

The Global Forum for Environmental Education

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Recollections and reflections of the 22nd CEI Conference in Aalborg, Denmark 2008



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

President's Message



Birgitta Nordén and her delegates in Aalborg work on their art projects

To all colleagues and students involved in Caretakers of the Environment International (CEI)! Best wishes to you all in the year to come. I would like to begin by extending my many and sincere **THANKS to outgoing President Andrew Cox and latest CEI Conference Chair Elisabeth Brun** as well as all fellow members of the CEI Board for successful leadership together with the CEI Council, Alumni, the national branches including their member teachers and students. Thank you all for actively supporting the CEI and for never hesitating to engage new students and teachers from countries all around the world.

The CEI is a strong, long-lasting and very successful network – a strong network that is still developing – and has great potential to continue to develop positively, based both on its intrinsic strengths as well as on the needs and expectations of the world around us. Of course, it is a responsibility to shoulder the task of being the President. Shared leadership could be the preferred working model, which means that the ultimate function of a President is shared, with the same rights and responsibilities to the greatest possible extent. I am sure that we all in the international board will do our outmost, together with all of you, teachers, students and friends of the Caretakers of the Environment, to achieve the vision proclaimed by the CEI Board and recently revised constitution. We have been preparing for an updating review of the CEI during 2008 and it will finally be decided about the constitution changes in July 2009, while the international board of CEI hold their annual meetings during the CEI conference in Scotland. Ed Radatz and Andrew Cox has been managing and coordinating this work.

Opportunities to support new members to participate in annual international, regional and national meetings and to start new regional and national branches and strengthen activities within the present national branches of the CEI. Every national CEI Board should send updated reports to her of the status quo of your national CEI branch. For the Global Forum Dan Hoynacki would also welcome articles and descriptions of existing ones might be extended and are always encouraged. Joke Wals is conducting an important assessment of the the ongoing activities in your national branch, so we all could swap

experiences and inspire one another.

Resources are needed to achieve our CEI goals. An outline is drafted of how to strengthen the opportunities for a diversity of participants to apply for scholarships. But the allocation by the national branches is competitive and high school teachers must submit applications for student grants. More information will be available during the year to come.

"Time passes by like the wind...", Armand Wachelder wrote as a greeting for the new year. As the years go by, changes are taking place and we have to bid farewell to some of our nearest and dearest friends and members.

Our Global Forum Editor in Chief Cris Leibner, USA, passed away in December 2008. Cris was a greatly committed CEI board member, a highly appreciated colleague and a true caring, giving, loving teacher. Too soon our beloved friend and colleague – a caregiver and caretaker – passed. It is with gratitude we warmly welcome Cindy Leibner in resuming her teacher council role, which for the CEI and the alumni network is of great importance.

CEI 2009 Since the CEI has the routine to inspect the safety and the quality the conferences ahead of the events, someone from the board will visit Scotland soon. So, there will be a report from the inspection of the site in Aberdeen for the upcoming CEI conference available later this spring. Still, I am convinced that Anne Marie has everything well-in-hand. The impression you get visiting the web site www.cei2009.org assures about the excellence with which the plans are carried out.

Finally, I want to thank for your *confidence* to elect me CEI President. It is a great honor. The years pass on and lots of efforts and great commitment has been carried out through the years. Ever since I attended my first CEI conference, which was the one in Aberdeen 1994, with my colleague Ingrid Adolffson to visit Northern Ireland for an educational exchange and to be inspired and to learn more about how to work with greening school grounds, new opportunities have evolved increasing possible educational development towards sustainability. When it comes to Environmental Education (EE) there is an ongoing movement and discussions for changing towards Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). To meet for the first time with people engaged with a specific purpose to take on challenges in the field of education for sustainable development was overwhelming. CEI networked learning has been very awarding to many of us, who see and catch the opportunities. Let us continue and meet and take on new challenges together!

Welcome back to a new semester and an exciting 2009 with many challenges and opportunities for our network of the CEI, and once again my many and sincere thanks to all in the CEI board administration, teachers, alumni and students for the exceptionally good networked learning we continuously manage to develop together.

Birgitta Nordén

President, Caretakers of the Environment International

Letter from the Editor

Thank you for permitting me to be editor for this e-only issue of Global Forum. I apologize for the winter delay as I had hoped to have this posted by the end of December. We will have limited ability to hand print a few copies if you know of anyone who cannot access this through our website.

We tried to incorporate as many photos and stories as possible from the magnificent 22nd annual conference hosted in Aalborg, Denmark. This time, we have included names and addresses of CEI branches and affiliations and the Caretakers Board of Directors. Invariably, there are mistakes again as well as spelling errors. Please feel welcome to call them to my attention at dan.hoynacki@oregonstate.edu.

Cris inspected the 2005 CEI Conference Site. He could hardly contain his excitement when we visited the tide pools at Yaquina Head on the Oregon Coast.



Cris Leibner peacefully left us in December for his new journey. While our sadness is immense, the joy and honor of knowing him and the inspiration we all have from his great work and commitment to Caretakers is incredible. Cris' leadership by example, strength of character and great spirit is a legacy few achieve as well as he did while on this earth. We are pleased that Cindy and Nick will continue their alumni roles as coach and participant respectively.

CEI 2009: The 23rd Caretakers of the Environment International Conference will be held in Aberdeen, Scotland from 5th - 10th July. Their website: <http://www.cei2009.org/> is active with conference registration open only until March 31. We look forward to this year's innovative approach of having international schools partner on their projects.

Dan Hoynacki

Resources & Development/GF Editor in Chief, CEI

Aalborg, Denmark CEI 2008:

"We Can Make a Difference Together"

250 participants from 17 nations had a fantastic experience at the Caretakers of the Environment International Conference, which was hosted by the Youth School in Aalborg. Here the young people worked with globalization and environment – in practice!

"You get contacts from around the world and learn a lot of English. I often write my friend from across the globe on msn." "I've learned a lot of things about the environment, which I've never thought about before. I will really think more about that in the future. If we all do our part, it will make a difference."

