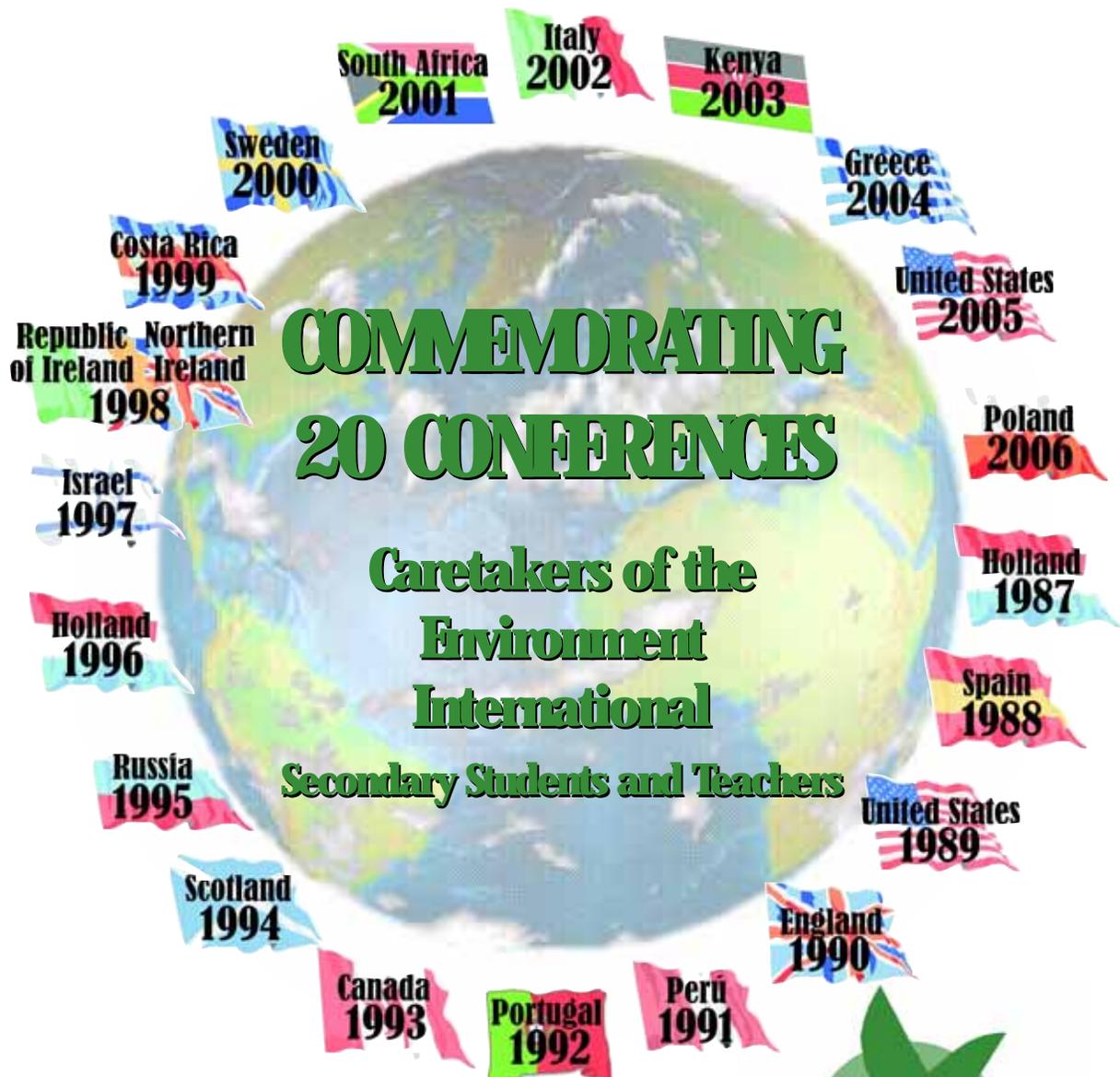


# The Global Forum for Environmental Education

Volume 16, Number 1, June 2006

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

The Global Forum for Environmental Education is the official publication of Caretakers of the Environment International. The International Board consists of: President Andrew Cox, Ireland; vice president Brigitta Norden, Sweden; director/ networking, Fatima Matos Almeida, Portugal; director/communications, Isabel Abrams, USA; secretary, Joke Wals, The Netherlands; director of information technology, David Lloyd, Israel; minutes secretary, Anne Marie Begg, Scotland; editor of Global Forum, Cris Leibner, USA; treasurer, Mr. Ed Radatz, USA; Mr. Arjen Wals, the Netherlands, Emeritus Member.

**Subscription information:**

subscriptions should be paid directly to:  
COTEI, RABO-bank Alkmaar,  
Number 376496967  
Individuals: Euro 10  
Schools: Euro 15 (4 copies)  
Libraries/Institutions: Euro 30

Participants in the annual international Caretakers of the Environment conferences automatically receive Global Forum by paying their registration fee.

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**Published with support of:**

European Platform,  
Nassauplein 8  
1815 GM Alkmaar, Netherlands.

**Notes for contributors:**

We welcome contributions in the form of articles, poetry, art work or reports related to environmental education in the broadest sense, as long as they are at least of interest to teachers and/or students at the upper secondary school level.

**Text:**

Text should be in WORD format for windows or else without format in plain text or rtf. An article can have a maximum length of 750 words. Articles exceeding 750 words are subjected to editing. Footnotes should be avoided. Please accompany each article by a short summary and an address for further information. If you are unable to use a computer, we still welcome your contributions!

**Tables, figures and illustrations:**

Do not include tables, figures and illustrations as part of the text. Gather them together in a separate file or on paper. In the text, you can point out the approximate position of tables, figures and illustrations. We would also like to receive captions to the illustrations you send us. We always welcome pictures and photographs!

