after fossil fuels.

- 24 billion tons of agricultural topsoil wash or blow away each year.
- One study conducted in 1994 estimated that soil degradation between 1945 and 1990 lowered world food production by 17%. These losses are predicted to worsen as soil degradation continues. Soil erosion, salinisation and nutrient depletion are serious problems in large areas of Africa.
- Researchers from the USA, Argentina, and the Netherlands placed a value of \$33 trillion annually on the ecosystem services which are free, in contrast to the global gross national product which is estimated to amount to a mere \$18 trillion per year. If ecosystem services were to be provided at a cost of



\$33 trillion annually, everyone would be facing poverty stricken futures.

- The poor can be both agents and victims of environmental pollution and degradation.
- Poverty alleviation can reduce forest pressure and development of forest resources can help alleviate poverty.
- Only about 12% of the world's forests are in protected areas.
- Two percent of the world's forests are certified as being managed in a sustainable manner, with about 92% of these forests lying in temperate, industrialised countries.
- At least 6 percent of the total forest area in developing countries is covered by a formal, nationally approved forest management plan, with duration of at least five years. Some 89% of the forests in industrialized countries are managed accord-

ing to formal or informal management plans.

- Forests are important natural capital, however, most forests are located in
- B.I.O. proposes the creation of local genetic banks, in every corner of the world, to preserve genetic variety in endemic species and to protect the enormous wealth and biodiversity of wildlife.*

regions of the world where there is extreme poverty.

- The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) is the main intergovernmental forum to formulate international forest policy, to facilitate implementation of agreed action on forests, to foster a common understanding of sustainable forest management, and to address international forest policy issues and emerging areas of priority concern.



# Bios Rights – A pivotal concept in environmental policy

Since its inception, the Biopolitics International Organisation promotes bioethics and the protection of "bios rights" as pivotal concepts in environmental policy. As outlined in the *Bio-Syllabus*, published in 1990, in addition to the protection of human rights, it is essential to make explicit reference to the protection of the rights of all forms of bios in the laws, constitutions and regulatory codes of states, international organisations and all legislative bodies concerned with social welfare and civil society.

## Animal rights

The cruel treatment of animals, part of laboratory routines in the past, was eradicated in most laboratories of the world after the introduction of new legislation in the 1970's and 80's. Detailed protocols concerning humane rules of animal research were developed worldwide. Numerous powerful movements of animal friends and defenders of animal rights took shape in different countries, some of them identifying themselves with bioethics, the issue, which the struggle for animal rights undoubtedly represents.

## Plant rights

Besides their unsurpassed beauty, plants are very sensitive to the slightest perturbation in their environment. They can, for example, serve as reliable bioindicators of heavy metal contamination and provide thousands of natural remedies for the cure of many diseases including cancer. Plants form a sophisticated network interacting with the biosphere. The oxygen released by the global flora is vital for the survival of all forms of life. Oxygen molecules (O<sub>2</sub>) are converted to ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) in the upper layers of the atmosphere, which

*The protection of the rights of all forms of bios must be enforced in the laws and regulations of all states and international organisations.*

is very effective at absorbing ultraviolet rays. The thin layer of ozone that surrounds the earth acts as a shield, protecting the planet from harmful UV light irradiation and enabling organisms to develop and live on land.

This ozone layer, so important in making terrestrial life possible, is currently endangered by human arrogance and oversight. **The enhancement of plant rights can help humanity overcome the problems of global warming and climate change.**

## Microbial rights

Microorganisms are performing extremely important functions in pharmacology, in food production, in plant protection against insects and weeds, in energy production, and in pollution prevention and clean-up. The advances of microbiological genetics has enabled biotechnologists to establish real "bio-factories" with the aid of some microbial species. Bacteria have been engineered to produce a number of human proteins, such as insulin, and other important molecules, and help in the prevention and treatment of many diseases. Also, many microorganisms digest harmful pollutants in the environment, there-

by aiding efforts for environmental clean-up.

## Declaration of Plant Rights

On December 10, 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). On December 10, 2004, in Caracas Venezuela, the 56th anniversary of the signing of the UDHR was celebrated with another important document, symbolically "baptised" with the green leaves of a fern tree. Signed unanimously in the auditorium of Fundación La Salle (Caracas) the Universal Declaration of Plant Rights (UDPR) was developed by the Asociación Venezolana de Palmas (AVEPALMAS) and has been approved by representatives from the Venezuela botanical gardens in, the Venezuelan Natural Sciences Academy (Sociedad Venezolana de Ciencias Naturales), Friends of the Trees Society (Sociedad Amigos del Arbol - SADARBOL),

the Caracas Garden Club, Centro Excursionistas Caracas (CEC), AVEPALMAS and other associations

*The enhancement of plant rights can help humanity overcome the problems of global warming and climate change.*

and will be presented to the UNESCO Venezuelan representation in Caracas. The complete text follows below.

It is very encouraging to see that the B.I.O. efforts to raise awareness of the importance of bios rights and to sensitise people everywhere on the crucial need to protect all forms of life on our planet are gradually being rewarded. However, time is of the essence. As more and more people acknowledge the urgency of saving bios, the hope is for environmental protection to become part and parcel of economic and social policy on a worldwide level and for every individual to actively engage in the race to save the environment.



# Universal Declaration of Plant Rights

## Preamble:

*Whereas:* Due to the immense and alarming disappearance of vegetation in the world, especially in the tropics, where there is a marked abundance of life, we humans, having mental capacity and ability to reason, have to speak up in the defense of all living beings on earth, particularly on behalf of plants, which is at the same time in our own interest.

*Whereas:* It has been shown that - as the world population grows - the economic development of humans occurs at the expense of Nature. For that reason it is important to take immediate action to reduce the damage caused to Nature.

*Whereas:* Plants absorb carbon dioxide and emit oxygen, that is vital for life on earth. Tropical forests are particularly important because they are large oxygen producers in the world. *Whereas:* Plants are also involved in the water cycle. At higher altitudes in the tropics

there are cloud forests, that give rise to a large number of rivers, consequently the vegetation there is vital.

*Whereas:* The agricultural practice of "slash and burn" causes damage and reduces soil quality and nutrients levels, reducing its productivity.

*Whereas:* The uncontrolled exploitation of timber for firewood and over-grazing of animals contributes to the desertification of the land.

*Whereas:* Indiscriminate mining and the excessive use of chemical fertilizers may contaminate rivers, lakes and seas causing great changes in the balance of the marine biodiversity as has occurred with the catastrophic flowering of microalgae (e.g. in the North Atlantic) and the excessive propagation of aquatic

plants. *Whereas:* Individuals of the animal kingdom, including humans, live mostly on plants, even if they are not 100% vegetarians.

*Whereas:* Plants are beings that respond to a variety of stimuli, are capable of perceiving light, and have developed their wonderful harmonious workings in close connection with their environment. These extraordinary beings share the world with us and even share almost one fifth of their genes with us.

We unanimously agree to the following principles and rules:

**Article 1.** We declare by principle that plants have a right to live, just as animals do, free of excessive human exploitation, be it in the name of science or sport, exhibition or service, nutrition or fashion. The goal ultimately is to avoid the risk of extinction of any species. A

healthy vegetation in Nature benefits humans and animals alike.

**Article 2.** Intervene by all means possible to help species in danger of extinction.

**Article 3.** Ensure protection in all places, including remote areas with endemic vegetation, from cloud forests, table mountains and high barren plateaus, down to beaches, mangrove swamps and deserts. There are very fragile wetlands as well as vegetated areas close to cities, which must be protected.

