

# The Global Forum for Environmental Education

Volume 17, Number 2, December 2007



**Caretakers of the Environment International**  
A global network for teachers, educators, and students

## Letter from the Interim Editor

It is my pleasure, along with assistance from Birgitta Norden and Ryan Kinnett, to be the interim editor for this e-only issue of Global Forum. We tried to incorporate as many photos as possible from our life-changing 21st annual conference hosted in Hong Kong SAR China. Because this issue is posted on the Caretakers website, I have not included information, such as addresses of CEI branches and committees which can be found in other areas of the website. There are likely several mistakes within photo captions as well as spelling errors in the texts as Microsoft gets confused in global English as it leaps back and forth over our fragile planet. Please feel welcome to call them to my attention at [dan.hoynacki@oregonstate.edu](mailto:dan.hoynacki@oregonstate.edu).

**Cris Leibner** The reason for our interim work is that Cris Leibner, CEI Board member and Global Forum Editor is unable to do so at this time. When Cris returned from Asia this summer, he was stricken ill. Since that time, Cris has been undergoing treatment for an aggressive brain cancer. Cris is amazingly upbeat and positive, and has an awesome love and support network of family and friends as well as exceptional provision of medical care. This time of year, words and phrases such as peace on earth, tolerance, goodwill toward all men, and Happy New Year are heartfelt and commonplace. Let us add several additional words, phrases and prayers of encouragement for Cris and his family, in each of our languages, such as 'renewed health', 'continued strength and courage', and 'full recovery and return to continue his twenty-year participation in Caretakers of the Environment International for an absolute minimum of another twenty'. We are with you, Cris!

**Denmark: July 6-12** Our 22nd Caretakers Conference in Aalborg, Denmark is approaching rapidly. Please note the article from Elisabeth Brun, our conference host, at the end of this article. Their website, [www.cei2008.org](http://www.cei2008.org) will be active in January. For those of us travelling long distances, you are urged to confirm travel plans as quickly as possible as airfares and fuel surcharges are significant, along with what appears like fewer international flights available during this time period.

Dan Hoynacki  
Caretakers of the Environment – USA – Oregon Chapter

## President's Message

Dear friends,

It already seems a long time since we met in Hong Kong. Another school term has passed and we are now thinking of all the things we promised to do. Every year we leave the conference with good intentions. **Let's make it our New Year resolution to carry out our promised actions.**

These resolutions should be at every level: from the students who promised to email other students; teachers who said they would email their ideas to other teachers;

and Board and Council members who agreed to complete certain tasks to bring the organisation forward.

As it says on the stereotypic report, we could all do better, including myself. We all get bursts of enthusiasm but I would ask that we time-manage our energies better. This especially applies to communication. Let us all email someone else that we have met in the past and encourage them to keep up their efforts. Find out what they are doing and let them know what you are doing. All of your work is valuable. Saving the world begins with small seeds as the Seeds of Biodiversity theme goes.

**Let's carry out that Joint educational project;** let's register for the forthcoming Danish conference and get started on those marvelous project presentations; let's choose those enthusiastic students and begin sourcing funding for the trip.

Are there any active National Branches out there? What are you doing in your region? All ideas and comments should be emailed or posted to the editors of the Global Forum for the next edition.

**Who are the Alumni Council?** The Board are supporting the excellent efforts of Maria, Nick, Ana, Ann and Hjalmar in their vision to get students who have attended a number of conferences involved in the annual conference. Their experiences and their expertise in acting as a liaison between the organisers and the students is invaluable. There has been the germ of an idea for many years. I recollect at the 1998 conference in Ireland, each theme group had a student liaison who had attended a previous conference and who then helped keep the organisers briefed as to how the students were finding the programme which is often directed at adults and not enough at younger students. Making more creative use of spare or leisure time is another whole area that has tremendous possibilities for these Alumni. We look forward to hearing more about their plans in future editions of Global Forum. What about all those people who attended the last conference you were at? What are they doing now? What small things are they doing to reduce their carbon footprint? Try making contact with them and ask them to write something about their experiences on environmental education for the next edition of Global Forum. What have you been doing since we last met? Let us know, we genuinely want to hear from you.

Until the next message,

Andrew Cox, President of Caretakers of the Environment, International <http://www.caretakers4all.org>

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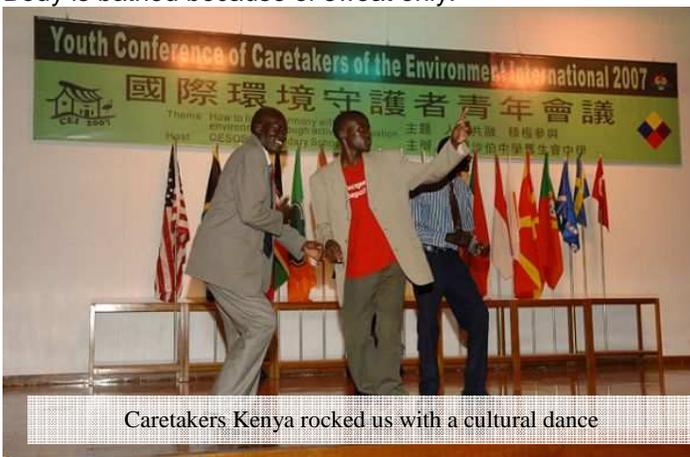
## A CEI 2007 CONFERENCE SURPRISE IN HONG KONG

It is in the history of traveling that the global interaction with members from different countries that we all arrived at the city of Hong Kong in Asia. One may ask as to what is surprising in this city? Staying at Harbour Plaza Resort Centre and touring the surrounding area creates entirely to keep living in this place where you can only see sky high building, skilled and architecturally designed with tops looking to kissing the sky. Inside the rooms are cool temperature controlled and switching to what that unites your body. While the outdoors are as hot as if people living in the tropics will always run a way from it back into the rooms from which if you are in the equatorial region, one will move outdoor to bath in the warm sweet sun in the mid morning and evenings.



