Biopolitics – Eradicating the poverty in values

Building a society of vision and hope

W

Waging the battle against world-

wide poverty requires a renais-
sance of values. To embark on a mil-

le-nium of hope, we need to avoid the

mistakes of the past and create a society

which respects and promotes bios-, life-

living beings on the planet. Environ-

mental protection, respect for human

rights and fundamental freedoms, demo-
cratization, and the elimination of discrimi-
ation, 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 devel-

opment with a view to the future. Since

its inception in 1985, the Biopolitics

International Organisation (B.I.O.)

has been champi-

oning these ideals and has been impart-
ing 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

countries at the heart of policy and deci-

ding-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 pover-

ty and achieve a civil society we need
to inspire humanity with new values and

search for responsible and committed

leadership.

Economic development, social equity and environmental

quality are of the essence in the fight against

poverty. Improved environ-

mental quality meets demands for job

creation, economic security and bet-
ter living standards. It also allows the

pursuit of objectives that are key ele-

ments 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.

Biological diversity and cultural diversity

D

Development of land in areas of little rain-

fall and moisture is a serious problem

that threatens humans and the environment alike. It destroys habitats, impairs farming,

and contributes to poverty. Desertification, tem-

teums, which cover over one-third of the world’s

land area, are extremely vulnerable to mis-

use of land. Poverty, political instability,

deforestation, overgrazing, and bad irriga-
tion practices all contribute to the detri-

tion of the fertility of the land. Deserti-

fication 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 through-

out the world due to population growth,

industrial expansion, and the needs of large

cities. Over one billion people do not have

access to clean drinking water and two bil-

lion people do not have access to safe san-

itation facilities. Inadequate supplies of

fresh water and unavailability of sanitation

is a integral element of the persistent cycle

of poverty afflicting today’s society.

Economic and environmental

problems such as loss of biodiversity, desertifica-
tion, soil erosion and the need to reduce rain-

fall and pollution are often found along-

side poverty. Together, such condi-
tions contribute to a cycle from which peo-

ple are hard-pressed to escape. Poverty is a

self-perpetuating, passed on from gen-

eration to generation. It breeds despair, lack of hope for a better life in the future,

political unrest and even terrorism. The greatest tragedy concerning pover-

ty is that today’s society has the abili-

ty and the means to eradicate it, yet it
does not fully commit itself to this vital

and urgent 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 eco-

nomical wealth, political

power and social advancement in a

short-sighted manner that has lead to

a serious crisis in values. Like a tsuna-

mi of unequal proportions, this crisis

in values has multiplied the threats

faced by society today.

Biological economics and social justice

P

Poory has many faces. Unless

all its dimensions are addressed, the

problem will never be solved.

BIO believes that a new structure

in society is needed to overcome

these trends, one that is focused 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, exclu-

sion from market activities, and basic

citizenship. Although most prominent

in Africa, this expanded view of

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ty’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, polit-

ical 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 develop-

ing a knowledge base to create

opportunity for sustainable livelihoods. Sus-

tainable employment in the environmental field opens the possibilities for disad-

vantaged groups and youth to devel-

op their employment potential and

also creates new jobs and work oppor-

tunities. If we are to succeed in over-

coming global environmental degra-

dation and limit poverty, people every-

where must be imbued with a love

and respect for the environment. It

is our biological responsibility

towards future generations to eradi-

cate the poverty in values that is

threatening the very continuation

of bios on our planet.

BIO activities and events

Saving our planet’s forests

Cooperation with BTRF

B.I.O. and the Borneo Tropical Rainforest Foun-
dation (BTRF) have launched a fruitful cooper-
i

ation 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 teac-

chers, 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)

BIO Ethics

Declaration of Plant Rights

UNESCO norms on bioswitches

BIO Diplomacy

Hellenic-Turkish cooperation

Youth projects

Youth Bios Olympiads

Bios Schools

BIO Publications

CD-ROMs, books, web publishing

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UNESCO norms on bioswitches

Bio-Diplomacy

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Faith in Nature

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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 assessment.

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

b) 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. Kyriacopoulou
European Commission
Leonardo da Vinci Programme
Alpha Bank
Ministry of Culture
OTE
OTNet
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
Argentina, 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

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

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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.

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 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. Bioeconomics 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 diarchic 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).
Dag Hammarskjöld
A vision for peace

In celebration of its 25th Anniversary, the Talberg Foundation will be hosting a forum themed “How on earth can we live together?” Exploring Global Interdependence.” The Forum will be held at the Talberg Foundation from July 3 to August 5, 2005. Its Majesties the King and Queen of Sweden, who support this event, will highlight the occasion.