**Deadlines:**

Global Forum appears twice a year in June and in December. **Contributions for the June issue have to be received before May the 1st. Contributions for the December issue before November the 1st.**

**Please send your contributions to:**

E-mail: Mr. Cris Leibner (USA and the rest of the world!)  
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**EDITORIAL**

By Cris Leibner

Can you imagine the number of experiences, impressions, observations, networking opportunities, and recommendations that would result from thousands of environmentally minded people from nearly 100 nations worldwide spending a total of about 120 days together in the environments of 19 different countries? That, in a nutshell, is what CEI has accomplished since its beginning.

Now imagine how you would condense these interactions into 24 pages of text and photos to paint a meaningful picture of what has taken place in the Caretakers of the Environment International's annual conferences up to now. Well, it's not easy to do, but I tried. What you have in your hands is a commemorative edition of the Global Forum that provides a brief summary of each of the meetings, starting with The Netherlands in 1987, and coming forward to the present. The information used to make the summaries came from past Global Forum issues, websites, reports, and first hand accounts of participants.

As you can imagine, there are thousands of details that could not be included due to obvious time and space restrictions. For me, the biggest downside of these restrictions is the lack of recognition that so many people who are responsible for giving of their time, talents, money, expertise, patience, and guidance deserve. At the same time, the upside is that Caretakers don't do things for the recognition; they do things because they believe in what they do and want to make the world a better place for everyone.

Sometimes we come away from conferences feeling that there is very little we can do as individuals. However, there is a quote that comes to mind that says that is not necessarily the case:

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*

— Margaret Mead

When I listen to presentations done by students at conferences, I am always amazed at the insight I gain about what other people's lives are like and how some situations seem so hopeless to me. But I am also amazed at the way students and teachers tenaciously go about trying to find creative solutions to some very difficult problems. They may not realize it, but they are making a difference! Caretakers have made a powerful base from which to build the first 20 years and I'm certain that even bigger differences will be made as a result of the next 20 years of CEI conferences and networking!

*On behalf of the present board members of CEI:*

**President-** Andrew Cox, Ireland

**Vice President-** Brigitta Norden, Sweden

**Director/Networking-** Fatima Matos Almeida, Portugal

**Director/Communications-** Isabel Abrams, USA

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We would all like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who contributed to the success of Caretakers the past 20 years and look forward to your continued involvement in the future.



***THE NETHERLANDS***  
***15-20 June, 1987***  
***The Hague***  
***"The Sea, Pollution,***  
***and Protection"***



The participants of the first Caretakers of the Environment International (CEI) conference camped at Okenburgh on the North Sea in caravans and tents by night and learned about many examples of the interplay between the land, soil, air, plants, animals, sea, and the people of the Netherlands by day. The group boarded buses to see dunes, dikes, beaches, fishing ports, marinas, cities, Texel Island, and estuaries. During the visits, they carried out investigations designed to help collect information for students to use in presentations and recommendations, which they would make at the end of the conference.



Camp Okenburgh

Environmental education is held in high regard by the Department of Parks in The Hague as shown by the education centers, city-farms, children gardens, and botanical gardens they maintain. One educator was concerned that young people in the cities were losing sight of the connection to the land and developed lessons for teachers that would have each student in city schools experience firsthand the planting of a wheat seed, caring for it, harvesting the grain, grinding it into flour, and making it into bread, "perhaps they will gain an appreciation for where food comes from and see the importance of preserving clean land and water."

At the closing ceremony of the conference, Harry Wals, co-founder and director of Parks,

Recreation, and Environmental Education in The Hague, which hosted the CEI conference, explained that 1987 had been declared "The European year of the Environment." To support this idea, a "Blue Flag Campaign" had been created by the FEEE in which boat owners and responsible authorities of ports and beaches could be awarded the flag if they maintained certain standards of care for the environment. The flag was awarded to a recipient nearby. Mr. Wals summed up the main goal of this first conference by saying, "We must teach children to behave as world citizens because ecological problems have no national boundaries." That goal is to provide opportunities for students to meet and learn together. As one student put it, "I have something I will remember the rest of my life--people working together to make the world a better place to live."



Blue Flag Presentation



Visiting City Farm School

**SPAIN**  
**16-20 June, 1988**  
**Valsain**  
**"Natural and Cultural Heritage"**



The conference was held at the National Center of Environmental Education (CENEAN) which is located on the south slope of the Guadarrama Mountain Range in the town of Valsain, Spain, about 75 km from Madrid. This conference was one of the first international meetings to be held at this state of the art center which included a library, reading room, interpretative rooms about geological development, fauna and flora, ecosystems, and climate of the area. There were also displays about the cultural aspects of the historical evolution of the landscape depicting human influence in the area from the Roman era through the presence of the Arabs, the discovery of the Americas, to the present era in which technology and other elements are endangering the environment.

Participants visited the famous Aqueduct of Segovia, the Palace of Riofrio, the Palace of La Granja with its famous gardens and fountains, and the homes of kings of Spain in the Guadarrama Mountains. Other visits included the Royal Glass Factory and Lumber Yard of Valsain. Methods for keeping the forest healthy so as to maintain a constant wood supply without endangering the forest were explained.

Near the end of the conference, an abandoned village which was undergoing restoration was visited. Various experts in historical development and education were living there to do the restoration and create a series of environmental education programs for children of all ages showing the relationship between the people who lived there and the natural resources available to them through each period over the centuries. The conference closed with students and teachers presenting conclusions and recommendations about the experience.

Right - Playing an ancient game in the restored village.



Below - Stopping for sheep who have the "right of way".



Above - National Center of Environmental Education, Cenean

Right - Forests of Vasain where the masts of Christopher Columbus' ships may have come from.



Above - Aqueducts of Segovia.

