T he deterioration of the global environment is threatening the very continuation of life on our planet. Poverty, hunger, disease, environmental degradation, a declining resource base, the loss of species and habitats, climate change, inadequate water supplies, desertification—all these are global problems. They do not respect national boundaries and they are all related. Addressing them will require an unprecedented level of international cooperation. If we are to solve the problems of our world, nations must redirect their efforts away from conflict toward environmental restoration and the eradication of poverty, hunger and disease. This is the goal and vision of bio-policy.

Bio-policy - A Vision for the Millennium
20 Years of B.I.O. – The Race to Save Bios on our Planet

Bio-diplomacy

Bio-diplomacy focuses on the inter-relation of all forms of life, and calls upon diplomats and other people of influence to engage in a collective effort in the defence of the environment. Joint efforts to protect the environment can boost international relations and act as a bridge between global communities at the national and local levels. Bio-diplomacy actively supports efforts to maintain biological and cultural diversity and seeks to improve human relations and to attain the goal of world peace by replacing current diplomatic attitudes with a complete international and inter-cultural perspective. War is the opposite of this diplomacy and it represents the ultimate failure of diplomacy. Whereas the purpose of bio-diplomacy is to protect life in all its forms, the purpose of war is to destroy life and human cultures in order to gain control and power. Defence for life must become a priority in every facet of our lives.

Defence for life

B.I.O. believes that the greatest challenge for the 21st century is the permanent conversion of existing defence infrastructure into programmes for the defence of the planet. The nations of the world should stop investing in instruments of destruction and begin investing in instruments of peace for the protection of our common environment. Competitors should find better methods to destroy and to replace cooperation to find ways to save life. Existing defence manpower and equipment can be adapted for peaceful tasks such as reforestation, habitat restoration, water resource clean up, soil erosion recovery, protection of the ozone layer and de-contamination of areas affected by nuclear radiation. These problems represent real threats to the continuation of life on our planet, and no human resource should be spared to contain them.

Bio-diplomacy - international cooperation in environmental protection is a concept that was pioneered by B.I.O. twenty years ago, at a time when civic leaders, international organisations and the world community as a whole had not yet fully realised the urgency of adopting common environmental policy. Bio-diplomacy focuses on the inter-relation of all forms of life, and calls upon diplomats and other people of influence to engage in a collective effort in the defence of the environment. Joint efforts to protect the environment can boost international relations and act as a bridge between global communities at the national and local levels. Bio-diplomacy actively supports efforts to maintain biological and cultural diversity and seeks to improve human relations and to attain the goal of world peace by replacing current diplomatic attitudes with a complete international and inter-cultural perspective. War is the opposite of this diplomacy and it represents the ultimate failure of diplomacy. Whereas the purpose of bio-diplomacy is to protect life in all its forms, the purpose of war is to destroy life and human cultures in order to gain control and power. Defence for life must become a priority in every facet of our lives.

Defence infrastructure needs to be converted into programmes for the defence of the planet.

Africa

Biodiversity, water, bio-education, equity and poverty are just some of the issues that urgent-need to be addressed in Africa (p.8-9).

The most beautiful state

The race of human greed prevails in today’s society. It is important to draw joy and inspiration from the miracle of bios (p.16).

World Referendum

The B.I.O. World Referendum urges every citizen on the planet to cast a vote in defence of bios (life) and the environment (p.15).

Millennium Development Goals

The UN Millennium Development Goals set clear targets for reducing poverty and other sources of human deprivation, and for promoting sustainable development (p.1, 8-9.10).

Contents

What is BIO 2
Goals, sponsors, editorial
BIO Progress 3, 7, 14, 15
Latest activities & events
Bio-Education 4, 5
e-Learning, networking
Bio-Economics 10, 11
Corporate social responsibility
Money Show
Bio-Policy 1, 2, 8, 9, 14
UN Millennium Development Goals
Eradication of poverty
Bio-Ethics 7, 14
Bio-History 6
Bio-Diplomacy 3, 12, 13, 15
Dag Hammarskjold Centenary
Bio-Tourism 7, 16
Youth projects 3
Youth Bios Olympiads 2
BIO Publications 4, 5
CD-Roms, books, web publishing

BIO News

NO. 44 - OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2005
Bio News

Bios may serve as a lever to lift the spirit of the world
www.biopolitics.gr

The degradation of the environment emphasises the urgency and the need for coherent long-term international strategy and cooperation. The increased mobility of goods, services, labour, technology and capital through the world, facilitated by technological advancements in communication and transportation that has been called globalisation, and the drive for vigorous economic inquiry into the opportunities and challenges ahead. Increasingly, with information and communication technologies empowering individuals everywhere, humanity’s future rests with new models of thought, communication, action and participation. A new millennium vision in policy, bio-policy, is needed to guarantee the continuity of bios on our planet and to lead society to a harmonious future.
BIO NEWS
October — December 2005

BIO GOALS

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF BIOS (LIFE) AND THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT

The environment recognises no ideological or geographical boundaries, no East-West, North-South or developed-developing countries. Bios provides the unifying force for the harmonious co-existence of all forms of life, leading to a new era of bio-diplomacy.

BIO-CULTURE - BIO-ENVIRONMENT

Two essential dimensions for building new societal values for the millennium.

PROMOTION OF BIO-EDUCATION

The International University for the Bio-Environment (I.U.B.E.) was launched to reform education worldwide by promoting biocentric curricula and satellite education.

BIO-ASSESSMENT OF TECHNOLOGY

A diachronic search for new societal values will channel technological progress in a direction that leads to a better quality of life through environmental appreciation.

INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION ON BIOS RIGHTS

It is important to protect all forms of life by enacting rules that prevent the deterioration of bios and ensure the fundamental right to a clean environment and to a better quality of life.

A WORLD REFERENDUM

This would allow people throughout the world to express their commitment to preserve bios on our planet.

RAISING AWARENESS OF THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

More people would realise that progress in the biological sciences relates to their own field of interest. This acknowledgement may lead to new fields of human endeavour, such as bio-legislation, bio-medicine, bio-ethics, bio-arts, bio-linguistics, bio-economics, bio-athletics, bio-communication, bio-history, bio-education and bio-diplomacy.

ENVIRONMENTAL OLYMPICS - BIOS PRIZES

Bios Prizes for every discipline with the participation of every member of society to reward excellence in environmental protection.

CEASE-FIRE DURING THE OLYMPIC GAMES

Since the 1980’s, B.I.O. has promoted the introduction of a cease-fire during the Olympic Games, a proposal whose implementation has been adopted as a Resolution by the UN General Assembly.

PROPOSED ACTION

a Bio-Syllabus and new curricula for every level of education, as well as electronic and audio-visual materials on issues related to bios and the environment

a Green Salary in place of benefits for the unemployed, with the commitment to contribute to the protection of the environment

Environmental Action Groups drawing both on the enthusiasm of the young and the experience of senior citizens to tackle local issues

Local Genetic Banks to save the biodiversity of endemic plant and animal species and to promote a world-wide interdisciplinary exchange of information on the appreciation of the environment

an electronic Bank of Ideas to create a rich repository of information and reflections on bios.

SPONSORS 2005

Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Hellenic Aid Department – YDAS
Kitty P. Kyriacopoulos
European Commission
Leonardo da Vinci Programme
Ministry of Culture
Alpha Bank
A.G. Leventis Foundation
OTE
OTEnet
DHL International
Hotel Herodion
Irene Vassilopoulou
Hellas-on-Line
Xerox Hellas S.A.
Hewlett-Packard Hellas

BIO IN 131 COUNTRIES

Africa
Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe

The Americas
Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, USA, Uruguay, Venezuela

Asia
Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Dubai, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, The Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, 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

E D I T O R I A L

Humanity has been given a final opportunity to respect the close relationship that exists between its actions and the environment. The UN Millennium Development Goals have set an international agenda for correcting the inequities of the past. Protecting and managing the global environment rationally will be the most challenging task for the new millennium.

The current crisis in values is a great threat, not only to the environment but also to peace.

The UN Millennium Development Goals call for cutting by one half, the number of people who suffer from hunger by 2015. To meet the challenge of feeding the world’s hungry, society must focus upon reforming political institutions, creating appropriate technologies, promoting cultural capital and enabling institutional frameworks that favour policy for environmental protection. Key to these goals is the increased use of participatory research methods, proper agrarian policies and local capacity building.

Poverty and food security are social and economic issues, but are also at the root of many environmental problems in developing countries. As world population expands in these regions, the ability to provide basic necessities is threatened. In the 21st century, agricultural policy will have to complement development policies and programmes with the aim of increasing food production and personal incomes without further degrading local environments.