**Article 4.** Protect remaining tropical forests in developing countries against the indiscriminate use of highly destructive mechanized equipment, such as chainsaws or even tools of minor destructive power like machetes. Legislation against



the indiscriminate cutting of trees in those countries must be assured.

**Article 5.** Ban all looting of endemic plants for collectors and avoid buying plants that have not been grown but plundered from the forest. Not to create private herbaria of rare plants, which may be in danger of extinction.

**Article 6.** Let us eliminate all the deprecative words referring to plants. There are synonyms, like sub-vegetation, invasive plants, etc. but above all, each plant has a name, the so called scientific name, which consists of the names of the genus and species in addition to the name of the family it belongs to. This approach calls for education and respect that is learned from childhood and throughout schooling, including the university level. In this way we learn to observe, understand and appreciate plants.

**Article 7.** Avoid cruelty against plants, such as inadequate pruning or excessive lopping or any other unwise procedure which can cause the death of the plant.

**Article 8.** Limit and aim to halt destructive shifting cultivation (slash and burn) by addressing the underlying social and ecological causes.

**Article 9.** Avoid fires at all costs. Fire entails the risk of spreading into other zones of vegetation in the neighborhood and can damage forever biodiversity and a region's climate.

**Article 10.** Recommend the application of non-degrading methods as alternatives to the "slash and burn" practice, abandon the use of fire, reduce monoculture - changing species to be cultivated - and conserve nitrogen-fixing bacteria like rhizobium, and fungi like mycorrhiza. Ask for the assistance of experts in agriculture.

**Article 11.** Encourage the cultivation of nourishing, medicinal, ornamental and other useful plants of all types and protect them against insects and other animals, preferably in a way that is non-damaging to the environment.

**Article 12.** The botanist researcher should work together with people who take care of living plants. Scientific institutions, universities and botanical gardens ought to have trained horticulturists with vast experience in plant reproduction, who take into consideration the feasibility of growing plants

at different altitudes and different climates, or created adequate environments for their survival.

**Article 13.** Create seed banks and germplasm banks for the genetic care of plants and establish nurseries in each region with its typical flora, not just for man's utilization for nutrition or ornamental purposes, but for all plants, as if it were a live herbarium to be carefully maintained. Encourage the development of nurseries in general.

**Article 14.** Seek to have continuity in the care of plants, in public as well as in private collections, frequently looked after by senior citizens.

**Article 15.** Many seeds are lost in Nature and we humans should help to propagate and cultivate them in a controlled manner.

**Article 16.** Although the plants themselves try to cure their wounds and diseases,

we humans may intervene e.g. with tree seals and fumigation. There are experts in this field just as there are veterinarians for animals to keep plants surrounding us healthy.

**Article 17.** Apply the principles and

rules of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) and ban the uncontrolled exploitation of timber for firewood and over-grazing by animals.

**Article 18.** Use preferably organic fertilizers for growing plants. Dead plants ought to be used in compost instead of burning them and dead trees left in place as habitat for other species.

**Article 19.** Plants for scientific use may be cultivated in special nurseries or botanical gardens. In modern science, especially genetics, there is an immense quantity of information hidden in plants, that may be studied for the benefit of the plants themselves and for other

living beings, including ourselves.

**Article 20.** We have to learn to share our lives with plants in general and particularly with trees that provide us with so many benefits. Historically significant trees should have special protection.

**Article 21.** Seek to eliminate the causes that destroy the ozone layer. The deterioration of the ozone layer is

harmful to DNA, photosynthesis, pollination, germination and growth of plants. Seek to eliminate the causes of climate change. An increase in environmental temperature has already been detected with important climatic changes and implications for plants worldwide.

**Article 22.** Empower all movements acting in defense of plants to voice their views and to vote at government levels in order that the continued devastation of the planet will not be continued. Furthermore, plants could have the support of an international organization which devotes itself to the rights of the plants, applying the principle of "Reverence for life."



### Tasmania's wilderness

Australian ancient native forests at risk

In the October 1999 BioNews edition, B.I.O. published an article about the plight of ancient native forests in Western Australia. The Wilderness Society, an organisation that has done tremendous work in this area, and has greatly contributed to the protection of the wilderness and natural processes of Tasmania's forests, is facing a huge threat to its future. And the prospects for this organisation may well determine the prospects for these ancient native forests.

Gunns Ltd., Australia's biggest logging company and exporter of hardwood chips, has sued The Wilderness Society, five of its staff, plus fourteen other groups and individuals, including Senator Bob Brown, (a group now called the Gunns 20). Gunns claims



that The Wilderness Society (TWS) and the other defendants engaged in a campaign against it which constituted a conspiracy to injure Gunns by unlawful means, and that they illegally interfered with their trade and business, leading to economic loss. Gunns is claiming a total of \$6.4 million in damages from all claims - including claims of over \$3.5m against The Wilderness Society and its officers. The lawsuit is one of the biggest of its kind against an environmental organisation or group of individuals.

*Industrial forestry is threatening Tasmania, as forests rich in biodiversity are systematically destroyed.*

TWS was created in 1976 in order to protect, promote and restore wilderness and natural processes across Australia for the survival and ongoing evolution of life on Earth. Australian forests are suffering as government and big business give in to the growing demand for timber resources. Companies like Gunns Ltd. began exporting woodchips in the 1970s and today supply paper companies throughout Asia. Like many other sectors, industrial forestry is not environmentally, economically or socially responsible.

Industrial forestry is changing the Tasmanian environment, as forests with high conservation and biodiversity value are flattened, burned and poisoned with pesticides and herbicides. These old forests are either replaced with monoculture tree plantations or reseeded with multiple native species. Either way, a clear felled, high conservation value native forest becomes an industrial forestry zone forever, and is never allowed to reach maturity before being logged again.

Through a number of centres

located around Australia, the organisation utilises the avenues of public education and empowerment, advocacy and negotiation, political lobbying, and desk and field research to reach its goals. It has a policy of consultation with affected indigenous people before and during campaigns to protect wilderness and biological diversity. Through national conservation campaigns, The Wilderness Society has achieved the secure protection of over seven million hectares of wilderness and other high conservation value areas in Australia.

TWS asserts that while firms like

Gunns Ltd. may not like protests against them, these protests are not criminal or wrong, but are simply rights of freedom of speech. The Wildlife Society states that "if a precedent is set and people are successfully sued for speaking out against the destruction of our natural world, this puts all our wilderness and wildlife under threat." TWS sees this case as a potentially dangerous turning point for free speech and democracy in Australia.

Environmental and community groups provide the main channel by which public support for change can be expressed. Historically, it is public opinion that has brought about social, political and environmental change. If individuals are threatened by law-

suits brought on by powerful corporations, they will lose their right to free speech and in doing so their ability to challenge the status quo and improve our world.

The Wilderness Society has vowed to vigorously defend the claims against it in court. This non-governmental organisation which relies on volunteers is facing increased pressure on already limited resources. If you are interested in more information about TWS or would like to help, you could visit [www.wilderness.org.au](http://www.wilderness.org.au)



### Environmental governance

Berlin, Germany

The Ecologic Institute for International and European Environmental Policy is organising an international conference themed "Towards a Stronger System of International Environmental Governance," in cooperation with the Institut du Développement et des Relations Durables Internationales (IDDDRI) and with support from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment. The aim of the event, which is held on May 26 and 27 in Berlin, is to discuss UNEP's upgrad-

ing into a United Nations Environment Organisation as initiated by France and supported by a growing number of countries.

Ministers of the Environment from several countries around the world, including Germany, France, Spain, Brazil, and China, as well as other high-level officials, will be participating as keynote speakers. The B.I.O. President will be joining representatives from civil society, business and academia in attending the conference.

