

ESEE Newsletter

Information from The European Society for Ecological Economics - Issue No.7 - April 1999

A Word from the President

Towards a system of "vigilant foresight" based on the complementarity of actors

Risk and irreversibility are inevitable when making technological choices, and the field of "vigilant foresight" virtually imposes itself.

Up to now, the notions of vigilance and foresight have in particular been applied to technology (especially concerning environmental questions), and to the importance of based on scientific and technical expertise from research and industry. The well-known DELPHI surveys have for example considerably contributed to the principal orientations of science and technology in various industrialised countries for the last thirty years. The countries today disposing of the most elaborate foresight instruments for technological innovation, seem to agree on a new tendency: with the success of the concept of sustainable development, the focal point has moved from merely scientific and industrial insights to social demand (hence equalising the importance of both production and demand) and thus to the emanating "weak signals", in order to influence the broad technological orientations of the coming century. In other words, the objective is to favour the expression of citizens. Some thus speak no more of "technological foresight", but of "social foresight" and the DELPHI surveys are, when still used, under complete reconstruction in order to integrate this new orientation. The British government, for example, recently announced the initiation of a new foresight programme from October 1999 on, totally focused on "social demand".

Two recent French studies underline the idea that a social dialogue necessitates a complementarity between the anticipation of experts on the one hand, and of societal representatives, on the other, in order to create a system of vigilant foresight of environmental problems that contributes to the programming of Research and Development. The first of these two studies, conducted by the French Ministry of Research, Education and Technology (MENRT), is grouped around a survey among 1032 scientists in 72 countries of 5 continents, revealing their vision of the principal current and future environmental problems:

"...create new forms of dialogue between science and society is a challenge for the year 2000. Researchers don't

actually, the limits of knowledge and place research among the different factors influencing public authorities' action. This mobilisation of the scientific community is an advantageous aspect for developing the dialogue between science and society for research. One of the challenges of the year 2000 is to create and implement new forms of dialogue that favour the direct relations between researchers and social, economic and political actors. Such a new contract between research and society should be elaborated, and the environmental question seems to be a good field of application..." (MENRT, 1997: "Recherche et Environnement. Thèmes prioritaires et thèmes émergents", p. 12).

The second study (carried out by the ADEME and the CEA for the French Ministry of the Environment) was based on a series of "citizen workshops", where the participants expressed their environmental demand and technological choices for the 21st century. Their decision-making in the workshops was grounded on prospective scenarios established through public consultation. Again, it seems that most of the participants preferred participative forms of governance, and especially the scenarios accentuating a state-citizen-private sector equilibrium. One of the main results of this study is the request to "practise science differently".

All these points represent interesting perspectives and a challenge for Ecological Economics as well as the members of the ESEE, who have for a long time adopted corresponding visions. ■

Sylvie Faucheux

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THE FIFTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME
1998-2002
The European Commission

The implementation of the Fifth Framework Programme is fully underway with calls for proposals now launched under all the specific programmes. All the information is available in the Community Research and Development Information Service Web Site (CORDIS) at the following address: <http://www.cordis.lu>

All your proposals are greatly encouraged. If you are looking for cooperation within the European Society for Ecological Economics, you can send an e-mail to Christelle Hue (esee@c3ed.uvsq.fr). She will transmit your announcement to the other ESEE members.

THOUGHTS

Playing rugby on a monopoly board

By Prashant Vaze - ECOTEC Research and Consulting Ltd., UK

The biologist Lynn Margulis is best known for putting forward the idea that the mitochondrion (the cellular apparatus which metabolise sugars) is the result of an ancient symbiosis between bacteria and more complex cellular organisms. She has recently written a book expressing her scepticism about whether man, and by extension the economy, could ever inflict a mortal blow to Gaia. She may be right. However it remains a regrettable irony that while the diversity of flora and fauna is being eroded at a pace not witnessed for 50 million years, the diversity of goods and services provided by man has never been greater. This note explores the similarities and differences between biological and economic evolution and asks whether there need be any tendency for co-evolution.

Evolutionary biologists who have turned their gaze towards human ecology have noticed the information is stored and transferred exosomatically in human societies through its cultures. Richard Dawkins uses the term 'meme' to express the units of culture which are transmitted via language rather than DNA as its information carrier. Human culture is of course an important facet of our society. However the physical representation of the meme is not man, nor his language; it is the economic process and more specifically the goods we make, buy and sell. It is our production methods rather than our thoughts that are antagonistic to ecosystems.

