



Environmental Education

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Forum for



**Caretakers of the Environment
International**

A global network for teachers, educators, and



President's Message

Dear friends,

Sustainable Energy?

The conference theme sparks off some thoughts. How has the CEI organisation been sustained over 21 years since its inception in the USA? From the first conference in Den Haag, Netherlands to the present day in Aalborg, Denmark, we have been around the world. How many air miles have we clocked up in the interests of saving the planet? How many of the student delegates have sustained an interest in green issues that make a difference? How many of the teachers have been able to maintain their level of commitment to the cause?

My interest came from Karin Dubsky of Coastwatch Europe fame who suggested that I might be interested in bringing some delegates to the 1987 conference. And so it was that I got hooked. Now, I am an "old-timer" and President of CEI.

What of the future?

At present, the CEI Board meet once a year in very intensive sessions at the annual conference. It is the only realistic chance to make decisions and get things done despite the global nature of the internet. We value the input and support of the Council members who share their expertise in making progress. We are delighted to see the growth of the Alumni Council and look forward to supporting their ideas in the future.

What are the issues?

The next conference is always first on the Agenda. Some ask, why do we not have a 5 year plan fixed in stone? Governments change, sources of funding are unpredictable, and it is hard to get fees from delegations in advance of the conference. There are plenty of willing volunteers to host the annual conference but the sources of funding remain a problem. We look forward to Dan Hoynacki and his team as they work on proposals as to how we can put CEI on a sounder financial footing by attracting funding. This might allow us to expand the idea of providing scholarship support for some delegates from less developed regions to attend the conference. We must look at an even greater level of communication between conferences. Our website is a good portal into the organisation and thanks go to David Lloyd who is the

webmaster. The website links to the current conference website which is probably the most heavily used link on the site. It also links to National Branches. This is an area which needs renewed energy. In some countries, there are very active branches and they may even select schools to attend the conference. It is these branches which may be in the best position to draw down funding on a regular basis. Other branches have been dormant for too long and need a boost of energy to revitalise them.

The Global Forum is an excellent promotional tool for the organisation but it does require input for both the online and hardcopy versions. Lets help ourselves by providing that raw material in the form of pictures, articles and poems written by our young people, and reports on activities in our regions and organisations.

BLOG?

I have started a blog to try and encourage more debate. It allows me to out ideas and information into the public arena. This could help us communicate using another medium and encourage feedback. Maybe each National branch could do the same? It is much easier than keeping a webpage up to date.

cei2008@blogspot.com

Joint Educational Projects have been set up, have flourished and some have fallen by the wayside. We need to invest new energy into these projects to sustain the organisation into the future.

A final thought on the word **ENERGY**.

Environment Now • Encourage Renewables • Green You

Until the next message,

Andrew Cox.

President of Caretakers of the Environment, International

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Danske Jordbaer – Food for Thought

A Message from the Interim Editor

Dear Delegates and Friends,

It is my pleasure to compile this issue of the Global Forum as Cris Leibner remarkably continues to recover his health. As pointed out in this issue's Presidents Message, the GF will only be as strong a communication tool as we all make it. One of the two special inserts in this issue is a simple check sheet for your feedback. Please complete it and turn it in to me before you leave the conference.

In the past six months, there has been intense preparation activity from our Denmark delegations from around the globe. The excitement of this vast sharing of knowledge, activities and experience will be life-lessons for all of us, but most importantly for our students. Please help us capture the essence of these experiences by sending us words and pictures by the end of October so that we can include them in our next GF online.

One of my tasks is to provide a viable resource development plan to the CEI Board of Directors. Another is to share grant information and skills with our CEI partners. Resources usually mean money – but it can be much

more. One pathway to "resources" is strengthening business connections, or partnerships. A definition of "partnership" is that both parties bring their own resources to the table for an exchange. Our youth who have had the Caretakers Experience, either at an international conference or with their own National Branch, offer a unique qualification as an *intern, apprentice or*



Dan and Wanta in traditional Central Java royal attire

trainee to an employer who desires to strengthen their own stewardship of the environment and goals for sustainability. We will be exploring this type of resource partnership that could lead to longer term relationships with businesses that, if successful, may be then willing to invest financially in the CEI program. Again, your ideas and feedback are welcome!

The second insert is directed to our student delegates as a **Statements Worksheet** to complete by dinner on Monday, July 7th in order that we can include as many ideas as possible in the **Statements for the Environment in the Future Workshop** on Tuesday, July 8th 14-16 PM. If you have any questions, please track down Ryan Kinnett or me directly or through one of our Oregon delegates.

Please share any comments with me personally during the conference or email me at dan.hoynacki@oregonstate.edu. Enjoy this issue, enjoy the 2008 CEI Conference!

Dan Hoynacki – CEI USA – Oregon Chapter

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

CEI – Indonesia Branch Program: Environmental Teachers International Convention - ETIC 2008

The need:

Since the regime of Suharto started in 1970's, Indonesia environment changed drastically. The government launched development programs which mean construction of industries, factories and business companies. It caused the exploitation of nature and natural resources, and at the end made various kinds of environment problems.

At the education part, the government created a "listen and repeat" method. There was no space for innovation and creativity. Teachers were not allowed to develop their own program. Everything was under control, which made teachers become instructors. The commands came from central government, and teachers had just to follow and implement the command.

Therefore, when environmental and nature education were introduced, teachers and educators had no proper ideas. The government had put the lessons of ecology in biology, plus on pollution in chemistry as form of environmental education. For others (laymen and teachers of other subjects/topics), environmental education was planting trees and pollutions.

History of Indonesia and CEI

It was back in 1990, when I was invited to the CEI conference in Bristol, I saw many possibilities. Meeting Isabel, Ed Radatz, Joke and Arjen Wals were motivating and inspiring. At the following conferences, there were Fatima Almeida, Ruth Irvine, Carol Parks, Birgitta Norden, Ingrid Adolfson, Antoni Salamon, Wayne Schimpf, Jose Antonio Pereira and many other friends. All brought various ideas and inputs, which are their own experiences implementing education in the environmental education.