Right - Ana Aranda discussing several conference recommendations.



**UNITED STATES**  
**24-30 June, 1989**  
**Chicago, Illinois**  
**"Technology and the Environment"**



The host organization for this meeting was the Pollution Control Center of Oak Park and River Forest High School in Oak Park, a suburb of Chicago. High technology companies, national laboratories, major universities, museums, and farmland were nearby. This location provided unique opportunities for 22 tours during which the participants examined the environmental costs and benefits of waste management, water purification, agricultural, architectural, industrial, medical, genetic, and other technologies.

Representatives of major environmental organizations of the U.S. government and other groups spoke about environmental issues. The late U.S. Senator, Paul Simon, said in his opening remarks, "I am very pleased to be here with all of you. I am particularly pleased to have representatives from other countries here because the environment is not just the problem of the United States. We are one family, one globe. We are neighbors". Dr. Noel Brown of the United Nations said at the end of his talk, "...as caretakers of the earth, you are also shareholders of the earth. And the poet E.B. White summed it up rather well when he said, 'I hold one share of corporate earth, but I'm uneasy about the management.' Get involved with the management and that will save the

earth". A former student of Oak Park River Forest High, Nan Stockholm, who at the time was an environmental lawyer, said about the potential of high school students in getting things started, "High School students were the reason that these projects began and succeeded-students who were in many cases not yet able to drive or to vote!"

Caretakers also had fun- on the campus of Concordia College where they were housed, on the buses, at meals, at Great America theme park, Taste of Chicago,



Visiting Golden Rondell theater at Johnson Wax in Racine, Wisconsin.



Bob Stromberg performer at Indiana Dunes.



Senator Paul Simon informally mingling with delegates.

and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. They developed an appreciation of the diversity of cultures and their links to nature, as they shared songs and stories, and made friends from many countries.

Below - The famous Chicago skyline



**ENGLAND****25-29 June, 1990****Bristol****"Environment-  
Conflict or Cooperation"**

The following are excerpts from an article in the Global Forum, November 1990, written by a past president of CEI, Richard Parish:

The conference was a successful culmination of two years work for the huge number of sponsors and supporting agencies. The organizers are especially grateful to the many individuals within these organizations who gave not only support but enthusiasm and personal commitment.

The official opening in Weston-Super-Mare, was by Jonathan Porritt whose keynote speech elaborated on the conference theme: Environment-Conflict or Cooperation. The need for a balance between industry and environment was advocated by Ivor Whitting from British Gas.



Richard Parish holding one of the posters given to each delegation by a school from Wales, WI.

Visits by delegates into the local environment included studies as varied as nuclear power, food manufacturing, and school grounds. Information was collected for presentations at the end of the conference.



Waiting to board 'double deckers' for visits to the area.

Even though work was important, the organizers did not fail to develop a holistic approach to the delegates visit! First, delegates were exposed to the doubtful culinary delights of traditional English Fish and Chips. The highlight of the conference was the barbecue provided by the Parent-Teachers' Association at Churchill School where entertainment was provided by Morris Men and a local folk group. Many talented delegates added an international tone to the music by sharing songs and dances from their own home countries.



A view of English country side.

A visit to the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust at Slimbridge was followed by the launch of a major schools' initiative: Wetland Watch.

Finally, the weary delegates, some in national costume, were wined and dined at the Grand Hotel in Bristol, with Minister of Environment, Mr. David Heathcoat providing the after dinner speech.



Presenting findings to the tune of "Old McDonald."

**PERU****27 August to****1 September, 1991****Cusco****"Environment and Development"**

The following was summarized from information in volume 2, no.1, of the Global Forum, 1991 written by past president of Caretakers, Arjen Wals, who attended the meeting in Peru.

All the participants gathered in the town of Urumbamba where they were to stay in a tourist resort area that had been empty as a result of a sharp decline in tourism. The organizing team (the National University of Cusco: San Antonio Abad, CESVI-INDA, the city of Cusco and Asociacion Iniciativa Comunal de los Andes-INCA) had taken all the measures to guarantee the safety of the delegates: military personnel and civilian police surrounded the resort area throughout the conference. Upon arrival in Urumbamba, we were handed a package of information: a woven hand bag, a colorful conference program, and posters of Inca ruins.

The program looked promising; 13 scheduled lectures on topics varying from sustainable development in developing countries to mining pollution in Peru; 7 interactive seminars focusing on a broad array of issues such as environment and communication, natural resources and environment, population, urban problems; and finally, fieldwork which included river water monitoring, environmental education in Urumbamba, soil erosion control, reforestation, and highland vegetation analysis. All participants joined on a field trip to Machu Picchu, the lost city of the Incas.

The host university was celebrating its 300th anniversary and the international conference was seen as the perfect opportunity to highlight this event. For the Peruvians this conference was a rare opportunity to meet environmental experts from other regions of the country and to draw the attention of politicians and decision makers to the acute environmental problems the country is experiencing. This made for quite a different mix of participants than is usually found in

Caretakers conferences. Due to different interpretations of the definition of "environmental education," the majority of the attendees were professionals and university students involved in ecology, chemistry, biology, and hydrology and the conference took on a more academic focus than usual. Despite this, the small group of secondary students there created their own discussion groups and formulated their own closing statements, reminding us that CEI is above all a network for secondary school teachers and students.



Machu Picchu, the lost city of the Incas.



Above - Field trip to dry lands and mountains

**PORTUGAL**  
**15-19 June, 1992**  
**Troia**  
**"Environment and Tourism"**



At the time of the conference, Portugal, like many other countries, was exploring ways to improve its tourist trade. One of the aims of this conference was to discuss and generate ideas of ways to increase tourism without a further negative impact on the environment. The setting for the conference was Troia, a hotel and recreation complex along a stretch of beach on the Atlantic just south of Setubal.