Kirov, Russia youth delegate show their cultural attire

What then the roads paths and packs are beautifully designs, the moldings land missionary artistically work is such that of permanent patronage that names Hong Kong city dustless and mudless country. In the developing countries and to some extent, some developed countries life is not matchable. Dusty roads and paths during drought are part of life while mud is the decorator of the body when rains fall. Put on your wearing, there is always no need of hanging witching a day or so that is dirty what makes it? Body is bathed because of sweat only.



Caretakers Kenya rocked us with a cultural dance

This is a city of cricket populations about 6,000,000 people.

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We expected huge traffic jumps, where? Transport is streamline in such a way that you will never realize any conjunction both on roads and see. I am also made to believe that at the airport there is every two minutes landing and take off of planes, too, are there air accidents?



Portugal teachers join conference chief advisor Dr. Herbert Heung-sang TSOI and vice chairperson Pat Pat-chun CHAN

Hospitality, people here are short and this tall. It is hard to separate the old from young. They all look alike at faster glance. However, there is high degree of understanding among themselves, good discipline, enough control, cheerful and hospitable is the order of each ones recognition.



Poland and Russia teachers join CEI President Andrew Cox

In closing I would like to ask the following questions:

1. What made people in this city think of making such a beautiful place?
2. The architectural art portrayed out that we enjoy today was it through vision or dreams? Of who?
3. If everything is now good like it is then what next is to be done?

Environmental pollution, what is it like? What you will see is non-smoking vehicles with drops of water from their pipes though possibilities of meeting people smoking in non-prohibited areas is common. Dream of papers, plastics and house waste everyone is mindful of where to place it. Think of organic leaves and others of nature drops even in the forests, cleaners are at spot. The city is wonderfully clean. The mystery is the whereabouts of the waste collected? Use? Or?



Tour guide extraordinaire Colby also led us in song

I expected to find Hong Kong a highly industrialized but to my amazement even an industry to pollute the air I did not see they are all smokeless.

Fishing industry, at old town at the beach. This is a very admirable venture of the people hygiene is to its maximum, preparation of fish and storage is of high traditional skill? Sundry and smoked fish no one can dispute their nature and conditions they are being stored and sold.



South Africa delegates join Annie Wong, Conference Secretary

Congratulation old men and women who are doing the work. My worry - while the young are all in modern cities, who will carry on this nice work?

Rapemo - CEI/Kenya

## The Sun in the Color of Hope

By Antoni Salamon

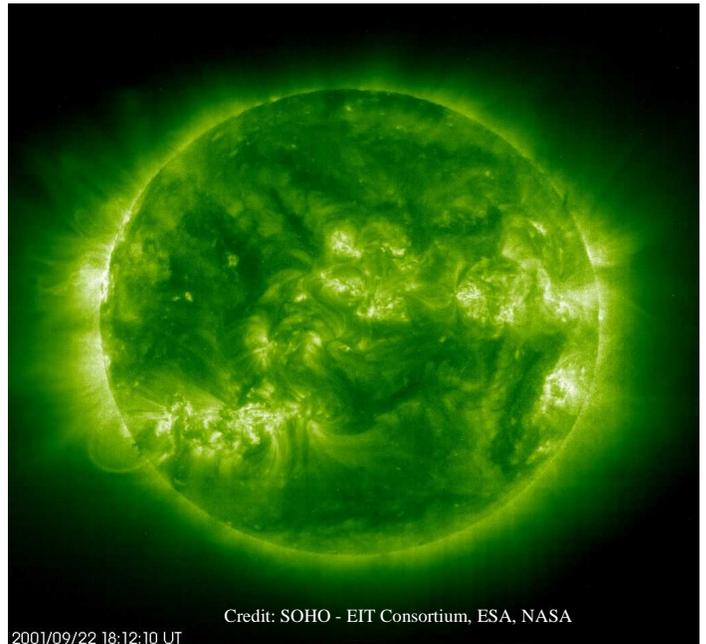
Fossil fuel energy meets 80% of the global power needs. This causes the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to grow, which is universally thought to contribute to the greenhouse effect. Conservative predictions on the global power needs for the year 2050 indicate levels as high as 28-35 TW\*, which means a nearly 2.5-time increase as compared with the current demand. Thus, if the global warming is indeed happening, in the foreseeable future its

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effects may be disastrous; not to mention diminishing fossil fuel resources, the shortage of which would have equally dramatic consequences.

There is a global awareness of the threats and action is taken to hinder the growth of carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. Agenda 21, a UN document ratified by most states of the world, includes sections on sustainable development, whereas UNESCO announced a "Decade of Education for Sustainable Development". Everything should be done to stop or at least inhibit the environmental degradation process.

During youth conferences on sustainable development it is very common to watch presentations on renewable energy sources. Projects on biomass energy as well as wind, tidal, wave or geothermal energy are gaining recognition. Yet, many voices are raised that it is and will be simply unrealistic to replace the elementary sources of energy with the renewable ones mentioned above. Little recognition, however, is granted to projects on gaining power from nuclear reactions or from the conversion of



Credit: SOHO - EIT Consortium, ESA, NASA

2001/09/22 18:12:10 UT

solar radiation into usable energy. The reason for this is that the source is popularly thought to be either dangerous to the environment, or technologically underdeveloped, or costly and hardly efficient. Is it really true?

An international research project called ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) has been launched, with the aim of working out a nuclear fusion technology within 10 years. The technology would enable to control the process of light nucleus fusion to the extent that would allow it to produce 500 MW of power in a longer period of time. It is highly desirable that the information about the ITER project be popularised. This is an attempt at creating an artificial sun on Earth.

Or is it enough to use the enormous energy ceaselessly sent by the Sun in the direction of Earth? The meaning behind the numbers characteristic of the gigantic energy stream is incredible. A planet's sun-lit surface is

ceaselessly provided energy with 170,000 TW of power, of which 600 TW can be used. With converters of 10% efficiency, an inexhaustible energy source of 60 TW is obtained. This value considerably exceeds global energy needs even in the year 2050.