Bagoes, Stien, Siegfried, Caryn Mc Clelland, Toni Antonio, Suryo, Fatima and Freddy following ETIC 2008 Opening Ceremonies

As many Indonesians would listen more from sources outside rather than from own inputs, there was the idea to invite friends from CEI to share their experiences. It was also making sense, as at that time in the 1990's there were no other education methods rather than the "command and listen and repeat methods". Also it would be too costly to take Indonesians teachers abroad; it

would be better and more effective if our friends who came and meet many more Indonesians.

Luckily friends at the CEI are kind to fulfill the invitation, and at 1995 there were some institutions and embassies that were willing to support. Even in 1997, the British Council invited David Bellamy as resource person and main speaker to the Indonesian teachers gathering for environmental education. It continued to 2001 with friends from Canada, Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, India, and Hungary, other from friends mentioned above.

Since the first gathering in March 1995, there were some progresses within the Indonesian teacher community. A small group started with just a couple of teachers, the message was spread across the



The centerpiece of a traditional Javanese feast

education community. With the Indonesian proverb "slow but sure", the Indonesian chapter of CEI was initiated by Birgitta Norden in 2001. Besides the International programs, there are regular local programs, training and sessions for teachers, schools and students.

It was all caused by the support of CEI friends.

Organizing program in Indonesia

Before the Indonesian chapter CEI was created, the plan was implemented by environmental education institution, with support of various bodies such as: embassies, cultural centers (British Council, Swedish Institute, German HSF etc.) and environmental organizations (WWF, PLAN, VECO etc.). There were also support from local universities: UNESA – Surabaya University of teaching institute, Widya Mandala University etc. Local participants came from different schools: private and public/government schools.

It started in 1995, then continued after 2 following years: 1997 and 1999, before a solid teachers team was created. From the events, Indonesian teachers grew stronger. And in 2001, the Indonesian chapter of CEI was formed with active personnel such as : Stien Matakupan, Elizabeth Ambar, Hadi UI Ichsan and friends from other provinces outside East Java : Juvenalis Ledang, Latipah etc..

The CEI Indonesia chapter organized various programs. After a time of rest since 2003, the idea of organizing another (international) teacher's conference arose. It was a reaction to some requests for teachers' trainings in 2007. The main factor to make this event come true is the sincere commitment of CEI friends abroad to help to participate. The main role of CEI International friends is more as resource person to share first hand experiences. Without it, it is impossible to have such a program.

The remaining other factors are more a matter of organizing the event. First step was to look for appropriate partners from various sectors. From the diplomatic area, things seem to have changed. They gave moral support but nothing in kind. The US Consul General for Eastern (part) of Indonesia in Surabaya is kind to host a dinner evening and participated at the opening ceremony.

Some universities were asked to support, with negative response from some. Fortunately Ciputra University responded positively. It would act as the scientific supervisor for the program. Kaliandra Sejati foundation of nature and culture education was very helpful and excited to take the main task to be the host for this event. The director Mr. Bagoes Brotodiwirjo helped also on a personal basis with enthusiasm. Then Pring Woeloeng – the purple bamboo institution of environmental education served the program to fulfill all the needs of equipments, facilities, transportation and other things. Schools also support with various kind help: Ciputra School lend equipments, students to be volunteers etc., St. Stanislaus support with the pre-event programs, and many others.

The content and the running of the program were under control of CEI Indonesia chapter. With support from other institutions to help as facilitators, resource persons, Environmental Teachers' International Convention (ETIC) 2008 came into reality. As it took form, like a snow ball effect, supports came from the private sectors. Radio Suara Surabaya became the main media to launch the information of the event. They also support with souvenirs for participants. Big help came from the port terminal company. They support teachers / schools who cannot afford to pay, also they make a professional recording of ETIC 2008, so that it would become a resource for Indonesian education.



We have to express our deep sincere thanks to our dear CEI friends, who came to the event:

- Antoni and Barbara Salamon, Poland
- Dan Hoynacki, USA
- Fatima Almeida and Odette Cruz, Portugal
- Loes and Heimo Pihlajamaa, The Netherlands
- Wayne Schimpff, USA; and also
- Rosta Harun, Malaysia
- Tengku Hanidza, Malaysia
- Nita Murjani, British Council
- Ciput McQueen, British Council

Without their sincere kindness to sacrifice energy, funds and precious time, ETIC 2008 would have not been come true.



Reuse of metal drums for economic benefit at Kaliandra

Who are in our heart although were not present:

- Isabel Abrams, USA
 - Birgitta Norden, Sweden
 - Jose Antonio Pareira, Portugal
 - Dina Tamoutseli, Greece
 - Anne Marrie Begg, Scotland
- and others who wishes for the event to be successful.

East Java, May 5, 2008

- Suryo W. Prawiroatmodjo CEI Indonesia

Environmental Rights & Responsibilities: Youth Statements for Global Climate Change

by Ryan Kinnett

Caretakers of the Environment, International (CEI) has been actively engaging youth and educators in efforts to solve environmental issues for over twenty-one years. Over the course of CEI's history, a couple themes tend to permeate the values that are so important and vital to our world: sustainability, environment, and education. Conference themes also tend to reflect the real-world issues that threaten all peoples quality of life. Today an issue that is on the forefront of the news and scientific research is global climate change and is being addressed with this year's topic of Environment, Sustainability, and New Energy.

Global climate change is one of the greatest environmental, social and economic threats facing the planet. Scientists have observed and recorded significant increases in global average air and ocean temperatures. The preponderance of scientific evidence is overwhelming. The results of this warming has been alarming as seen from the widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global mean sea level. Even the Earth's average surface temperature has increased by 0.76° C (1.4° F) since 1850. Most of this warming has occurred over the last 50 years and is very likely to have been caused by human activities.

In its history, CEI has been taking necessary steps to try to change the behaviors of individuals, families,

communities, business, and governments in order to address this very important issue.