This open Forum will unite apprentices from advanced and developing states, enlighten participants, present the principles of democracy, human rights, and sustainability.

The Talberg Foundation is a non-profit, independent organisation aimed at bringing together diverse people in global cooperation and understanding. Discussion will focus on the need for more effective initi- atives and structures to promote the principles of democracy, human rights, and sustainability.

Dag Hammarskjöld’s vision and work of the United Nations was his ultimate legacy.

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.O. Presi- dent to co-chair a discussion on “Human Responsibility for the Future: Was Hedy Right?” along with Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, and Professor Carl-Goran Hedén, President of the World Academy of Art and Science.

The discussion will take place during the General Assembly of the World Academy of Art and Science, to be held in Zagreb, Croatia, on November 17-23, 2005.

Honour bestowed upon B.O.

The B.O. President, Dr. Agit Vlavianos-Varounis, 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, nations, and academic disciplines, chosen for their eminence in art, the natural and social sciences, and humanities. Its activities focus on the social conse-quences and policy implications of knowledge, and the challenges con- fronting people in a rapidly changing global environment. The WAAS 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 of Art and Science 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” was held in Belgrade on June 5-8, 2005, on the occasion of World Environment Day. The symposium’s focus will be on the importance of the environmental sector in the process of European integration and is organised by: Environmentalists, Biopolis-Belgrade with a view to the future” to the proceedings from the International Conference on Environment and Human Rights, which was held in Belgrade, under the auspices of the Ministry of Science and Environment Protection of the Republic of Serbia, on April 20-22, 2005.

The conference was co-organised by Biopolis Belgrade and Application of Science and Practice in Environmental Protection of Serbia and Montenegro (ECOLOGICA), the Chamber of Commerce of Serbia and by the Association of Engi- neers of Serbia and Montenegro. The aim of the conference was to promote the connection between human health and the environment and to bring together experts, physical- chemists, engineers, health inspectors and logicians to discuss the health and the health of the planet go in hand.

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 spec- trum of environmental problems. Some of the diverse topics on the agenda were: recent environmental changes and pollution; updates on the present knowledge of the impact of chemical pollution of soil, water and air on wildlife; the evaluation of freshwater and marine pollution; local and technological measures to reduce pollution levels; and recommendations and sug- gestions for conservation possibilities. The conference was held under the auspices of the Ministers of Petroleum, Electricity, Health and Population, High Education and Scientific Research, Agriculture and Environmental Affairs, and the President of Ain-Shams University.

The B.O. President participated in the Scientific Commit- tee of the conference and delivered a keynote address at the opening session. Her address focused on biopolis as the needed vision for improving quality of life and for strengthening the role of the profession to engage in sustainability and appreciation action. Other distinguished speakers at the opening session included: Samy El Dindy, Chair of the General Committee of the Conference, Member of the Egyptian Parliament, and Vice President of the Euro-Arab Cooperation Center; Professor Mourad Mourot, Professor of the World Bank; HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan; Gra Harlem Brundtland, for- mer Prime Minister of Norway; Sonia Gandhi, President of the Congress Party; India; Vlach Vehav, former President of the Czech Republic; Mil- ces, President of the Republic of Croatia; Ivan Milosev, Deputy Prime Min- ister of the Republic of Serbia; Par Nuder, Minister of Finance, Sweden; Marcello Pallazza, Former President of the Talberg Foundation, the Netherlands; Jean Francois Richard, Vice President for Environmental Protection, the European Environment Agency; Saakshwili, President of Georgia; Arum Suraskassian, former Prime Min- ister of Armenia; Desmon Tutu; Arch- bishop Emeritus, South Africa; Jacques Wagner, Minister of Planning, Brazil; Simon Hulst, Minister for Education, the European Commission; Anders Wijkman, Member of the European Parliament, Sweden.

Deconstructing democracy
Brussels, Belgium

The twenty-first Aurelio Pelleci Lecture on “Decon-structing Democracy: The Limits to Privatization” was held by the Brussels-EU Chapter of the Club de Rome on March 2, 2005, at the Royal Academy of Belgium. The lec- ture was presented by Professor Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, Member of the German Parliament and Chairman of the Parliamentarian Committee on Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. Professor von Weizsäcker is also a distinguished B.O. Trustee, and has participated in several B.O. international conferences and events.

The subject of the lecture - a topical issue in all demo- cratic societies - was dealt with, starting from an analysis of the dominant worldwide trend towards privatisation. Professor von Weizsäcker is co-author of the new book “Limi- ting to Privatization”, the first thorough audit of privatization from around the world.