Food security - providing all the people with sufficient food at all times to meet their daily dietary needs for a healthy and productive life - is an essential precondition for economic and social development in every country. Achieving food security is more than just an issue of food production, nutrition, and food aid. Hunger is a severe manifestation of poverty, and alleviation depends on the long run on sustainable and broad-based economic growth and income generation. To achieve these conditions, underdeveloped countries must invest in rural areas to strengthen agriculture, the food system, and infrastructure, and to restore and conserve critical natural resources for agricultural production. This requires both public and private investment, and the political will to implement the necessary changes.

Bio News is published by the Biopolitics International Organisation

Publisher and Editor — Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis
Deputy editor — Helen Papadimitriou
Production design — Thanasis Kontogiannis
Editorial consultants — Ermis Vovakis, Beatrice Zimmermann, Terena Barajas, Viki Zaphiriou-Zarifi

ISSN 1106 - 5117

BIOPOLITICS INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION
10 Tim. Vassou, Athens 11521, Greece
Tel: (30210) 6432419, Fax: (30210) 6434093
E-MAIL: bios@iinet.gr • URL: www.biopolitics.gr
BIO PROGRESS

October — December 2005

Protection of Nature, Way of Peace: Greenaccord Media Forum - Rome

The environment was the main topic of this year’s Third International Forum organised by Greenaccord held in Rome from October 12 through 15. The purpose of the forum was to link the protection of nature with the path of peace. Greenaccord addresses the national and international media community and aims to provide a setting for reflecting, training, and the exchange of ideas for international journalists interested in the protection of the environment.

On the first day, Loic Fauchon, President of the World Water Council, gave a speech on ‘International cooperation and the right to water’. Dr. Agni Vlavianos Arvanitis addressed the ‘Protection of Nature as an Instrument for Peace - The Role of the Media’. Particular emphasis was placed on the power of the media to raise awareness, provide correct information, empower citizens, encourage action, emphasise the urgency of a situation and affect decision-making in environmental issues. From Nairobi, Dr. Wangari Maathai, 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner and President of the Green Belt Movement, gave her lecture via a videoconference presentation. Dr. Maathai emphasised the importance of making peace with the environment in order to build peace between peoples.

The beautiful Villa Mondragone in Monte Porzio, where the Gregory calendar was adopted in the sixteenth century, was the location of the forum. The forum convened distinguished participants including: Armudhati Roy, author; Zenin Gyato, 1989 laureate of the Nobel Peace Prize; and Professor Michael Renner of the Worldwatch Institute. Professor Julia Marton-Lefevre, Rector of the University for Peace in Costa Rica, stressed that peace should be achieved through the most valuable and effective resource that man possesses: education. Following his presentation Dr. Caleb Fumanga, the Governor of the Bank of Zambia, proposed the Greenaccord Forum take place in Zambia next year. The event inspired vital debate and discussion around environmental issues and journalistic responsibility.

Major Issues of the 21st Century - London

The Fourth City of London Biennial Meeting is to be held on the 6th and 7th of December at the International Maritime Organisation in London. The B.I.O. president has been invited to attend the event alongside leading businessmen, politicians, diplomats and senior academics from the United Kingdom.

Chaired by Professor Costas Gramenos, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University, the event will feature a number of talks on ‘World Economy and Business’ and ‘Financial Markets’.

Agiota Vlavianos Arvanitis addressed the ‘Protection of Nature as an Instrument for Peace - The Role of the Media’. Particular emphasis was placed on the power of the media to raise awareness, provide correct information, empower citizens, encourage action, emphasise the urgency of a situation and affect decision-making in environmental issues. From Nairobi, Dr. Wangari Maathai, 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner and President of the Green Belt Movement, gave her lecture via a videoconference presentation. Dr. Maathai emphasised the importance of making peace with the environment in order to build peace between peoples.

The biennial meeting is to be held on the 6th and 7th of December at the International Maritime Organisation in London. The B.I.O. president has been invited to attend the event alongside leading businessmen, politicians, diplomats and senior academics from the United Kingdom.

Chaired by Professor Costas Gramenos, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University, the event will feature a number of talks on ‘World Economy and Business’ and ‘Financial Markets’.

The Fourth City of London Biennial Meeting is to be held on the 6th and 7th of December at the International Maritime Organisation in London. The B.I.O. president has been invited to attend the event alongside leading businessmen, politicians, diplomats and senior academics from the United Kingdom.

Chaired by Professor Costas Gramenos, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University, the event will feature a number of talks on ‘World Economy and Business’ and ‘Financial Markets’.

XII Youth Bios Olympiad 2006 and International Youth Conference on the Bio-Environment

September 15-18, 2006
St. Petersburg, Russia

The Annual Youth Bios Olympiad celebrated its tenth anniversary with great success in St. Petersburg on September 20 through 24. The event was attended by 600 children from cities throughout Russia and eastern Europe.

To mark this special occasion, the Biopolitics International Organisation honoured Professor Alexander Shirshkin, head of the Laboratory of Ecological Standardization at St. Petersburg State University for Plant Pathogens, with an Award recognizing his commitment to youth and his outstanding contribution in promoting bios values. Thanks to the inspired efforts of Professor Shirshkin, 36 bio school projects have been developed.

The Youth Bios Olympiad brings together children of all ages in a spirit of creativity, environmental awareness with a view to emphasising the importance of cooperation between technology and the arts in the race to save the environment. Through scientific projects, oral presentations, and a variety of artistic and music competitions, the participants develop their skills and are encouraged to think creatively about all aspects of the environment.

During the event, participants present a multitude of creative projects on environmental research in real-life areas: assessment of the environment; problems of flora protection; problems of fauna protection; hydrobiological and hydrochemical research; medical and social aspects of the environment; research on the state of ecosystems; solid and industrial wastes; international cooperation in bio-environment. Diplomas are awarded to environmental research projects and creative environmental works.

Youth Bios-Schools

The event is an initiative of the Biopolitics International Organisation and the Interregional Ecological Club of Post-Graduates, Students and Schoolchildren of the Baltic-Ladoga Region inviting young people between the ages of 15 and 22 to participate in the Bio-School (ecological camps) to be held three times a year in the suburbs of Saint Petersburg. The youth’s work will take place within the framework of the international projects “Youth for the environment and sustainable development” and “Bio-culture and bio-entertainment in the XXI century”. Using B.L.O. textbooks, the ecological camp programme provides participants with an introduction to bio-politics and bio-legislation, approaches to environmental observation, practical experiences, international programmes on a variety of topics, different aspects of environmental problems in the Baltic-Ladoga region and an historical review of interactions between the bio-environment and humanity. The wide range of scientific and cultural activities include lectures, field practice, laboratory work and discussions, as well as visits to museums, theatres and the many historical places of Saint Petersburg. In addition, extra-curricular activities, such as sports competitions, environmental games, amateur performances and dance parties, are also organised.

During the camps participants are given the opportunity to prepare material for next year’s XII International Youth Bios Olympiad, which will be held on September 15-18, 2006 in St. Petersburg.

The theme of the lecture will be ‘Biopolity - Building New Values for the Millennium’. The speech will emphasise the fact that winning the battle against world-wide poverty requires a renaissance of values. To embark on a millennium of hope, we need to avoid the mistakes of the past and create a society that will provide corrected information, empower citizens, encourage action, emphasise the urgency of a situation and affect decision-making in environmental issues. From Nairobi, Dr. Wangari Maathai, 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner and President of the Green Belt Movement, gave her lecture via a videoconference presentation. Dr. Maathai emphasised the importance of making peace with the environment in order to build peace between peoples.

The biennial meeting is to be held on the 6th and 7th of December at the International Maritime Organisation in London. The B.I.O. president has been invited to attend the event alongside leading businessmen, politicians, diplomats and senior academics from the United Kingdom.

Chaired by Professor Costas Gramenos, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University, the event will feature a number of talks on ‘World Economy and Business’ and ‘Financial Markets’.

The Fourth City of London Biennial Meeting is to be held on the 6th and 7th of December at the International Maritime Organisation in London. The B.I.O. president has been invited to attend the event alongside leading businessmen, politicians, diplomats and senior academics from the United Kingdom.

Chaired by Professor Costas Gramenos, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University, the event will feature a number of talks on ‘World Economy and Business’ and ‘Financial Markets’.

The Annual Youth Bios Olympiad celebrated its tenth anniversary with great success in St. Petersburg on September 20 through 24. The event was attended by 600 children from cities throughout Russia and eastern Europe.

To mark this special occasion, the Biopolitics International Organisation honoured Professor Alexander Shirshkin, head of the Laboratory of Ecological Standardization at St. Petersburg State University for Plant Pathogens, with an Award recognizing his commitment to youth and his outstanding contribution in promoting bios values. Thanks to the inspired efforts of Professor Shirshkin, 36 bio school projects have been developed.