We are just one organization trying to make a change for the positive with all the work we do. At our next meeting in Denmark we have the opportunity to do more and produce a document that can be viewed by thousands of our world leaders at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNCCC) to be held in Copenhagen in 2009.

The UNCCC Copenhagen 2009 is next in line to the convenings of nations over the past 16 years trying to solve our global warming crisis. The conference evolved out of some very important issues that came to the forefront in the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The issues addressed here include the consideration of alternative energy sources to fossil fuels and taking a look at public transportation as a means to reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions.

The topic of climate change that stemmed from the Earth Summit 1992 led to the Kyoto Protocol of 1999. **The primary goal of the Kyoto Protocol is to get all countries to reduce the emission of carbon dioxide to 1990 levels by 2010.** Since its inception, as of April 2008, 178 countries have signed and ratified the agreement. More have signed, but have not ratified it into practice.

Following the Kyoto Protocol of 1999 was the UNCCC Bali 2007 conference where the *Bali Roadmap* was created. The *Bali Roadmap* put together a two-year plan to pave the future for a new negotiation process to be concluded by 2009 that will take the international community to a new agreement on climate change post-2012. Some of the decisions here included the launch of an Adaptation Fund, decisions on technology transfer, and on reducing emissions from deforestation.

In 2009 the UNCC Conference will be held in Copenhagen. **The outcome of this conference is ambitious: The creation of the Copenhagen Protocol which will stand as the new international agreement on global climate change.**

It sometimes is strange the way things happen in life. This summer we are convening in Aalborg, Denmark a year before the UNCCC Copenhagen 2009 meeting. This gives us an incredible opportunity to have our CEI youth delegates draft up their version of a *Declaration of Environmental Rights and Responsibilities for Addressing Global Climate Change* to be presented at the Copenhagen 2009 Conference. This document will outline important rights and responsibilities of individuals, families, communities, businesses, and governments have in their countries to promote a sustainable lifestyle. *(Please complete the **Statements Worksheets** that are inserted with this publication.)* I am very excited to be involved with an organization that dedicates itself to environmental education. This summer in Aalborg we will again come together to share the wonderful work we have been so devoted to. Until then, be brave.

Ryan Kinnett – CEI USA – Oregon Chapter

CLEAN UP THE MED

José Gomes Ferreira Secondary School –
The **We can make the difference** team

Caretakers Portugal:

Saturday, May 24th 2008.



9.30 am at the school gate: early hours for a weekend, which scared away some of the sleepest potential participants. But those who did come, students, teachers and friends alike, were ready to leave for *Fonte da Telha* beach, the designated place to hold our cleaning campaign.

Isn't our country one of "sun, salt and south"? With the sun peeking comes the desire to enjoy the beautiful beaches of our coastline, a good time, therefore, to integrate an international campaign, coordinated by the Italian NGO *Legambiente*, the "Clean Up the Med" campaign.

We were not supposed to clean the entire *Fonte da Telha* beach, as one of the participants feared, but we did clean a good portion of it. Foremost, we gave ourselves the opportunity to engage in a task in which we worked cooperatively, enjoyed each other's company and took advantage of the sun whenever it hesitantly



appeared among the clouds. We also set an example and delivered the message that we can think of more

than just ourselves and thus strengthened the confidence in our small gestures. Despite of being "small" they can always make a difference.

There was not so much garbage as we had anticipated because Almada Town Council's machinery had already done its weekly task of cleaning. More importantly, the season has been slow, in comparison with other years, with the persistent rain that keeps spoiling the plans of beach lovers. There are also those who go to the beach but do not feel "love" for it as they leave trash in the sand. This happens due to the fact that people are convinced only the sea is polluted, whereas the sand can also get filled with waste and residues of all kinds, which become a source of allergies and an overall health hazard.

For this activity, we counted on the support of Almada Town Council and ASPEA – Portuguese Association for Environmental Education, Caretakers of the Environment Portugal.



It was a morning well spent, of that none of us had any doubt. Will others be able to join us next time? Will they be willing to do a "good deed" for the environment? We are counting on you!

I Have a Dream On Racism

Nowadays a lot of people talk about racism. Not because it is something new, it always existed, but because people are more aware of the injustice that it represents.

Racism is now seen by "civilized" societies as an ugly prejudice, something to be abolished, something that is obviously wrong. It is wrong because we should not judge the others by the colour of their skin or by other physical aspects. We have got to know what people are from the inside, not from the outside.

I think that if we fight against racism we will turn this world into a better place, more peaceful and with less wars.

It is not wrong talking about racism, it is wrong feeling it. We should talk about it to fight it.

- **Beatriz Vale, 13 years old**

Shall the World Smile?

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Eco-Kids

– I Have a Dream

Shall I have time to sing a happy word,
 An eternal song! Shall I have time to
 Believe, to think, to cry. Shall the
 Moon smile to me, that I surely
 Will fly. Shall the soul
 Be a mask of gold. Shall,
 Shall... only words, what
 Can I do? Shall
 I be a right man,
 shall men know
 everything. Shall
 Gods bless the earth.
 Shall the angels paint the
 SONG OF PEACE

- André, 12 years old

Discipline: the Bridge between Goals and Accomplishment

"Discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishment", stated by Jim Rohn, an American motivational speaker and American author. The CEI Oregon Chapter delegation has been a large part of my life so far, and by taking part in it I believe it has built up a better overall character inside all eleven of us. My name is Kelly Gray, a junior at one of the Marion County schools that make up our delegation. This experience has had to contain discipline with all of our lives to stay on track and be focused. All eleven of us have been involved with an environmental class: W3, Y.E.S. (Youth Environmental Squad), school, family, and friends. We try to put in as many hours as we can each week, adding up to days at a time. I've had a goal to impact someone with our projects and by going to this conference we are turning this goal into an accomplishment. I'm excited to say that Jim Rohn is true with what he says.