Thus, why is it that the research on the conversion of solar radiation into usable energy is not intensified to make the technology more efficient, less expensive and available to those 1.5-2 billion people who do not have electricity at present?

Another issue: in 1971, the Japanese K. Honda and A. Fujishima discovered the photocatalytic decomposition of



water into hydrogen and oxygen in ultraviolet radiation. There are catalysers that allow the process for longer wavelength radiation.

Thus, research on shifting the barrier to the visible area requires intense support, which would allow to use solar energy even in high-latitude areas.

The discovery by the Japanese is of crucial importance for yet another reason, namely it can serve as a simple energy storage method for night-time, and it is a source of easily adaptable fuel for the modern means of transport. The fuel is absolutely clean, environmentally-friendly and inexhaustible. It provides humanity with the hope of satisfying the energy demand in the present and in the future. Let the photo of the Sun in green be the graphic symbol of this hope. The photo was taken by the SOHO space probe in ultraviolet radiation emitted by 11-times ionised atoms of iron at the temperature of about  $2 \cdot 10^6$  degrees Celsius.

Several questions have been posed in the article. May they initiate a debate on our view on renewable sources of energy.

Antoni Salamon  
CEI Poland

\*) The numerical data was obtained from an article by Jerzy Karpiuk (Karpiuk, Jerzy. 2007. „Apetyt na energię”, Wiedza I Życie 2 2007.)  
1 TW=10<sup>12</sup> W.

## Tamás Szörényi: My Expressions

To be in Hong Kong was one of the happiest periods of my life, without doubt.

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Hardly had we left the airport, when a pleasant surprise happened. The way how the students greeted us filled me up with energy. I enjoyed myself from the beginning to the end.

The programs were really good and various. Such wonderful views, interesting facts and beautiful sights – these are the new experiences we collected about Hong Kong. And of course we could practice the English language so that we were able to improve our skill in speaking.

The excursion I liked the most was probably the Peak tour, but it is hard to choose.

I am happy to have had the opportunity to take part in CEI 2007.

Keszthely, 16. 09. 2007.

Tamás Szörényi -  
Hungary



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## Conference for the Environment

It is hard to say, how do I feel about this conference and the days that I spent outside Hong Kong but I try. All the beautiful places that I have seen and all the people that I met, gave me a lot of experience and memories that I will never forget.

I think this conference was not just good to hear what all countries think about the environment protection, and the importance is not the way they think now, the real interesting is how they think about the future, because this is the real objective of this project, to save at least some of the environment for the future generations. The second most important thing was in this conference was to know something about the Asian culture which is one of the most beautiful in the world not only about its history but the sights, the people, the culture, all the things what I think European, American, and African nations should know, because after this I think every peoples horizon will be wider and wider, and things will never be the same in the good way of course. And the last thing is that how the ice

breaking activities brought us together how the different cultures, and the different nations got into one team, and all those countries all those people who were strangers at first made wonderful long lasting international friendships, and unforgettable relationships.

The long nights, we spent without sleeping to know each other better and better. And the departure that broke a lot of people's heart that we had to leave all our best friends, and just think how the world can be so cruel. But after a few tears we started to think about when can we see each other again. So after all, this conference left a very good impression inside, because not just me but all the people got something extra, something that will follow me and follow all of us, till the rest of our life.

Keszthely, 2007.09.16

Zsolt Csák- Hungary

### **CEI 2007 Hungarian team**

During the flight we slept a lot and talked. The journey was 22 hours. When we arrived, we were very tired, but at the airport Chinese students were waiting for us, and took us to the hotel. The hotel was a great surprise, because we never saw a luxury hotel like that.

The next day we got acquainted with the other students taking part in the conference. In the afternoon we took an excursion to the Peak the highest point in Hong Kong. It was amazing, as well as the dinner in a city touring ship. The next day we visited the host school. It was beautiful and modern furnished. After this we visited the Organic farm, where we worked and we baked traditional Chinese bread. We closed this with a Chinese banquet.



Denmark, Hungary, Portugal, Indonesia and Turkey delegates

The next day was the opening ceremony in a conference hall. In the afternoon we tried origami and we went on a sightseeing tour of Hong Kong. 10th of July was the day when we made our presentation on the Little-Balaton. We had lots of preparation, which was very successful. We had a full-day excursion to Island-Lantau, where we saw white dolphins. The top of the day was the Great-Buddha. It was really amazing.

And a week went away, and we closed the conference with a cultural evening.

Closing our visit in Hong Kong we took a trip to Macau which was very interesting.

I would like to thank all of the people who helped us to take part in this organization.

Keszthely, 2007.09.16

Vincze Martin – Hungary

## **EXPERIENCE SHARING AMONG TEACHERS OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES TO PREPARE YOUNG GENERATIONS IN THE SOLUTION PARTICIPATION AND ANTICIPATION OF GLOBAL WARMING PROBLEM**

**Malang, 24 – 29 MARCH 2008**

### **BACKGROUND AND NEED**

One third of the world's populations are youngsters, teenagers and youth, and they need a voice to find and determine their own future. Their active role in environment protection and preservation and their involvement on decisions about the environment and development really determines the success of this earth's long term plans.

We are all generally agreed facts. Global warming is now a reality that even die-hard skeptic struggle to dispute. The authoritative Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicts temperature will rise four degree Celsius or more by the end of the century (Newsweek, April 2007). The world is working hard to slow global warming, entrust and support every single country's programs. Kyoto protocol and world meeting about climate change which will be held in Bali this coming December are some examples

Realizing that Indonesia moreover contributes a huge amount of factors affecting global warming, like deforestation, air pollution, lost of biodiversity, and these factors are become serious years by years, consequently it is crucial to develop public, particularly young generation awareness on global warming issues through all sectors. If the young generation doesn't realize this condition, hence we can't imagine what would happened in our future life and our next generation

To prepare our next generation and help them to be prepared for the next future, education takes the main part. Young generation must be facilitated to take their formal education and take an active role in their community. We should working directly with young generation, and their communities in devising, implementing and evaluating development activities. Our support, the communities themselves decide their priorities; take responsibility for the running activities and the drive to maintain them. We need to help them to step forward more confidently on their road to sustainable development. Build and strengthen their skills for leading their own development, independently for sustainable future.