"When I talk to the guys from Hong Kong, China or the USA I learn a lot about the way they live in their country. I find that very interesting."

These are some of the young peoples' reactions to the conference. They were at times euphoric about getting such a big experience – and they just wanted to participate again. The examples show that the young people worked with the environment – in practice!

Background

The conference was organized in collaboration with the world spanning organization Caretakers of the Environment International (CEI) and was the 22nd consecutive conference. The conference happened from the 6th – 12th of July 2008. The theme of the conference was "Environment, Sustainability and New Energy". The conference was academic, and the program consisted of project presentations, workshops, lectures as well as excursions.

As hosts we in the Youth School wanted the conference to reflect our unique Danish school model. Because of this there were activities incorporated in the program, where the participants could try out some of the Youth School's activities, which they were very enthusiastic about! Beforehand the CEI board had expressed a wish that the conference was to be held in Denmark, because they view Denmark as a pioneer in the field of new energy. Since 2000, the Youth School of Aalborg has exclusively represented Denmark at the CEI conferences

Goal

Caretakers and the Youth School of Aalborg had the following goals with the conference:

- The development of a world spanning network of students ranging between 14 and 18 years of age and teachers that has an interest in environmental problems and challenges.
- The development of strategies concerning education of the participants for ambassadors of CEI in their native countries.
- To encourage environmental consciousness and to develop national and international EE(environmental education) networks.
- The build-up and maintenance of friendships and cooperation across national borders.

Furthermore the Youth School of Aalborg and the steering committee laid down the following goals:

- To create the foundation of a Danish branch of the CEI.
- To involve the young people of Aalborg in the environmental and energy debate.
- To maintain the impressions and the work of the young people after the conference.
- To gather international statements from the young people for the UN climate summit in 2009.

Projects in the Project

The concept of CEI's international environmental conference is that the students prepare a project within one of the conference's themes in groups of 4. This project is then presented in plenum at the conference. At this year's conference the Youth School of Aalborg had 3 project groups. We did not want our young people to dominate the conference, but just participate on equal footing with the other nations. Therefore we tried to involve the young people in a wider sense – in the conference itself as well as the planning phase.

Young Guides

We had great success with a team of young guides that worked as guides for the participants as well as helper for the organizers. These were young people from earlier conferences, who had come up with the idea themselves. The result was a success and they fulfilled the expectations to the fullest. It was also young people who were in charge and were the Masters of Ceremonies at the opening and the closing ceremony. Still others had worked with films, songs, music, dancing in an environmental theme, which also were shown at the opening ceremony.

A large group of young reporters made sure that a news paper was made as well as TV transmitted from the conference. The news paper was printed and distributed on the conference, and all the video footage was edited and shown at the closing ceremony.

All in all it was a success to involve the young people in several different ways at the conference. In this way all the young people had a chance to work with the aspect that interested them and still remain a part of the conference.

The Future

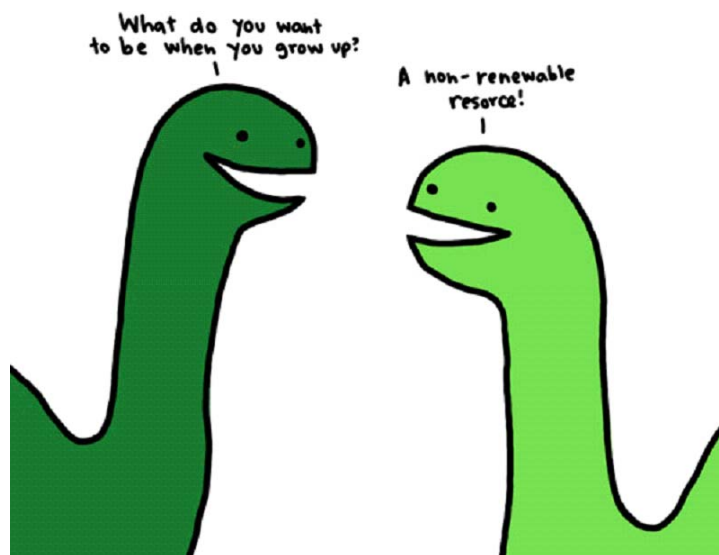
There were made 10 statements at the conference, which were the young people's suggestions for obligations and rights concerning the environment. This job was taken very serious. All nations were represented in the statement group, and because of this it is not only the Danish suggestion of how to deal with the future environmental challenges – it is all the conference's United Nation's suggestion. These statements are supposed to be handed over to minister of the climate Connie Hedegaard before the 2009 UN climate summit in Copenhagen. Until then we will work with other stakeholders within the climate and environment field, since the climate summit actualizes this debate even more.

Want to Join?

Caretakers of the Environment are hosting their 2009 conference in Aberdeen, Scotland.

We are very interested in cooperation, if you and your Youth School should happen to have an interest in working with the environment. Please contact us at phone: 0045 98176932 or mail: lene-kultur@aalborg.dk or ejb-kultur@aalborg.dk
For further information regarding the conference please visit www.cei2008.org or www.caretakers4all.org

*By Lene Østerbæk, Project and Development Manager and
Elisabeth Brun, Head of department North,
The Youth School Aalborg.*



Youth Reflections on CEI 2008

Well I had a lot of positive experiences on CEI 2008

I have learned a lot of ways to save energy.

They have also showed me the importance and function of wind energy.

Environment protection is not just a nice sentence for me. It is an issue which on I am working hard to accomplish! So it was a great feeling to meet people which have the same point of view as me.

I am sure, that I am going to remember these cultural experiences and environmental knowledge my whole life!

- Péter Varga, Hungary (Pécs)

I consider it a very big opportunity that I may have attended a conference with a character like this. The environment and its protection count as an insignificant thing in the everyday life but on the conference for others I recognized the extraordinary importance of this.

I may have won into other nations' customs, because of me strange I may have recognized it, and more friendships I may have been knitting.

This was a very big experience for me, and I hope for it I may get richer by similar experiences regarding the coming years.