### UNESCO declaration on universal norms on bioethics

First intergovernmental meeting of experts

On 4-6 April 2005, in Paris, UNESCO held the first intergovernmental meeting of experts aimed at finalising a draft of a declaration on universal norms on bioethics.

The B.I.O. President participated in the conference as the Official Delegate for the Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO. The final declaration will address the increasingly complex areas of medicine and the various

life sciences that are giving rise to a wide range of bioethical dilemmas and the resulting need to develop universally applicable ethical guidelines within a context of cultural pluralism inherent in bioethics.

UNESCO has already contributed to the formulation of basic principles in bioethics through two major instruments: the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights

and the International Declaration on Human Genetic Data.



### Quality of life and the ethics of health

The Vatican

The Eleventh Annual General Assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life was held on 21-23 February and addressed the important issue of "Quality of Life and the Ethics of Health." The B.I.O. President, who serves as Corresponding Member of the Academy, was invited to participate in the General Assembly and to contribute to the deliberations, which covered several issues including: the management of world health; reproductive health and demographic policies; the principle of justice and the right to care and treatment; health care policies; and, the right to life.



The B.I.O. President focused on the importance of the

environment and the continuity of life in the development of the ethics of health. "Our negligence and arrogance, leading to terrible threats to the environment and to extreme poverty in many parts of the planet, are endangering human health and survival and the very continuation of life. The joy of possessing life should infuse every aspect of our lives and lead to creativity and vision," she noted.

The Pontifical Academy for Life is one of the lasting legacies of Pope John Paul II, who created the academy in 1994 to offer analysis and advice on how the Catholic Church can promote and defend the dignity of human life.

### Bioethics at Panteion University – Athens, Greece

The B.I.O. President has been appointed Visiting Professor of Bioethics at the Department of International and European Studies, Panteion University, Athens. She has been invited to teach a course on "Bioethics for the Environment and Sustainable Development" during the spring semester of 2005-2006. The course will cover the following issues:

Bio-environmental ethics; The rights of bios in rela-

tion to bioethics; Environmental problems and bioethics; Bioethics for the eradication of poverty; Scientific research and bioethics; Bioethics in the medical sciences (genetic engineering, reproduction, death and euthanasia, human tissues and organs; cloning, etc.); Codes of bio-environmental ethics in every human endeavour; Environmental protection as a bioethical responsibility for humanity; Future directions and thinking.

### World conference on bioethics – Gijon, Spain

The International Bioethics Society (SIBI) will be sponsoring its IVth World Conference on Bioethics, at the International Fair Area of Asturias (FIDMA), in Gijon, Spain, on 21-25 November 2005. The Conference will be focusing on the following five topics: privacy and genetic data; biological weapons; access to sanitary systems and medicine; violence; life and its development.

The B.I.O. President, who is also a member of SIBI's Scientific Committee, will be delivering a keynote address on "Bioethics and Defence for Life."



### Accessibility to life – Drama, Greece

Inspired by Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis' presentation of the B.I.O. publication titled "People with Disabilities in Modern Society," the Paraplegic Society of the city of Drama is sponsoring a conference themed "Accessibility to Life." The conference will be held in Drama, Greece on May 25, 2005. The Paraplegic Society of Drama has also completed B.I.O.'s e-learning course on the same subject. The e-learning course helped members of the conference's Organising Committee to identify key issues which will be the main topics for discussion in May.

The conference aims to encompass as many issues that are related to disabled persons as possible, including accessibility to education, technology, transportation, commuting, employment, etc. Due to her extensive expertise in this field, the B.I.O. President has been invited to speak at the conference's opening session.

Dialogue between speakers and participants is encouraged, since the goal of the event is to exchange information as well as provide suggestions in order to improve accessibility and quality of life for all citizens.

*People with a disability in modern society*

To promote a vision of accessibility and social justice, B.I.O. published "People with a Disability in Modern Society," in September 2004. "People with a Disability in Modern Society," which is available in English and Greek, addresses the problems of the disabled in society and identifies measures to improve their lives.

The book was prepared in cooperation with the Paralympic Games Division of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games Organising Committee and raises awareness of the needs of disabled people urging individuals and organisations everywhere to respond to these needs. It is hoped that this work will stimulate actions to improve accessibility and quality of life for the disabled and inspire people with a disability to participate as equal citizens.

The environment belongs to all. It is a precious gift, a fundamental human right. Accessibility to all elements of society and the environment is a critical responsibility we have towards the present and the future. Barriers to access are not only related to physical obsta-



cles, but encompass all elements in society, such as education, employment and culture. In addressing the need for universal access, we must take into account conceptual, political and practical perspectives, and encourage the involvement of every citizen in the development of a truly civil society.

*Bios does not discriminate among citizens. It is our unquestionable duty to create an accessible society.*

### Ethics Committee

Burkina Faso

B.I.O. has established cooperation with Dr. Bindi Ouoba, President of the Ethics Committee for Health Research of Burkina Faso. Dr. Ouoba, who has joined B.I.O. as a member, expressed interest in cooperating in educational programmes in Africa.

The role of the Ethics Committee for Health Research of Burkina Faso is to review research projects and to determine the ethical standards of policies for research and education concerning human health.



## PROGRAMME

## Discussions chaired by:

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

## Friday, 28 January

## Governance with a vision of sustainability

- Dr. Yusuf Erbay, Governor of Yalova
- Dr. Kadir Kocdemir, Governor of Elazig
- Professor Yilmaz Buyukersen, Mayor of the Municipality of Eskisehir

Corporate social responsibility  
Improving quality of life for all citizens

- Stathis Nazos, Executive Director, Aspis International MFMC (A Joint Venture of Aspis Bank and ABN AMRO)
- Anthony Gortzis, General Secretary, Piraeus Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Stephanos Costopoulos, Chairman, Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce
- Panayotis Koutsikos, Chairman, Hellenic-Turkish Chamber of Commerce
- Anastasios Balafoutas, Chairman, German Chamber of Commerce and Industry

## Saturday, 29 January

## International cooperation in technology for the protection of bios

- Professor Ioannis Tsoukalas, General Secretary of Research and Technology
- Professor Christos Zerefos, University of Athens
- Dr. Meltem Yilmaz, Architecture and Environmental Design, University of Hacettepe
- Professor Hunay Evliya, Dean of Environmental Research, Cukurova University

## Culture and education for sustainable development

- Professor Gulsun Saglam, Rector, Istanbul Technical University
- Professor Berna Alpagut, Ankara University
- Professor Cemal Yukselen, Vice Rector, Mustafa Kemal University
- Professor Constantine Stephanou, International and European Studies, Panteion University



Event sponsored by  
Hellenic Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs  
Hellenic Aid

Civic leaders, business executives, eminent academics and other people of influence met in Athens on January 28 and 29 to discuss issues of international cooperation, environmental governance, corporate social responsibility, technology, culture and education, at a Symposium themed "Hellenic-Turkish

Cooperation in Biopolicy. The Symposium was organised by the Biopolitics International Organisation (B.I.O.), under the auspices of the Ambassador of Turkey, Tahsin Burcuoglu. The aim of the event, which was chaired by the B.I.O. President, Dr. Agni Vliavianos-Arvanitis, and by Ankara University Professor Rusen

Keles, was to search for new models in education and social responsibility to improve quality of life for all citizens.

Since 1987, B.I.O. has cooperated extensively with friends in Turkey. For a detailed account of all projects and events, please visit our website, [www.biopolitics.gr](http://www.biopolitics.gr).