The book outlines the historical emergence of global- isation 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 rebirth of this 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 the Department of Environmental Studies, Western Washington University, and the Department of Environmental Studies, Kefalonia University. The confé- rence kicks off the start of a university programme in sus- tainable community development in Kefalonia, beginning at the conference.

The mission of AWISH Hellas (A World Institute for a Sustainable Humanity) is to foster and promote knowl- edge, social interactions, and creative endeavors that purs- ues addressing the human and global dimensions of sus- tainable community development. AWISH Hellas pro- motes learning, creative programmes and activities advanc- ing community wellness; the preservation of natural resources, sustainable economies, and community prosperity. The mission is carried out through a multi-dimensional pro- gramme of activities that include academic training, applied research, university partnerships, field internships, and international exchange programmes, focused on sus- tainable development, the arts, personal and community wellness.

The B.O. President, who serves on the Board of Advis- ors of AWISH Hellas, will be one of the guest speakers at the conference. Another eminent guest speaker will be Professor Bradford Smith, Dean of the College of Education 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.
VERSITY FOR THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT

2004
Honours and distinctions
- B.I.O. President receives 2004 Biopolitics Award from the Swedish Academy of Sciences. The BioFocus Foundation and the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences

Nominations for the 5. William Fahlb“ert Award for International Under-“

New B.I.O. divisions
- B.I.O. Division created in Portugal, under the auspices of the Op=to University Medical School. Dr. Maria Burros Soures is President of the Divi-“

B.I.O. international conferences
- “Hellenic-Turkish Cooperation in Biopolitics – On the Road to Euro-“

Programmes in bio-education
- Development of 14 tutor-supported “Learning programmes in Agri-“

2005
Honours and distinctions
- The B.I.O. President is elected Fel-“

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

Media coverage
- Hour-long television programme on “BIO-Environment” produced weekly by the B.I.O. President on 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.

versity for the Bio-Environment

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B.I.O. international conferences
- “Hellenic-Turkish Cooperation in Biopolitics – On the Road to European Union Models” under the auspices of the Turkish Ambassador to Greece and the Office of the European Parliament 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 eleven B.I.O. publications on “People with a Disability in Modern Society,” with the participation of Euro-parliamentarians, diplo-"

Programmes in bio-education
- Development of 14 tutor-supported “Learning programmes in Agriculture, Art, Literature, 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 educational materials 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 biopolitics courses with the Eastern Mediterranean University of Science and Technology, Shandong, China

- Working group for biopolitics within the framework of the European Union programme on “Prospects for Technological and Investigation”

- “Family Concept in Modern City Life” a youth workshop in cooperation with Faith University Istanbul

- Bios Schools organized 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 “Problematic 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 Com-"

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

Symposium held in Athens
- “Mass-Individuation 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 Paralympic Society of northern Greece

- B.I.O. publications
- People with a Disability in Modern Society (English, 160 pp)
- People with a Disability in Modern Society (Greek, 152 pp)

- Quarterly publication of “BioNews,” the official B.I.O. newspaper

Awareness raising
- Extended B.I.O. campaign to improve accessibility to services for people with a disability

- Participation in the Teleforum on “Environment protection is a Must,” Alexandria, Egypt

- Participation in “Peace and Environ-"

- Participation in the Annual Book Conference on Development Economics, sponsored by the World Bank, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

- Honoured guest and keynote speaker at the conference on “Accessibility” organised by the Paralympic Society of the City of Drama, Greece

- Participation in the Tallberg Forum, Sweden

- Keynote speech at the “Greenrecord 3rd International Media Forum on the Protection of Nature,” Rome

- The B.I.O. President is keynote speaker with Jacques Delors and Academician Carl Gombas Heden, at the conference on “The future of knowledge – evolutionary challenges of the 21st century,” sponsored by the World Academy of Science, Zaragoza, Spain

- Keynote speech and participation in the Scientific Committee at the 5th World Conference on Bioethics, sponsored by the International Bioethics Society, Gijon, Spain

- B.I.O. publications

- Quarterly publication of “BioNews,” the official B.I.O. newspaper

Awareness raising
- Extended B.I.O. campaign to improve accessibility to services for people with a disability

- World Reference to invite every individual on the planet to vote for the protection of the environment

Media coverage
- 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.

Foundation and submits joint pro-"
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 Nezahualcoyotl 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 harbor 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 incommensurable beauty and many valuable natural resources that have been recently better administered 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 use of natural resources represent a social mandate and a government commitment that requires the participation of all sectors of society.

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 business agenda as companies are facing growing pressure to be responsible citizens.