- Szilvia Géra, Hungary (Pécs)

There we were filled up with excitement flying over Denmark. We were there to spend seven unforgettable days. As soon as we landed in Aalborg we were surprised by the high level of organization. The first thing that came into our hands, when we met the organizer- the wonderful Elisabeth Brun, was the schedule. There were all kinds of activities. Starting with sightseeing and visiting research centers we ended up working in highly constructive workshops. We also had to present our projects about renewable energy sources. Our delegation was amazed by all the creative ideas that came out from the heads of those young people who took part at the conference. I must

also say that besides all that effort we put in to give our contribution in saving our own planet, we had enough time to make a lot of new friends, to share a lot of opinions and to learn something really new about other cultures. Now looking backwards I think that we sent a great message. We can save our planet only if we unite together, only if we forget about all the differences between us and concentrate all our positive energy in finding new sustainable and renewable energy sources.

- "Flash" Gordan Madzevik, Macedonia

Gray Matter from Kelly

I've always been a small town girl and imagined myself staying that way. Living on the outskirts of our main cities has always been a problem considering the lack of traveling opportunities. I have always been stuck at home until I joined the *Wildlife, Watersheds, and What-Not* class and started growing up by becoming a responsible teenager. This delegation has taught me to be responsible for myself and the environment. Everyone has the right to be who they want to be and do what they want to do in America [as long as its not against the law], but also has the responsibility to be the right person and do the right thing for themselves and others. Being unnoticed and quiet most of my life has taught me that I wanted to become a person who makes a positive impact in the world somehow. This delegation process and going to Denmark really has taught this small town girl just how to do it.

Denmark was an experience of a lifetime. Never will I be able to really afford to go to another country on my own so I really do cherish the CEI Conference. During the conference I not only made close friends from schools all over Oregon, Chicago, and New York but I made close friends with students from Portugal, Ireland, Scotland, Macedonia, Hungary, and last but certainly not least Denmark. These friends have taught me to view the world differently through the eyes of different cultures and personalities. The Portuguese respected music a lot, and were friendly to everyone they met. Somehow they respected the earth through the way that they found beauty in not only images but sounds. The Ireland girls were extremely humble and humorous. They were constantly happy and joking around which brought life and youth to the conference. This is exactly what we needed considering we were at a training army base. The Scottish boys were not ashamed at all to be who they were considering they were wearing kilts. If a man is not ashamed of his culture and background, he will not be afraid to protect his mother earth and what he believes is best for her. Macedonians knew how to party and were not afraid to celebrate the experience of traveling to a different country. Once I found out what their culture was like I began to appreciate their enthusiasm. Hungarians were serious and knew how to get down to business. During their presentations they were well spoken and knew how to explain their ideas of geothermal energy. It's nice to have confident students around to boost your own self-esteem. Last but not least the Danish students were creative and entertaining hosts. They represented their country well. Hopefully in the future their optimism will

encourage Americans to explore innovations in energy and transportation. Through the week of the conference I didn't have the chance to meet all of the delegations but the ones I



Stefan Madzovski, Gordan Madzevik (Macedonia) and Viktor Zlatanic (USA) join Dan and Ryan Kinnett (USA) by the Aalborg Post Office

did spend time with I really did learn life lessons from that will carry on into my future goals.

Some would say that Denmark's environment was the same as Oregon. I'd have to disagree due to the fact that Denmark has been around longer than we have. Their setting has more history and past. Vikings originated in their territories. Christianity practically evolved in their area. The air was clean like ours in Oregon but not because of the rain forests nor the ocean breeze. Denmark led by example by showing the rest of the world that it is possible to live without cars, large factories, and expanded two story buildings unlike Salem, Oregon. A few images and smells will never leave my mind from this trip.

Copenhagen was probably my favorite tourist spot. With all the freedom and extra time our delegation was given between practice slots in our day we soon got to explore our surroundings. I had always dreamed to ride through the canals overseas, and now that I've gone to Denmark I can honestly check off one box on my list of life dreams. Our delegation shopped in flea markets, experienced the food and language, and experienced manners on our own time through scavenger hunts, with our own pace without having guides such as my good friend Morten from Aalborg explaining what everything is. Sometimes it is nice to teach yourself something new instead of having information handed to you on a piece of paper or on a white board like in school. This is why hands-on experiences like this impact our lives so much.

While at the Army base our delegations were split up into different workshops. One that I went to focused on solar panels and how to build them. In this workshop we actually had the chance to build our own and witness how it generated light and in some cases noise with the solar powered radio I wanted to buy. On the exhibition day my friend Maira and I accidentally got split into separate buses with Morten where we went to the natural habitat/bog, windmill and solar panel mill, and the beach where a World War I battle was fought. We actually got to sit where John Lennon once sat and go inside bunkers that

were once used. The rest of the USA delegation had the chance to go to the aquarium and beach, which was less educational and from word of mouth was not as exciting because most of the fish and sand was the same as in Oregon.



Our delegation plans to keep up with the commitments that we have started in the community gardens and one day witness the harvesting and donations of the food that we planted. Through this I will experience a sort of positive impact on people in a local community and realize that I've always had the right to feel this good about doing something not only for others but for the earth, and that it shall be a responsibility for us students and myself in the future to continue. Having the chance to leave my small town and travel across seas has really taught me that things don't revolve around myself nor anyone else and that we truly need to work together as a team to get something done. I hope to experience an opportunity like this again, but due to finances and alternative plans to reach farther in life through different paths I may not. If not I'll always remember how the people who made this opportunity happen truly were the ones who let this small town girl grow her wings and grow up through something bigger than herself. Denmark was well worth everything.

- Kelly Gray Cascade High School, Oregon – USA

Denmark...when I hear this word now I'll be filled with a very pleasant feeling. It's difficult to express my thoughts in words, for not so long time ago I also didn't think that something can leave this mark so deeply on me. But nevertheless, it did...this year we could have a "taste" something with 20? Having them for a week, something different, something interesting and exciting, which we will never forget.