The Youth Bios Olympiad brings together children of all ages in a spirit of creativity, environmental awareness with a view to emphasising the importance of cooperation between technology and the arts in the race to save the environment. Through scientific projects, oral presentations, and a variety of artistic and music competitions, the participants develop their skills and are encouraged to think creatively about all aspects of the environment.

During the event, participants present a multitude of creative projects on environmental research in real-life areas: assessment of the environment; problems of flora protection; problems of fauna protection; hydrobiological and hydrochemical research; medical and social aspects of the environment; research on the state of ecosystems; solid and industrial wastes; international cooperation in bio-environment. Diplomas are awarded to environmental research projects and creative environmental works.

Youth Bios-Schools

The event is an initiative of the Biopolitics International Organisation and the Interregional Ecological Club of Post-Graduates, Students and Schoolchildren of the Baltic-Ladoga Region inviting young people between the ages of 15 and 22 to participate in the Bio-School (ecological camps) to be held three times a year in the suburbs of Saint Petersburg. The youth’s work will take place within the framework of the international projects “Youth for the environment and sustainable development” and “Bio-culture and bio-entertainment in the XXI century”. Using B.L.O. textbooks, the ecological camp programme provides participants with an introduction to bio-politics and bio-legislation, approaches to environmental observation, practical experiences, international programmes on a variety of topics, different aspects of environmental problems in the Baltic-Ladoga region and an historical review of interactions between the bio-environment and humanity. The wide range of scientific and cultural activities include lectures, field practice, laboratory work and discussions, as well as visits to museums, theatres and the many historical places of Saint Petersburg. In addition, extra-curricular activities, such as sports competitions, environmental games, amateur performances and dance parties, are also organised.

During the camps participants are given the opportunity to prepare material for next year’s XII International Youth Bios Olympiad, which will be held on September 15-18, 2006 in St. Petersburg.
Why is bio-education essential?

Concern over environmental issues is an international task, particularly for highly developed, industrialised countries. We must acknowledge our individual and social responsibilities and the fact that environmental protection involves confronting conflicting interests.

The understanding of changing environmental circumstances and of the fluidity of the concept of environmental protection requires the development of a critical appreciation of the numerous influences affecting the interactions between humanity and the environment. Bio-education would ensure that future leaders in government, business, academia, and the professions respect the environment and not take actions that disregard the past.

Bio-education is an interdisciplinary subject of relevance to many fields of teaching. Given the complexity and the various levels of relationships within society as a whole, a wide range of subjects can contribute to bio-education. Educational institutions should be encouraged to devise their own bio-education profiles, based on their strengths and the overall focus of their activities. The non-exclusive approach of bio-education is an opportunity to lift the barriers separating different disciplines and to offer a well-rounded education, which is not hampered by overspecialisation. New programmes and curricula should be designed with this in mind.

The promotion of bio-education in business, public administration and government should also be emphasised. Programmes for vocational training and seminars for decision-makers are absolutely necessary if environmental awareness is ever intended to produce action.

Bio-education should be disseminated as widely as possible by educational institutions, businesses, municipal authorities, governments, NGOs and other stakeholders. By promoting joint action in all sectors of society, the broad consensus about the development of an environmentally-responsible citizenry can be built.
October — December 2005
BIO-EDUCATION

B.I.O. Publications

Proceedings


Business


Diplomacy

- BIOS IN THE NEXT MILLENNIUM, Lectured by the Right Honourable Lord Ennals sponsored by the British Council and BIO, May 1988
- BIOPOLITICS - PROTECTING THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT: Lectures by His Excellency The Ambassador of Israel, Mr. Moshe Gillboa, at the Third BIO International Conference, June 1991
- BIOPOLITICS - THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT, Presentation at the General Assembly of the Academy of Athens by Academician Professor C. Bosis (Greek), March 1990
- BIOPOLITICS - BIO-DIPLOMACY, A. Vlavianos-Arvanitis, Editor. Hellenic-Ukrainian Symposium, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Athens, October 20, 1998 (Greek, available electronically)

Textbooks

- BIOPOLITICS - DIMENSIONS OF BIOLOGY, A. Vlavianos-Arvanitis (Greek, English), 1985
- BIOPOLITICS - METHODS OF IMPLEMENTATION A. Vlavianos-Arvanitis (Greek, English), 1985
- BIOPOLITICS - BIO-SYLLABUS OUTLINE A. Vlavianos-Arvanitis (Greek, English), 1989, 1990
- BIOPOLITICS - THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT, A. Vlavianos-Arvanitis (Greek, English), 1990
- BIOPOLITICS - EL BIO AMBIENTE A. Vlavianos-Arvanitis (Spanish, 48 pp.), 1998
- BIOPOLITICS - BIOS OLYMPIAD, A. Vlavianos-Arvanitis (Greek, 111 pp.), 2009

Biopolitics - THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT - II (English), A. Vlavianos-Arvanitis, Editor. Proceedings from a Corporate Symposium, Brussels, April 1, 1994

Periodicals

- B.I.O. e-learning courses

Education to enrich sustainability

B.I.O. has launched the second cycle of its e-learning programme; to date, 14 online environmental courses have attracted the participation of representatives from 66 countries. The courses are available free of charge and participants receive a B.I.O. certificate upon successful completion.

Participants from the following 66 countries are currently registered:

Albania Angola Austria Bahamas Bangladesh Belgium Central African Republic Cameroon China Colombia Croatia Czech Republic Greece Egypt Ethiopia France Germany Greece Hungary India Indonesia Iran Iraq Italy Japan Jordan Kenya Korea (South) Kuwait Lebanon Lithuania Luxembourg Malaysia Mexico Moldova Monaco Morocco Nepal Netherlands New Zealand Norway Pakistan Panama Peru Puerto Rico Qatar Romania Russia Serbia and Montenegro Singapore Slovakia Slovenia South Africa Spain Sri Lanka Sweden Switzerland Taiwan Thailand Turkey Ukraine Uruguay Zambia

BIO-EDUCATION

Bio News/αληθέα 5
Bio-history in perspective

The starting point for bio-history on this planet is the origin of bio-life. Bio-history retraces the historical development of both the biosphere and humankind. Humanity’s emergence on earth is envisaged as the outcome of biological evolution. Human presence on the earth is seen as the outcome of human evolution.

Neolithic agrarian societies - have been transformed into one of the first human settlements. In the Balkan region, some of the earliest human settlements were established near rivers, in Epirus and in the environs of Vienna. This is only one example of the fertility cults developed near the life-giving rivers. Similar evidence comes from the east, showing how widespread the Neolithic fertility cult was.

Rivers have been defined, connected with myths about water, rivers or mermaids or ghosts. The river is something that is irrevocably attached to the fertility cult. This natural and the artificial natural resources were considered as the inhabitants of the city-port of Cirrha for trespassing the sacred grove of Apollo decided to punish the inhabitants of the sanctuary and the sacred grove of Orpheas, who had been assassinated, by sending the comeliest kind, collecting the separate products, and conducting the irrigation networks and the joints to house the water and waste removal have been identified in many very ancient, Neolithic settlements. In Bronze Age Greece, Cycladic, Minoan or Mycenaean civilisations have furnished numerous important examples.

Homer and water

Homer’s epic poems provide an important number of references concerning water. They present descriptions of everyday life scenes, but also express the belief that water is a divine, sacred element. Women fetch water from the stream or the fountain, the warrior washes his arms in the river, rinses the floors of the house, spout down dirt from the table. Hands are cleaned before sacrifices and meal. Before sacrifices and meal, water is heated for the b ath or for the cleansing of the warrior’s wounds and the dead man’s body. By the ancient historian Herodotus, the oracle at Delphi foretold that, if the Roman people would not protect the city of Delphi, it would perish. This oracle was fulfilled by the assumption that the Romans under Augustus had constructed dams, such as the famous Augustus Dam on the Danube, in the environs of Vienna. This is only one example of the fertility cults developed near the life-giving rivers. Similar evidence comes from the east, showing how widespread the Middle East and Europe the Stone Age figurines representing an animal. The rivers have been defined, connected with myths about water, rivers or mermaids or ghosts. The river is something that is irrevocably attached to the fertility cult.

Rivers are indispensable, life-ensuing natural resources. On rivers, banks human settlements experienced a cultural transformation. The development of human civilisation, influencing societal and institutional life has been stimulated by rivers.

Water and pollution in ancient Greece

When the famous ancient traveller and geographer Pausanias tried to define the agricultural soils in the areas of Sparta, he mentioned the prerequisite of the fertile soil in which agriculture was possible. As a result, agriculture is seen as the outcome of human evolution.