Our delegation has been put together since December of last year, and through this time we have built two projects. One involves sustainable practices within the community gardens and another revamps our local homes and minds with the thought of renewable energy. We proudly call ourselves Sustainable Advocacy through Human Energy and the other is Easy Green Home

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Energy Team. As delegates we meet each Thursday and many weekends to prepare, present, and practice what we preach. I believe that we have all learned many new tactics along with building friendships with these hours and it is easily said that it is worth our time.

I, as a delegate, have had a tough time dealing with all of the hours of dedication these programs require while dealing with my family, friends, and school. The day of my interview into the delegation my sister had gone into labor. Nothing was for certain. The main leaders came to me in the hospital and we had my interview there which was a chaotic start. If they had to make that generous decision I would not be here today. A day later I was so thankful because I had made it onto the delegation as a leader, and received a new addition to my family. My niece has been the light of my life along with the experiences I've shared with this team, which obviously bring excitement for the future.



It's been hard to balance your friendships and school as well. We have had a few delegates crack under the pressure but we picked them back up on their feet and went on. We actually lost one delegate, Michael Hooper, to the army a few months past which is sad but in many ways we are proud of him for moving from serving his community to serving his country. It's great to see what can come out of our programs.

Of course July brings excitement to all of us. We are all anticipating visiting a new country full of new opportunities and people that we will be able to share our journey with. We anticipate learning new practices and being able to share our own. Thank you for letting us attend the CEI conference in Denmark with you all. We're counting down the days.

-Kelly Gray, Cascade High School
 CEI USA –Oregon chapter

22nd CEI conference – Denmark, Aalborg

My name is Sophie B.R. Mortensen and I have been participating on the CEI conferences since Oregon 2005.

The conferences have given me many things, both personally and intellectually.

This year my country will be hosting the conference, and I am very excited about it. I am looking forward to the day when all the students and teachers are gathered once again, and we will begin a fantastic week with great experiences and lots of fun.



Earlier I have been participating as a student on the conferences, but this year I will be a part of a guide-team instead.



This guide team's proposal is to help both teachers and students on the camp, to be guides on the field trips, to gather people for social activities in the evenings etc. I am really looking forward to this task, and this will of course be different from what I previous have experienced on the conferences, but I am sure this will be fun and challenging too.



As a member of the guide team and a participant of the 22nd CEI conference I hope to make it an unforgettable experience for all, and furthermore to make it a week where the participants will not only leave Denmark with many new

friends, but also leave with the feeling that they have been part of something that will make a difference.

See you in Denmark!

-Sophie Mortensen CEI Denmark

Calvin Young: A Caretakers Student.

by Isabel S. Abrams

Calvin Young has 11 sisters and brothers. He is number five. "It is one big and happy family," he says.

In high school, he was a drum and bugle corp section leader - drum major for the band that competed each year. He grew so much (6' 3") that the basketball coach wanted him on the team, so he got home late from school every day. Mom said, "hit the books." and Dad made sure he was studying when he came home from work. "I loved school. School was great for me," he says.

He was also a swimmer at Hubbard High School and a student in one of Wayne Schimpff's biology courses. When Mr. Schimpff asked him to join the swim team, he was ready to compete within a year. "I worked hard at swimming," he says.

Calvin became involved with Caretakers of the Environment International because, "Mr. Schimpff encouraged me to take horticulture class and he mentioned the Caretakers conferences. Calvin helped clean up the school grounds and planted flowers for the Hubbard High School Beautification project. "But I didn't know how the things we did affected other things," he

says. Then he went to the 1988 Caretakers Conference in Valsain, Spain.

The only reason Calvin went to the CEI conference in Spain was because of Mr. Schimpff. "I look up to him like a father figure. I always have," he says. "He was the one who helped me make the first step."

Calvin was very nervous before the CEI conference. "I was stepping into new waters - outside the US... seeing all the students, being the only African American," he says. "For the first time, I was outside the US and interacted with other beings."

He slept in a dormitory, where there were 40 guys in double-decker bunk beds. During the first few days everyone came up to him because he was African American. They wanted to know what I thought. A fellow student, Alan Gomez, translated what he said into Spanish.

"A few of the girls wanted to touch me because they had never seen anyone darker than them," he said. Fortunately, everyone knew American sports and Michael Jordan. "Because I was tall, it was an icebreaker," he said.

Calvin enjoyed the displays of school projects. He was impressed by a river cleanup project where the water went from a nasty sludge to a habitat for fish. That is when he realized how what happens in one place impacted other communities. Environmental impact was much bigger than he realized.

Calvin is a happy, smiley guy. Someone who doesn't cause much trouble. Nevertheless, he had one negative experience, with an instructor. He was walking around looking at a display on global warming. He was interested in the project but he could not communicate with the teacher. She walked away and came back to me with a note that said, "Please do not take." "I was hurt at the time. I was enjoying her science," says Calvin. He took the note to Mr. Schimpff who told him, "I'm embarrassed that this happened. But this is the world we live in."

In spite of this, Calvin says the CEI conference was "one of the best times of my life. What was really weird was that girls and guys kept me up late each night and we were learning about each other's cultures. I learned a lot of Spanish. During the daytime, I was tired. Yet, when one of the tour guides took us, the students, up on the mountain and asked, "Do you know why there are few trees on top of the mountain?" Calvin replied, "I know. Less humus and corrosion on top of the hill." The guide smiled. "At least someone understands," he said. Calvin remembers walking through the old town that was preserved, near Toledo. He had an eerie feeling when he walked through a cemetery, so far away from home.

When Calvin graduated high school, he attended Illinois Benedictine College for two years and played collegiate basketball. Then he joined the army because he couldn't afford school. He went back to college on an Illinois National Guard scholarship.

Calvin graduated University of Illinois, Chicago with a - electrical engineering and computer science degree. In high school, he'd taken one or two biology courses, chemistry courses. But he knew he always wanted to be in engineering. Calvin is now in the army, a radar specialist in defense, keeping Blackhawk aircraft working well. He's married and has two children - a boy, Nasser, age 7; and a girl, Nadia, age 4. "Since the conference, I've always been aware of what I do to the environment. I don't throw out trash," he says, "I try to influence that on my kids."