The opportunity to reach to the International Environmental Youth Conference, hosted every year since 1987, could be reached through the **"See the Future" foundation**. There were 5 applicant teams for the conference in Denmark. (Due to "technical" problems only 4 teams participated in the program.) At the beginning we were working together with our mates from Keszthely, looking for thermal waters in the whole country. Later we had to change and go apart: they continued

the thermal project, and we had to face the next challenges of the okohouses. That wasn't easy, because in Hungary even environment protection is still in its infancy, let alone Okohouses.... But it was worth, because efforts were crowned with success in Denmark. By all means, we also enjoyed every part of the week, but everybody used to be young, so you might be surprised if I say that we found the rest of the week even more enjoyable. As we could play football together with the Portuguese guys, when 300 youngsters from different nations were dancing at one rhythm, and as we stayed awake until 4 a.m. every day, because the teachers quarter was 19 minutes away + superb dishes, workshops, disco, the trips, the reception, the cultural evening and I could list for many more pages.....Since even the fact, that so many nations are on one place, cheered the meeting up. The "happy" Danish, the Austrian guys, the small Chinese, the "party-lover" Greek, the Hungarian ;), the mysterious Indonesian, the Irish..., our favorites: the Macedonian, the Russian, the "flaming" Portuguese, the 'kiltie' Scottish and the Americans, of whom you could see from far, that they come from the USA...I don't think it's necessary to detail.

All in all we think we'll also come next year...to Scotland. And then to Indonesia. This one week has changed us all. Our relationship to the environment. It may seem to have been only a great party, and everything is done with the 10 Minute presentation...but it isn't. I think we came home as different people, like real 'caretakers'. We have learnt a lot and we got our "provisions" which will surely last for at least a year, but we hope forever...

Noemi Boros – Hungary

Self Change

My life hasn't been the easiest though it could always have been worse. To lose my father at the age of ten it's easy to say that my self-image and self-worth had been affected. For years my "life style" had been of poor quality. I lived on microwave meals and my bedroom had been the place I saw the most. But, in 2007 everything was about to change.

For the past year I had been involved with Ryan Kinnett and The Community School House getting an environmental project ready for an environmental conference called CEI. The conference was in Hong Kong. That year the Portuguese had done a project that year titled "Youth as Seeds of Change for a Better Life." It spoke about how youth weren't active in their communities and gave some advice on how to become more active. That project along with my realization that I was the "biggest" person there caused me to have an epiphany. My life style needed to change.

Now a year later I'm a changed person. I have gone from 104.33kg to 78.02kg or 230lbs to 172lbs. I have experienced another international conference; I also look forward to attending more in the future. Along with my physical change my mental state of being is in a much better place. I'm much happier now, and I can honestly credit to those changes to my experiences as a member of CEI.

- James Rogers - USA - Oregon



Asbjørn Heby barely escapes Viking attack at the Old Viking Cemetery

Adventures in Aalborg

Prior to arriving in Aalborg, I visited many countries I had never been to before, such as Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Russia, and Germany. It was a great experience because I could see similarities and differences between people and places in foreign countries. This heightened my appreciation for the modern conveniences present in the United States. I also gained a deeper understanding of different cultures before I even arrived at the Environmental Youth Conference.

During the Conference, we visited many interesting places. The first place that we visited, outside of the Military Base, was a Viking Museum. In the Museum, we saw Viking artifacts and a movie describing Viking life hundreds of years ago. The following day we took a bus into the bustling city of Aalborg. The architecture was very charming and the ice cream was very good too. On Thursday, the students split up and took three different field trips. My group did the coast tour, which involved visiting a beach, sand dunes, and an aquarium. On the beach, we saw World War II bunkers that had been discovered only weeks before.

At the aquarium, I enjoyed putting my hand into a tank of stingrays and petting them, and also seeing seals being fed. The aquarium was much nicer than what I've seen in the U.S. On Friday, we took our final trip to Aalborg University, where we learned about wave power. All of the trips were great learning experiences.

Even though we had youth from all over the world, we all knew how to have fun. The first thing we did when we arrived was to play a friendly game of soccer with the Indonesian group. Also, almost every night we would play ultimate Frisbee in the rain. There was even a soccer tournament on Wednesday evening, in which the American team got second place. Overall, there was plenty of free time and we never got bored. The other students were all very friendly and I tried to be too.

The Conference was not all fun and games, however. We also had important issues to discuss, which is why a substantial

amount of our time was spent listening to lectures and other group's presentations. While all of the presentations were memorable, my favorite was the one from Hong Kong. Their group did a lot of research on their topic which was utilizing landfill gas for energy. I was fascinated to learn that it was a realistic energy source. My group's project had multiple topics, but the one that I presented on was how Boy Scout's can help clean up the environment. Working together as a group and sharing ideas was a great success.

In conclusion, the 22nd Environmental Youth Conference has been a great experience for me. I got to meet new people, visit fascinating new places and learn about a topic that I care about. The environment was very friendly and I was made to feel at home. I would definitely participate in this conference

- Joshua Williams, Chicago, USA



Greenland delegates present their discussion project on the impacts of climate change on their country

CEI 2008 Aalborg Student Delegates Craft Statements On Climate Change "Rights" and "Responsibilities"

At the CEI Denmark conference, our Oregon Chapter leaders and CEI Alumni guided 24 students from 12 countries through a series "Rights and Responsibilities" work sessions that yielded cooperatively-developed statements about youth perspective on climate change and environmental stewardship to be formally presented at the 2009 Copenhagen United Nations conference. Here is some perspective from one of the youth participants, *Gordan Madzevik, Macedonia* on the process:

The Declaration of Rights and Responsibilities

We live in an environment that is not only inherited from our ancestors, but it is also borrowed from the generations to come. By polluting our planet we are cutting down the chances to our children for having a healthy environment. While I was in Denmark I met a lot of people who want to change something in our relationship with Mother Nature. One of them was Professor Dan Hoynacki from Oregon, a man driven not only by the will to

change things but also ideas. In a small discussion about one of all the topics we went through, he asked me if I would like to join a team that works on some declaration about our rights and responsibilities. I agreed to take part in the team thinking that it



Delegates from the statements workshop also present their artwork at the closing ceremonies of CEI 2008

would be great to spend some time and put some effort in something that no one has done before, but could find its application in the saving of our planet. When we gathered together everything seemed planned. We were separated into smaller groups and each group had its tasks. My team was supposed to choose only a few out of all the statements about our rights and responsibilities to climate change, given by the participants of the conference. By combining all the thoughts we created a few statements and connected them in a declaration. This declaration set some limits to how far we can go in polluting our own planet. However this declaration is also to introduce us to the rights that we have in using all the benefits that the nature offers to us. This declaration should guarantee that the peace between us and Mother Nature will be kept in the years to come.