## Governance with a vision of sustainability



Professor Yilmaz Buyukersen, Dr. Kadir Kocdemir, Professor Rusen Keles, Dr. Agni Vliavianos-Arvanitis, and Dr. Yusuf Erbay.

Agni Vliavianos-Arvanitis  
B.I.O. President and Founder

In her opening statement, Dr. Agni Vliavianos-Arvanitis discussed the importance of Hellenic-Turkish events hosted by the Biopolitics International Organisation over the past 20 years and emphasised that the people who would be speaking at the present event are the people who formulate policy, the people who can make a difference in our world. This is important if we wish to assure the continuity of bios - life on

our planet - and to place the environment at the heart of our thinking and action. New ethics, with the environment at the core of every endeavour, can help us to overcome negative stereotypes and build a truly civil society, where respect for all life will constitute the primary asset.

In promoting governance with a vision of sustainability, B.I.O. has emphasised that a global effort in

defence of the environment can enhance international understanding and inspire common action for environmental protection and peace. Through the International University for the Bio-Environment, which we launched in 1990, we have used environmental education to vaccinate society with new thinking. We are now ready with 15 new e-

*New ethics, with the environment at the core of every endeavour, can help us to overcome negative stereotypes.*

learning courses to place environmental education at the fingertips of every concerned citizen.

Corporate environmental responsibility and a re-evaluation of the concept of profit has also been a priority for B.I.O. since 1985.

We have held numerous conferences to sensitise business leaders to adopt environmentally and socially responsible strategies. We have also promoted the "bio-assessment of technology" in an effort to place ethics for the protection of all forms of life at the core of technology and policy. This is essential if we wish to create a society of vision and hope.

Professor Gulsun Saglam, Professor Constantine Stephanou, Dr. Agni Vliavianos-Arvanitis, Professor Rusen Keles, and Professor Cemal Yukselen.

Professor Yilmaz Buyukersen  
Mayor of the Municipality of Eskisehir, Turkey

Professor Yilmaz Buyukersen, Mayor of Eskisehir and Founder of the Turkish Open University, noted that, with regard to the bio-environment and biopolicy, the true cooperation between Turkey and Greece has two bases. One of these is to activate the potential of our educational institutions effectively and



the other one is the collaboration of our governments in relation to the European Union and on other international platforms. All these combined solutions will help our countries to pro-

ject and finance needs in order for our local and regional authorities to stop the ongoing environmental destruction. With regard to education, the starting point of the path we are going to follow is to bring together the Ministers of Education and authorities of higher education of both countries through the Biopolitics International Organisation. The educational authorities of our countries must make important decisions in order to place environmental concerns at the core of every programme of study. Education will lead to changing patterns of behavior which will stop the ongoing environmental destruction.

Professor Rusen Keles  
Ankara University, Turkey

Professor Rusen Keles noted that the progress in Hellenic-Turkish relations in the past two decades is seen more and more clearly every day. Both Greece and Turkey, as parties to numerous international environmental treaties, have consciously cooperated in the protection of our natural and historical heritage along the lines inspired by the principle of sustainable development. The recent decision of the European Union to begin negotiations with Turkey towards full membership enforces the importance of this relationship, particularly as we search for sustainable living environments not only in our own countries but throughout Europe. Despite many pessimistic scenarios for the future of our environment, it seems that the era of pure development has been replaced by a new era of sustainable development creating new responsibilities for states and individuals. We should start by

reducing expenditures allocated to military purposes in order to fund programs in cultural development, health and education, eradication of poverty, and the protection of the environment. As rightly observed by 2004 Nobel Prize Laureate Kenyan Minister Wangari Maathai, "Peace on earth depends on our capacity to protect our living environment." We have every reason to expect that B.I.O., too, will be awarded similar prizes in the near future for its contribution to the well-being and prosperity of present and future generations.

We must continue to motivate all individuals and governments around the world to work through international cooperation. It is the energy, dedication, and commitment of the participants of this event that will facilitate these goals.

Dr. Kadir Kocdemir  
Governor of Elazig, Turkey

In presenting his views on the development of governance and policy which respect the environment and promote sustainable development, Dr. Kadir Kocdemir, Governor of Elazig, stressed that, aside from the economic, environmental, security, and cultural impacts, globalisation is also affecting the way governments rule in the 21st century. Globalisation has reduced the importance of borders, and yet governments are still constrained by national boundaries. It is becoming clear that classical governing models are no longer effective. Like most aspects of society, governance must become globalised as well and alternative governance models should be developed to address transborder issues. Countries must accept their interdependence and adjust the systems of the state to include international coop-

eration. This is particularly important for managing environmental problems that cross national borders, such as depletion of the ozone layer and loss of biodiversity. The objective of global governance is to co-ordinate the governing services of the different actors at the various political, regional, and global levels through strong transborder relations. Global governance will play an important part in ensuring the sustainability of our environment. Dr. Kocdemir ended with a reminder that we are all responsible to ensure the sustainability of the environment so that future generations will benefit from the same natural resources. This is our responsibility and cooperation is the first step to achieving this goal.

Dr. Yusuf Erbay  
Governor of Yalova, Turkey

Dr. Yusuf Erbay, Governor of the region of Yalova, emphasised that the basic principle of transfrontier cooperation is to create links and contractual relations in frontier areas so that joint solutions may be found for similar problems. This can be particularly important in the area of environmental protection. Experience throughout Europe has shown that cooperation between local and regional authorities can make it easier to carry out tasks effectively and can contribute to the improvement and development of frontier regions. A good model for this type of cooperation is the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Cooperation, the out-

come of years of reflection and effort by the Council of Europe. This has undoubtedly helped to foster transfrontier cooperation in Europe. A recent study conducted in Turkey has concluded that the local authorities along the borders of Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria are open to and are seeking transfrontier cooperation, especially in the area of environmental protection in order to address common problems and find common solutions. We must strive to promote transfrontier cooperation if we are to successfully protect our natural environment.



# ration in Biopolicy



## International cooperation in technology for the protection of bios

**Professor Ioannis Tsoukalas**  
General Secretary of Research and Technology, Greece

Technology with a vision can improve quality of life for all citizens. Yet presently, as Professor **Ioannis Tsoukalas**, General Secretary of Research and Technology, pointed out, technology has become a mechanism for the imposition of interests. This mechanism, however, does not take into consideration the interests of modern humanity. The developmental model we have espoused destroys the environment and natural resources, leading to instability for the entire planet.

As we are developing a knowledge society, where every individual will be

technologically literate, it is essential to pay attention to the ethical issues involved, that is how technology is perceived by each citizen. Science and technology gives us development and wealth.



*Science and technology give us development. The question is, at what cost?*

The question is, at what cost? This is not a philosophical or abstract question. It is very specific and applies to our everyday lives. I commend and support the Biopolitics International Organisation and every organisation that aims at mobilising society to deal with issues that affect us all.

**Professor Christos Zerefos**  
University of Athens  
Greece

Professor **Christos Zerefos** from the University of Athens presented some critical facts concerning atmospheric pollution and stressed the importance of international cooperation for the abatement and prevention of atmospheric pollution.

During the last 30 years, methane and carbon dioxide emissions have increased by 15%, while the ozone layer has decreased by 10%. Although most powerful nations acknowledge the many dangers involved, they place economic development before emissions control.

An important area of cooperation between Greece and Turkey can be the application of free radical tech-

nology in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Free radicals are present in areas of the planet with lots of sunlight, such as the Mediterranean. Sunlight breaks down water vapour and releases hydroxyl radicals. These radicals can attack greenhouse gases, such as methane, and convert them into inert substances which can no longer harm the environment.