Conference organizers explained to our international delegation that most tourists came to Portugal and spent time in Lisbon and the Algarve. With such a

narrow focus, these visitors were missing much of the natural beauty of the rest of Portugal and were causing environmental problems in both Lisbon and the south of Portugal.

As we ventured north and east to Lisbon, Cascais, Estoril, Sintra, small fishing villages, cork plantations, and olive groves, we were charged with the task of looking for recommendations we could make that would enhance a visitor's understanding of the complexity of Portugal's history and both its natural and cultural beauty. By the end of the conference, many recommendations were made and a few of them are as follows:

For tourists:

1. Show respect for local heritage and ways of life. Local guides and tourist centers could help provide valuable information.
2. Participate in local recycling and environ-

mentally friendly practices.

3. When possible support local hotels, shops, and restaurants, instead of encouraging international mass tourism.



Presenting findings in an 'artistic way'.

For national and local government agencies:

1. Introduce a form of environmental rating system that would identify those businesses that follow sound environmental practices.
2. Insist on recycling and other programs that maintain and beautify areas.
3. Make funds available to encourage environmentally friendly practices.



Delegates take part in an activity to learn about the environment around the conference complex.



The cultural food group uses traditional ingredients.



Handing out certificates at Cabo da Roca-furthest western point in Europe.

**CANADA**

**25-29 June, 1993**

**Truro, Nova Scotia**

**"Environment and Natural Resources"**

**by Kate Graves**

[cei.canada@gmail.com](mailto:cei.canada@gmail.com)



There once arrived, in the land of the Mi'Kmaq, 120 people from all corners of the world. Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada hosted the 7th annual Caretakers of the Environment International Conference in June 1993.

The Environment & Natural Resources' programme offered time through field trips, discussions, workshops and informal learning sessions to consider the matter.

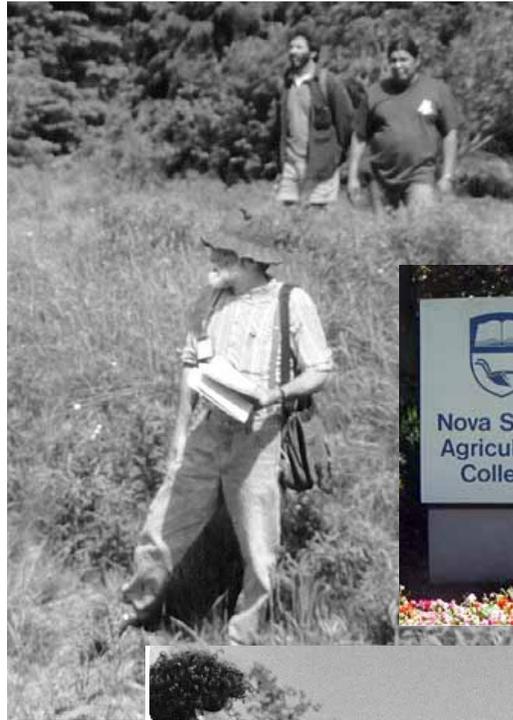
Students directed discussions: "What about the influence of natural resources on lifestyle(s), public and personal wealth, the environment and political power?"

Field trips included: marine, woodlands, farmland and urban study tours. The forest, the soil, the crops, salt water, fresh water, and surface mining, seemed like no rock was left unturned.

Workshops, presentations and discussions turned to values, ethics and future directions for resource use. O' Canada there were concerns but they seemed manageable, protectable, and even ecological.

The Eco-pro Hunt was a game of collecting facts and ideas from school-based projects brought to Nova Scotia by the delegates of 17 countries. 100 townsfolk also viewed the projects.

Students developed a sense of belonging as cultural, racial, and religious, differences were overcome. They returned home with the vision of sharing what they had experienced from elders, indigenous people, peers and indeed the world.



Delegates on a field trip.



Below - Group warm ups.



Canadian Sea Gulls



**SCOTLAND**  
**13-18 June, 1994**  
**Aberdeen**  
**"Sustainability"**



The 1994 conference was organized by Dyce Academy, a comprehensive secondary school with a long history in the development of environmental education. The meeting opened with an address by the British environmental campaigner Jonathan Porritt who defined sustainability and the challenges that achieving sustainability pose.

Participants were organized into small working groups each made up of between 12 and 15 delegates from different delegations. A local teacher and two senior students from Dyce Academy led each group. These groups worked together intensively for three days taking part in a variety of fieldwork activities at various locations in the Aberdeen area. The topics included waste management, urban planning and traffic management, agriculture, consumer habits, power generation, fishing in the North Sea, forestry, housing, and others. Five of the 16 groups had an especially exciting experience when they found themselves in the middle of a simulation of an oil spill in a stream in a national nature reserve. It was exciting because the delegates were not told it was a simulation designed for the local emergency teams to practice their skills, rather they believed for most of the day they were involved in the real thing!

Students had been given a series of questions to consider about sustainability under three contexts: the urban, managed, and wild environments. After gaining information from the field activities, the students set about answering the questions and formulating recommendations as to how we can achieve a sustainable future for generations to come. Eight student groups each presented what they had learned. It was evident in each of them that the students clearly understood what sustainability is all about.



TV station uses delegates as audience for the broadcast



Above - Visit to a power plant.



Oil spill and clean up simulation.

**RUSSIA****12-18 June, 1995****Murmansk****"Arctic Ecology and the Environment"****Meeting in Murmansk****By Isabel Abrams**

"Ten years ago we were enemies. Now we are here, working on environmental problems together." *Arjen Wals, president of Caretakers of the Environment International, Murmansk, Russia, June 1995*

In June 1995, the CEI conference took place in Murmansk, Russia. Students and teachers from The Netherlands, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Canada, USA, Portugal, Sweden, Finland, Norway, and Curacao ate a midnight supper in broad daylight because it was summer in the Arctic Circle, and Murmansk was only 500 miles from the North Pole.