- Gordan Madzevik, Macedonia

Argentina Update:

In Argentina we are working a bit more in Environment Education. We have already done several activities:

- Meetings and conferences with neighbours to solve local Environmental Problems.
- We have planted trees in parks.
- Together with other organizations we managed to have a hospital and highway built.
- We have trained teachers about Environmental Education.
- We have introduced projects and workshops in Universities in Argentina.
- We are working on a project to be presented in the World Environment Congress in Montreal, Canada in May 2009.
- We have taken part in the Health Forum organizing training courses and campaigns to prevent HIV.
- In 2006 we were given the "José Hernández Award" for our work.

- In 2008 we are receiving the "Melvin Jones" mention by the International Association of Lions Clubs" for our contribution to our community and service.

This is just a summary of our work. Best wishes.

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Dr. Arjen Wals Receives International Education Award

Washington, DC – Dr. Arjen Wals of Wageningen University in the Netherlands has received an award from the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) for "Outstanding Contribution to Environmental Education Research." Dr. Wals and previous award recipients are highlighted on the NAAEE Web site, <http://www.naaee.org/programs-and-initiatives/awards/>. Since obtaining his PhD at the University of Michigan in 1991 under the guidance of EE leader Dr. Bill Stapp, Dr. Wals has co-published and co-edited over 150 articles, chapters, and books on environmental education and related topics. He is an outstanding scholar and is widely respected in the EE field. He serves on the editorial boards of all the major environmental education journals.



Dr. Wals attended the NAAEE conference in Wichita, Kansas, USA, on October 18, accept the award. [For Further Information Contact:](#) Brenda Metcalf, NAAEE Awards Co-Chair Phone: (740) 653-2649 ; Fax: (740) 653-6100 director@eeco-online.org

From Russia with Love

Dear organizers of the CEI Conference in Aalborg, Denmark! We are very thankful to you for all the experience we gained during the Conference. It was useful, interesting and entertaining at the same time.

Since the beginning of the new school year we have been sharing our new knowledge. First, in September we prepared a report about the Conference because there is a tradition in our school to tell about the participation in these Conferences. We made presentations about our work while preparing for the Conference, the scientific aspect of the Conference, excursions and other activities, Denmark and Aalborg. All members of our group told

station Vattenfall, Vestas Company and the Museum of Energy. All the posters attracted many visitors. We were asked a lot of questions. The people were interested in the newest technologies of storing and recycling wastes in the power station Vattenfall and in installation of wind turbines by Vestas Company. We made a report about the CEI Conference in Denmark at the plenary meeting. As a result of our participation in this Exhibition we were asked to write an article about these enterprises and the Museum of Energy in the regional magazine "Energy".

We hope that all the knowledge we got at the CEI Conference in Denmark will be useful for our students in their future.

- Marina Konopleva, Tatyana Lagunova, teachers from Russia



about their impressions of this tour and their new friends.

After that in October we were invited to the City Veterans Club. The former teachers of schools and universities listened to us and watched the presentations and lots of photos with great attention and asked many questions about our project.



CEI 2008 Delegates from Kirov, Russia continue their community outreach following their conference experience

Then in November in our city there was the annual Scientific Conference of students where two girls from our team presented our project "Alternative ways of producing thermal energy".

In December we participated in the Regional Energy Exhibition where we presented some posters with photos of the power

"Threads of Equality" Launched By HumanGrace Foundation at Conference

CEI proudly welcomed the humanGrace foundation and the Treads Of Equality global quilting project to the 2008 Conference. This touring program invited all participating countries to contribute to the creation of several solid color quilts comprised of pieces of fabric originating from deconstructed flags of the world. The resulting monochromatic quilted banners will be exhibited around the world as symbols of global unity, harmony and tolerance. Each attending delegation provided a flag that was presented to the humanGrace representatives as part of our 2008 Opening Ceremonies. Most evenings during the conference, delegates participated in the deconstruction process and quilting program. The resulting fabric pieces, by color, were then merged from the different flags as part of the conference closing events.



Delegates "de-construct" sewn flags to separate components by color

Remembering Harry Wals

Harry Wals was a pioneer in environmental education in Europe. He became a friend of Caretakers of the Environment International from the time Ed Radatz, Arjen Wals and I proposed that we form an environmental education network of high school students and teachers. Harry, who was director of City Management in The Hague and past president of the Foundation of Environmental Education in Europe, invited us to hold the very first CEI conference in 1987, in the Hague, Netherlands. The conference theme was: "The Sea: Pollution or

Protection". So we biked across the polders, camped near the North Sea, and visited the island of Texel. We saw the Blue Flag, a sign that the beach was safe for swimming (a program Harry helped establish across Europe.)

Harry believed that people need to be close to nature. So he showed us some of the projects he developed in The Hague to achieve this. He took us to gardens near apartment buildings that were planted and tended by children from kindergarten through high school. He also guided our tour of the town farm, where people in the neighborhood came to feed the chickens, milk the cows, and groom the horses. Harry believed that people who live in unsafe places - where they can't trust other people - need the company of animals. That is why he persisted until the city council of The Hague, Netherlands established the first town farm in their slum renovation plan. Today, there are hundreds of town farms across Europe.