When companies minimise their environmental risks and foster ethical practices, 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 ensure that 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 expose 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 Index 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 of the environment becomes directed 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 important strategy for relieving hunger and poverty and regenerating the world economy. 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 contributions. Among many environmental problems exist today that can be ameliorated by a combination of education and 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 the environment and its wealth of biodiversity.

To succeed in protecting our waters, 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 business agenda as companies are facing growing pressure to be responsible citizens.

When companies minimise their environmental risks and foster ethical practices, 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 ensure that 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.
**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 with a disability, it was gratifying which provoked my interest in addressing such a difficult yet important topic – Corporate Social Responsibility. This subject is challenging, with regard to the personal responsibility as an entrepreneur, as well as the society.

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 cannot 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 Arctic. A company is connected directly to society, through organisations, donors, and the consumers who use its products.

A company lives and thrives among society. Companies do not act alone. They establish relationships with competitors, 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 corporation should welcome insights 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. A company acts in a long-term goal for future success and avoids short sighted goals, then within this corporation, earnings and ethical behaviour are in harmony.

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. Lastly, but not least, it must act according to and in consideration of its societal responsibility.

The relationship among a corporation, the environment, and society must be considered in the past, we were often economically concerned with the importance of environmental impacts. Fortunately, today we are beginning to see the value of 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 is sustainable development, which entails the unification of economic development and social responsibility. Companies are more than just profit makers. They are able to identify threats to the environment, social cohesion along with sustainable development, and are required to stricter standards for companies and to the adoption of increased protective measures.

Today’s businesses are being encouraged 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.

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

George Kanzatopoulos, 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 the 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 event hosted by Dr. Varianos-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 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 seeing 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 helping responsibility fully in the spirit of good citizenship.

I am certain that the activities that the Biopolitics International Organisation has been conducting 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.
Forests and the Earth’s Future

Global poverty is a multi-faceted issue. Unless all its dimensions are addressed in a comprehensive and coordinated way, the problem will be environmental degradation, destruction of natural resources and loss of biological diversity, which contribute to a cycle of poverty. Forests are crucial in creating and sustaining livelihoods and can contribute immensely to the alleviation of large scale poverty.

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 to extinction every day and approximately 30,000 annually.
- 85% to 90% of all species are found in tropical forests, despite the fact that they cover less than 10% of the world’s land surface.
- Tropical rain forests include many different forest types. They are, without doubt, 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.

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 forest 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 a threat to the environment especially for the poor who often live with minimal settings that are more susceptible to natural disasters. Forests prevent soil erosion and can therefore prevent the accumulation of water and preventing flooding. The FAO identifies that one of the leading causes of deforestation is the extension of subsistence agriculture 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 a clear need for immediate action to put illegal forest activities to a halt.

As proclaimed by BIOD 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 in 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 unprepared to sell logging rights to ensure economic growth, a short-term solution but necessary. Guyana is an example of an 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 forests can be harnessed to achieve greater diversity and alleviating poverty must continue in order to ensure the best solution for these concerns. Policies may or may not be the same 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.

In conclusion, economies can afford to prioritise environmental policy unlike less economically developed countries, which prioritise the basic needs for their country. Another important question in the international discussion regarding the forests is whether high biodiversity to the forest leads to increased natural resource exploitation as well as more unsustainable patterns of exploitation.

Protecting precious forest resources…

Poverty and the environment

A 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 is $1.3 billion dollars in 1999 in contrast with the combined incomes of the 582 million people living in the 43 least developed countries is $1.46 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 serious 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, 68% 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 bio-diversity we will be increasing the amount of available food which will alleviate poverty in many parts of the world.

The liberalisation trend has proved environmentally destruc-
tive in many cases; there are no sim-
ple solutions related to forests al-
leviating 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 pol-
icy level to reflect the two interde-
pendent global goals, since the non-
preservation of biodiversity will have negative consequences for all human existence, both rich and poor.

BIO-POLICY

APRIL - JUNE 2005
f never solved. Often accompanying poverty from which people are hard-pressed to escape.

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 emergencies. 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 of these key 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 plantation agriculture as long as the 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 protected when profit is at risk. ENS is to be respected 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.

...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 protected areas.
- Two percent of the world’s forests are certified as being managed in a sustainable manner, with about 92% of these forests being 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 industrialised countries are managed according to formal or informal management plans.
- Forests are important natural capital, however, most forests are located in semi-rural and rural 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.