The implementation and enforcement of free radical technology will be particularly important after 2008, when greenhouse gas emissions will be fined with 50 to 100 US dollars a ton by the Kyoto protocol.



## RESOLUTIONS

The Biopolitics International Organisation (B.I.O.) Symposium on "Hellenic-Turkish Cooperation in Biopolicy" was held in Athens on Friday, January 28 and Saturday, January 29, 2005. Upon completion of the event, all participants unanimously adopted the following resolutions, in addition to fully supporting all B.I.O. goals:

- ▶ Encourage society to place the environment at the core of its structure and value system
- ▶ Utilise the common goal of protection of the environment as a vehicle for peace
- ▶ Promote and initiate international cooperation through bio-diplomacy and biopolicy
- ▶ Promote the use of technology to protect the environment through local Genetic Banks to preserve endemic biodiversity, projects for renewable sources of energy, and sustainable energy projects
- ▶ Use the new tools made available by internet and communications technology, such as e-learning, to promote international environmental education
- ▶ Implement a World Referendum where every citizen can vote electronically to save the environment
- ▶ Redefine the concept of profit to include quality of life, the wealth of our natural resources, health, biodiversity, and peace
- ▶ Combine and utilise technology and bio-culture to promote a new vision of environmental protection through international cooperation
- ▶ Promote and initiate the incorporation of environmental components into all education programmes
- ▶ Promote and initiate awareness of and a deep sense of responsibility for the protection of the right of people with a disability to have full access to their environment
- ▶ Promote and initiate cultural programmes to encourage and inspire common action for environmental protection and peace, such as the development of cultural and natural history museums
- ▶ Promote and encourage corporate social responsibility in order to improve the quality of life of all citizens
- ▶ Promote environmental programmes in all areas to enrich the concept of sustainability

**Professor Hunay Evliya**  
Dean of Environmental Research  
Cukurova University, Turkey

In discussing the need for clean energy sources, Professor **Hunay Evliya**, Dean of Environmental Studies at Cukurova University, mentioned that, for decades, people have tried to achieve more of everything: more mobility, more comfort and more consumption. The signs are becoming increasingly evident that this cannot go on forever; too much pressure is put on the environment and natural resources are becoming exhausted. The new target is to change this tendency from "more" to "better," from quantity to quality. The antagonism between man and the environment should be replaced by the notion that man is a part of the

environment too. As demand for energy increases so does the need to take care of the environment. Professor Evliya gave the example of the International Energy Agency-Energy Conservation through Energy Storage programme which brings nations together to find solutions to energy and environmental problems. Developing and deploying more efficient and environmentally friendly energy technology is critical to achieving the objectives of energy security, environmental protection, and economic growth and social development.



**Meltem Yilmaz**  
Architecture and Environmental Design, University of Hacettepe  
Turkey

Sustainable architecture was the issue addressed by Dr. **Meltem Yilmaz** from the Department of Interior Architecture and Environmental Design at Hacettepe University. She mentioned that architecture in the 20th century has played a big role in exploiting natural resources and fossil fuels, causing pollution and instability in our environment. Most assume that cars and factories cause the most environmental damage, when in fact buildings consume more than half the energy used world-wide through lighting, heating and cooling. Architectural design and construction in the past has not taken the

natural environment and conditions into account. Architectural design must integrate environmental technology, resource conservation, and the aesthetic content. Sustainable architecture must consist of long-lasting buildings that conserve resources and save energy and that reflect the beauty of the environment to inspire man's spirit and soul to protect nature. Most importantly, we must improve architectural study programmes to include an understanding of the environment in relation to building design in order to create a sustainable future.



## Culture and education for sustainable development

**Professor Berna Alpogut**  
Ankara University, Turkey

Professor **Berna Alpogut** from the University of Ankara, noted that, in order to encourage a new societal culture based on the protection and development of all values of life - bio-culture - we must reach all members of the public. Museums are an ideal solution as institutions that provide life-long training and education to people of all ages. City museums in particular protect the characteristics of a city and represent the common memory of a city. They depict



cities in terms of history, geography, politics, the environment and economics. City museums provide a more direct environmental education than other museum types by delivering information about the natural environment and the values for life. A city museum plays an important role in the forming of bio-culture by improving the values that support the natural environment. City museums already exist in London, Seoul, Amsterdam, and Istanbul. We must encourage state governments, municipalities and local history groups to do the same in all countries.

**Gulsun Saglamler**  
f. Rector, Istanbul Technical  
University, Turkey

In addressing the issue of internationalising higher education, Professor **Gulsun Saglamler**, f. Rector of Istanbul Technical University, emphasised that, in order to respond to the challenge of globalisation, higher educational institutions must become more international. Knowledge is the driving force of all aspects of the global economy. This will create many opportunities but will also increase the knowledge gap between nations. Internationalising higher education is much more than establishing programmes in international relations, foreign languages, history and culture. It refers to how an institution will compete with a foreign institution, with its pool of local students, professors, standards

in educational curricula, and quality and management in the global higher education market. Enhancing the capacity of institutions for internationalisation may differ from institution to institution depending on structure, value systems, and resources.

Yet all higher education institutions will have to address the internationalisation of education, research, and services to society in order to compete in the global education market. Professor Saglamler used Istanbul Technical University -- recently restructured to meet the needs of global graduates -- as an example of successful internationalisation.



**Cemal Yukselen**  
Vice Rector, Mustafa Kemal  
University, Turkey

Professor **Cemal Yukselen**, Vice Rector of Mustafa Kemal University, discussed the importance of environmental considerations in the social sciences. Biopolicy-oriented education and training programmes should be introduced into existing curricula, particularly in the field of business administration. We should redefine the concept of profit and show the importance of corporate social responsibility. In discussing the importance of productivity, we should include discussions on the protection of the envi-



ronment and natural resources. In feasibility studies, the cost of quality of life and the protection of the environment should be given consideration. We need to cooperate on a well-planned and aggressive strategy for future generations. We should provide an interdisciplinary programme leading to a new generation of business specialists with environmental values. We should also determine measurable quantitative targets to monitor the effectiveness of the new curricula. This will allow us to continue to improve educational programmes for the future. We must act today to change our priorities in life for tomorrow may be too late.

**Constantine Stephanou**  
International and European  
Studies, Panteion University  
Greece

Professor **Constantine Stephanou**, Director of International European Studies at Panteion University, mentioned that, at the international level, the most important work regarding environmental governance is the outcome of the interplay between civil society, business and some aspects of the public sector. Furthermore, there have been several multi-stakeholder partnerships dedicated to sustainable development. Corporate leaders view

the threat of further regulation especially traditional command and control type as having the potential to hobble them in international competition. They prefer to adopt voluntary mechanisms to avoid legal liability and which preserve their flexibility in the face of rapidly changing technologies and markets. At the EU level however, states are committed to the implementation of rules and directives.



## Hellenic-Turkish Cooperation in Biopolicy



*In the new millennium, corporate environments are changing. Business are realising that it is essential to achieve a developmental framework that places people and the planet before profits. Managing the environmental programme in an industrial or commercial facility has become an increasingly complex and challenging assignment owing to the expanding maze of environmental laws and regulations and the growing public expectations regarding environmental protection and corporate social responsibility.*

*To be effective, programmes and policies promoting greener products, the use of fewer natural resources, and lower impacts and risks to the environment, must be based on an overall framework of bioethics, which will help to focus every activity on the consequential task of saving the environment and improving quality of life. Businesses recognise that displaying a strong environmental ethic and responsibility can strengthen a good profile within the community.*

AVA

### Corporate social responsibility – improving quality of life for all citizens

#### Stathis Nazos

*Executive Director, Aspis International MFMC (A Joint Venture of Aspis Bank and ABN AMRO)*

**S**tathis Nazos, Executive Director of Aspis International MFMC, also stressed the importance of corporate social responsibility and raised the question of how a particular business can look beyond its self-interest and promote a socially responsible image. Measures have to be developed to prove to busi-

nesses that it is actually in their own self-interest to contribute to society. Such measures can include tax credits in the range of 2% to 5%, which could benefit a business' bottom line. We all need to think of incentives to help private enterprise move in the right direction.