When the famous ancient traveller and geographer Pausanias tried to define the agricultural soils in the areas of Sparta, he mentioned the prerequisite of the fertile soil in which agriculture was possible. As a result, agriculture is seen as the outcome of human evolution.

Bio-history retraces the historical development of both the biosphere and humankind. In the beginning of the 4th millennium B.C. and have been transformed into one of the first human settlements. In the Balkan region, some of the earliest human settlements were established near rivers, in Epirus and in the environs of Vienna. This is only one example of the fertility cults developed near the life-giving rivers. Similar evidence comes from the east, showing how widespread the Middle East and Europe the Stone Age figurines representing an animal. The rivers have been defined, connected with myths about water, rivers or mermaids or ghosts. The river is something that is irrevocably attached to the fertility cult.

Rivers are indispensable, life-ensuing natural resources. On rivers, banks human settlements experienced a cultural transformation. The development of human civilisation, influencing societal and institutional life has been stimulated by rivers.

Water and pollution in ancient Greece

When the famous ancient traveller and geographer Pausanias tried to define the agricultural soils in the areas of Sparta, he mentioned the prerequisite of the fertile soil in which agriculture was possible. As a result, agriculture is seen as the outcome of human evolution.

When the famous ancient traveller and geographer Pausanias tried to define the agricultural soils in the areas of Sparta, he mentioned the prerequisite of the fertile soil in which agriculture was possible. As a result, agriculture is seen as the outcome of human evolution.

Bio-history in perspective

The starting point for bio-history on this planet is the origin of bio-life. Bio-history retraces the historical development of both the biosphere and humankind. Humanity’s emergence on earth is envisaged as the outcome of biological evolution. Human presence on the earth is seen as the outcome of human evolution.

Neolithic agrarian societies - have been transformed into one of the first human settlements. In the Balkan region, some of the earliest human settlements were established near rivers, in Epirus and in the environs of Vienna. This is only one example of the fertility cults developed near the life-giving rivers. Similar evidence comes from the east, showing how widespread the Middle East and Europe the Stone Age figurines representing an animal. The rivers have been defined, connected with myths about water, rivers or mermaids or ghosts. The river is something that is irrevocably attached to the fertility cult.

Rivers are indispensable, life-ensuing natural resources. On rivers, banks human settlements experienced a cultural transformation. The development of human civilisation, influencing societal and institutional life has been stimulated by rivers.

Water and pollution in ancient Greece

When the famous ancient traveller and geographer Pausanias tried to define the agricultural soils in the areas of Sparta, he mentioned the prerequisite of the fertile soil in which agriculture was possible. As a result, agriculture is seen as the outcome of human evolution.

When the famous ancient traveller and geographer Pausanias tried to define the agricultural soils in the areas of Sparta, he mentioned the prerequisite of the fertile soil in which agriculture was possible. As a result, agriculture is seen as the outcome of human evolution.
**BIO-TOURISM**

**Expanding our Vision**

Tourism is one of the most rapidly developing industries worldwide and offers a clear illustration of why the integration of biology and tourism makes sense. Nevertheless, it exerts dramatic pressures on natural and cultural resources and therefore needs to be managed in a way that can substantially relieve some of these pressures. Bio-tourism, as promoted by the Biocultural Development Organization (B.I.O.) since 1985, encourages environmental and cultural appreciation in tourism, as well as an international exchange of experiences on the basis of environmental preservation. Within this framework, "bio-ethics" is of particular interest to B.I.O.

The tourism industry and the products constructed and promoted affect both the natural and cultural environment in irreversible ways. It is therefore essential that effective ethical guidelines in tourism are developed in order to prevent harmful activities to the environment and to ensure the future viability of the industry.

**Growth of tourism**

Those working in the world tourism industry have an important role — that of protecting the world's rich cultural and biological diversity. It is up to them to ensure that tourism can become the diplomacy of the future uniting all peoples of the world, and its workers are invited to serve as diplomats of the third millennium. Tourism has turned one of the most dynamic industries of the developed world, creating and sustaining a worldwide chain of professions and work places — more than 280 million employees worldwide. Like a norm that acquires massive proportions, tourism has grown to become a threatening hindrance, hidden in the tourist's shoes and in the environments that it touches.

**Impact on the environment**

Inevitably, tourism impacts the environment in various ways. Steadily increasing numbers of people travel to ever more distant destinations. As a direct consequence, large amounts of energy are consumed for transport, human waste, air-conditioning and water consumption, and the atmosphere is polluted as a result. Bio-tourism is intended to be sustainable tourism; it is tourism that does not harm the environment being visited, or the indigenous population. It provides a learning experience for the tourist, while at the same time benefiting the local population. To meet these criteria, bio-tourism must be small in scale. At this point, it becomes necessary to ask: is bio-tourism — or sustainable tourism — truly achievable? Is it a lofty ideal that we must work toward but never quite attain, or is it merely another marketing ploy by the tourism industry to generate profits by appealing to the environmental sensitivity of prospective travellers? To analyse this issue, we must first look at the structure of the tourism industry.

**How bio-tourism works**

The producers of bio-tourism should be genuinely interested in meeting the sustainability objectives of bio-tourism. The tour should be planned to minimize impacts on the natural and cultural environments. Accommodation that practices conservation should receive preference. Tour operators should prepare educational material for the tourists about the area’s natural and cultural environments and should provide information to the tourists about endangered species, illegally traded products in the area, local customs, dress and pattern of behaviour, and basic rules of conservation. Tourists should be encouraged to adopt a code of ethics that respects and promotes bios — all living species.

It is essential that effective ethical guidelines in tourism are developed in order to prevent harmful activities. Bio-tourism should also adopt a code of ethics for tourism. Some options are available, as noted earlier. The producers of bio-tourism should be thoroughly familiar with the environmental and cultural impacts of their activities and should be prepared to take action to avoid the mistakes of the past.

**Environmental management**

One of the main reasons for travelling is the wish to visit regions of natural beauty that have remained unspoilt. For some decades now, the tourism industry has been aware of its responsibility to preserve this “Natural Capital,” as it creates possibilities for millions of people to discover and enjoy the beauty of the natural world. Tourism is a growing industry, and the only way for it to continue to develop and survive over the decades is to follow a course to become effective in this direction. Environmental management presents the challenge of achieving the goal of bio-tourism, which is to develop tourism whilst simultaneously protecting the environment. When all the actors in the tourism industry become fully informed about the principles of bio-tourism and committed to practicing them, then we may feel that bio-tourism and sustainability have been achieved in the tourism industry. Today, we are far from having achieved this.

**Accessibility to better quality of life**

Drama, Greece

The conference Accessibility to Life, organised by the Paraplegic Society of Drama, took place with great success on May 25, 2005. The event was organise and supported by the Mayor of Drama, Mr Thomas Margaritis. The Paraplegic Society of Drama was motivated by B.I.O.'s publication People with Disabilities and Modern Society, and as a result of following the e-learning course on the same topic. In honour of her contribution to the promotion of accessibility and the improvement of the quality of life of people with disabilities, the President of B.I.O. was declared Honorary Citizen of the City of Drama, following a unanimous vote by the City Council.

B.I.O. has suggested that Drama should be named a "city of a global level for its treatment of the issue of accessibility. This would be done within the framework of bio-tourism. The transport system, accessible shops and restaurants, and the special measures taken against illegal parking that blocks disabled access, render Drama a very friendly place towards people with disabilities who wish to visit or live in the city.

The evolution of our society can be judged by the respect we show our disabled fellow citizens and the state provision and care for people with disabilities. People with disabilities are citizens with equal rights. They are workers, consumers, taxpayers, politicians, students, neighbours, relatives and friends and yet too often they are not treated with care.

People with disabilities have the right to participate fully in our society. Since the population of people with disabilities in the European Union is estimated at 37 million, a number seven times the population of Denmark and four times that of Belgium, it is necessary to provide and ensure opportunities for people with disabilities to live in a normal way and as equals. Moreover, accessibility and improved living conditions for people with disabilities should be a priority for every civilised society.
Gender

More women are living in poverty in the world today than men. Some statistics show that women are 70% of the world’s poor, others that they are 55-60%, but all agree that women’s poverty is worsening.

The annual UN Population Fund report published in October of this year states that the war on poverty cannot be won without greater government efforts to tackle gender inequalities. That was the conclusion, according to the report, is education.

Studies have shown that educating and empowering women delivers social benefits. Educated women tend to have fewer children, are more able to educate them and are more likely to earn money. More women than men are affected by HIV in Africa against which educated women tend to be better able to protect themselves. At present, however, it is estimated that approximately 200 million women in Africa are illiterate, compared with 320 million men.

Data on Africa cited in this column is from the following sources: UNDP, Bio News, Avert.org.

Africa - Reaching the wealthy, Avert.org.