Borneo Tropical Rainforest Foundation

BIO has launched an ecotourism project with the Borneo Tropical Rainforest Foundation and has submitted a joint proposal for the implementation of an ecotourism initiative to the Government of Malaysia. The Borneo Tropical Rainforest Foundation is founded and headed by Marjina Aminz, an enlightened visioneer 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 rainforest 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 the neighboring zones as well, most crucially, the international scientific and 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.
- 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. BIO 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.
Bios Rights – A pivotal concept in environmental policy

Since inception, the Biopolis International Organisation promotes bios rights as a protection of “bios rights” as pivotal concepts in environmental policy. As outlined in the Bio- Polity 2040, 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 life in the laws, constitutions and regulatory codes of states, including wildlife and all other 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 to reduce the damage posed to natural 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.

The protection of the rights of all forms of life must be enforced in the laws and regulations of all states and international organisations. It is very effective at absorbing ultraviolet rays. This 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.

Universal Declaration of Plant Rights

Preamble:
Whereas: Due to the immense and accelerating disappearance of vegetation in the world, especially in the tropics, where there is already an irreplaceable 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 at the expense of Nature. For that reason it is important to take immediate action to conserve our plants.

Whereas: Plants absorb carbon dioxide and emit oxygen, that is vital for life on earth.

Whereas: Tropical forests are particularly important because they are the oxygen producers in the world.

Whereas: Plants are also involved in the water cycle, in the higher altitudes in the tropics there are clouds, 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 nutrient levels, reducing its productivity.

Whereas: The uncontrolled exploitation and burning of timber for firewood and wood fueling of the broad river and the excessive use of pesticides may contaminate rivers, lakes and seas causing greening of the balance of the marine biodiversity as has occurred with the catastrophic flowering of micro algae (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, to just, as animals do, free of excessive human exploitation, be it in the name of sport or science, exhibition or service, nutrition or fashion.

The goal ultimately is to prevent the 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 and undisturbed, endemic vegetation, from cloud forests, to high plateaus, to high plateaus down to beaches, mangrove swamps and deserts.

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.

This ozone layer, so important in making terrestrial life possible, is currently under threat from various sources, including chlorofluorocarbons and nitrogen oxides. 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 plant microbiology, in the protection of plants, in the protection against insects and weeds, in nitrogen fixation, in their essential role in the nitrogen cycle.

The advances of micro- biological genetics has enabled biotechnologists to establish real “bio-factories” with the aid of some microbial species, that 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, therefore, 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, 1998, the Secretary General of the UN issued a special declaration, symbolically “baptised” with the green leaves of the UN on the very same day as the adoption of the UDHR, declaring that “humanity has a responsibility to protect the environment, the natural heritage, the biodiversity and all life on earth.”

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 representatives in Caracas. The hope is for an urgent action of all nations to support the process.

It is very encouraging to see that the B.O. D. is making a serious effort to raise awareness of the importance of bio rights and to sensitize people everywhere on the crucial need of information and protection on our planet are gradually being rewarded. However, time is of the essence. As more and more people acknowledge the urgency of saving bio, 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.

**Univeral Declaration of Plant Rights**

**Article 11.** Encourage the cultivation of nourishing, medicinal, ornamental and other useful plants of all kinds 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 research, 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 climatic conditions, in paradise environments for their own benefit.

**Article 13.** Create seed banks and gene banks for the genetic care of plants and establish nurseries in each region avoiding the inevitable utilisation for nutrition or ornamental purposes, but for all plants, as 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 protect and cultivate them in a controlled environment.

**Article 16.** Although the plants themselves try to cure man of various diseases and wants, we humans may intervene e.g. with tree seals and other measures. 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 wood-grabbing by animals.

**Article 18.** Use preferably organic fertilizers for growing plants. Dead plants ought to be used in compost instead of being burnt, or thrown into place as habitat for other species.

**Article 19.** Plants for scientific use may be used, only if it is not harmful to the plants, to be used as habitat for other species.

**The 56th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was celebrated with another important document: the Universal Declaration of Plant Rights.**
Tasmania’s wilderness
Australian ancient native forests at risk

In the October 1999 BioNews edition, The Wilder- ness Society, an organization 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, has announced it is retiring. As the future. And the prospects for this organization may well determine the projects for these ancient native forests.

Gunn Ltd., Australia’s biggest logging company and exporter of hardwoods, has sued The Wilderness Society (TWS) and the other defendants engaged in a court case which constituted a conspiracy to injure Gunn by unlawful means, and that they illegally suppressed the trade in timber, which is a basic right of freedom of speech. The Wilderness Society states that “it is an illegal precedent set and people are successfully sued for speaking out against the destruction of our natural world, this is all our wilderness and wildlife under threat.”