His wife, Rahila is from Kenya. They met in military school at Fort Gordon, Georgia. "We were both taking avionics courses," he said. "She was pre-law." Calvin claims the reason he and his wife got together was because CEI made him open to other cultures and new experiences. Calvin says he is very fortunate to have gone to the CEI conference, and he would like to be involved with CEI in the future: to help in some way.

- Isabel S. Abrams

Plantabosques – Diary of a Weary Tree Planter

"Plantabosques" is the name of a project sponsored by Junta de Extremadura and coordinated by ADENEX (a Spanish association whose goal is to protect the environment). It basically consists of volunteer work, to plant trees in areas raged and devastated by fires. Our school participated in one of these reforestations – it took place in Serra S. Mamede Natural Park, and we helped plant what would turn out to be 4,750 trees. The following is an account of my recollections and overall feelings during the weekend we spent there.



We left on Friday, the 15th of February, at around 3 in the afternoon. We were travelling to Spain, to a students' inn near a town called Albuquerque, and from what I gathered, not very far from Badajoz. We were just 2 km

border.

The trip took longer than any of us had expected (mostly due to the driver's lack of knowledge of Portuguese roads) but we got there eventually, at 8 pm. As it was one hour later in Spain (7 pm – Portuguese time), we really didn't do much once we arrived. We were shown to our rooms, which were much better than we had expected – there actually were beds for us to sleep in, contrary to what we believed! Granted there weren't enough beds for everyone, we were still comfortable. The rooms were slightly crowded (I had to share a room with 10 more girls) but that made it all the more fun.

Well, it was slightly problematic when some of us wanted to sleep while others were still laughing and having fun, but we managed to reach an understanding and no harm was done. That first evening was calm, anyway – nothing but a presentation, followed by dinner (we ate something that most of us Portuguese couldn't identify, and still can't to this day; still, it was tasty enough, and no one went hungry – they wouldn't have anyway, as



many students had come prepared for the eventuality that the food was terrible – many had brought bags full of food).

In the morning, getting up was difficult – we knew we were headed to work, and hard work at that! We were all from the city after all; I don't think any of us were used to working in the country. Not to mention some were still grumpy that they hadn't slept enough on account of all the noise the previous night, but we managed to get up, have some breakfast (which was less problematic than dinner) and get back on the buses. We all thought we were headed to a portion of "Serra de S. Mamede" located in Spain – but once again, we were mistaken. We were driven *back* to Portugal, near a town we had all heard of already, called Castelo de Vide. Many thought it was tremendously stupid to sleep over in Spain just to come back to Portugal the following morning – but the Spaniards were the sponsors after all; they were the ones providing lodgings, so we had to follow their rules.

That morning was exhausting. The moment we reached the area we were going to plant trees in, boxes filled with small trees were handed to each pair (we were all working in twos), along with two pairs of gloves and a hoe. Now all we had to do was dig! Without further explanation! It took a while for us to get used to it, but we had help from farmers who were also volunteering and knew a lot more about it than we did. We ended up getting the hang of it – so much so, that by the end of the day, we had managed to plant 4,750 trees. We only took one break to have something to eat – no one was very picky then, the hunger would've made us gorge anything down.

After that quick lunch, we planted some more trees, but didn't stay very long. Everyone was too tired for it to have been productive. We were hoping to go back to Spain, to the inn we were staying at, so that we all might take a shower and rest a little – instead, we went on a

tour of Castelo de Vide, the town nearby. We did enjoy it, but many were feeling too tired (some were actually ill) and the result was a few glum faces and very grumpy retorts. On top of that, the guide preferred to speak Spanish so that everyone could understand what he was saying (our group consisted of both Portuguese and Spanish people, and as we all know, the Spanish can't understand a word the Portuguese say, whereas we can understand their language well enough). Not a very wise decision, as it made many of us lose interest; furthermore, despite having a lot of interesting stories to tell about the town, he did so in a very low tone of voice, and it was hard for the whole group to follow. All in all, however, the town was beautiful and everyone managed to take some enjoyment out of the visit, one way or the other.

We didn't take long to reach the inn – the problem was there weren't enough showers, and everyone wanted to wash themselves at the same time. Personally, I decided to wait until the evening when the bathrooms would be cleared out. I thought it was a wise decision, as the whole thing seemed more like a marathon – a true showering spree. Dinner was better than the previous night, as were the sleeping arrangements – people were feeling more tired, and weren't as noisy as the previous night. There were still some slight disagreements, but nothing that couldn't be sorted out.



The next day, we were expecting the same routine all over again (except that it was Sunday and we'd be leaving after lunch), but then a rumour started going around that we weren't actually going to plant any trees that day, we were just going on another trip to a town in Portugal, Marvão. Forget about the stupidity of travelling from one country to the other; if it gets me out of spending another morning hunched over opening holes in the ground, then I am definitely in! But that excitement didn't last very long, as it was absolutely freezing. Many didn't even have the courage to leave the heat and comfort they found in a small café; still, it was fun. And others were brave enough to venture around the cutting wind and take a look at the town. Nevertheless, we were all relieved when the time came to leave.

Going back to Spain wasn't uneventful: something broke down, and the bus we were travelling in was forced to halt for some time. We were rescued by another bus that came to pick us up, and went back to the inn in Spain. Now all that was left was packing, saying our goodbyes and eating lunch before going back to Portugal – for

good, this time. The lunch was enjoyable – there was singing, and even two awards were given out to Mr. and Miss Plantabosques. We left in a light-hearted mood – but also very tired. The trip back didn't take as long as the first one had (it wasn't the same driver or the same bus, those had been left behind at a garage), and I think we were all relieved to be home.