Poverty in Africa

- 315 million people - one in two of people in sub-Saharan Africa survive on less than one dollar a day
- 184 million people - 33% of the African population suffer from malnutrition
- less than 50% of Africa’s population has access to hospitals or doctors
- the average life expectancy in Africa is 41 years
- 42% of Africa’s population do not have access to safe drinking water
- aid agencies warn that nearly half Malawis’s 12 million population could starve in the next six months without massive and immediate food donations.
- one in six children in sub-Saharan Africa die before the age of 5. This number is 25 time higher than in the OECD countries
- Africa loses 20,000 skilled workers every year to developed countries.
- 38 African countries are democracies, up from three in 1973
- the average cost of government procurement is 25% higher due to corruption
- 70% of Africa’s food is produced by women
- during the 1990s the average income per capita decreased in 20 countries
- in 2000, 300 million Africans did not have access to safe water
- only 57% of African children are enrolled in primary education
- children account for half of all civilian casualties in wars in Africa
- the African continent lost more than 5.3 million hectares of forests during the 1990s
- less than one person in five has electricity. Of 1,000 inhabitants, 15 have a telephone line and only 8 out of every 1,000 people use the internet
- of the 100 million children not in school, it is estimated that 40 million have disabilities of some kind
- an estimated 25 million people in sub-Saharan Africa are living with HIV
- approximately 3.1 million new HIV infections occurred in 2004
- in the past year the HIV/AIDS epidemic has claimed the lives of an estimated 2.3 million people in sub-Saharan Africa
- a low-cost cure is not found soon, countries with adult HIV infection rates over 20%, such as Botswana, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, will lose one fifth or more of their adult population to AIDS within the next decade
- 9 people are trapped, unable to leave abusive men because they are entirely dependent on them for their survival. Goal three of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) pledges to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment. Through this, we may appear to reaffirm an international commitment to gender equality, concerns have been raised to suggest that the targets and indicators linked to this goal are narrowly defined. Gender equality applies to all areas of development, and therefore to all the MDGs. Progress towards gender equality, empowerment of women and recognition that women are key actors in effective development is critical to achieving all the MDGs.
- ultimately, gender equality must be seen as not just an end in itself, but as a way to facilitate attaining other goals.

Children

In Africa, where in many countries children are made up half the population, children experience routine violation of their basic human rights. Tens of millions of children do not get adequate healthcare or education, and many alone at most, are not more than 1 in 6 children don’t reach 5 years old, and 1 in 10 children under 5 acutely undernourished.

Since the World Summit for Children in 1990, significant advances have been made with regards to children’s rights to survival, health, education, and to a protective environment free from abuse, exploitation and violence.

However, despite the progress made, and despite unprecedented global pressure, a staggering 40% of all children in developing countries (over half a billion) are struggling to survive on less than $1 per day. It is estimated that in the world today over a billion children are denied the right to 1 or more of the basic services needed for them to survive, grow, and develop.

Poverty is the cause of tens of millions of children going hungry, missing out on school or being forced into child labour, and it is the world’s leading cause of preventable children’s deaths each year. Poverty causes lifelong damage to children’s minds and bodies, perpetuating the cycle of poverty across generations. Poverty reduction must, therefore, include a comprehensive strategy for the protection and realization of the human rights of children. Without investments in children’s health and education, there can be no progress towards gender equality, and therefore to all the MDGs.

Older People

The majority of older people in developing countries have been consistently excluded from participating in schemes to improve their status and well-being. In this, the UN Millennium Development Goals are no exception. Silent on the age issue, the MDGs have left doubts as to how much older people will benefit from global efforts to eradicate poverty.

With one hundred million older men and women living on less than $1 a day, with no regular income, and more than 10% of people living on less than a dollar a day over 60, older people are among the world’s poorest.

According to Help the Aged Internation, older people are least likely to benefit from aide programmes. This is because they are often the most difficult to reach, living in rural areas, facing literacy and language difficulties as well as experiencing physical constraints to participation. Older people may also face other forms of discrimination, such as those based along the lines of gender or, deemed economically invalid, they may be denied the right to services.

Ending neglect and discrimination against older people must become a high priority, both for the sake of their own well-being and for the over-all aim of eradicating absolute poverty and improving people’s lives.

People with Disabilities

People with disabilities are more vulnerable to poverty, not only as a result of their handicap, but also because they are marginalized and discriminated against. In turn, poverty makes people more vulnerable to the risks of becoming disabled because of the conditions they are forced to live in.

The United Nations estimates that at...
The Millennium Goals

Of course, economic, but they are also cultural, social and environmental. The complexity of poverty, and the related hardships, must be recognized if alleviation of these problems is to be achieved.

The better truth for many in Africa is that globalization has meant marginalization. The worsening economic inequalities in many countries have exacerbated social and cultural inequalities that are undermining societies, not only in Africa, but all over the world. Discrimination along the lines of gender, class, ethnicity, race, and disability have subjected countless people to a cycle of poverty and hardship that is hard to break. Ending discrimination is essential if initiatives such as the MDGs are to be successful and reach those most in need. The poorest of the poor, however, remain amongst those most frequently neglected; they include: children, the elderly, and the disabled.

Biodiversity

The most ostensible manifestations of current global environmental crisis are the destruction of natural habitats, desertification, deforestation and extinction of species, all of which are related to the loss of biodiversity. Unless these trends are reversed, the earth’s ability to sustain life will be severely damaged.

An encouraging sign is that governments and international agencies are addressing the problem. If they do indeed prove ready to confront the challenges, they will need guidance from conservation biology, which has made significant strides recently. Much of the information provided by research in this multidisciplinary field is already applied in the design and management of natural areas such as captive breeding programmes, genetic management, disease control and the rehabilitation and restoration of degraded habitats.

The role of genetic banks in wildlife conservation efforts has long been considered of great importance for human life. Water is vital for human life and the protection of the earth’s biodiversity. Human activity has had a heavy negative impact on both water quantity and quality. It is important to build public awareness of the urgency of safeguarding biodiversity and will engage in a collective appreciation and protection of biodiversity.

Water

Water is vital for human life and the protection of the earth’s biodiversity. Human activity has had a heavy negative impact on both water quantity and quality. The danger of depleting water resources is a serious global threat. Countries that share rivers need to change water resources should attempt to balance demand with supply, ensure self-sufficiency in meeting the needs for safe drinking water, irrigation, and industrial activity, while not causing irreversible harm to the natural environment and biodiversity and not adversely impacting another nation’s use of the resource. When conflicts over water resources arise, water policy arbitration can be called upon to transcend economic development objectives with water resource conservation.

Bio-Education

Environmental pollution is an interuniversal problem of vital importance for all and a fundamental cause of the conditions which the UN Millennium Development Goals seek to overcome. Environmental quality and quality of life are inextricably linked. Human rights violations, disease, hunger, lack of safe water resources and poverty are more common in areas of severe environmental abuse.

Health problems linked to the environment, food subsistence and access to culture and general welfare, including security and peace, are some of the challenges to be faced. In meeting these, and other, challenges, bio-education has a vital role to play in consolidating awareness of the importance of incorporating the environment into government policy at every level and enabling its population to act as members of their community, in meeting the MDGs in their access to education.

The most ostensible manifestations of current global environmental crisis are the destruction of natural habitats, desertification, deforestation and extinction of species, all of which are related to the loss of biodiversity. Unless these trends are reversed, the earth’s ability to sustain life will be severely damaged.

An encouraging sign is that governments and international agencies are addressing the problem. If they do indeed prove ready to confront the challenges, they will need guidance from conservation biology, which has made significant strides recently. Much of the information provided by research in this multidisciplinary field is already applied in the design and management of natural areas such as captive breeding programmes, genetic management, disease control and the rehabilitation and restoration of degraded habitats.

The role of genetic banks in wildlife conservation efforts has long been considered of great importance for human life. Water is vital for human life and the protection of the earth’s biodiversity. Human activity has had a heavy negative impact on both water quantity and quality. The danger of depleting water resources is a serious global threat. Countries that share rivers need to change water resources should attempt to balance demand with supply, ensure self-sufficiency in meeting the needs for safe drinking water, irrigation, and industrial activity, while not causing irreversible harm to the natural environment and biodiversity and not adversely impacting another nation’s use of the resource. When conflicts over water resources arise, water policy arbitration can be called upon to transcend economic development objectives with water resource conservation.

Bio-Education

Environmental pollution is an interuniversal problem of vital importance for all and a fundamental cause of the conditions which the UN Millennium Development Goals seek to overcome. Environmental quality and quality of life are inextricably linked. Human rights violations, disease, hunger, lack of safe water resources and poverty are more common in areas of severe environmental abuse.