TWS sees this as a potentially dangerous attempt to undermine their trade in timber and freedom of speech in Australia. Environmental and community groups provide the main channel by which public support for change can be expressed. Historically, it is a public opinion that has brought about social, political and envi- ronmental change. If individuals are threatened by law suits brought on by powerful corpo- rations, they 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 volun- teers is facing increased pressure on people already restricted resources. If you are interested in more information about TWS or would like to help, you could visit www.wilderness.org.au.

UNESCO declaration on universal norms on bioethics
First intergovernmental meeting of experts

On 4-6 April 2005, Paris, UNESCO held its 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 Del- egate for the Hellenic National Com- mission for UNESCO. The final dec- laration will address the increasingly com- plex areas of medicine and the various life sciences that are giving rise to a wide range of bioethical challenges and the resulting need to develop univer- sally applicable ethical guidelines with- in bioethics. UNESCO has already contributed to the formulation of basic principles in bioethics through two major instru- ments: the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights

Quality of life and the ethics of health

The Eleventh Annual General Assembly of the Pontifi- cal Academy for Life was held on 21-22 February and addressed the important issue of “Qual- ity of Life and the Ethics of Death” in Europe, 2005. The Assembly was con- sulted by 12 experts in the field of quality of life and ethics of death. The B.I.O. President, who serves as Corresponding Member of the Acade- my, was invited to address the General Assembly and to contribute to the deliberations, which covered sev- eral issues including: the management of world health; reproductive health and demographic policies; the prin- ciple 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 envi- ronment and to extreme poverty in many parts of the planet, are endan- gering 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 International Bioethics Society (IBS) will be sponsoring its 17th World Conference on Bioethics, at the International Foul Air Astoria (ITFMA), in Athens, 20-24 November 2005. The Conference will be focusing on the following five topics: privacy and genetic data; biomedical weapons; access to sanitary systems and medicine; violence; life and its develop- ment.

The B.I.O. President, who is also a member of IBS’s Scientific Committee, will be delivering a keynote address on “Bioethics and Defence for Life”.

Accessibility to life – Drama, Greece

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Bio ethics Conference on Bioethics in Gijon, Spain

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Ethics Committee for Health Research of Burkina Faso

BIO has established cooperation with Dr. Bindu Ouboua, President of the Ethics Committee for Health Research of Burkina Faso, Dr. Ouboua, 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 deter- mine the ethical standards of policies for research and education concerning human health.
Hellenic-Turkish Cooperation in Biopolitics: The Symposium was organized by the Biopolitics International Organisation (B.I.O.), under the auspices of the Ambassador of Turkey, Tahsin Burcugan. The aim of the event, which was chaired by the B.I.O. President, Dr. Agni Vlavianos-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.

Governing with a vision of sustainability

Dr. Rusen Keles
Ankara University, Turkey

Professor Rusen Keles notes 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 agreements and environmental treaties, have consciously cooperated in the protection of our natural and historical heritage along the lines inspired by the principle of sustainable development. Recent decision of the European Union to begin negotiations with Turkey towards full membership ensures 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 expenditure allocate managing environmental purposes in order to fund programs in cultural development, health and education, eradicate the effects of the ecological crisis, poverty, and the protection of the environment. A strict enforcement of laws is an absolute necessity.

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. Kadri 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. Kadri Kocdemir, Governor of Elazig, stressed that, aside from the economic and social dimensions, environmental and cultural impacts, globalisation is also affecting the way governments rule in the 21st century. Globalisation has reduced the importance of borders, 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 cooperation. This is particularly important for environmental problems that cross national borders, such as depletion of the ozone layer, air quality, and biodiversity. The objective of global governance is to co-ordinate the government actions 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

Professor Yusuf Erbay, Governor of the Region of Yalova, stated 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 outcome of years of reflection and effort by the Council of Europe. This undoubtedly helped to foster transfrontier cooperation in Europe. A project conducted in Turkey has concluded that the local authorities along the borders of Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria are open and are seeking transfrontier cooperation, especially in the area of environmental protection to investigate local and regional 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 the quality of life. It is already evident that science and technology have become a mechanism for the imposition of interests. This mechanism, however, does not take into consideration the interests of modern humanity. The development model we have espoused destroys the environment and natural resources, leading to instability for the entire planet.

As we are developing a technology society, where every individual will be technologically literate, it is essential to pay attention to the ethical issues involved in it. How is technology perceived by each society and technology policy gives a mechanism for the protection of the environment and technology gives development and wealth, at the cost of the earth? This is not a philosophical or abstract question. It is a 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 Zerofis
University of Athens, Greece

Professor Christos Zerofis from the University of Athens presents some critical facts concerning atmospheric pollution and stressed the importance of the participation of society. In this context, the air pollution and the situation is getting worse. In 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 environmental issues.