To enable young generation to see the planet, as one interdependent environment, Pring Woeloeng Environmental Education Institution along with Caretakers of the Environment (CEI) and University Widya Kartika Surabaya, believe this can be best achieves by encouraging students to meet and work together. Our plan is creating a worldwide network of secondary school teachers and students who actively concerned about environmental issues and who are willing to do something about these issues through their education and their actions.

The network aims to heighten awareness of the fact that many countries share a variety of environmental problems and that solutions are best achieved by international cooperation based on a shared sense of responsibility, we would like to encourage the building of trust, friendship and cooperation among people of different cultural backgrounds and the development of links between organizations. Our goals are to face environmental challenges, share successful and encourage international data exchange and interdisciplinary activities.

In Indonesia, Teachers and students have been run an environmental education network since 1995, initiated by Caretakers of the Environment International (based in Den Haag, Netherlands) and Environmental Education Centre (PPLH)-Trawas, East Java. The Indonesian national branch was established in 2001 and is called “Caretakers of the Environment International/Indonesia” (CEI/Indonesia) or and it serves as a main actor of CEI in Asia and Pacific.

Pring Woeloeng environmental education institution focuses its' programme to school age young generations – students to make them aware to prepare a better future. It has launched various environmental programmes based on water and environment protection such as : water for life ( filed and exhibitions activities), springs conservation by re planting / re greening with socio – cultural approaches and many others

## GOALS

- Build awareness in biodiversity with principle of togetherness, tolerance and participation.
- Sharing experience on education methodologies, particularly on environmental awareness and knowledge
- Explore biodiversity issues related to global warming and MDGs in global level.

## EXPECTED RESULT

- Sharing on environmental – education methodologies; outdoor and indoor programmes
- Strengthening high school network level who actively concerned about environmental issues and who are willing to do something about these issues through their education and their actions
- Sharing experience about biodiversity project in local area.
- Develop information skill and critical attitude towards Biodiversity issues

## FRAME OF ACTIVITIES

Workshop main programme outline:

- First day: opening and introduction; exhibition of participants' environmental education activity programmes, start of workshop
- Second day: sharing experiences and discussions
- Third day: field visits, developing new methods and approaches
- Fourth day: presentations of results, discussions
- Fifth day: further plans, evaluations and closing cum dinner
- Sixth day : free time, leisure and visits

Stien Johanna Matakupan - CEI Indonesia



## Resource Development vs. Show me the Money!

by Dan Hoynacki

**Globally, we can agree that one of the biggest barriers we all face in developing and implementing environmental education and stewardship programs and activities with our youth is needed resources:** 1) Money, cash, capacity; 2) Sustaining and growing our efforts; and 3) Planning to have enough beyond this week, this month or school year.

“Our work is so important and vital to the well-being of our youth and our planet, so why is finding money so difficult?” is a question I am asked frequently. Another is: “How do you find the time to seek support?” In CEI, we have the additional burden of raising funds for airfares to send delegates to the annual conferences that we know stimulate positive, invaluable changes in the lives of most that are able to attend. And then there are those brave and yes, resourceful people who step up to host a CEI conference. Clearly, our fundraising work is a time-consuming challenge!

My task with CEI Board of Directors is to try to assist all CEI participants in making this painful process a little easier and productive. At the board level, we intend to pursue global organization level support partnerships, likely corporate sponsors. Our dream is to be able to offer conference travel scholarships or some sort of matching funds. This will not happen quickly, but the fabled hare will eventually beat the tortoise.

In the near term, however, **it is essential that we develop local prospects for support.** There are no easy answers like pots of gold at the end of rainbows. However, we can plan and act so that the investment of our time in raising money is spent wisely and works toward our eventual goal, keeping in mind that immediate results don't often happen. **This time investment is worthwhile because we are educating our communities about what we do in the meantime.** (Awareness is often the first step toward benevolence.)

And we don't repeat our mistakes! This goes to the title: *Resource Development vs. Show me the Money!*. A mistake I often made in earlier times was to simply ask for money, because I knew it was important and valid. But after an analysis of the “no's” and “no responses” I received, I eventually realized that I was not prepared to answer questions in the prospect's mind, either asked or not. Even panhandlers have a good story. Moreover, I wasn't doing a good job of sowing seeds or leaving food for thought for a future follow-up. The three lessons here: 1) A “no” usually means that someone does yet not have enough information to say “yes”; 2) I may not have allowed enough distance of time between when I asked and when I



Students paint rain barrels to sell as a CEI travel fundraiser

needed the money; and 3) **Without a clear plan and method to showcase my work, and a clear explanation as to how it connects to the individual or entity I am soliciting, I am wasting both my own time and the prospects.**

*Resource Development* is a term I use to describe the process to research and build: 1) relationships that morph into

partnerships, 2) trust and understanding that can morph into financial potential and support, and 3) an internal system and foundation to mobilize one's existing resources to work in harmony with one's environmental education programs to seek outside support.

If you have not already done so, the place to start is with an honest assessment of your *existing resources*. Sit down with your partners and students and make a group list of what resources you already have. Be sure to include yourselves, especially your students, who can be more convincing with organizations and businesses than adults.

***The work we do with our youth has the potential to “knock the socks off” of prospective contributors within our own communities!*** Include your ability to articulate in fifteen, ten minutes, five and two minute segments who, what and how you do what you do, and why it directly connects to those you are presenting or speaking. (The 15 and 10-minute ones can be posters, art, PowerPoint, photos, etc. The 5 and 2-minute segments should simply and carefully worded, rehearsed and as extemporaneous and conversational as possible.) Your students must be as skilled as you are in these segments.