The conference theme, the Arctic and the Environment, was introduced by speakers who described the Kola Peninsula as a scenic place and a center of mining and smelting, where lakes and beaches were polluted because of nickel, aluminum and atomic plants.

When buses drove through Murmansk, students admired the huge murals on apartment buildings, and complained about the piles of rubbish and the absence of trees and flowers.

On the tundra, Caretakers saw lichens and mosses in 70 degree F weather, and were amazed to find only one small patch of snow. In the forest, Caretakers raced with giant mosquitoes, then sat near a lake singing Russian songs.

At the port, Caretakers saw a huge statue of a soldier, boarded a nuclear icebreaker, and learned that radioactive wastes were stored nearby.

Teachers from various countries agreed to cooperate with Russians on a Lifestyle and Energy Survey, Seeds of Biodiversity, Lake Monitoring and other projects.

Russian dance troupe performs.

The conference ended with student skits about Arctic pollution, resolutions such as, "Be a creator, not a destroyer." After Russian dances, Caretakers shed tears of goodbye to new friends.



Project presentation.



Minkono School Conference Poster



**THE NETHERLANDS****9-15 June, 1996****Heerlen and Kerkrade****"Conference on  
Environment and  
Development in Education and Research  
CEDER"**

The tenth jubilee conference for CEI took place in the Netherlands, the country in which the first conference was held. This meeting was held at the historic Abbey-Conference- Center of Rolduc, in Kerkrade and at Sintermeerten college in Heerlen.

The CEI format of joined teacher-student activities served as the framework for investigations, making recommendations, and presentations while considering seven themes:

1. *Industrial Development* - Delegates visited local factories to see how they were trying to work as environmentally friendly as possible.
2. *Developing Environment* - Changing mining districts into business districts and green spaces has many challenges.
3. *Energy* - Energy is used in many ways to manufacture products, to work, to live. Hydro-power and co-generation were investigated.
4. *Environmental Education* - Visited schools and discussed and shared exemplary teaching and learning strategies.
5. *Art in Environment* - Delegates visited natural areas, poets, artists, and writers. They then presented their findings through sketches, artwork, poetry and music.
6. *The Global Neighborhood* - Participants toured stores and investigated the natural resources, prices, and countries that produced goods. A presentation showed the consumerism of countries of the northern and southern hemisphere.
7. *Outdoor Recreation* - Ways of protecting the environment while still enjoying activities like mountain biking, cave crawling, and climbing mountains were investigated.

This conference had a very positive impact on students. The following essay, by one student, shows the impressions held by many.

*When I first came to Heerlen I was quite lonely. I didn't know anyone apart from my friends from N-Ireland. When we got settled into our room we made lots of friends, I found it very interesting learning about people from different cultures. I feel very at home, it's like having a second family, people are very loving and caring. I was surprised how co-operative people are, not only the caretakers but the people around the town. I will always remember this conference; I will hope to be going to another one in years to come.*

*Rosie McDermott, - Northern Ireland*



Preparing for presentations.



The host school.



The beautifully restored abbey.



**ISRAEL****22-27 June, 1997****Midreshet Sde-Boker****"Environment and  
Communication"**

Midreshet Sde-Boker is a small community located in the middle of the Negev - a spectacular desert area in the south of Israel. It is located above the riverbed of the Wadi Zin, 50 km south of Beer-Sheva, the capital of the Negev. Midreshet Sde-Boker is an education and science center which includes The Ben-Gurion Research Institute and Archives and the Desert Research Institute and other educational facilities. Since the theme of this conference is about the environment and communication, this area is the ideal setting because of the scientific facilities and worldwide communication systems available for participants to experience.

Field activities included bird-watching and night hikes in the desert. Delegates saw ibex in a canyon with a waterfall in the Ein Avdat National Park. They visited desert museums with archaeology, zoology, and Bedouin exhibits, the Desert Sculpture Museum, a national solar energy center, Kibbutz Sde-Boker, and the gravesite of David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister.

Students and teachers were divided into six theme groups:

1. Desert and Desertification
2. The Desert: A Danger or in Danger
3. Managing Sustainable Environments in the Desert
4. The Desert Ecosystem
5. Living in the Desert
6. Art in the Desert

Each group collected information, summarized their findings, and presented ideas for action about ways to live in harmony with the desert.

On the social side, participants watched a performance during the rising moon from the rim of the wadi. The Parade of Countries offered poems, songs, dances, and skits. Delegates rode camels, dined in a Bedouin tent, went to a community art festival, and joined in Israeli dances during the closing banquet.



Above -  
Watching  
video link to  
Swedish side.



Right - View  
overlooking  
Wadi Zin.



Mitzpe Revivm, one of first settlements in the Negev.



Working with desert materials in art group.

**REPUBLIC of  
IRELAND and  
NORTHERN  
IRELAND**

**28 June to 5 July, 1998**

**Waterford and Coleraine**

**"Management of the Rural Environment  
MORE - Cooperation or Conflict"**



The 12th conference for Caretakers was quite unique in that it was hosted by two different schools and required re-locating. Three days spent in the south and 4 days in the north. This has never been repeated since. Newton school in Waterford, the south, had been working on joint projects with Ballee Community High School in Coleraine, the north, for over 12 years. Both schools, being very strong in environmental education and both celebrating their 20th anniversaries, decided to team up and offer an opportunity for Caretakers to see the real Ireland.