Health problems linked to the environment, food subsistence and access to culture and general welfare, including security and peace, are some of the challenges to be faced. In meeting these, and other, challenges, bio-education has a vital role to play in consolidating awareness of the importance of incorporating the environment into government policy at every level and enabling its population to act as members of their community, in meeting the MDGs in their access to education.
Managing the environmental programme in an industrial or commercial facility has become an increasingly complex and challenging assignment owing to the expanding maze of environmental laws and regulations and the growing public expectations regarding environmental protection. To be effective, programmes promoting greener products, the use of fewer natural resources, and lower impacts and risks to the environment, must be based on an overall framework of biopolicy, which will help to focus every activity on the consequential task of saving the environment and life on our planet. Businesses recognize that a good profile within the community can be strengthened by displaying a strong environmental ethic, with responsible policies playing a major part in this.

Clustering change, corporate social responsibility and the challenges of water management in the Middle East are among the topics that will be discussed at a roundtable discussion entitled ‘The Profit and the Bio-environment—Building a Society of Hope’ that B.I.O. is organising within the framework of the Athens Money Show.

The event will be held at the Hilton Hotel on December 3, 2005. The purpose of this meeting is to mobilise new strategies on the protection of the environment and the improvement of the quality of life as the real profit for our society.

A round the world, corporate environments are changing. Businesses are realising that it is essential to achieve a development framework that places people and the planet before profits. Corporate policy is being influenced by deeper social changes that make it necessary for companies to espouse environmental standards. Many responsible public and private investors are refusing to endorse companies that cause pollution and place the health of the world’s population at risk. Instead, investments are increasingly being directed towards businesses that meet the basic standards of environmental responsibility. Indexes of social and environmental performance are becoming significant market factors in screening for good citizenship and corporate social responsibility. These indexes exclude companies that fail to meet social responsibility standards. With more pro-environmental shareholders entering into dialogue with decision-makers, corporate behaviour on the environment can be steered in a direction that can meet the needs and demands of the global public and citizen. Corporate social responsibility would represent a genuine profit for both business and society.

Biopolicy

The central concept of biopolitical is to link the protection of bios rights to the defence of the rights of future generations. The interdependence between human rights and human obligations is vital in this context. Rights correspond to obligations, and, in addition to the existence of human rights, there exists a series of human obligations concerning our common responsibility to preserve the environment and improve quality of life on a global level. The defence of human rights should not be seen any issue unrelated to the protection of other forms of life on our planet. Health hazards arising from environmental degradation and pollution, loss of biodiversity, depletion of natural resources, water scarcity and famine are a threat to the human species. To secure our rights and to prevent disaster, we urgently need to accept the responsibility of reversing negative trends and protecting our natural heritage.

There has been a growing recognition that environmental justice cannot be achieved without effective international legislation directed to addressing environmental issues. After well-documented environmental disasters and negative environmental effects of intensive energy raw material utilisation cannot be resolved within the present framework. Rodri Kratsas, New Democracy representative for the European Parliament; H.E. Lourdes Morales, Ambassador of the Philippines to Greece; Evangelia Tsampazi, PASOK representative for the European Parliament; Valery Glazkov, First Secretary of the Embassy of the Russian Federation to Greece and Yannis methodios, Vice President, KEMEL (Center of Volunteer Managers of Greece).

Corporate Social Responsibility

Rodri Kratsas, New Democracy representative for the European Parliament; H.E. Lourdes Morales, Ambassador of the Philippines to Greece; Evangelia Tsampazi, PASOK representative for the European Parliament; Valery Glazkov, First Secretary of the Embassy of the Russian Federation to Greece and Yannis Methodios, Vice President, KEMEL (Center of Volunteer Managers of Greece).
It is clear that there is an intimate relationship between water management and development. In the past, industries were the greatest polluters. Economic actors are therefore key players in the drive to business to environmental protection. Preserving the wealth and beauty of the natural world, securing the health of the earth's population, providing fair rules of trade, and guaranteeing equal educational opportunities and resources, better health, and an accepted source of genuine profit, both monetary and social. The quality of life issue needs to assume top priority along with biosecurity and education. Moreover, we have to redefine the concept of "profit" to encompass elements which constitute a genuine profit for society, culture, internal wealth, preservation of natural biodiversity, as a measurable part of a nation's prosperity. Over the last 20 years B.I.O. has addressed the topic of economics in several publications and books.

To view these articles, and for a list of all B.I.O. publications, click on www.bioeconomics.org/library/water_manag/water.htm

Bio-economics

BIO-ECONOMICS

Environmental protection

The needs of the natural environment should receive full consideration when the allocation of water resources is planned. The protection of natural resources and biodiversity requires effective integration of environmental protection strategies in water management. The development and management of international inter-basin water projects must be pursued within the perspective of international water laws, which state that the river itself needs the same protection as any other natural body in the ecosystem. Exist-
BIOPOLITICS INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

Dag Hammarskjold
100 years since the birth of the man who was a...
The creative leader of the United Nations

By Ambassador Kai Falkman

If Dag Hammarskjold had survived, he would have become a Teacher of the Biopolitical International Organisation. He would have especially shared the vision of transcending all geographical and ideological barriers, because Hammarskjold wanted to accept the universal values of man which were based on the UN Charter. He also wanted to create a new world on the ruins of a world devastated, morally and materially, by two World Wars during his lifetime. He had also been often very pessimistic, especially during the last two years of his life. Of the crisis, he had felt that, as long as there were men and women of good will, whatever they were, they were there. If you do not believe in the future, then you commit treason. Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis is such a person who can organise her vision in a very practical fashion, and she has many ideas and practical ideas that are now represented in Biopolitics. He would have especially shared the vision of transcending all geographical and ideological barriers, because Hammarskjold wanted to accept the universal values of man which were based on the UN Charter. He also wanted to create a new world on the ruins of a world devastated, morally and materially, by two World Wars during his lifetime. He had also been often very pessimistic, especially during the last two years of his life. Of the crisis, he had felt that, as long as there were men and women of good will, whatever they were, they were there. If you do not believe in the future, then you commit treason. Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis is such a person who can organise her vision in a very practical fashion, and she has many ideas and practical ideas that are now represented in Biopolitics. Hammarskjold was a visionary of peace, the creative leader of the United Nations.

B.O.O. has been promoting a vision for peace based on these very ideals and on the upholding spirit of respect and appreciation for life. With humanity facing a grave crisis in values, Hammarskjold was going to appeal to the spanning personality can inspire the present and pave the way to a harmonious future. We are seeing greater lean to the environment, and urgently we do not have enough enlightened leaders to join forces to build a new society. There could not have been a better occasion to come together in this spirit of hope than to honour Hammarskjold, such a visionary of peace and responsibility, who was willing to sacrifice his own life to pursue these goals. This is a very important day for us and for everyone present.”

To speak for the world - Dag Hammarskjold’s legacy

B.O.O. was a visionary in transcending geographical, ideological and cultural barriers

Ambassador Kai Falkman

If Dag Hammarskjold had survived, he would have become a Teacher of the Biopolitics International Organisation. He asked the head of the Political Department, “Why is Dag Hammarskjold on the wall?” And he said: “It is very simple. Because Dag Hammarskjold defined the United Nations and brought ethics into the Organisation.” This is how I found out that they were so interested in a new selection of his speeches and statements. As you all understand, there is a great need for ethics in the United Nations today, and, therefore, they are excellent, because now we have more than a few questions at the United Nations on how to build a lasting world Organisation.

The aim of this book was to collect some of Dag Hammarskjold’s speeches and statements, and also some of his essays, in order to make his ideas known to those who were not around in his lifetime or who do not know him from the literature.

Therefore, we decided to create a new pocketbook, which contains the much as two biscuits in Sweden.

We did not wish to publish another big book, which we have released two years after his death in New York, which features all of his speeches in chronological order. We decided to follow a schematic order instead; to arrange the material by theme so as to make it easy to find the ideas presented in the book.

When I first started writing, I thought that I should arrange the chapters by conventional subject: the role of the Secretary General, security issues, and so on. Little by little I realised that, to get to know this man and his many interests and wide knowledge in so many subjects, we had to stop somewhere. One such point could be his interest in art or music. He spoke at every musical event hosted by the UN, and gave marvellous speeches about music. Sir Brian Urquhart, a very good biographer of Dag Hammarskjold who wrote a book about 1972, says that his greatest speech is the one on Beethoven’s last Symphony that I have included in the book. Another interesting speech is his speech on modern art that has been repeated very often in New York and many other places.