**Ten next steps:** 1) Make a list of who and what is impacted now or in the future by your work. Remember that your “community” is as big or small depending on where the employers and other economic engines are located. 2) Break up the list among your team and research all you can learn about the business or organization, what is important to them, and how your work connects to them. 3) Find out when they make contributions, and check the history of their contributions to other causes. 4) Get names of contact people. 5) Analyze and prioritize potential prospects. 6 thru 10) Practice, practice before you make an appointment to present. Go!

Over the coming months, I will be working to provide more guidelines and ideas to assist you in your efforts. If you have some any specific questions or feedback, please email me at: [dan.hoynacki@oregonstate.edu](mailto:dan.hoynacki@oregonstate.edu).

Dan Hoynacki – CEI USA – Oregon Chapter

## Youth Derived Rights and Responsibilities

by Ryan Kinnett

**Have you ever taken a moment to discuss with students various types of rights and responsibilities all people should have as it pertains to human rights, teen rights, consumer rights, and countless others?**

Consider taking this discussion on an international level and getting input from various types of people representing different cultures, religions, and ways of life. We did this at the CEI-USA 2005 Conference in Salem, Oregon based on the topic of environmental rights and responsibilities. We got much more than we expected as students drafted up a powerful declaration. Below is the Preamble written by student-delegates. It justly sums up the purpose of a Declaration of Environmental Rights and Responsibilities and is an important tool for CEI to use when we make connections in our home communities and beyond:

*When we first arrived at this summit, everyone was a little shy and maybe even nervous. No one knew what to expect. Not only we have to overcome our fears but also we had to overcome the cultural barriers and be able to communicate when there were so many different languages spoken. But the thing we all shared that was able to connect us was hope. Together we were able to help our city or park and our world. We all shared the same passion. When all came together we were able to come up with our dreams, thoughts and ideas. It's now stated here in this: The worlds' Declaration of Rights and Responsibilities.*

*There are many things to which we all have the right, however there are also many responsibilities, which apply to everyone. Our rights and responsibilities must work together. We may have the right to a clean environment, however if we do not act on our responsibilities and take care of our waist in proper ways such as recycling we are than denying our self of the right being a reality. Our rights and responsibilities effect and are effected by the economy and the environment. **If we do not take action on our responsibilities we may ruin the environment.** We may also lower the economy by causing the need for money to go into simple things such as keeping water pure and disposing of waist. If we ruin our environment we cause many of our rights to be incapable of being a reality, our may be polluted, our water may be unhealthy. Therefore rights, responsibilities, economy, and environment must meet a harmonious balance, and we must all work towards this.*

*As soon as we divided in groups, **we realized that the different problems we were facing were not only applied to us as individuals or towns. They were also applied to the whole world and to all communities.***

*Each person has a crucial role for the economical, social and environmental stability.*

*Therefore, we have concluded that everyone has to accept their rights and responsibilities, since facing them, as part of a global work will allow mankind to achieve a global economic vitality and environmental sustainability. Since we all have common problems, we also have common solutions.*

*The production of the final declaration was created by many major factors and because of the religious, cultural and age barriers which where broken, realization of equality between delegates was achieved. The four multi-cultural committee groups: water, sustainable resource recreation, renewable and non-renewable resource management and restoration and stewardship, were based on the initial ideas of the presentations studied by the delegates. Through the cooperation and equality gained by these multi-cultural groups has allowed each individual delegate, each a citizen of their own country, and each a citizen of the world, to understand that every society around the world is facing the same problems and each is working towards the same goals. With extra global support from societies around the world, the solution to an issue seems much closer in reach.*

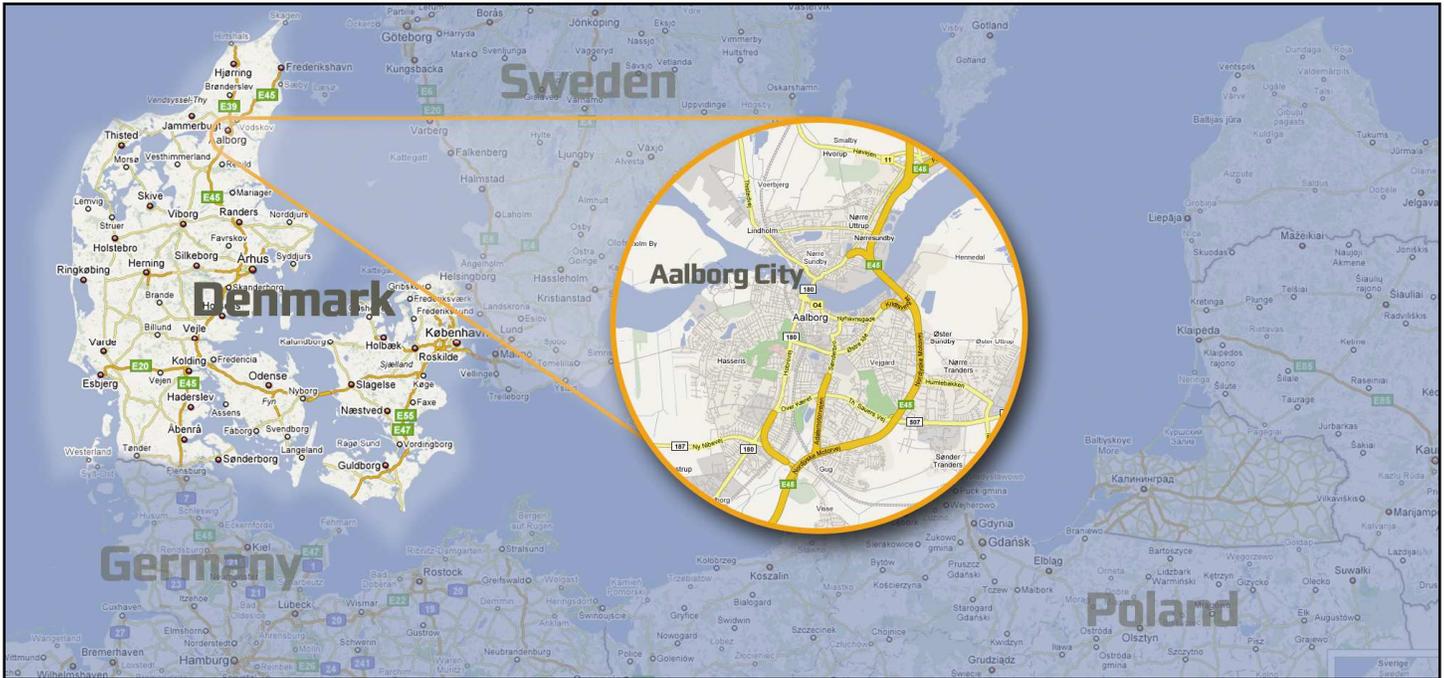
*We want municipalities and governments to read this document and try to solve these problems and do laws and rights for the individual businesses and the municipalities. They can adopt this document. We want all people to think about the environment and the rights for it. We have established friendships all over the world. We have learned about the environment and the rights for it around the world. We have learned and achieved much throughout this summit and trough this declaration we hope to go on to make this world a better place. Remember: different worlds, common problems, and common solutions. Together we can achieve all.*