Delegates took many excursions and conducted field studies of areas around both locations including the countryside, the coast, Waterford Crystal Company, mountains, bogs, dunes, landfills, Belfast, Giant's Causeway, farms, and other sites relating to topics of the main theme, MORE. Scientists, educators, environmentalists, government officials, artists, and other involved citizens guided trips and led investigations. The information gained from these experiences was organized around five study themes:

1. Rural Tourism
2. Coastal Zone Management
3. Exploiting Natural Resources
4. The Arts in the Environment
5. Energy and Waste Management

Delegates made creative presentations to share what they had learned. One group even replaced the words for the Irish tune of Molly Malone with a summary of their findings, it begins:

*On a coast of an Island  
which is well known as Ireland.  
You get there off board in the town Waterford.  
Since the Vikings they had fought there*

*They had seen there no foreigner.  
Long time they would wait  
"till the year 98.*

Chorus

*The year 98, the year 98*

*The Caretakers came in the year 98. etc.*

Eva Dessborn and Nico Kerkhoven made the transition. You can see the whole song on Ireland's home page.



Exploring coastal issues.



Presentation to the delegates.



Learning about the geology of the Giant's Causeway.



Food from the sea.

**COSTA RICA****27 June to 2 July, 1999****San Jose****"Biodiversity, Environment  
and Sustainable  
Development"**

Costa Rica has one of the world's most unique and diverse environments. From its volcanoes to its rainforests, from its beaches to its nature reserves, Costa Rica is a country that exemplifies biodiversity. It also has a number of organizations and programs that study, protect, promote, and educate about this treasure of biodiversity.

During the week, resources from INBio (National Institute of Biodiversity), Earth Council, FUNDECOR, Earth Charter, University of Peace, and INBioParque were used to demonstrate to participants what kinds of things Costa Ricans are trying to do to sustain the rich diversity of the area.

Participants were divided into groups that traveled to various locations and took part in related discussions and activities according to their sub-topic. They defined their conclusions and analysis of their participation and then presented these conclusions to the plenary group.

The four sub-theme groups were:

1. Biodiversity and Education - Delegates learned about the work of taxonomists and parataxonomists as they demonstrated how species are identified and classified and how important this work is to establish huge data-bases.

2. Festival of Art - Participants applied various art techniques using materials found in a variety of natural locations to produce objects showing an awareness and appreciation of diversity.

3. The Earth Charter - Delegates looked at biodiversity in relation to the Earth Charter which originated at the 1992 Earth Summit and was intended to be part of Agenda 21.

4. Ecotourism and Environmental Services - This group investigated how to develop sustainable eco-tourism - tourism that

educates and entertains visitors in balance with nature.

One evening, each national delegation presented songs and dances. Another night, Portuguese, Italian, and American delegates exchanged samples of biodiversity in food. An evening in San Jose was followed by the closing Costa Rican barbecue.



Two generations of sugar cane farmers.



A walk in the rainforest



Volcano Arenal



A small sample showing the biodiversity of beetles.

**SWEDEN**  
**15-19 June, 2000**  
**Lund**



**"Global Environmental Youth Convention (GEYC) - Preventative Environmental Strategies"**

The International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics (IIIEE) of Lund University joined with Caretakers of the Environment International Sweden (CEI/SE) as main partners to organize this conference. A unique feature of this meeting was that a large number of delegates had been trained in Preventative Environmental Management Strategies in a web-based program - Young Masters Distance Education Program before the 2000 conference.

King Carl Gustaf XVI and other dignitaries were present for the "Our Uniting Water Ceremony", which opened the conference. During part of the conference, students presented their project work which was about their visions of "How they would like their society to be in 25 years." The presentations were organized under the themes of:

Energy	Water
Food	Housing
Transportation	Communication
Products/production	Tourism
Biodiversity	Society

During the presentations, students had the opportunity to see several different approaches to the same problem and to compare their strategies with other delegates.

The students then formed groups of 4-6 and discussed these questions:

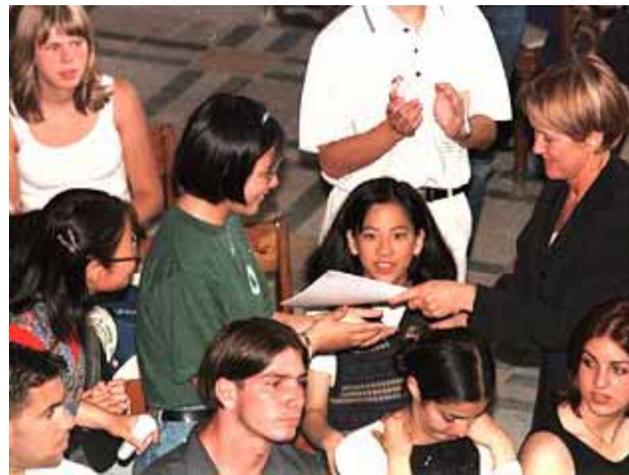
*What are the key environmental recommendations that they believe they can work with back home to promote preventative environmental management strategies?*

*What are the most effective ways to inform and persuade others as to the key recommendations identified in the previous question?*

Then by using a technique called "Knowledge Café", students used the results of

their discussions to try to create a global vision of how we can share our resources and insights into building sustainable societies for the future.

Delegates also took part in field trips including visits to an outdoor Viking village, native wildlife reserve, recycling center, and planted several hundred oak trees in an area devastated by a storm. As usual, students became very engaged in this conference, one student said, "I have only one question: CAN I STAY HERE FOREVER?"



Handing out certificates at end of conference.



Planting oak trees in storm damaged area.



Visit to the Viking village outdoor museum.

**SOUTH AFRICA**  
**30 June to 5 July, 2001**  
**Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu**  
**Natal**  
**"Cultural Diversity and**  
**Sustainable Tourism"**



The conference opened with a Zulu chanter wearing a zebra mask and headdress, as a chorus sang the music of KwaZulu Natal. Dr. John Tibane set the tone of the meeting, saying "We are leaders, not just of tomorrow, but of today. We can run this world in another way." In the keynote address, Ms. Rejoice T. Mabudafhasi, of the Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, said, "We all come from beautiful countries." She then asked, "How do we show the world this beauty? How do we involve the poorest of the poor to be part of this beauty?"