All in all, it was a rewarding and eye-opening experience: instead of just talking about environmental awareness, we were all involved in actually protecting the environment, and that raised our awareness better than anything. I wouldn't go as far as saying that we are all eager to go back, but it still felt good at the end of the day, knowing that we had done something that might be of help to the world, and to the future generations everyone is so worried about. We finally experienced “doing” over “talking” – there isn't much that can beat the pride we felt at the end of the day (and the immense relief that we were all done working because, deep down, we all know we're nothing but a few kids from the big city – we felt it more than ever when we had to do a day's worth of country labour). But it was definitely worth it.

Mariana Mourato

11.7 – Escola Secundária José Gomes Ferreira

My Journey So Far with Caretakers

When I first started my journey with Caretakers, I had no idea the impact it would have on my life. I started my involvement with CEI last year with the 2007 conference in Hong Kong. Last year's conference was a humbling experience that has had a drastic effect on my life. Hong Kong, being my first international trip, truly opened my eyes to the world outside my borders. Before Hong Kong I was very comfortable in my consumerist lifestyle – thinking it to be the “norm”.

After the conference, however, I have begun to see the error of my ways. To say that this conference has changed my life may seem a little cliché, but I can say that it has removed the figurative wool of ignorance from my eyes and has put me in tune with the world around me. My favorite experience in Hong Kong was the first day, when we not only experienced the beauty of Victoria Peak, but also the wonder of Victoria Harbour. To see the harmony between the natural and built environment so close to each other was truly an awe inspiring moment. As I look forward to this year's conference and the friendships and lessons to come, I hope that it will exceed my expectations by leaps and bounds. In closing, I have realized that Caretakers' has given me knowledge and awareness, the greatest gift of all.

- Zander Johnson, Early College High School
CEI USA – Oregon Chapter

Letter of Invitation: Young Masters Programme (YMP)

Since 1999, the International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics (IIIEE) at Lund University has

been working with education of young students between 14 and 18 years old through the Young Masters Programme (YMP).

The YMP is a web-based, interactive online learning course that focuses on issues related to sustainable development and preventive environmental strategies, which facilitates hands-on sustainability skills.

The educational content is built on world leading Global Change research in exclusive cooperation with The Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) and The International Council for Science (ICSU).

More than 7000 high school students from over 100 countries have been educated since the beginning of these activities in 1999. The YMP is a part of the UNESCO framework and cooperates with several international teachers networks (e.g., Caretakers of the Environment International (CEI) and Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)).

The course is divided into four parts:

- Part 1 comprises eight weeks of studies about sustainability.
- Part 2 deals with preventive environmental strategies during its ten weeks.
- Part 3 asks participants to develop a project work to apply the learned concepts to real situations.
- Part 4 Global Environmental Youth Convention (GEYC), a convention where students and teachers meet.

From 2008 the YMP is online and available for download at <http://www.iiiee-ymp.org>

Benefits of participation in the YMP:

- Students receive education about the sustainability challenges facing us in the 21st century, built on the most comprehensive and current scientific base of knowledge available, with a focus on a proactive approach and hands-on skills.
- Students learn to interact with, and become a part of, a large international network focused on sustainability issues.
- Students develop computer skills as well as language skills, since the web-based part of the YMP is held in English.
- The records of former YMP students show that a large proportion take up positions as leaders and decision-makers within businesses, governments or NGOs.

Global Environmental Youth Convention (GEYC) 2009 in Beijing

GEYC has taken place every second year. Previous conventions have been in Lund-Sweden (2000), Turin-Italy (2002), Alexandria-Egypt (2004), Dubai-United Arab Emirates (2006). The upcoming convention is planned to be held in Beijing in the autumn 2009.

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

After completion of the project work (part 3) of the YMP, the projects from all courses held during 2007-2009 will be evaluated by a jury. The most successful projects will be able to present their findings and results at the GEYC in Beijing, this will also give a great opportunity for students from all over the world to meet.

GEYC 2008 Beijing Facts:

- Convention dates some week in October - December 2009.
- 1200 delegates (800 students, 400 teachers and invited officials).
- Delegates from 60-80 countries
- Program focus on student project works.
- High level and prominent speakers from partners, organisers and external speakers.
- Often attended by high ranking officials of the host country. As an example H.M. King XVI Gustaf inaugurated the first convention Lund, Sweden and the ruler of Dubai .H. Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai attended the GEYC 2006.

For more information please contact:

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Global Environmental Youth Convention (GEYC) 1999-2008

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GEYC 2000 Sweden

GEYC 2002 Italy

GEYC 2004 Egypt

GEYC 2006 UAE

GEYC 2009 China



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Why don't you...

Join the Young Masters Programme (YMP) 2008-2009!

To tell you a bit **about the YMP...**

Through online distance learning, interactive CDs and

Global Forum for Environmental Education

project works young students worldwide not only learn about the problems around them, but also get to discuss with and learn from people their age **all over the globe**. To make sure that this knowledge and their interest for environmental issues stay with them, each programme ends with a Global Environmental Youth Convention (GEYC). This is a huge event, where the international delegates finally get to meet for real. By presenting their project works and learning about cultural as well as social differences they take the final step to **break the borders** between them – an unforgettable experience that will keep their environmental interest burning.

There are **several benefits!** Everyone - the schools, students and teachers – that participate in the Young Masters Program will gain many things!

For the students it is plenty of **new knowledge**, opportunity to get in contact with the latest tools of **communication and learning**, to **improve** in subjects such as the English language, to **interact** with other cultures and build new networks and friendships, both nationally and internationally.

For the schools it is a way to **profile the school internationally** and facilitate new knowledge and methods of learning for their students. They will show that they are interested in modern methods of learning and have important **environmental commitment**.

The teachers' and mentors' role in this process is to facilitate and encourage the students. They will have the responsibility of **leading their group** and making sure that their work holds top quality.

Still, the key thing is that during the Convention the participants interact in various workshops and thematic events, **building lasting relationships and networks between schools and people around the world**. This opportunity and the benefits that can be drawn from it is certainly one of a kind.