Harry Wals had great energy, a marvelous sense of humor, and a deep love of nature. It was a privilege to be his friend and to be touched by his vision of having youth from many nations becoming friends and working together to care for the environment.

Isabel Abrams, CEI USA Branch



CEI Board of directors meets at CEI 2008

Music for the Environment

Some Swedish high school students conducted a project work on waste which they will present when attending the Global Environmental Youth Convention 2009 in Beijing.

Short Description

Playing at two concerts, we promoted sustainability using our music. The first concert was at a festival organized by students from LUMES (Lund University International Master's Programme in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science). The festival was called *Make Change Happen* and we played there with our skaband, ElleSka. This was done with the purpose to promote sustainability. The second concert we had was at Carolin's school, Tunaskolan in Lund. We built our own instruments out of waste or "junk". This was to promote

recycling and reusing of objects. We also created connections with the students at Tunaskolan by handing out posters with tips on recycling and being sustainable at home and in school. We also created connection with one of the music classes at the school that became interested in working with the same type of project.



Carolin Oredsson, Alexandra Manhammar,
Tove Rubensson and Ebba Rubensson

Project's Link to Sustainable Development

By building our own instruments and holding a small concert at the school, we not only showed that fun can be had while reusing things, but also promoted sustainability in the information that we passed out among the students.

Objectives and Targets for Project

We mainly wanted to reach out to the students at the school we played at, trying to awaken their awareness for the importance of recycling and also just being sustainable in your everyday life. We wanted to show them how to build their own instruments out of things that they were going to throw away anyway (old pens, soda cans etc.). We also wanted to connect with the classes, students and teachers, just to try and make them more aware of some of the environmental issues we face.

Results

We were very pleased with the results of our project. Many of the students, especially the younger ones (which were our main targets) were very interested in our instruments and how we'd built them. When we demonstrated they were enthusiastic and seemed to want to try it themselves. They also seemed to have a lot of fun with the instruments, and hopefully will take the knowledge we've given them to heart.

We also received very positive feedback from both the school and the Make Change Happen festival. Many people were impressed, and the teachers at Tunaskolan have told us that they are thinking about building their own instruments with the students, after we had inspired them. So over-all, we seemed to have caught people's attention and made them think, as well as hopefully act.

Lessons Learned

Everyone in our delegation has learnt how to build instruments out of junk. This means, we have learnt that fun can be had while recycling and doing something good. We have also learnt how to communicate with people, how to get them interested

in our ideas and how to make them cooperate. Reflecting on the project, we have communicated with many different types of people: shop owners, when asking for broken parts or used articles that they were going to throw away; teachers and principals, students, and of course the whole public. We have definitely improved our communication skills during this project!

References

During this project we used the book "Maraccas, Marimbas och Bågfilsbas" by Sten Bunne to build our instruments. We communicated and received help from the following organizations and people during the project:

- Tunaskolan in Lund, including the school's principal and teachers
- Students at LUMES
- Different shops and restaurants in Lund; The Kebab Restaurants and a Bicycle Mechanics Shop as well as the containers belonging to other restaurants located in Saluhallen.
- The electrical department at one of our local high schools, Polhemskolan in Lund Municipality.
- Photo & tutoring teacher Birgitta Nordén, Tunaskolan.

- Carolin Oredsson, Alexandra Manhammar, Tove Rubensson and Ebba Rubensson, Tunaskolan + Spyken Lund, Sweden.

The language of the Arts - Art and Education

Tell me, and I will forget. Show me, and I might remember. Involve me, and I will understand.

- Confucius, Ancient Chinese philosopher

We have a word for everything in the world, but when it comes to expressing more abstract concepts like beauty, or emotions, words may not suffice. The arts do not have a purpose in themselves; it is their value to express the unspeakable.

To understand the arts from an educational point of view is to understand the purpose of process. To be actively involved in the process of creative practice is a means to stimulate broader involvement and understanding among students. The eventual results or statements made are the product of this involvement. The more synergy there is among participants, the more manifest will be the outcome.

Creativity basically means the act of producing new ideas, approaches and actions. But the creative process implies more than just "thinking out of the box". Originality is one element. Equally important is for the outcome to be appropriate.

The German artist Joseph Beuys (1921-1986) once stated that 'everyone can be an artist.' It does not matter what occupation you have; whether you are a teacher, a businessman or a bus driver. According to Beuys, in every occupation there is a need for human creativity. Creativity is not only for a musician or a painter – it is for everyone! And so, in 1982, Joseph Beuys planted 7000 oak trees at a major art exhibition – it was both an

environmental statement, and an immense and collective piece of man-made art.



Armand assists the statements delegates in also expressing their written messages in art form, as seen completed on the front cover of this issue.



Recently I had a talk with a group of students. The students explained to me that they were getting fed up with the ongoing, inconvenient messages of environmental doom, produced by the media. I was surprised, but immediately I realized the implications of these surprising remarks; if we want to raise concern about the sustainability of our natural world, we also need to think about the purpose of the message.

What Confucius already knew about 2500 years ago: that involvement leads to understanding, is something we need to consider today, too. If we can engage ourselves to find local solutions to global challenges, original ideas and approaches may come out, and we might even get to it taking the appropriate action.

- Armand Wachelder, CEI-Netherlands



Statements of Environmental Rights, Responsibilities, Proposed Solutions

The Process and Some Outcomes

The very first session of this conference was dedicated to explaining how we develop rights and responsibilities, and our planned process to develop ten youth statements. We received input from all delegates with students and teachers working separately in multi-national groups in three areas: Environmental Education, Sustainability and New Energy, the conference themes.

The two dozen youth in the statements workshop then divided into the three groups, reviewed all the ideas and developed a total of thirty rights and responsibility statements. Next, the full group voted to select and refine ten statements. Solutions were then drafted for each of the ten rights and responsibilities. Afterwards, a sub-group created artwork to represent our three themes. Others designed the cover page of the declaration.