Caretakers learned that South Africa has great cultural diversity, with groups that speak 11 official languages. South Africa has the third most biodiversity in the world, including 3% of the earth's marine species, 5% of its insects, and 20,000 of its plants. One speaker defined sustainable tourism as pro-poor tourism with money benefiting the communities so they can survive; and visitors and tour operators who respect the culture and protect the natural environment. South Africa offers eco-tourists 16 wetlands of world importance, four world heritage sites; Kruger National Park with its large mammals; and the Cradle of Man.

In afternoon sessions, projects were presented in four groups:

- Waste Management
- Cultural Diversity and Heritage
- Eco-Tourism - Community
- Parks/Arts in the Environment

On one day, Caretakers visited a landfill, recycling plant, a tannery, and attended a civic reception at City Hall hosted by the mayor of Pietermaritzburg. The next day delegates toured an Ecabazini Village and visited Zulu homes, saw the sangomas (medicine men) and watched the women making beaded crafts. At dinner that day

everyone enjoyed traditional African dishes and listened to African drumming. Another day brought a trip to Midmar Park, a reserve of the KwaZulu Natal Wildlife Organization. Here students and teachers ran down a hill through waist high grass to see herds of impala and zebra.

During the closing banquet at Pietermaritzburg City Hall, students and teachers received certificates that reminded them of their responsibility to take care of the Earth. Government representatives urged Caretakers to continue their environmental work in South Africa; to attend the Johannesburg World Summit in September 2002; and to work together on international projects. The conference closed with an invitation to the June 2002 CEI meeting in Italy.



Above - Traditional dress of an earlier time.

Left - Delegates posing for picture.



Above - Preparing for opening remarks.



Right - Listening to conference speakers.

**ITALY****29 June to 3 July, 2002****Torino and Pracatinat****"Sustainable Mobility and  
Information -****Communication -Technology (ICT)"**

The march of the country flags ceremony.

The sixteenth conference was a joint CEI and GEYC event held in the beautiful Italian Alps. Registration and opening ceremony were held in Torino at Turin Polytechnic. Most of the convention activities took place in the Pracatinat Resort Center. Pracatinat is located in the mountainous Orsiera Rocciavre' Park between Sestriere and Turin, the area where the 2006 Winter Olympics took place. The center buildings were originally built in the first half of the century by the Agnelli family, owners of the Fiat car industry. This fact was an interesting connection to the theme of the conference because Italy's modern day auto industry uses the latest advances in information and communication technologies to develop safer, cleaner and more efficient transportation.

The delegates were divided into nine groups based on sub-themes for the purposes of project presentations ranging from transportation for livable cities to impact on biodiversity, to alternative fuels. Lectures, workshops, excursions, walks around the complex, and social time interlaced with the presentation schedule. All delegates worked on some part of preparation for the final day's activities including youth declaration statements, native soil ceremony, and the march of the flags.

The final day represented one of the most complex choreographed (and blister producing) events ever at a CEI conference. Two lines of delegates, one carrying flags from each attending country, and the other carrying a small container of soil from each country, descended down the mountain on foot paths down the walls of Fenestrelle Fort and into the valley to Army's Square where local citizens would join Caretakers for final closing remarks, presentation of Youth Declaration, and celebration.

Both pictures -  
Delegates explore  
around Pracatinat.

**Kenya, Africa****1-6 July, 2003****Kisumu City****"Sustainable Development in the Rural Environment"**

The following article is summarized from information in the Global Forum number 1-2, 2003.

The 17th CEI conference was held in Kisumu city at Tom Myboya Labour College, 1-6 July of 2003. The theme was "Sustainable Development in the Rural Environment."

Sub themes include:

- ◆ Cultural diversity
- ◆ Waste disposal and management
- ◆ Water sources protection
- ◆ Art in the rural environment
- ◆ Eco-tourism
- ◆ Health and environment

CEI Kenya was officially registered in January, 1998 and was named CATEK.

The mission of CATEK is to prepare youths for environmental leadership through creation of worldwide network of academic institutions and collaborators. Goals include:

- ◆ Provide youths with knowledge and skills for environmental leadership.
- ◆ Develop a worldwide network of students and teachers with environmental concerns.
- ◆ Promote environmental awareness in general public.
- ◆ Build trust, friendship and co-operative spirit among people of different cultural backgrounds for environmental protection.

There were opportunities to travel from Nairobi to Kisumu upon arrival to the country. This route offers a view of a cross section of an African rift valley, a feature formed as a result of compression and down warping and volcanic forces. See the tea plantation in Limuru and Kericho areas, which are some of the world's tea producing areas. Finally, arrive in Kisumu areas where you find the Ahero rice plot irrigation scheme and Lake Victoria formed as a result of down warping around there.

There were opportunities to visit Kakamega Natural Forest and Oyugis, a rural town where CATEK is currently headquartered. Kakamega Forest offered total views of a native forest. Oyugis area exhibited real agroforestry and biodiversity projects in a rural environment. Pelicans and a number of land use problems were noticed.

During the conference, there were open project displays from a variety of schools and groups about activities that are taking place from whichever region the participants came from.



Planting trees at Nyangiela School.

Below - Oyugis rural area.



Below -  
If you think  
this is easy -  
You try it!



**GREECE****30 June to 4 July, 2004****Thessaloniki****"School and Agenda 21:****Educating Young People for Their Sustainable Future"**

This article was summarized from the Global Forum, volume 14, number 2, 2004.