Manufacturers are engaged in a continued frenzy of activity to develop distinct and better goods than their competitors. As humane and concerned individuals we usually applaud the preservation of biological diversity but shake our heads despairing at the riot of superfluous enhancements made to brands. No one could argue the rate of progress is prodigious. At the turn of the century the development of the gramophone record allowed the musically inept to appreciate fine tunes at home. By the 1950s LP records had overtaken older formats, the 1990s saw the consolidation of CDs and if one believes what one reads in the newspapers these too might soon be swept aside by the MP3 digital format promulgated over the internet. The record, the compact disk and the MP3 file, each of these products is like an ecological niche, a local environment in which songs compete with one another for supremacy.

Can we draw any parallels between the creation of products and the

manifest the tendency that things change over time. Properties which work well are conserved, properties which do not are discarded. Biological novelty is introduced through genetic mutation. Product development arises through human design. The backdrop upon which new models compete is also changing over time. Babbage's designs for computers were before their time, requiring the development of electronics before they could be implemented, similarly the development of multicellular organisms failed many times over before succeeding in the Cambrian period.

There are important differences between evolution and product development. Biological evolution is chemically conservative in its repertoire of variety. Organic molecules consist almost solely of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur. Apart from a handful of metals most other elements remain under utilised. In comparison a technologist has some ninety natural and synthetic elements at his disposal. The evolution of the pre-recorded music mentioned above has moved smoothly from vinyl, to a plastic-metal composite to a purely electronic format that can be stored and transmitted using a variety of materials. A more important source of conservatism is that biological evolution is incremental. A technologist can really let his imagination run riot and suggest a radical design overhaul. There is no real equivalent in biology to Amory Lovins's proposal to metamorphose a car into a hypercar replacing steel with plastic and aluminium, a conventional engine with a two stroke hybrid and dispensing altogether with now vestigial organs such as cooling systems. Man evolved from earlier species in gradual, unimaginative steps retaining essentially the same biochemistry and design faults as his predecessors. A third source of conservatism in biological evolution is the means by which change is promulgated through time. In biology evolution passes only to off-spring, the rate of reproduction sets a ceiling on the rate of spread of novelty. In economic systems information is nowadays transmitted at the speed of light. Indeed institutions generating novelty and holding the copyright for their ideas use the law to prevent the flow of information out of their economic control.

The result of these three differences is that biological evolution is slower, more cautious and less richly rewarded than product evolution. Biological systems are used to competition - they have had three billion years of practice. But they have been playing a slow game of monopoly - a game that mixes luck with skill. The roll of the

climate or the forest fire that decimates an environment. However all participants are playing to the same rules. The rules of the game are based on thermodynamics and local resource constraints. Species have evolved to make the best use of the biologically available energy, water and nitrogen about them. A good player with a sound strategy is likely to do better than a poor player.

Such is the fecundity of human generated novelty, and thermodynamic irrationality of the economic process that resource constraints play a small part in product design. To stay in business a company has to generate a continual and hopefully growing stream of financial income. The creation of an item of clothing, or a car that could last for decades and which would not become unfashionable is commercial suicide. New product development is necessary to maintain a continuous income stream, and to beat off the competition which is arguing that *novelty* is fresh and the *established* is tired. In the UK about 3 million cars are scrapped and bought afresh ever year. Instead of fully reusing these material resources mass transport of raw materials makes it easier to obtain

Domestic Tradable Quotas: A new approach to reducing national carbon emissions

By Richard Starkey and David Fleming, UK

A new approach to the problem of reducing carbon emissions within nations has been developed, and an application for full research funding under the EC Fifth Framework Programme is being prepared.

The scheme, "Domestic Tradable Quotas", is an electronic rationing system covering all fuels and consists of a national market in carbon units (which represent the quantity of fuel releasing 1 kg of carbon dioxide). All adults receive an equal entitlement of units, and all other agents, including firms, institutions and public bodies acquire units through a tendering system organised by the banks. Adults using less than their entitlement can earn a revenue from selling their surplus whilst heavy fuel users will need to purchase extra quota in the market. A Carbon Budget sets diminishing quantity targets over ten years. With the quantity fixed, the price of carbon units is able to fluctuate in response to economic conditions and to the rate of reduction in demand for carbon units.

Among the interesting features of the scheme are, first, its technological feasibility. Although this has not yet been evaluated in detail, first reactions suggest that with the information technology, including credit cards, the cable system, very large databases, and the mobile telephone network, the scheme presents no inherent technological difficulties, and could be developed quite

most of the materials anew. The game of buying and selling products pits corporations against one another on a rugby pitch of competition. The goal is only to propel a ball over the touch line ; the physical disruption to players and pitch is a necessary evil.