A gentleman at the UN told me that Dag Hammarskjold defined the United Nations. He is correct, because when Hammarskjold came to New York in 1953, the United Nations was only 8 years old. Dag Hammarskjold arrived as a very well-known person, who was, however, very shy and timid and did not want to make an impression on anyone. He wanted to find out how the Secretariat worked - and it did not work very well at the time, as it is now - you know, so he had to clean it up. It was not a very difficult task, all of his speeches and from the thousands of pages of publications, that, in the beginning of his stay in New York, he visited universities and foreign policy associations in his effort to define what the UN is, how it could be, and how this could be realised.

In January 1954, he became involved in trying to release the prisoners of war that had been shot down over China during the Korean War. He took a great risk because the Americans were pressuring him and he wanted to do the best he could. He flew to Shanghai, in the People’s Republic of China, and he said “I come in my own capacity, not as the Secretary of the General Assembly and of the UN, but in a personal capacity to discuss the issues with the leaders of both sides.” After 6 months, the prisoners were not yet released and everyone thought it was a failure. But shortly thereafter, the Chinese released the prisoners and Hammarskjold became a kind of hero, because he had achieved what nobody else could.

Then he was involved in the international breakthrough in the Suez Crisis in 1956, which involved Britain and the United Kingdom. Hammarskjold brought the parties together for discussions in the UN to reach an agreement. He said the worst moment in his life was when he had to stand up and defend the act of a government that he did not know and had not understood. He went to Laos twice in order to set up an UN presence to protect the country’s neutrality. When Kennedy became President in 1961, he had the same idea: that Laos should remain neutral and be protected by all the great powers.

Hammarskjold said he could not speak for the world, but he could speak for the UN, which was so far from the people. Hammarskjold has been widely respected, as a great speaker and for his philosophy of faith, because that maturity of mind should be the basis for national politics. He talks about loyalty, he talks about faith, he talks about time. Few statements in history were so philosophers.

Hammarskjold was also a poet; a volume of his poetry was published two years after his death, including 110 haiku poems. He was a pioneer in writing haiku in Swedish, I would like to end by saying that even as a very young man, Hammarskjold was very much committed to the kind of issues that Biopolitics expresses here. When he was twenty years old he wrote that “I will not ask life to give me anything but I will ask myself what I can do for life.”

Dag Hammarskjold

In April of 1953, Dag Hammarskjold was unanimously elected Secretary General of an only eight-year-old United Nations. A relatively quiet presence from his native, neutral Sweden, Hammarskjold was, for the often conflicting members of the Security Council during the Cold War, an appropriate choice. While he assumed his post at a time when the UN was relatively young, Hammarskjold possessed an innate understanding of the complexities of international cooperation and diplomacy, cementing early on a series of very public successes.

In his handling of the Suez crisis in 1956, when he condemned the British and French invasion of Egypt and set up the first peacekeeping troops, and in all his efforts to help the troubled regions of the world, he exercised his own personal diplomacy with the nations involved and, under the UN’s mandate, commissioned the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), the first ever to be mobilized by an international organization. After easily winning re-election in 1957, Hammarskjold’s second term, cut short by his untimely death, the details of which remain strangely elusive to this day, presented greater, perhaps even fatal, challenges; he was developing the newly independent Congo both tested and reinforced Hammarskjold’s skills as a mediator, and some feared that Hammarskjold’s willingness to jump in world affairs would interfere with their own national interests.

Hammarskjold’s most valuable contribution was the way in which he viewed the role of both the United Nations and the position of Secretary General. He maintained that the organization’s effectiveness relied on independence from the often intrusive interests of individual member states, making resoundingly clear that the UN’s role would be one of an impartial interpreter of the needs and aims of those it represents. As for the position of Secretary General, Hammarskjold declared that “the private man should disappear and the international public servant take his place,” for there “is no life more satisfactory than one of selfless service to your country or humanity.”

Dag Hammarskjold’s tireless pursuit of international cooperation and peace is still an inspiration for many while his ideas remain highly relevant. Together with the Hammarskjold centenary, B.O.O. too celebrates a milestone, although quieter of course and is less observed. For twenty years we have pursued similar ideals in international cooperation, advancing a worldwide understanding and appreciation of bios (life) and the environment. We greatly admire in Hammarskjold what he calls a “fighting optimism” that is renewed “again and again.”
The absence of environmental ethics has resulted in serious environmental destruction and harm to the continuation of the chain of life on Earth. We are out of balance with nature and this has placed our future in jeopardy. Our ability to reverse this critical situation depends on our ability to eradicate poverty in future generations. Our overriding objective should be to eradicate the poverty in every generation.

The world is facing an unprecedented crisis of environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity. Yet, the nations of the world are still preoccupied with economic and technological advancement, international conflict and preparations for war to mount an adequate response to the environmental crisis. Future generations should not be burdened with the results of today's negligence. The continuation of life on our planet is threatened by the depletion of the ozone layer, hunger and disease, by the destruction of the forests and biodiversity, and other forms of environmental degradation. The convergence of aspirations of sovereign states and civil society into a spirit of cooperation in long-term environmental policy and action can overcome the current climate of competition and unending conflict and lead to universal harmony and peace among the peoples of the world. This is the vision of bio-policies.

BIO-POLICY

Peace and the Environment – Dubai

The Dubai Declaration was originally formulated at the Dubai International Conference for Habitat II on Best Practices in Improving the Living Environment in 1996. The Declaration fundamentally highlights the linkages between human settlements and sustainable development, and includes a series of recommendations and follow-up actions that are aimed at reversing a more positive vision of future development. A result of the collaboration between the Dubai Municipality and the United Nations, the Declaration represents the first international agreement on practical mutual assistance through the sharing of transferable and replicable expertise and achievements of excellence.

Business Ethics – Cyprus

The Euro-Arab Cooperation Centre has been invited to the 25th World Business Ethics Congress in Cyprus by Mr. Olof Yrr Atladottir, Chair of the Congress. The Committee presented a seminar on Business Ethics in Cyprus on the 19th of December. Business ethics are an important aspect of the fight against the rise of violence and other social problems. Respect for human rights and the rule of law are essential for the development of ethical business practices.

Bioethics – Gijon, Spain

The International Society of Bioethics (SIBI) will be holding its Fourth World Conference on Bioethics from the 21st to the 25th of November in Gijon, Spain. A variety of topics will be discussed at the conference, including many distinguished scholars and professionals. The subject to be discussed, privacy and genetic data, will feature lectures by A.G. Ciriaco, D. Arzani, and F. Macer (New Zealand) as well as a debate chaired by Dhafna Feinblath (Moscow), Olaf Yrre Aalstof (Iceland) and Alain Pompidois (France), among others.

The subject of access to health systems and medicines will also be addressed. Lecturers in this section include: Volney Garrafa (Brazil), Salvador D. Bergel (Argentina), Miguel Kottow (Chile) and Giorgio Berrichetti (Italy), and debates will be chaired by Paula Martino da Silva (Portugal), Michele Jean (Canada) and Francois Zikos (Republic of Congo), amongst others. For the final day of the conference roundtable discussion will address all of the above topics, as well as that of life and in development.
The Future of Knowledge: Educational Challenges of the 21st Century

World Academy of Art and Science, General Assembly - Zagreb, Croatia

The President of B.I.O., recently appointed Fellows of the World Academy of Art and Science, are scheduled to be attending the General Assembly of the WAAS taking place in Zagreb, Croatia, from the 17th to the 20th of November 2005. The World Academy of Art and Science of approximately 500 Fellows comprises diverse forms of knowledge, and covers a wide range of disciplines, chosen for eminence in art, the natural and social sciences and the humanities.

The General Assembly will be preceded by a NATO advanced research workshop titled Security in Knowledge-based Society: Developing Resilience in Societies at Risk and Threatened by Terrorism. At the General Assembly, the President of B.I.O. will chair a discussion on "Humanity for Resilience: War was Hadrey Right?". The discussion will be co-chaired by Carl Gossan, Director of the Bioscience Focus Foundation, Sweden.

In addition, the World Academy of Art and Science, based in Brussels, will be hosting a division focusing on South East Europe (SEE), of which the President of B.I.O. was appointed Deputy Coordinator. This division will be a network of individual, regional and national decision-making bodies, which can be network-makers; a network of research institutions; a think tank; and a public policy forum.

NATO Advanced Research Workshop

The opening session will consist of an introduction to the workshop led by Harland Cleveland and Milad Staniac. Session one, titled "Security in a Knowledge-based Society", will be chaired with introductory comments by Ivo Slaus, will be followed by discussion by the panellists: Walt Anderson, who will talk on "Future of Knowledge - the Role of the WAAS", Formal establishment of SEE; he will be followed by Janets Potoczak, EU Commission for R&D, with comments on "Knowledge Society - European Perspective"; Ivo Center for Strategic Studies (India). Speakers at the public event, engaging our Minds: Electronic and Chemical Modification of Cognition and Emotions, and "Human Rights and How to Build the Future", "Oneness of Humanity": Science, Society, and Peace, will be chaired, with commentary by A. Sandi, World Transhumanist Association, (USA) and will be chaired, with introduction by P. Cottam. Panellists will be: B. Singh, V. Markos, M. Sandan and discussion will be followed.