Preamble

We, the delegates of the Twenty-Second annual Caretakers of the Environment International Youth Conference, have gathered to establish our Declaration of Environmental Rights and Responsibilities. We feel that these ten statements represent what rights each of us as a member of our global society is entitled to. Similarly, we have developed some responsibilities that each of us need to accept in order to sustain and protect the quality of our environment. Our major goal is to make youth's voices heard while promoting the education of environmental ethics. The promotion of such ethics is crucial in order to ensure the survival of our natural world and the health and well-being of future generations. This declaration was written with these generations specifically in mind, for they are our future.

This declaration was not easily completed. **Two dozen delegates from many different cultures, most of whom had never even met, managed to complete this daunting task together in less than three days. If youth can complete such**

a project under such extreme pressures, just imagine what people in positions of power, who have the ability to make decisions that can change the world, can accomplish together.

Our work:

Individuals

1. Individuals have the right to safe access to affordable education and to obtain complete and truthful information in order to make them knowledgeable about environmental issues. Individuals have the responsibility to gain their knowledge independently, if necessary, share and pass on their knowledge to others, and use what they have learned to improve their environment.

Right to Information and Education

Article: Individuals have the right to access safe, affordable education and to obtain complete and truthful information in order to make them aware of environmental issues.

Objective: Because individuals are part of the environment and are causing negative impacts, they need to be well-informed on how to act responsibly.

Method: Environmental education should be a subject at school, be available in a variety of media such as television, Internet, radio, and newsprint.

Evaluation: The government, with the assistance from educators, scientists, and resource specialists, is responsible to develop the idea for education about the protection of the environment in schools.

Responsibility to Become Knowledgeable, Share and Engage

Article: Individuals have the responsibility to gain their knowledge independently if necessary, share and pass on their knowledge to others, and use what they have learned to improve their environment.

Objective: To increase the environmental awareness of environmental issues.

Method: They need to take action in gaining knowledge about the global problems and they should communicate and share what they have already learned.

Evaluation: Every individual is responsible for this and should help to hold each other accountable.

2. Individuals have the right to access affordable sources of new energy and sustainable products. Individuals have the responsibility to increase their usage of new energies while reducing their own energy consumption and individual ecological footprints.

Right to Access to Affordable, Sustainable Products and Services

Article: Individuals have the right to access affordable sources of new energy and sustainable products and services.

Objective: If you have the responsibility to protect the environment you should also have opportunities to buy sustainable products.

Method: By reducing taxes on the most environmentally friendly products on the market as well as increasing their availability to consumers and decreasing costs.

Evaluation: Corporative businesses should be the primary sources for bio-friendly products and services that are affordable to the consumer and harmless to the environment. When businesses fail to meet these standards the government should step in.

Responsibility to Identify and Use Sustainable Products and Services Wisely and Prudently

Article: Individuals have the responsibility to increase the usage of new energies while reducing their own energy consumption and individual ecological footprint.

Objective: To promote eco-conscious consumerism and resource utilization.

Method: Individuals improve their ecological footprints through environmental education, marketing, media and labeling of products.

Evaluation: Government should promote programs that can improve the citizen's knowledge about their ecological footprint. Government should fund labeling systems that give information about production costs on the environment and begin to require that energy costs be included in a product's retail price.

Families

1. Families have the right to produce their own household energy and equip themselves with sustainable energy devices. **Families have the responsibility** to engage in and commit to eco-friendly practices and products in a purposeful rather than compulsory manner.

Right to be Innovative Energy Consumers

Article: Families have the right to produce their own household energy and equip themselves with sustainable energy devices.

Objective: To reduce their reliance on foreign sources.

Method: Families should research and then purchase an affordable, reliable energy device.

Evaluation: Energy companies should provide information about energy consumptions in homes. This information will assist in the evaluation of the effectiveness of sustainable energy devices in the home.

Responsibility to Practice Conservation

Article: Families have the responsibility to engage in and commit to eco-friendly practices and products in a purposeful rather than compulsory manner.

Objective: To reduce consumer costs for products, invest consumer dollars in eco-friendly household products and services, while reducing carbon emissions and negative impacts to the environment.

Method: To change the devices into more energy efficient appliances and provide more environmentally sustainable consumer services. Governments and businesses should also provide incentives for the purchasing of these devices.

Evaluation: The government is responsible to provide guidelines for retail businesses to create affordable access to eco-friendly products and services.

2. Families have the right to live and work in a healthy environment. **Families have the responsibility** to be a positive role model for their children and other family members.

Right to Healthy, Safe Surroundings

Article: Families have the right to live and work in a healthy environment.

Objective: One of the most basic rights of a human being is to be able to live in a healthy environment.

Method: Families should see the value of nature and their place in their surroundings, and learn to appreciate what nature does for them.

Evaluation: Government should require families to purchase and use sustainable products as well as implement sustainable habits into their lifestyles.

Responsibility to Model Positive Behavior

Article: Families have the responsibility to be a positive role model for their children and other family members.

Objective: Children get a lot of their values and knowledge from their parents and learn by example. Positive role modeling will result in more positive results.

Method: Family seminars in the community can be held, in which they are enlightened on the topic of sustainability.

Evaluation: Parents are first and foremost responsible for understanding their own impact on their children. Churches and other social service organizations may also play a role in the evaluation of this responsibility.

Communities

1. Communities have the right to encourage people through the making of campaigns and hosting fundraising activities to support new energy and encourage people in the community to reduce their energy consumption. **Communities have the responsibility** to raise awareness and resources amongst its population.

Right to Encourage Conservation

Article: Communities have the right to encourage people through the making of campaigns and hosting fundraising activities to support new energy and try to encourage people in the community to reduce their energy consumption.

Objective: To spread awareness and increase funding for new energy projects.

Method: Through group activities that are both collaborative and motivational.

Evaluation: If the community is organizing the event(s) they have to monitor their own efforts.

Responsibility to Engage and Motivate its Members

Article: Communities have the responsibility to raise awareness and provide resources that support sustainability amongst its population.

Objective: The money will be used for new energy systems and the fundraisers will create a regular source of information within the community.