An important area of cooperation between Greece and Turkey is the application of free radical technologies in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Free radicals are present in areas of the planet with a lot of sunlight, such as the Mediterranean. Sunlight breaks down water vapour and releases free radicals. In addition, free 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 technologies will be particularly important after 2018. When greenhouse gas emissions will be the application of the Kyoto protocol.

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 outlined that the architecture in the 20th century has played a big role in exploiting natural resources and causing pollution and instability in our environment. Most assume that cars and factories cause environmental damage, but in fact buildings consume more than half the energy used worldwide through lighting, heating, and cooling.

Architectural design and construction in the past has not taken 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 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 Alpapat
Ankara University, Turkey

Professor Berna Alpapat 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 society and must be an ideal solution as institutions that provide lifelong training and education to people of all ages. City museums in particular protect the cultural heritage 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 lesson 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 formation of the bio-culture by improving the value of life and support the natural environment. City museums exist in all cities in the world, and we must encourage these institutions to address the internationalisation of education, research, and services to society in order to compete in the global education market. Professors Uğurlu and Ipek from Istanbul Technical University, eminent experts emphasised that in order to respond to the challenges of globalisation, higher education has to be 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. Internationalisation of education has more importance than building programmes in international relations, foreign languages, culture and history. It is to say how an institution will compete with a foreign institution, with its pool of local students, professors, standards and methods.

Gulsun SaglamER
Rector, Istanbul Technical University, Turkey

In addressing the issue of internationalisation of higher education, Professor Gulsun Saglam, rector of Istanbul Technical University, emphasised that in order to respond to the challenges and increasing pressure, the universities have to be international.

Saglam said: “We need to cooperate on a well-planned and aggressive strategy for future generation. We should provide an interdisciplinary programme leading to a new generation of business experts with environmental values.”

We should also determine measurable quantitative targets to monitor the effectiveness of the new curricula and the new courses. We should continue to improve educational programmes for the future. We must act as a potential to become part of the international society.

Constantine Stephanou
International and European Studies, Panteion University, Greece

Professor Constantine Stephanou, Director of International European Studies at Panteion University, mentioned that the international level, the economic level, and the market work regarding environmental governance is the outcome of the interplay between civil society and the market level. Therefore, 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 adversely impact their companies, hence they prefer to adopt voluntary mechanisms to avoid legal liability and which preserve their flexibility in the face of rapidly changing technologies and markets.

The EU level, however, states that these rules are committed to the implementation of rules and directives.

RESOLUTIONS

The Biopolitics International Organisation (B.I.O.) Symposium on “Hellenic-Turkish Cooperation in Biopolis” 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 banks to preserve endemism and 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 unite 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 the need for 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 incorporate 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
Hellenic-Turkish Cooperation in Biopolicy
Faculty of Political Science, Ankara University

A follow-up to the Symposium on the 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 R.I.O. President and by Professor Rusen Koca, distinguished B.I.O. Trustee. The co-organizers of the event included Professors Berna Alpagut and Aysegul Kaplan Mengi of Ankara University, and Dr. Metem Vilmun of Hacettepe University. The following eminent speakers took part in the deliberations: Ambassador Yigit Alapog, Secretary General, National Security Council, Professor Muzaffer Eryilmaz, Mayor of Cankaya Municipality; Professor Can Hamann, Director of Social Sciences Institute, Ankara University; Dr. Nevrin Algina, Director of the Environmental Research Centre, Ankara University; Dr. Nurettin Simsek, Director of the Distance Learning Centre, Ankara University; Professor Cokmuk Ozgun, Classical Archaeology Department, Ankara University; Dr. Ozer Erdogan, History Department, Ankara University; Professor Rezan Emiroglu, Political Science, Ankara University; Professor Korkut Hakinari, Agriculture Faculty of Ankara University; Professor Sabihettin Karabulut, Faculty of Public Administration, Ankara University; Professor Cevat Arslan, Ankara University; Professor Necdet Serin, Retired, Ankara University; Dr. Nevrin Alpog, Political Sciences Faculty, Ankara University; Dr. Mehmet Tuncer, Gazi University; Dr. Nevrin Cobanoglu, Gazi University; Dr. Erol Demir, Ankara University; Dr. Hakan Yigitbasi, Ankara University; Dr. Ercan Duygu, Biology Department, Ankara University; Dr. Bulut Akdemir, Ankara University; Dr. Ayakt Cihan, Political Sciences Faculty, Ankara University; Dr. Ismet Duru, Political Sciences Faculty, Ankara University.