World Academy of Art and Science General Assembly

The General Assembly will be chaired by Mr. Potoczak, with participation of Walt Anderson, who will talk on "Future of Knowledge - the Role of the WAAS", Formal establishment of SEE; he will be followed by Janez Potoczak, EU Commission for R&D, with comments on "Knowledge Society - European Perspective"; Ivo Center for Strategic Studies (India). Speakers at the public event, engaging our Minds: Electronic and Chemical Modification of Cognition and Emotions, and "Human Rights and How to Build the Future", "Oneness of Humanity": Science, Society, and Peace, will be chaired, with commentary by A. Sandi, World Transhumanist Association, (USA) and will be chaired, with introduction by P. Cottam. Panellists will be: B. Singh, V. Markos, M. Sandan and discussion will be followed.

The first session of the General Assembly will be held on Tuesday, 15 November, with the participation of Mr. B.I.O. President, and will be titled "The Culture of Peace and Security". The session will be held at the Royal Palace, the former residence of the Austrian Emperors. The session will be chaired by Mr. Openshaw, the President of B.I.O. and will be attended by Mr. Potoczak, EU Commission for R&D, with comments on "Knowledge Society - European Perspective"; Ivo Center for Strategic Studies (India). Speakers at the public event, engaging our Minds: Electronic and Chemical Modification of Cognition and Emotions, and "Human Rights and How to Build the Future", "Oneness of Humanity": Science, Society, and Peace, will be chaired, with commentary by A. Sandi, World Transhumanist Association, (USA) and will be chaired, with introduction by P. Cottam. Panellists will be: B. Singh, V. Markos, M. Sandan and discussion will be followed.

The day of the meeting will be reports from the workshops and will be chaired by Mr. Potoczak, EU Commission for R&D, with comments on "Knowledge Society - European Perspective"; Ivo Center for Strategic Studies (India). Speakers at the public event, engaging our Minds: Electronic and Chemical Modification of Cognition and Emotions, and "Human Rights and How to Build the Future", "Oneness of Humanity": Science, Society, and Peace, will be chaired, with commentary by A. Sandi, World Transhumanist Association, (USA) and will be chaired, with introduction by P. Cottam. Panellists will be: B. Singh, V. Markos, M. Sandan and discussion will be followed.

The closing session and closing ceremony will be "Europe As A Knowledge Society", chaired by Mr. Potoczak, EU Commission for R&D, with comments on "Knowledge Society - European Perspective"; Ivo Center for Strategic Studies (India). Speakers at the public event, engaging our Minds: Electronic and Chemical Modification of Cognition and Emotions, and "Human Rights and How to Build the Future", "Oneness of Humanity": Science, Society, and Peace, will be chaired, with commentary by A. Sandi, World Transhumanist Association, (USA) and will be chaired, with introduction by P. Cottam. Panellists will be: B. Singh, V. Markos, M. Sandan and discussion will be followed.

BIO-DIPLOMACY

H ow do we engage everyone in the race to save the environment? The B.I.O. World Referendum, first launched in 1992, urges every citizen on the planet to cast a vote in defence of bios (life) and the environment. 

Hunger, poverty, disease, loss of biodiversity, and global warming will all lead to the fate of the environment, yet the natural environment is gradually being destroyed. Every individual of unique value, and all life on our planet is protected. Access to knowledge and its development will be a human right.

Humanity has never had the opportunity to vote simultaneously on issues of global concern. With the internet linking the world together as never before, we have the technology to enlist every citizen in a common cause - that of saving the environment and bios. Every individual can actively voice their concern over the threats to the environment and bios, and affirm their desire to ensure the continuity of life on our planet.

A World Referendum conducted over a 24-hour period in every corner of the world, would be a true manifestation of democracy and biopolis. As every person will be able to express how they feel about the environment and inspire leaders to implement new strategies for the protection of the environment. The united voice of all the people can lead to great change.

The current crisis in values is a real threat to life and to peace. In order to achieve the real and enduring peace and promote a better world, we must reverse the trend and translate concern for future generations into action, the participation of every individual is vital. We make an urgent appeal to all World Leaders, Heads of State and Government to consider the World Referendum to safeguard the environment for future generations. The time for action has come.
The word "biopolitics" was created out of love for biology and the belief that "bios" is a link that unites all people. Our planet is only a small part of the universe. Our galaxy contains over one hundred billion stars, and it is only one among billions of others. From what we know up to the present "bios" is only to be found on our planet. This means that we have in our possession the most precious gift of creation.

In order to comprehend some of the dimensions of the microcosmos of biology, the following example is given: there are about 265,000,000 molecules of hemoglobin in every cell and 650,000,000,000,000 molecules of hemoglobin are produced every second in the human body. In addition to hemoglobin, hundreds of thousand of other proteins are produced in every cell. This is just a small example of what is happening every second in every cell.

It is important to draw joy and strength out of the miracle of life - bios.

The binding harmony and symmetry of the microcosmos needs to be an integral part of everyday life that should be appreciated and preserved.

Bio-Tourism - Mythos and the Environment

Bio-tourism, as promoted by the WHO since 1985, is an ideal vehicle for peace and international co-operation. It represents the intention to explore the world's natural and cultural heritage and to facilitate a new emphasis on "bio-culture," born as it is out of a positive mutual respect that is not confined to political and national divides; it encourages environmental and cultural appreciation in tourism, as well as an international exchange of experiences on the basis of environmental preservation. In addition, bio-tourism is an approach to travel and recreation in which the tourist comes into intimate contact with the environment and culture of the area being visited in a manner that is not destructive, but rather, constructive.

Every nation and region of the world offers its own unique cultural and historical attributes. Sites and artefacts of ancient and pre-historic civilisations can be found in many parts of the world. Each historical era offers its own particular contribution in crafts, folklore, art, architecture, and all the other elements that comprise a culture. Likewise, scenic and natural beauty and wildlife can be found in many areas on every continent, all the way to Antarctica.

By protecting the natural environment and local culture, bio-tourism is mutually beneficial to both the visitor and the local population; it preserves the attractions of the area for future visitors, as well as the heritage of the past for future generations. The focus is on making informed travel choices and supporting local economies. Too often in the past, intensive tourism in an area resulted in the deterioration or destruction of the very attributes that attract visitors in the first place. Tourism may lead to over development along coastal strips or on scenic mountain tops, for example, resulting in erosion, pollution and loss of scenic beauty.

The "bio-tourist" meets and lives among the local population, learns about its culture and experiences in his/her time there, while assimilating the local way of life as much as possible. He/she also encounters the natural features of the area in a direct and educational manner. Bio-tourism not only includes visits to museums and ancient temples, but may also involve walking in indigenous neighbourhoods or villages and meeting and socialising with the local population. It includes close encounters with plant, animal and insect species through carefully guided hikes in natural areas. By gaining knowledge of local natural and cultural conditions, the visitor also gains understanding and appreciation of a culture. This, in turn, leads to greater friendship and peace based on co-operation and mutual understanding. Thus, bio-tourism is not a self-centred approach to recreation, but a bios-centred interaction with the surrounding world. The future of tourism lies in much more than beautiful hotels, cruises and resorts. Its success lies in the celebration of the richness of natural diversity, both of the environment and of cultural life including the gems of cultural heritage; it creates a more just and balanced balance between the exploration process and the necessary respect for the location and environment. This approach takes into consideration the fact that the environment recognises no boundaries and can bring people together in a common cause. The infinite biodiversity of our planet can be cherished through conscious efforts to turn travel and tourism into initiatives for a global appreciation of bios. This is the real meaning of bio-tourism, and cultural diversity, tradition, history and "mythos" are its cornerstones.

Globalisation has meant that we are increasingly moving on a horizontal basis, rushing to gain profit at any cost. Caught up in daily life, and the rush of the cosmos, the microcosmos remains poorly understood. The beauty of the microcosmos is lost and its spectacular dimensions are ignored. The gift of life has existed for hundreds of millions of years - we must not endanger it with human arrogance. If the millennium goals are to be achieved, we must draw inspiration from the past. Only a tree with deep roots can grow beautiful fruit. It is necessary to add a vertical dimension to the landscape; mythology can provide this. The nineteenth century gives us many examples of music and art inspired by myths. In Ancient times, the Delphic oracle served as a source of wisdom and much sought after answers; today, the answers must come from diachronic values. Nations can, and must, use the wealth of the past and open up the trails of mythical pathways.