#### Stephanos Costopoulos

*Chairman, Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce*

**U**ntrammelled economic growth has led to a crisis in values which obscures our priorities for the future. For environmental protection strategies to be effective, it is essential to have the participation of all stakeholders in society, including increased participation of business interests.

**Stephanos Costopoulos**, Chairman of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, highlighted the fact that successful businesses no longer rely on the production of perfect products or perfect services, but include environmental, social, and cultural dimensions in their strategy. As society increasingly expects corporations to act socially responsibly, the business community should address issues of concern through a collective effort. The successful implementation of corporate

social responsibility requires a voluntary and complete application, including a modern perception of management and administration, with the goal to achieve a balance between economic development and social prosperity. More companies will become socially responsible as they become aware of the strategic and competitive advantages in implementing environmental policies. Today there are various forms of economic, political and social uncertainty. Every day problems reach such dimensions that it is essential for corporations in all sectors of society to confront them. The business community, with every other part of the society, should approach and contribute to these issues through a collective effort. Today, societies do not expect corporations to just be profitable, but they also expect them to act with sen-

sitivity in supporting the society through their social responsibility. This has led to a change in the relationship between corporations and societies. To a high extent citizens blame corporations for the many social and environmental problems existing all over the world. Citizens' growing sensitivity constitutes a powerful tool for reinforcing the prospective of a responsible, social corporate attitude. What many corporations have not realised is that the development and application of a corporate



social environmental strategy can have positive economic effects for the corporation. In fact, this policy can be a strategic advantage and an opportunity for additional competitive advantage. Only forward-thinking corporations have realised that both themselves and society will benefit from corporate social responsibility policies.

#### Panayotis Koutsikos

*Chairman, Hellenic-Turkish Chamber of Commerce*

**P**anayotis Koutsikos, Chairman of the Hellenic-Turkish Chamber of Commerce, emphasised that, in the previous decade, trade between Greece

and Turkey was very limited. Beginning in 1999, the political relationship between the two countries acquired new and better dynamics, thanks to the efforts of the Foreign Ministers of both countries. Bilateral policy targeted the economic sectors, which led to the signing of nine agreements regarding enterprise interests, increased financial investments, and the mutual rejection of double taxation between the two countries.

This productive political climate and the combination of all of these decisions resulted in a huge increase in the total trade between the two countries and in extensive Greek investments in Turkey. The maintenance of the good political climate between the two countries will contribute to further growth in economic relations.



*The productive political climate between Greece and Turkey will contribute to further growth in economic relations.*

and Turkey was very limited. Beginning in 1999, the political relationship between the two countries acquired new and better dynamics, thanks to the efforts of the Foreign Ministers of

#### Anthony Gortzis

*General Secretary, Piraeus Chamber of Commerce and Industry*

**A**ntonis Gortzis, General Secretary of the Piraeus Chamber of Commerce, emphasised that, in the beginning of the 21st century, entrepreneurship is called upon to revive the economy and contribute to social cohesion. To achieve sustainable targets, the business world must view corporate social responsibility as

its chief concern. Corporate social responsibility is our responsibility towards our fellow human beings - be they workers, consumers or investors - towards the environment, towards our cultural heritage and society as a whole. Corporate social responsibility is hence a key factor for a successful business strategy, based on the rational use of natural resources and the prevailing socio-



economic parameters and conditions. Another major component of corporate social responsibility is business ethics, based on concepts such as reliability, transparency, discipline, and quality. To achieve these goals, the Institute of Business Ethics was recently founded in Greece

with the aim of raising awareness of corporate social responsibility in the private as well as the public sector.



*The Symposium was very successful in promoting the ideals of biopolicy and international cooperation. It was attended by several diplomats, scholars and business leaders, including: Lourdes Morales, Ambassador of the Philippines; Tahsin Burcuoglu, Ambassador of Turkey; and Anthony Gortzis, General Secretary of the Piraeus Chamber of Commerce and Industry.*

#### Anastasios Balafoutas

*Chairman, German Chamber of Commerce and Industry*

**A**nastasios Balafoutas, Chairman of the Hellenic-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry, addressed the issue of reduced packaging as one of the most important areas of corporate environmental management. German companies adopted measures for reducing, recycling and reusing packaging materials even before a relevant Directive was issued by the European

Commission. The obligation of Greek and European businesses to adopt packaging reduction schemes also arises from increased consumer environmental awareness, whereby consumers endorse or reject products and companies based on environmental considerations. The Hellenic-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been involved in environmental issues in Greece and Germany by promoting and supporting



the transfer of know-how in environmentally friendly technologies and energy production, and by promoting integrated solutions in waste management. Through its web portal [www.b2benergy.com](http://www.b2benergy.com), the Chamber has also launched a project promoting e-commerce in renewable energy sources. The aim of the project is to provide the exchange of information and know-how in all areas concerning renewable energy sources.

## Hellenic-Turkish Cooperation in Biopolicy

Faculty of Political Science, Ankara University

**A**s a follow-up to the Symposium on "Hellenic-Turkish Cooperation in Biopolicy," which was held in Athens, in January 2005, a meeting convened at the Faculty of Political Science at Ankara University, on March 25, 2005. The meeting was co-chaired by the B.I.O. President and by Professor **Rusen Keles**,

and Dr. **Meltem Yilmaz** of Hacettepe University.

The following eminent speakers took part in the deliberations: Ambassador **Yigit Alpogun**, Secretary General, National Security Council; Professor **Muzaffer Eryilmaz**, Mayor of Cankaya Municipality; Professor **Can Hamamci**, Director of Social

Sciences Institute, Ankara University; Dr. **Nevin Akpınar**, Director of the Environmental Research Centre, Ankara University; Dr. **Nurettin Simsek**, Direc-

tor of the Distance Learning Centre, Ankara University; Professor **Coskun Ozgunel**, Classical Archaeology Department, Ankara University; Professor **Ozer Ergenc**, History Department, Ankara University; Professor **Rezzan Kiziltan**, Ankara University; Professor **Koray Haktanir**, Agriculture Faculty of Ankara University; Professor **Selahiddin Ogulmus**, Education Faculty, Ankara University; Professor **Cevay Geray**, Ankara University; Professor **Necdet Serin**, f. Rector, Ankara University; Dr. **Nesrin Algan**, Political Sciences Faculty, Ankara University; Dr. **Mehmet Tuncer**, Gazi University; Dr. **Nesrin Cobanoglu**, Gazi University;

Dr. **Erol Demir**, Ankara University; Dr. **Hakan Yigitbasi**, Ankara University; Dr. **Ergin Duygu**, Biology Department, Ankara University; Dr. **Hail Akdeniz**, Ankara University; Dr. **Aykut Coban**, Political Sciences Faculty, Ankara University; Dr. **Bulent Duru**, Political Sciences Faculty, Ankara University.

Following the success of previous Biopolitics events held in Turkey [in Trabzon (1989 & 1993), Adana (1995), Istanbul (1992) and Ankara (1997)], this year's meeting at Ankara University addressed issues of international cooperation in bio-diplomacy and bio-education, and stressed the importance



of bioethics and biopolicy as a vehicle for meeting the challenges of the new millennium.