The following success the previous Biopolitics events held in Turkey [in Triathlon (1989 & 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 biopolitics and biopolicy as a vehicle for meeting the challenges of the new millennium. As pounded by B.O. since 1985, destruction, pollution, and other threats to the environment are international problems, and the regional and international mechanisms to respond to this challenge are now more widespread and more equitable for future generations.
Peace and the environment
Dubai

The Euro-Arab Cooperation Centre conferred its prestigious prize for "Peace and Environment" to H.J.L. Shilkikh Maulon 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 award was organized by the Euromed Network of the Euro-Arab Cooperation Centre (EAC). As Member of the VEA Board, the B.I.O. President participated in the award ceremony.

Grenacco International's Media Forum, 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 and development of disadvantaged participating countries will include: Dr. Wannari Mahtadhi, Nobel Peace Prize Winner and the 2001 Nobel Book of Lamba of Tibet, Tenzin Gyatso, Nobel Peace Prize 1989, Monsignor Vincenzo Pagliuca, Bishop of Trento, Jesse Zettlin, Executive Director, Women's Environment and Development Organisation: Amardhita Roy, Author of "God of Small Things"; Wang Yonghe.

Environment – way of peace
Greenaccord Media Forum on the Protection of Nature

Rome, Italy

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 and secular reflection and a continuous debate on the role and the responsibility of journalists towards environmental subjects. The purpose of the International Media Forum is to provide a space 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."

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 presents four scenarios for the next 25 years, on March 1, 2005, at a conference sponsored by the Institute for Environmental Security (IES). The B.I.O. President was invited by Ronald Kingdom of the IES to participate in the discussions. The event was co-organised by the Institute for Environmental Security.

Annual World Bank Conference
Researchers Alliance for Development

As a 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, non-governmental and multidisciplinary network of researchers and academics in the development field that supports the World Bank and contributes innovative responses to poverty and development challenges by strengthening international 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 organizations 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 academic policymakers, and representatives from civil society and the private sector to exchange views on development challenges and the fight against 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 organizations 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.

Energy efficiency and renewable energy sources
Plovdiv, Bulgaria

A national International Congress themed "Energy Efficiency, 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 organizer of international exhibitions and conferences in the field of energy-related issues. It was held under the auspices of the Bulgarian Ministry of Economics, the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, the Ministry of Energy and Energy Resources, the Ministry of Environment and Water Protection, the Bulgarian Sea and Marine Institute, the World Organization for Animal Health, and the World Health Organization.

The B.I.O. President participated as a member of the Scientific Committee for the event and delivered a keynote opening address on "Energy Efficiency 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 leaders to develop a variety of topics concerning clean energy and environmental protection, including: European policy concerning energy savings, the level of European energy policy implementation in energy conservation, and environmental protection schemes and instruments for the implementation and promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources in south-east Europe; emissions trading; education; development; 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. Reproducing the Marshall Plan, it serves the political, science and non-governmental organisation across Europe. The Initiative was developed 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 international organisations. 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. is 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
President of the Artistic Academy of Sciences, Professor Igor Volf, Professor Boris Skakaliev, and representatives of the administration of the resort district of St. Petersburg.

The XIII Youth Bios Olympiad, a special anniversary event, will be held in St. Petersburg on November 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, the B.I.O. is participating in the "Youth Farm" project, a partnership formed within the framework of the 10th IFA International Agricultural Union Vocational Training Programme. The project aims at enhancing concrete agricultural activities and entrepreneurship among young farmers, in order to achieve an occupation and enhancement of the competitiveness of rural areas and to the creation 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 sought support in other European countries, in Greece, the UK, Italy, Poland, Czechia, and Slovenia, with the goal to project the environmental, biological knowledge and information on areas that, despite their important role in the sustainable management of agriculture, have not been addressed before. In order to address such areas, the B.I.O. is enabling 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 take the necessary precautions to prevent them from occurring. It also continues with the theme of green farming, with the help of the B.I.O., 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.
Bio-Education online

Bio-education to enrich sustainability

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 applied for registrations in our courses from the 52 countries shown below. The hope is to inspire new thinking in environmental education and to enrich the concepts of sustainable development.

Bio-education is only a click away

Of planet’s health and survival, 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 bio. 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 BioEnvironment (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 cooperation 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 inefable thinking processes that lead people to serious threats to the environment and life on our planet, immediate action is critical. 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 stereotypical fragments of education and exclusion. The study of critical 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 http://bio@otenet.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.

Grecian 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 to optimise the cultural wealth of humanity.

Biopolitics International Organisation

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