I hope I've sparked your interest and that you'll motivate as many of your students as possible to **join us!**

*All the best,
Hjalmar Nordén
a former participant of the YMP*

2005 Legacy Restoration Planting Update

Salem, OR - Traveling east from Willamette University, the site of the 2005 Caretakers of the Environment International (CEI) Conference, the bus ascends out of the valley floor. Leaving the Willamette River behind and climbing through the low lying foothills of the Cascades, the bus passes lush and fruitful farmland that is known worldwide for producing a diverse bounty. Leaving the farmland, the bus enters a land of dense forests as the North Santiam Highway begins its traverse through the Cascades along the North Santiam River. At 30 miles east of Salem, signs mark the entrance to Fisherman's Bend BLM Park, the site of the 2005 CEI Legacy planting. Entering the park one is met with a rich diversity of greens and browns. Towering Douglas Fir,



Oregon's State tree, provide much needed shade for the Vine Maple and bright white flowering Pacific Dogwood in the middle story, which in turn protect the Salal and Snowberry in the understory. All of these species work together to moderate temperatures and provide food and habitat for the wildlife in the area. From the American Black Bear to the small Douglas Squirrel that scurries up the trunk of a Valley Ponderosa Pine, the protection of this fragile ecosystem is essential. The bus pulls to a halt into the Firs Shelter parking lot and many student and adult volunteers pour out to the sound of the fast flowing North Santiam River.



Walking around a large stand of native trees and a thick understory, community members follow a path to a 17-acre wasteland. Around 1950 the local mill excavated the area, digging over ten feet (3m) down. They removed the native vegetation and the healthy layers of organic matter and soil to reach the aggregate beneath for road building and the construction of the Detroit Dam up stream. Upon completion of the project, dump truck load after dump truck load of highly acidic Douglas Fir sawdust was poured over the rocky substrate. The wasteland sat for many years before being acquired by Fisherman's Bend Park and later adopted by the Sustainable Communities Project at Oregon State

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

University Extension Service Marion County as a restoration site. Since its adoption, the Sustainable Communities Project has put forth a major effort to organize youth and adult community members to replant the area with thousands of native species and remove invasive species. The ultimate goal being an example of a restored forest and park that people from all over can enjoy and educate themselves about the complexity of our northwest forests. The 30+ volunteers that have arrived today represent one of two waves of Cascade Jr. High Students set to plant 350+ native trees and shrubs. Such field trips are essential to the development of each individuals understanding of themselves and the outside environment.



Students mix compost and top soil for new plantings

Since the 2005 CEI Legacy Planting, many different strategies have been implemented to resurrect the site and design the future park. Excavators have been brought in to remove sawdust and dig irrigation line. Hard working youth have hauled rocks to line the road and outline the wetland area. Railroad ties have been placed to outline the parking lot. As part of the 2007 Oregon CEI chapter project, trails and signage have been constructed and maintained to ensure that people walk in the proper place to eliminate compaction of the soil and damage to such species as the Wood Strawberry that line the river trail. Further, many loads of compost and soil have been hauled in to amend soil and provide a more suitable home for the trees and shrubs planted. To help increase the plant survival rate, an irrigation line is in the process of being installed to help water during the dry summers here in Oregon.

Excessive water in the winter and lack of water in the summer is one of many problems faced in the restoration



of this site. As the effects of climate change increase, these summer and winter extremes will make it more difficult for plants to establish in this area. All of this work repeatedly reinforces that we must minimize our impact on Mother Nature as her natural cycles and systems are very difficult to recreate once they have been disturbed.

- Robbie Andrus
2007-2008 AmeriCorps Volunteer
OSU Extension Service- Sustainable Communities

“Imagine” by John Lennon

This is lyrics from www.lyrics007.com

Imagine there's no Heaven
It's easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky
Imagine all the people
Living for today

Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion too
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace

You may say that I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will be as one

Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people
Sharing all the world

You may say that I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will live as one

Some Secrets of Successful Grant Applications from Foundations

There is not a successful professional who can do all that is desired or required by relying solely on the budget of today's nonprofit organization. Ideas and ideals exceed resources. One way to add to an organization's resources is to request grants from foundations, corporations, or government agencies or even from individuals.

Grant getting, however, continues to be increasingly competitive. If your proposal is to be among the 10% funded, you will want to learn how to compete positively.

Funding is idea-dependent. To receive a grant, you must be able to put your idea into a package that successfully markets the idea. **An idea is an abstraction. It must be converted into a tangible format.**

A proposal must be competitive to have the benefit of a full review. Unfortunately, many proposals are so poorly written they aren't even eligible for submission. They often lack clearly stated objectives; the budget doesn't match the narrative; the needs don't match the interest areas of the funding source; and guidelines are often not followed. Most importantly, proposal writers fail to put themselves into the mind-set of the proposal reviewer and, therefore, write only from their organization's viewpoint and expectations.

Successful Proposal Writing

Successful proposal writing involves a series of interdependent steps:

1. Locate and use funding source directories and identify funding sources.
2. Interact positively with the policies of the submitting organization and the funding source.
3. Develop an idea from abstraction to a well-articulated written presentation requesting financial support.
4. Organize and write a competitive proposal eligible for submission.
5. Develop a budget consistent with proposal objectives.
6. Process a grant request through the submitting organization to the funding source.
7. Respond to the demands of the proposal review process.

Although foundation requirements and procedures vary widely, there are some common elements that are useful to consider when approaching a foundation for funding. The following is a suggested strategy for approaching foundations and a basic framework for preparing the first written presentation of a funding request.

Basic Framework

The cost of operating community-based nonprofit organizations is growing, competition for funding is considerable, and government funding is likely going to continue to shrink. **Although foundation funding is a small portion of the total financial resources in the nonprofit sector, it is one source of new funding for program innovations.** Therefore, the competition for foundation funding is very high. **The sad truth is that organizations do not automatically obtain grants from foundations simply because they represent a good organization doing good things.** In order to secure funding, a lot of homework needs to be done.