### **Individuals, business, communities and government all share a role in solving global environmental issues.**

As an environmental educator, one of my goals is to prepare youth to take on the adult roles they will shortly assume in their life. Our youth are the next leaders in business, communities, and government. Empowering them to develop tools they can take with them and apply at the next level of their lives is significant and important to the mission of CEI. Soon the CEI website will host tools and resources for educator's interested in creating their own Declaration of Rights and Responsibilities.

The words from the preamble above carry a lot of wisdom. They come from fresh minds eager to be that positive change they wish to see in the world. That is what we want, isn't it?

Ryan Kinnett – CEI USA – Oregon Chapter



## Welcome to Caretaker's Next Environmental Conference in Denmark July 2008

We are very pleased to host the next CEI's environmental conference. The conference will take place from Sunday July 6th to Saturday July 13th, 2008 in the 3rd largest city in Denmark which is Aalborg.

Aalborg is situated in the Northern part of Jutland and is divided by the Limfjord. One part of the city, Aalborg, is on the South side of the fjord, and the other, Nørre Sundby, is on the North side.

Aalborg is easily reached. There is an airport with several daily connections to Denmark's main airport, Kastrup, in Copenhagen. Trains also run between all major cities in Denmark regularly.

We have chosen to locate the conference on a military base because it offers plenty of space for sleeping, eating, workshops, activities, etc. During the summer there are very few soldiers present on the base as they are on vacation leave. Therefore we were given permission to change the base into a college campus like environment with room for everybody as well as all the activities.

The young people will sleep in 12 dorms. The teachers and mentors will get single or double rooms. There are auditoriums for the large conventions and well suited rooms for project proposals. Furthermore there are modern dining rooms and lounges for both the youth and the teachers.

In connection with the conference there will be excursions where we will see different forms for alternative energy such as some of Denmark's windmills. We will also visit remains from the Vikings and see unique landscapes.

**Since Denmark will be hosting the United Nations Top Climate Summit in 2009 our environmental conference has achieved the status of being a pre- initiative for the big UN meeting.** Therefore our young people will be developing statements to send to The UN summit in 2009.

The web site for our environmental conference is being developed. The name, however, is established: [www.cei2008.org](http://www.cei2008.org). In time you will be able to find further information about the conference there. You will also be



able to register to attend and much more. Here in Denmark we are in the process of developing a national branch of Caretakers of the Environment International. Until that is established, the environmental work is all done in the Youth School in Aalborg (Ungdomskolen) which is described in the following:



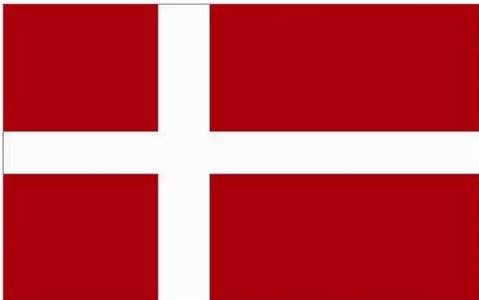
Aalborg Youth School is a public organization which mainly works with youngsters in the age group 13 to 19 years old. We offer both professional and leisure time activities within many different areas. The organization is the largest of its kind in our country with about 500 employees, 2000 active members in youth clubs, and 4000 youngsters who take part in our many educational and cultural offerings.

For more information about Aalborg Ungdomskole go to the website:

[www.ungaalborg.dk](http://www.ungaalborg.dk)

### Facts about Denmark

The name of the Danish flag which is seen here is Dannebrog.



Denmark consists of the peninsula Jutland (Jylland) and 406 islands. Area: 43090 square

kilometers.

Coast length: 7300 kilometers.

Highest point: 173 meters above sea level.

Population: About 5.4 million.

Capitol: Copenhagen

Language: Danish

Government: Constitutional parliamentary monarchy.

Since 1972 Margrethe II has been the queen. The prime minister (minister of the state) Anders Fogh Rasmussen was elected in 2001. The parliament (Folketinget) has one assembly with 179 members of which 2 are from Greenland and 2 are from The Faroe Islands (Færøerne)

The official language in Denmark is Danish, but English is obligatory starting in elementary schools and is therefore understood and spoken by most Danes.

The currency is the Danish Krone (DKK). Although Denmark is a member of the European Union, it is not part of the Euro zone and Danish shops are not obliged to accept payment in Euro. Shops in central Copenhagen and in tourist areas do accept Euro, however. Credit cards are also widely accepted.

June, July, and August are summer months and the average temperature in July is 17 degrees Celsius.

Source for these facts: Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

For more information about Denmark go to the official website for tourists: [www.visitdenmark.com](http://www.visitdenmark.com) or the similar site for Aalborg: [www.visitaalborg.com](http://www.visitaalborg.com)

We look forward to seeing you.