As propounded by B.I.O. since 1985, destruction, pollution, and other threats to the environment are international problems, and the required solutions entail collaboration and understanding among all nations. The role of culture, education and policy which respect the environment and bios on our planet are crucial in making the world safer and more equitable for future generations.

organisers of the event included Professors **Berna Alpogun** and **Aysegul Kaplan Mengi** of Ankara University,

## Peace and the environment

Dubai

The Euro-Arab Cooperation Center conferred its prestigious prize for "Peace and Environment" to **H.H. Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum**, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai. The prize was awarded in Dubai, on May 15, 2005.

The event was organised by **Samy El Gindy**, Member of the Egyptian Parliament and Vice President of the Euro-Arab Cooperation Center (VEA). As Member of the VEA Board, the

B.I.O. President participated in the award ceremony.



## Redefining global security Worldwatch Institute Report European Parliament, Brussels

In this year's **State of the World Report**, the Worldwatch Institute explores the underlying sources of poverty, infectious disease, environmental degradation and rising competition over natural resources, as threats to global security. The Report was presented in Brussels, on March 1, 2005, at a conference sponsored by the Institute for Environmental Security (IES). The B.I.O. President was invited by **Ronald Kingham** of the IES to participate in the discussions.

The event was co-organised by the **Institute for Environmental Security**,

**Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment**, and the **WWF European Policy Office**. Key remarks were delivered by



**Christopher Flavin**, President of the Worldwatch Institute; Ambassador **Anders Wijkman**, Member of the European Parliament;

**Leo Michel**, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for National Strategic Studies, USA; **Michael Renner**, Senior Researcher at the Worldwatch Institute; and **Tom Spencer**, f. Head of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy and Senior Advisor to the IES.

## Annual World Bank Conference Researchers Alliance for Development

As academic liaison of the **Researchers Alliance for Development (RAD)**, the B.I.O. President will be participating in the RAD's Annual Meeting on May 22, in Amsterdam. The RAD is an informal, action oriented and multidisciplinary network of researchers and academics in the development field that is supported by the World Bank and contributes innovative responses to poverty and development challenges by strengthening inter-

action between researchers worldwide and the World Bank. The meeting will bring the steering committee and academic liaisons together with staff of the World Bank and other development organisations and research institutions. It will provide the opportunity to seek input from members, look at the future direction of the network and its role in the wider relationship the World Bank has with the research and academic community worldwide.

### Development Economics

The B.I.O. President has also been invited to attend the Annual World Bank Conference on Development Economics, on May 23-24. The theme of this year's conference is "Securing development in an unstable world," and some of the key topics to be discussed include macroeconomic and microeconomic vulnerability, links between development and security, and health risks.

The conference will bring together academics, policy makers, and representatives from civil society and the private sector to exchange views on development challenges and the fight

against poverty. In addition to other leading researchers and policy makers from Europe and the developing world, scheduled speakers include: **Agnes van Ardenne**, Minister for Development Cooperation, the Netherlands; **Francois Bourguignon**, Chief Economist, The World Bank; **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, Minister of Finance, Nigeria; **Ernesto Zedillo**, Director of the Yale Center for the Study of Globalisation at Yale University and Former President of Mexico; and **James D. Wolfensohn**, President of The World Bank. The event will be held at the Royal Tropical Institute in Amsterdam.

## Environment – way of peace Greenaccord Media Forum on the Protection of Nature Rome, Italy

**Greenaccord's International Media Forum** will be held in Rome, on 12-15 October, 2005. The B.I.O. President has been invited to deliver the concluding remarks at the Forum's closing roundtable themed "The contribution of the environment to the peace theme." Other distinguished roundtable participants will include: Dr. **Wangari Maathai**, Nobel Peace Prize 2004; His Holiness the **XIV Dalai Lama** of Tibet, **Tenzin Gyatso**, Nobel Peace Prize 1989; **Monsignor Vincenzo Paglia**, Bishop of Terni; **June Zeitlin**, Executive Director, Women's Environment and Development Organisation; **Arundhati Roy**, Author of "God of Small Things"; **Wang Yongchen**,

Journalist of Central Radio China and Founder of Green NGO, China; and, Dr. **A.T. Ariyaratne**, Founder of the Sarvodaya Movement in Sri Lanka.

Greenaccord is a non-profit cultural association created to ignite the attention of the media on the theme of the protection of nature. Greenaccord addresses the national and international media community, in order to induce a thorough secular reflection and a continuous debate on the role and the responsibility of journalist towards environmental subjects. The purpose of the International Media Forum is to provide a place for reflection, training and exchange of ideas for international journalists who are



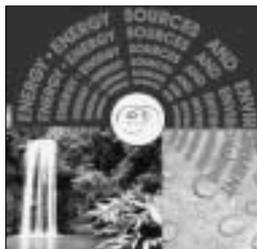
interested in safeguarding our natural world. The theme of this year's Forum, which is held under the auspices of the President of the Italian Republic, with the support of the Italian National Committee for UNESCO, the National Council of the Italian Journalist Order, and the Province of Rome, is "Environment, Way of Peace."

## Energy efficiency and renewable energy sources Plovdiv, Bulgaria

An International Congress themed "Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources in Industry and Construction" was held from 13 to 15 April 2005, in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. The Congress was hosted by **Via Expo Ltd.**, an organiser of international exhibitions and conferences on environmental and energy related issues. It was held under the auspices of the Bulgarian Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, the Ministry of Energy and Energy Resources, the Ministry of Environment and Water, the Energy Efficiency Agency, UNEP/Sustainable Energy Financing Initiative, and the World Council for Renewable Energy.

The B.I.O. President participated as a member of the Scientific Committee for the event and delivered a keynote opening address on "Energy policy priorities in building a sustainable society" to a large audience consisting of worldwide members of the energy industry.

B.I.O. has attempted to inspire scientists and civic lead-



ers to search for new technology and renewable sources of energy. Through numerous educational programmes B.I.O. hopes to inform all members of society on the various possibilities and concerns in this field so that they may make sound and educated decisions. B.I.O. also promotes a search for new solutions, the implementation of relevant policies, and socially conscious decision-making by governments, business sectors and individuals.

The International Congress covered a variety of topics concerning clean and renewable energy, including: European policy concerning energy savings and renewable energy sources; the level of European energy policy implementation in Bulgaria; financial supporting schemes and instruments for the implementation and promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources in south-east Europe; emissions trading; education; developments in wind power; energy performance of buildings; legislation, labelling and certification.

## Global Marshall Plan Initiative A new vision in globalisation

B.I.O. has launched a fruitful cooperation with the **Global Marshall Plan Initiative**, based in Germany. Representatives from private enterprise, politics, science, media and non-governmental organisations across Europe met in 2003 to develop this Initiative. The group included representatives from the Club of Rome, the Eco-Social Forum, ATTAC, BUND, as well as

members of the German Federal Association for Business Promotion and Foreign Trade, UN organisations, the European Parliament, and many other national parliaments. The goal is to establish a worldwide economic, political and civil system, ushering in a new era of global cooperation to achieve international security, peace and prosperity. The Global Marshall Plan is

modelled after the success of the United States' Marshall Plan for Europe after the Second World War and applies to the rest of the world the positive experiences of the European Union expansion processes.

B.I.O. will be participating as an international partner in this network and will help to promote a new vision in global policy and development.