This conference, organized by CEI Greece and the Directorate of Secondary Education of Thessaloniki, succeeded in bringing together school and local authorities as well as local agents in the mutual cause of stressing the significance of sustainable development through the presentation of over 64 student and about 20 teacher presentations. Presented projects referred to topics about sustainability for tourism, cities, resource management, cultural heritage, rural development, agriculture, transportation, energy, and waste management.

In addition to having the opportunity to work together and exchange ideas on common issues, the participants had the chance to visit important archaeological sites such as the ruins of the palace of Alexander the Great in ancient Pella. Another trip was to the ancient settlement of Olynthos which was the first city planned according to the Hippodamus planning system. In the cities of Edessa and Chalkidiki delegates visited modern environmental centers and participated in workshops and tours of coastal and mountainous ecosystems.

All young participants contributed to the closing ceremony by presenting dances and music of their own country. Then, inspired by Greek music played by Greek students they found common expression by dancing all together.

As a result of the work done about the coastal areas, two poems were written:

*A Poem by Group "C"*

Before I knew what environment was,  
All nature elements  
Caught on the fields were  
Humble and senseless.  
Now I see the sea  
And something grows inside of me.

*Sami Beach Poem*

by Andraej Kowalski, Michal Urban, &amp; Barbara Wasiotka

The blue sky above  
The gold sand on the beach  
The green sea touching the sky  
Clean, hot air vibrating in silence  
This makes us all happy  
And we wish it would be like this  
Till the end of the world  
Unfortunately, people treat the earth  
As if they had another one to spare.



Student presentations.



Delegates explore ancient city ruins.



Final dinner.

**UNITED STATES****2-9 JULY, 2005****Salem, Oregon****"Forging New Partnerships  
with the Economic Community"**

High school students and teachers met in Salem, Oregon, at Willamette University for the 19th annual conference. CEI and Oregon State University Extension Service were the two major partners to organize this meeting. The main goal was to provide teachers and students with ways to make decisions about environmentally responsible business practices in their own countries. Students were also provided an opportunity to develop needed leadership skills as they relate to Agenda 21.

At the opening meeting, Janet Taylor, Mayor of Salem said, "Education, Economy, and Environment are the three E's of a successful city and sustainability." Mayor Janet Figley of Woodburn told delegates, "We are all neighbors. What we do has an impact on our neighbors and on the planet." The first activity was a series of outdoor trust and cooperation building games that helped get everyone to know each other faster. They worked well as measured by the amount of laughter and smiles coming from all delegates and facilitators.

Many excellent school projects were presented by delegates that showed what types of things other countries are doing environmentally: *Chile* showed how 60 schools are recycling. *Poland* showed ways to use energy wisely. *Japan* reported on paper making/ recycling. *Australian* students "Saved Kennedy Bay." *Hong Kong* told of Sustaining Tourism. *Qatar* involved students in wildlife care. *Scottish* students planted a wetland. *Barbados* youth turned barren space green. *Oregon* students restored wetlands. *Portuguese, Turkish, and Danish* schools reported on water conservation. *Colombia* talked of threats to national parks. These are just some of the great things students are doing to get involved with communities and business.

Tours included trips to the northwest shoreline where Caretakers would do a beach clean-up. Other trips included old growth forest; winery, Kettle potato chip factory, urban watershed, an aquarium and estuary. Proudly wearing their "YES05" T-shirts, Caretakers walked down a trail to get behind a nearly 200 foot waterfall to have a group picture taken.

Students from Hong Kong, Turkey, Japan, and Chile performed traditional dances. At a local pizzeria, everyone joined in singing karaoke and did a line dance. In a more formal setting, Caretakers listened to Chinese songs, Portuguese poetry, Swedish music, and watched a Danish skit about the Princess and the Pea. At the final dinner student groups presented the declarations of rights and responsibilities they had drafted during the week. The 20th conference in Poland was announced for 2006.

US delegation singing *This Land is Your Land*.

Above - Getting to know each other activity.



Left - Oregon beach clean-up.

**POLAND****1 July through 7 July, 2006****Katowice-Ustron, Silesia****"Youth for Sustainable Development"**

Since the 20th conference has not taken place as of the printing of this issue, the information was taken from the website, [www.cei2006.org](http://www.cei2006.org)

The CEI-Poland conference organization is headquartered in Katowice, the administrative center of Silesia. The conference attendees will be staying in Ustron, a picturesque spa town located in the Beskidy Mountains, in the valley of Poland's main river Vistula which rises near Ustron. They will be accommodated in the Regional Forest Ecological Education Center "Lesnik," as well as in the neighboring holiday resorts.

The theme of this meeting reflects the initiative set forth by the UNESCO announcement of the worldwide *Decade of Education for Sustainable Development*. The main idea behind this is that everything should be done, if not to stop completely, then at least to slow down the further increase of environmental degradation. The best results can be achieved by proper education and sensitizing of the younger generation to environmental problems.

The aims of the conference are to provide young people from various countries of the world opportunities to:

- present results of projects carried out in their schools the past year
- observe environmental problems and possible solutions in a strongly urbanized and industrialized region
- raise awareness concerning natural resource use and waste utilization
- create a platform for networking and sharing experiences with a diverse group of people

One of the items on the schedule of the 20th CEI conference is a ceremony preparing a trunk of the treasures of the Earth. Representatives of the countries participating in the conference will place small samples of natural resources of their

countries into a decorative trunk. The ceremony will take place in an unusual location about 140 meters below ground, in the huge Warsaw Chamber of Wieliczka Salt Mine. "Let the treasures we collect from the world serve to remind us how much we gain from nature, how limited the treasures of the Earth are and how important it is for us to learn to use them wisely and share them justly with others."



Antoni Salamon announces Poland Conference 2006.



Polish delegates from Yes 2005.

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