Elisabeth Brun

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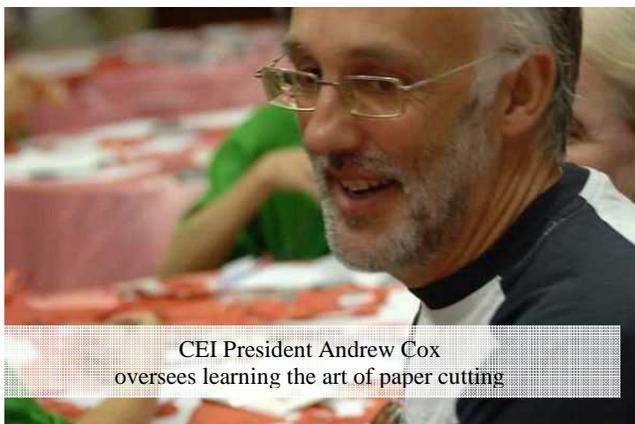
Mail: [ejb-kultur@aalborg.dk](mailto:ejb-kultur@aalborg.dk)

Phone: 0045 98 176932

Fax: 0045 98 194680



Elisabeth and Soren enjoy the traditional Chinese banquet while they plan the 2008 CEI conference in Denmark



CEI President Andrew Cox  
oversees learning the art of paper cutting

## Who are the Caretakers of the Environment in Africa?

Browsing through the internet, I discovered many ways in which the phrase Caretakers of the Environment is used. This ranged from communities to women to young people. This short article is to brief you on some of the links that CEI have in Africa.

Currently our most active group is in Kenya. CATEK have followed on their hosting of the Conference in 2003 in Kisumu on the lakes of Lake Victoria with a series of actions which included Tree planting on September 21st, 2007 which was International Tree day.

Around the same time, trees were planted elsewhere on Africa in Somalia, Congo (<http://ajdhpe.populus.org/>), Cameroon, Botswana, Morocco and Egypt as well as many other parts of the world. ([www.enotreeday.net](http://www.enotreeday.net))

The World Environment Day was held on 5th June, 2007 and this year the UNEP theme was Melting Ice, a hot topic. Many African countries were involved. ([http://www.unep.org/wed/2007/english/Around\\_the\\_World/Africa.asp](http://www.unep.org/wed/2007/english/Around_the_World/Africa.asp))

Caretakers Kenya acted out their play, Drops of Life, at Nyadura school in Oyugis. The aim of the play was to advocate for cooperation in environmental protection through tree planting initiatives all over the world.

Those of you who attended the 2003 conference might be interested in Mission Hyacinth, an L.V.C. Permaculture Network Initiative in conjunction with Clean up the World weekend in September. This clean up of an invasive species around the shores of Lake Victoria at Homa Bay involved 2000 volunteers. Biological control with the introduction of a South American beetle is also being tried. (<http://www.abc.net.au/science/slab/hyacinth/default.htm>)

A National Branch (CEITA) is based in Mwanza, Tanzania on the southern shores of Lake Victoria. ([www.caretakers-tanzania.8m.com](http://www.caretakers-tanzania.8m.com))

What has been happening in South Africa since they hosted the wonderful conference in 2001? It was great to

meet BG Mzolo in Hong Kong with his students. We look forward to a report on the activities of his group in the next Global Forum. On the occasion of World Environment Day 2007, Sustainability United, an Environmental Network for Children, Youth, Women and NGOs based in **Kwazulu-Natal** organized talks for three high schools and also screened the film: *An Inconvenient Truth* for local youth. The organization also distributed World Environment Day material to the local schools. Sustainability United were an active participant in the South Africa conference in 2001. The contact person is: [Troy.Govender@eskom.co.za](mailto:Troy.Govender@eskom.co.za)

Women are seen as the traditional Caretakers of the Environment. It was interesting to see the role played Ms Rejoice Mabudofhasi as Deputy Minister for Environmental Affairs and Tourism in South Africa at the 2004 Conference of Women Ministers for the Environment and the Global Women's Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya. The title of that conference was: Caretakers of the Environment...from Beijing to Johannesburg and beyond. Those who were in South Africa in 2001 will remember the same lady gave both the opening and closing remarks at the CEI conference in Pietermaritzberg.

At previous conferences we have had links with Science across Europe, now Science across the world (<http://www.scienceacross.org>). The African contact for this excellent project is:

Charmaine Klein  
Environmental Education and Resources Unit  
University of the Western Cape  
Private Bag X17  
Bellville 7535  
SOUTH AFRICA  
Tel: +27 (0) 21 959 2498  
Fax: +27 (0) 21 959 2484  
Email: [eeru@uwc.ac.za](mailto:eeru@uwc.ac.za)

What does CEI mean in Uganda? Community Impowerment Initiative. So with this worthwhile project underway in the west of the country, some Caretakers in Uganda are in the process of establishing CATEU under the leadership of Musakubawo Moses in the district of Palisa in eastern Uganda. This acronym will avoid any confusion.

In West Africa, there have been links with Caretakers in the past. A National Branch has been established in Cameroon for several years. CEICAM are based in Yaounde and are associated with WISER (Toward a just and sustainable world created by community, <http://www.wiserearth.org>)

I am sure there are many other excellent educational projects being undertaken in Africa. I would be delighted if you could write an article on any that you know about or send me the website url and I will review their work.

Andrew Cox (Regional co-ordinator for Africa)  
[caretakeire@eircom.net](mailto:caretakeire@eircom.net)

## Student Alumni Council: Our Evolution and the Hong Kong Experience

By Nick Leibner

As a former student attendee of several CEI Conferences, Ireland '98, Sweden '00, Italy '02, and Greece '04 when I attended as an adult representative sharing my knowledge of Michael Fields Sustainable Agriculture Institute in East Troy, WI, I felt a distinct honor in being allowed to be part of a newly formed Student Alumni Council that came to fruition in Poland in '06. **During my time that I participated as a high school student at the international conferences, I grew in knowledge, leadership, understanding and appreciation for the CEI organization.** In 1998, I was a 14-year-old freshman in a U.S. high school. I was involved in environmental issues, thought I understood about the problems the environment faced, and wanted to do more. After participating in this conference that was held in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland and learning about what real cooperation means, I realized that many of the things I took for granted, or assumed should happen in life and the environment, needed much more work, cooperation, understanding, and time than I'd previously assumed.