The key information includes what funders are interested in, how to approach them, and how to present ideas to them.

Find a match

One of the goals of funding development through grants should be to find a match between your organization's mission and the mission of the foundation. Once the match between missions is found, the challenge is to build a working relationship with the foundation staff. The first thing to remember is that every foundation is absolutely distinctive. Each one has its own mission, strategies, and funding priorities. Each one has different rules and requirements. The most important thing is to do the homework before approaching any funder.

Research

Before a search for funding is initiated, be sure you know what you're looking for. Don't start by listing all your organization's needs and then see what's available.

Define the highest priority of your organization that cannot be met by existing or projected internal budget.

Then search for an agency that is interested in the same priority. If one is not careful, a haphazard approach to locating a funding source can be a colossal waste of time. But help is available. Funding agency priorities are usually well defined. Call or write to a number of foundations and request additional information to get to know them better and help identify if there is a close match between your project and their missions. Documents that will be useful in this decision-making process include annual reports, informational brochures, and application packets.

Make your proposal stand out

The challenge, then, becomes making your proposal stand out from the large number of proposals received by foundations. This is very difficult to do in a proposal addressed "To Whom It May Concern." It is far better to try to make a direct contact with a program staff person at a foundation of interest. This will improve the odds for your proposal by reducing the number of proposals in the competitive review pool from thousands to hundreds.

Personal Contact

Your task is to identify the most appropriate person to contact, talk with the identified program staff person about your proposed project idea and seek advice and direction about next steps to take. Finding out the best approach for each foundation is critical, and it is important to "play by their rules."

Do Not send a full proposal

Do not – repeat, do not – send a full proposal to start with. Send a short "pre-proposal" instead.

PRE-PROPOSAL

Be Brief: 2 to 3 pages

If a two- or three-page pre-proposal is sent, it already has a better chance of getting a thorough review. The brief and concise document can help the program staff person identify if the project idea matches the foundation's mission. If there is agreement on the match, then a full proposal can be developed.

Basic Information

Start the pre-proposal with a **one-sentence statement** of the problem. Now, comes the important part. What will the proposed project do about it? Present two or three

solid paragraphs on how the project plans to solve this problem. Remember, the program staff person knows nothing about your specific project and will need to know exactly how you plan to manage it. It always helps to share a timeline for implementing the project.

Continuation Plan

Now comes the part of the pre-proposal that almost no one thinks to write: the continuation plan. Once the project has started, how will it be kept going?

Remember that foundations like to start new things, but they generally do not like to fund anything 100 percent and they never like to fund anything forever.

So it is important to tell, in one or two paragraphs, how much of your organization's own money will be invested in the project, and how funds will be raised from other sources to keep it going after foundation funding ends. If there are a couple of paragraphs on this subject, your pre-proposal will be ahead of 90 percent of the proposals received by foundations.

Evaluation

The pre-proposal needs to have a paragraph or two on how your organization intends to evaluate the results of the project. The evaluation plan should present what the organization wants to learn and how they will use the information to improve and sustain the project. **It never hurts to ask a foundation for some money to hire an expert on the topic from another location to come in and evaluate the project.** This will help both you and the funder to gauge how successful the project has been, and to learn lessons that will improve your work in the future. The majority of people who write proposals never think of this, and it will make a proposal stand out if it is included from the start.

Simple Budget

The last part of the pre-proposal is a simple budget. This budget should have five or six line items, and it should tell the foundation exactly how your organization intends to spend the money being requested. There should be a clear and explicit link between the budget and the proposed activities. This will give the program staff person a general idea of planned expenses and allow a subsequent request for more details if needed.

A brief pre-proposal can only outline the bare bones of a project idea. But that is all a program staff person needs to get excited about the plan, and it will be up to him or her to ask for more details necessary to put flesh on the skeleton. Once a program staff person starts working with a proposed project, the chances of getting the grant are much better, because now it has a guide to take it through the rest of the process. That process will usually include a request for a full proposal and a site visit by the program staff person.

Checklist

These are the kinds of things that are often looked for in every proposal that is received by foundations. If they are there, foundation staffs are more likely to support the proposal than if they are not: **! This is a new approach – most foundations like to fund new and exciting things, not more of the same. Foundations are increasingly interested in proposed solutions that build on the best available current knowledge, that show awareness of what has been tried, that builds on what works, and that replicates proven or promising**

ideas. ! The applicants have the know-how to do it. Information about the principle staff members involved in the project will help demonstrate their qualifications to conduct the project.

! The applicant is determined to do the project no matter what – foundations like to fund people who are committed to what they are doing, not people who will only do it if a funder gives them the money to do it.

!! The applicants are working with the people they are trying to help, not doing things to them – if the applicants are trying to help children, have they involved them in putting together the pre-proposal? Foundations think it is important that the people who will be helped have some say in the matter. ! The project is being undertaken to improve the lives of people, not to make the organization bigger and richer – **funders care about people and results more than they care about organizations.**

! The applicants are investing their own money in the project – this tells the foundations that your organization is committed to the project, and that it is important to you. It also helps to convince funders that your organization will continue it after their funding ends and commit itself to doing whatever it takes to find other funding.

! The applicants have a comprehensive approach to the problem – no one can solve a complicated problem with a simple solution, and foundations are looking for people whose answer is at least sophisticated as the problem they are trying to solve.

! The applicants are willing to work collaboratively with anyone who can help – foundations want to see organizations working together to improve the lives of people.

! The applicants are willing to have impartial evaluators assess their work – this will help both the applicants and the foundations learn to do a better job. The applicants will continue the project after the foundation funding ceases – foundations like to help get things started that is so valuable to people that they will continue to operate even after the funding ends.

2 Whats and 2 Hows of Proposal Writing

What is the need or problem that will be eliminated if the request is granted?

What doesn't exist now that will be produced and will still remain when the money is gone?

How will the money be spent?

How much money is needed?

- Excerpted from American Legion Foundation



Bath houses in Tisvildeleje

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