Method: Awareness will be spread through a variety of fundraising events and campaigns.

Evaluation: All such campaigns should be organized by a committee of volunteers from the community. Higher education may also be an important third party evaluator.

2. Communities have the right to receive support and incentives from the government to use new energy and best practices. **Communities have the responsibility** to pressure the government into listening to community needs regarding new energy and sustainable technologies.

Right to Reward for Positive Action

Article: Communities have the right to receive support and incentives from the government to use new energy and best practices.

Objective: The will of the community to change its consumptive habits should not be hindered by lack of funds or federal support.

Method: Community leaders should gain representation from the federal government. Businesses which support the community must play an important role in providing support to their respective constituents.

Evaluation: If the government is supporting the community they will have to monitor and evaluate the projects.

Responsibility to Solicit More Efficient and Sustainable Services

Article: Communities have the responsibility to pressure the government into listening to community needs regarding new energy and sustainable technologies.

Objective: The government should be informed so that they can support community activities.

Method: A petition can be signed and a representative from the community chosen will deliver the signed document to the government.

Evaluation: Community leaders should remain in contact with government officials.



Business

1. Businesses have the right to access, use, and profit from new technologies. **Businesses have the responsibility** to use or develop new technologies in a sustainable way which maintains the integrity of the environment, and not profit at the expense of future generations.

Right to be Innovative

Article: Businesses have the right to use or develop new technologies in a sustainable way which maintains the integrity of the environment, and not profit at the expense of future generations.

Objective: To make the world an easier and better place for living with new developments in technology.

Method: Businesses should implement and develop newer technologies whenever possible while decreasing their negative impact on the environment.

Evaluation: The government is responsible to educate how the companies can reduce pollution.

Responsibility to Sensitive to Environmental Impacts of their Products

Article: Businesses have the responsibility to produce, distribute, and sell products in an environmentally responsible way.

Objective: To protect the environment and also provide the next generation with renewable energy products without causing negative environmental impacts.

Method: The government should hold companies accountable who pollute the environment and make them pay for negative environmental impacts.

Evaluation: The government should make strict laws to decrease the emission of harmful materials.

2. Businesses have the right to be rewarded when they work to improve the society that is not at the expense of the environment. **Businesses have the responsibility** to control level of pollutants and wasteful substances in both their products and packaging.

Right to be Rewarded for Sustainable Innovation

Article: Businesses have the right to be rewarded when they work to improve the society and that it is not at the expense of the environment.

Objective: It is important that businesses have motivation to invest in ecological development and implement sustainable best practices.

Method: Businesses should promote any extraordinarily good alternative to an existing non-sustainable product.

Evaluation: The government should compensate industries that have been able to create a reliable alternative source of energy, thereby encouraging further development of such alternatives in those industries.

Responsibility to Sell Sustainable Products and Packaging

Article: Businesses have the responsibility to control the level of pollutants and wasteful substances in both their products and packaging.

Objective: To hold businesses accountable for the negative environmental impact of their products and services.

Method: Businesses should calculate the amount of damage on their surroundings and based on their calculations take the necessary measures. Businesses may also include this cost in the price of their product or service.

Evaluation: Business leaders should oversee the impact of the production and the product on the environment. For example, start a department that is in charge of measuring.



Government

1. Governments have the right to transfer certain responsibilities and information to individuals, families, communities, and businesses. **Governments have the responsibility** to discern which responsibilities are appropriate to transfer to individuals, families, communities, and businesses.

Right to Transfer Responsibility and Information

Article: Government has the right to transfer certain responsibilities and information to individuals, families, communities, and businesses.

Objective: To teach the individuals, families, communities and businesses how to act properly without causing negative impacts in the environment and to promote a more sustainable way of living and conduction of business.

Method: The government should inform the population in variety of media (news, Internet, television, billboards). The government should also invest in research and development of newer technologies.

Evaluation: Checks and balances should be implemented within each governmental branch in order to hold each branch accountable.

Responsibility to Determine Accountability and Guidelines

Article: Government has the responsibility to discern which responsibilities are appropriate to transfer to individuals, families, communities, and business.

Objective: To make clear the roles each entity must maintain in order to maintain effective cooperation between all parties.

Method: Guidelines will be drawn which designate the responsibilities for individuals, families, communities and businesses and the role government will have while facilitating these responsibilities. These guidelines will be shared in a variety of appropriate venues.

Evaluation: The effectiveness of these guidelines will be monitored by the government and success will be based on the outcomes of the responsibilities from data collected from the various entities.

2. Governments have the right to make laws that protect the environment, economic prosperity, and social equity.

Governments have the responsibility to promote sustainable development, enforce environmental laws and set appropriate standards for resource consumption by individuals, families, communities and businesses.

Right to Implement Law and Policy

Article: Government has the right to make laws that protect the environment, economic prosperity, and social equity.

Objective: Nature cannot protect itself against the consumptive habit of human beings. Only people can undo what they have started.

Method: Appropriate rules and regulations should be made in accordance with the existing problems faced by an ecosystem.

Evaluation: The government will create these laws on a federal level, whereas smaller administrative circles should take up the responsibility of enforcing them.

Responsibility to Enforce Laws

Article: Government has the responsibility to promote sustainable development, enforce environmental laws, and set appropriate standards for resource consumption by individuals, families, communities, and businesses.

Objective: Because government is only able to make laws, therefore the policy should always work in favor of progress.

Method: Give economic incentives for the consumer to buy sustainable products, as well as impose greenhouse gas emission taxes on fossil fuel, meat, aerosols and fertilizers.

Evaluation: Government should give the responsibility of environmental sustainability to a handful of knowledgeable officials who would take all appropriate action to create an improved, greener society and emplace expenses on damages dealt to the environment.

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Ryan Kinnett (United States of America)

Additional statements work will appear in the next Global Forum issue. In the meantime, we welcome your feedback and comments.

- Dan Hoynacki, Ryan Kinnett (USA) & Ana Almeida (Portugal)

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