From there I went on to work with peers in a distance-learning course for Sweden. Working with students in my grade whom I'd previously not known gave me a taste of collaboration, compromise, and dialogue. Then when we attended the conference in Sweden, I was able to see this format on an international scale. One of the students whom I'd worked with in Sweden and I went on to collaborate on a project involving fuel-celled cars and presented it in Italy. By then I'd grown a lot, both in maturity and understanding of the diversity, sameness, and need for problem solving that my peers and I from around the world had regarding our earth's survival. In Italy, I dialogued a lot with Marie Ussing. We were in the same group and when we sat at the debriefing session in the mountains north of Torino, being asked serious questions by Arjen Wals regarding what we thought as students about the conference, we felt that we were valued and had a purpose in furthering this wonderful CEI concept. Marie and I both valued the idea that the Board valued our needs, as students. We were asked what we thought went well and what we thought could be improved upon. **This process was empowering and we began to dream of taking a leadership role in an organization that put so much emphasis on meeting the needs of the student participants.** As both Marie and I'd attended a variety of conferences, not always the same, and both of us had matured in our idealism, knowledge, and sense of responsibility, we began to feel that we needed to be part of the change, too. By the time we were in Greece in

2004, we really knew that we wanted a chance to give back to an organization that had given so much to us.

Other student delegates we'd met through the years we'd attended felt the same, and in Poland in '06 the CEI Board recognized our desires and allowed us to form a CEI Alumni Council. **The synergy we young adults had created as we'd crossed paths at the variety of conferences we'd attended had gelled into a fledgling group looking to the CEI Board for recognition, approval, mentoring, and support.**

Our goals were to give input to each host country as to what we'd valued most as students. We also wanted to provide a bridge for the host countries. We'd realized at students attending several conferences that each host country relied on its staff and students to provide all of the leadership. Because most of those people hadn't attended prior conferences, they weren't as aware as they could be as to what worked the best with students and what was valued by the participants the most. **We wanted to provide that bridge, to fill in the gaps, to be of use to each host country and to facilitate ice-breaking activities, lead debriefing exercises, work with students in reflection activities, and provide a continuity so that the CEI and the Global Forum could perform optimally.**



Ana, Nick and Marie share Student Alumni Council activities at closing ceremonies in Hong Kong

Luckily, our first conference was the one in Hong Kong in 2007. Herbert Tsoi, a volunteer himself, was a gracious teacher. As the coordinator of the conference, he kept us in the loop from the beginning. He spent numerous hours e-mailing us with the background of what they were doing, all of the decision making going on, their involvement of their students and the questionnaires the young people in Hong Kong filled out. He asked our advice and was always kind and respectful of our input. He invited us to arrive early so as to help with the preliminaries. Ana Almeida, Marie Ussing, and I were the three CEI Alumni Council members able to attend and we took him up on his offer. We were able to confer with teachers from the school, work with student leaders, visit the field experience sites and give input and we grew from this experience.

Herbert Tsoi's vision, as well as all of the leadership in Hong Kong, was to "train the trainer". They believed that their young people would benefit the most if they were trained in leadership as students. I know that this is a current philosophy in many academic and business establishments. We definitely saw it in practice in Hong Kong and we benefited from it, too. Herbert's mentoring of us, as we mentored the delegates was phenomenal. Thomas, Annie, Elaine, and many other teachers in Hong Kong who gave of themselves continuously also mentored us; we saw the school board sweeping floors after one of the dinners so that the teachers and students could continue their discussions. This impacted me greatly as I witnessed first hand what true leadership means.



Ana and Nick at ice-breaker activities

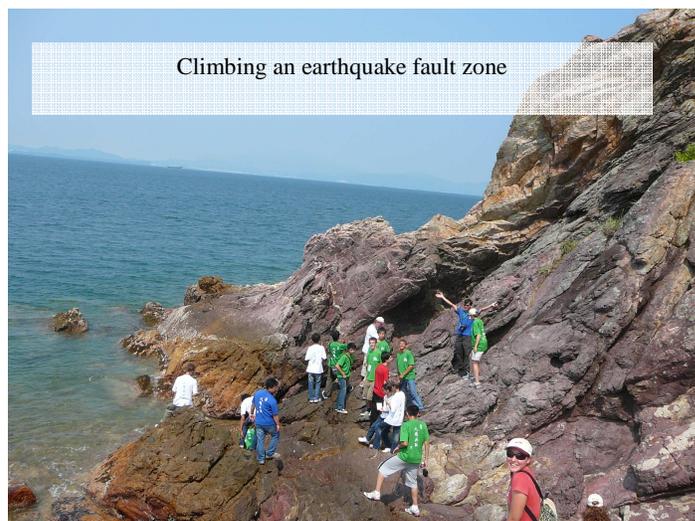
Ana, Marie, and I were thrilled to work with the students each evening as they wrote their daily news briefs, we enjoyed working with small groups in debriefing sessions, and in addition, we were impacted by the depth of caring we saw in the young delegates as we worked with them to provide their final recommendations. **We want to be an active group of leaders. We envision working with the young delegates and showing them through our leadership, listening, and modeling, what goals they can strive for as young adults.** We don't plan to be a passive group; we want to be part of a hands-on network. We've been in contact with some of the delegates since the conference via e-mail. We want to broaden this network and hopefully this personal touch will cause a meaningful chat site and web page to happen because of real life relationships.

Marie, Ana, and I learned a lot in our time in Hong Kong. I know that working with two people from two different European countries gave me a meaningful lesson in listening, cooperation, and conciliation. We thank the CEI Board for allowing us to grow, too. That was always our objective also. We want to be global leaders, no matter what our eventual occupations. This active participation in CEI as young adult leaders will make us do a better job at it. We hope to impact the students and hopefully some day, they'll say the same thing about us.

- Nick Leibner



Touring the Feng-Shui forest



Climbing an earthquake fault zone



Shopping in Kowloon Ladies Market