## Youth Bios Olympiads & Bios Schools – St. Petersburg

At the initiative of **Professor Alexander Shishkin** and owing to his unwavering efforts, the XXXIVth Bios School was successfully completed in Burevestnic, in the St. Petersburg district, in April 2005. The programme was very fruitful and the results of the environmental research conducted were discussed at a final conference in the presence of **Alexander Tkachenko**,



Chairman of the Neva Ladoga Basin Water Department, **Valeriy Mitko**,

President of the Artistic Academy of Sciences, **Professor Igor Volf**, **Professor Boris Skakalsky**, and representatives of the administration of the resort district of St. Petersburg.

The Xth Youth Bios Olympiad, a special anniversary event, will be held in St. Petersburg on September 12-14, 2005, with the support of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

## Youth Farm – Training young farmers

To promote the intricate link between environmental protection and agriculture, as well as the importance of bio-education, B.I.O. is participating in the "Youth-Farm" project, a partnership formed within the framework of the Leonardo da Vinci European Union Vocational Training Programme.

The project aims at enhancing competitiveness in agriculture and entrepreneurship among young farmers, in order to contribute to the restoration and enhancement of the competitiveness of rural areas and to the cre-



ation of new employment opportunities in those areas. "Youth-Farm" is held at the initiative of Intercollege's

Research and Development Center, one of the leading educational institutions in Cyprus. The project has brought together ten organisations in Cyprus, Greece, the UK, Italy, Poland, Czechia, and Slovenia, with the goal to provide young farmers with critical knowledge and information on areas that, despite their important role in the survival and modernisation of agriculture, have not been addressed before in such a holistic approach. Two such areas are the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy, as well as

occupational health and safety issues in agriculture.

To address these issues in depth and to provide young farmers with critical knowledge and information, the project has put together an educational kit, comprised of the following teaching modules: "The European Union and the Common Agricultural Policy" and "Occupational Health and Safety in Agriculture." The aim of the first module, which has been developed and written by B.I.O., is to enable young farmers to understand how the CAP can

be made to work for them, and to use the information provided to plan future farming activities.

The second module helps young farmers to identify the risks and hazards faced in their day to day activities and to find out what they can do combat them, and also encourages young farmers to take a disciplined and professional approach to the management of farm safety. The educational kit will include handbooks, posters, brochures, and CD-Roms, and will be translated in the six partner languages.

# Bio-Syllabus online

## Bio-education to enrich sustainability

### B.I.O.'s e-learning courses

Send your request form by checking the boxes below

- Bio-Architecture**  
Environmental models in architecture, energy efficient buildings, environmental-ly responsible urban planning.
- Bio-Diplomacy**  
International cooperation in environmental protection, the environment as a unifying factor for peace.
- Bio-Economics**  
Environmental management, natural resource economics, international policy, EU environmental policy, corporate policy.
- Bio-Energy**  
Renewable energy sources, clean energy, models for energy savings, wind, solar, biomass, energy efficient buildings.
- Bio-Ethics**  
Environmental protection as an ethical responsibility, codes of environmental ethics for every profession, the environment in bioethics.
- Bio-Health**  
Environmental quality and public health, pollution threats to health, risks and benefits of biotechnology, quality of life.
- Bio-History**  
Environmental factors in the development of human civilisation, culture, historical sources, ancient texts.
- Bio-Legislation**  
International and European Union environmental policy and legislation, international treaties, environmental action.
- Bio-Assessment of Technology**  
Tools and methods for pollution abatement, waste management technologies, recycling.
- Waste Management**  
Tools and methods of waste management and technologies, including recycling, composting, landfilling, and wastewater treatment
- Bio-Tourism**  
Environmentally friendly tourism industry, suggestions for cultural tourism, environmental hotel management, water conservation, recycling.
- Common Agricultural Policy**  
A simplified text for non-experts who wish to become acquainted with the EU's CAP.
- Food and Agriculture**  
Agriculture and the environment, pollution loads, GMOs, water and soils, chemicals and biotechnology, environmental policy.
- People with a Disability in Modern Society**  
Improving equity and quality of life for the disabled, accessibility, information, assistive technology, sports, Paralympic Games.

To participate in B.I.O.'s e-learning programme, please register online at [www.biopolitics.gr/e-Learning](http://www.biopolitics.gr/e-Learning). You may also e-mail your request at [bios@otenet.gr](mailto:bios@otenet.gr)

**B.I.O. is working harder than ever to place a wealth of educational material and resources online and to prepare a broad range of e-learning courses promoting pioneering dimensions in bio-education. We have successfully completed the pilot launch of this project and we have already received applications for registration in our courses from the 52 countries shown below. The hope is to infuse new thinking in environmental education and to enrich the concepts of sustainable development.**

#### Bio-education is only a click away

Our planet's health and survival is our fundamental responsibility to future generations. To succeed in this endeavour we need to influence decision-makers to avoid mistakes of the past and to build a society based on the ethics of bios. The challenge is to use technology to respect and protect life, the bond that connects all living beings. Bio-education raises awareness of our responsibility to appreciate this precious gift and to protect the environment for the generations to come.



The International University for the Bio-Environment (I.U.B.E.) was founded by B.I.O. in 1990 as a vehicle to promote bio-education and to infuse existing educational institutions with environmental thinking. Today, the I.U.B.E. has a strong presence in 130 countries with the support and co-operation of scholars and decision-makers who impart the urgency of an all-encompassing environmental education. Through its numerous publications, conferences, seminars and other events, the I.U.B.E. encourages the incorporation of environmental concepts in every academic and professional field.

In order to exit inflexible thinking processes that have led to serious threats to the environment and life on our planet, immediate action is crucial. Solving environmental problems requires a dynamic approach, combining past experience and present opportunities to establish enriched models for the future. To meet this challenge, we need to eliminate stereotypes of fragmentation and exclusion. The study of the intricate relationships between all the varied manifestations of our natural and cultural heritage can provide the missing elements for an integrated understanding of the future. This is the scope and mission of bio-education.

#### 14 e-learning courses

Education is evolving. More than ever, educators and trainers are seeking innovative ways to achieve quality teaching and to motivate students. The tools offered by modern technology can bring knowledge closer to millions of people all over the world. This is a great opportunity for environmental education to reach

every citizen on the planet.

To implement this vision, B.I.O. has prepared 14 e-learning courses placing a uniquely rich source of information and training material at the fingertips of teachers, students and professionals around the world. The courses cover a plethora of topics including economics, architecture, diplomacy, energy, legislation, food and agriculture, health, ethics, technology, waste management, history, tourism and issues concerning people with a disability (see list on the left).

The educational material used in these courses is based on "Bio-Syllabus for European Environmental Education," an 880-page textbook reflecting 18 years of B.I.O. achievement in the environmental field. The "Bio-Syllabus" has been internationally acclaimed as a leading publication in its field and has received very positive comments from scholars, decision-makers, diplomats and professionals from around the world. The comments can be viewed on the B.I.O. website at [www.biopolitics.gr/What's New/Bio-Syllabus](http://www.biopolitics.gr/What's New/Bio-Syllabus)

#### Bio-education and quality of life

To meet the challenges of globalisation, society needs a vision of environmental cooperation and peace. Bio-education can provide this vision, as well as the necessary guidelines for every sector of society and every profession to engage in environmental appreciation and action to improve quality of life.

Greed and short-term planning have resulted in a serious crisis in values. Bio-education can help society to exit this crisis and to view the environment as a powerful factor in growth and development.

A society that is open and accessible to all should be our goal for the millennium. We cannot envisage a future of hope without access to culture, active and full participation, and meaningful citizenship. To achieve these goals, new ways of stimulating creativity in politics and policy-making, in technology, industry and commerce, in education and the arts, and in social and community development. Culture, tradition and bio-education can inspire this creativity and help us to optimise the cultural wealth of humanity.



## Biopolitics International Organisation

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