The misfortune is that the two games - evolutionary development and economic competition - are being played on the same terrain. The two games are spatially co-existent and cannot operate independently of one another. To an observer today the symbiosis between mitochondrion and eukaryotic cells seems a wonderfully quirky piece of co-evolution. Are thermodynamically irrational product cycles and ecosystem development more or less likely bed fellows?

The author would be interested in hearing about published work that draws analogies between evolution and technological development (E-mail: prashant_vaze@ecotec.co.uk).

quickly. It is also designed to function effectively in the case of agents who opt out of the scheme, or who (e.g. tourists) - are not part of it.

Secondly, the scheme has the property that it stimulates "collective motivation": by placing the focus on the quantity of carbon units which have to be shared out, rather than on the individual's own taxation and expenditure commitments. The "sharing out" principle means that every individual's action has an impact on every other individual's options, and that this could be the basis for a realistic programme of collaboration in the task of reducing carbon emissions.

Thirdly, price flexibility is built into the scheme. The argument is that long term targets for reducing carbon emissions must have price flexibility and domestic tradable quotas deliver this problem by specifying the quantity, rather than the price. The developers of the scheme claim that this quality makes domestic tradable quotas a real economic instrument, rather than a form of economic intervention.

The programme was debated at a two-day European Commission workshop in Brussels in July 1998, and a detailed research programme is now being developed. For further information: Richard Starkey, The Lean Economy Initiative, Centre for Corporate Environmental Management, Huddersfield University Business School, HD1 3DH. Tel: +44 1484 472 946. E-mail: r.starkey@hud.ac.uk

News

CLAUDIA CARTER IS THE NEW ESEE SECRETARY

Claudia Carter is a Research Associate at Cambridge University, Department of Land Economy. She is Project Manager for Cambridge Research for the Environment's current two projects: the EC Concerted Action on *Environmental Valuation in Europe (EVE)* and *Social Psychology and Economics in Environmental Research (SPEER)*, both co-ordinated by ESEE Vice President Dr Clive Spash.

Claudia's academic background is in Geography (MA Hons, University of Aberdeen, Scotland) and Environmental Management (MSc, University of Stirling, Scotland). Her research interests are in interdisciplinary research in environmental management and environmental policy, especially regeneration of forests and floodplain management, changes in environmental behaviour, motivation and attitudes; and methodological issues in environmental research. Claudia was previously Research and Publications Officer at the UK Centre for Economic and Environmental Development (UK CEED), Cambridge, and editor of the UK CEED Bulletin; and researcher at the Department of Geography, University of Cambridge.

News

ESEE OFFICERS AND ADMINISTRATION

Elected Officers and Council

President: Sylvie Faucheux (France)

Vice-Presidents : Clive Spash (United Kingdom), Fritz Hinterberger (Germany)

Members of the Administrative Council : Christian Azar (Sweden), Mario Giampietro (Italy), Kristin Jakobbson (Sweden), Sandrine Simon (United Kingdom), Anne Mette de Visser (Denmark)

Non-elected appointments to the ESEE Administrative Council:

Secretary: Claudia Carter (United Kingdom)

Treasurer: Jean-François Noël (France)

ESEE Secretariat

Address: ESEE Secretariat, C3ED, Université de Versailles–St Quentin en Yvelines, 47 boulevard Vauban, 78280 Guyancourt, France Tel: +33 1 39 25 53 75, Fax: +33 1 39 25 53 00, Email: esee@c3ed.uvsq.fr

- **ESEE Membership:** Christelle Hue (esee@c3ed.uvsq.fr)
- **ESEE Internet site:** <http://www.c3ed.uvsq.fr/esee> : Christelle Hue
- **Coordination of ESEE Publications:** Martin O'Connor (Martin.OConnor@c3ed.uvsq.fr)
- **Journals administration (ESEE-IEL partnership):** Miquel Lopez Murie (Miquel.Lopez@c3ed.uvsq.fr)
- **ESEE Newsletter Editors:** Houda Allal & Julia Haake (Julia.Haake@c3ed.uvsq.fr)

Internet site: <http://www.c3ed.uvsq.fr/esee>

News from the International Society of Ecological Economics ISEE

By Dick Norgaard, president of the ISEE

While I wish I could report more progress in the transition of ISEE, I am pleased to be able to report the following:

As of April 7, the membership, mailing, and other routine functions of the ISEE Secretariat are being moved to Washington D. C. in a stronger professional affiliation with the American Institute of Biological Sciences. ISEE has been affiliated with AIBS as one of many member societies since ISEE's beginning. AIBS is now providing membership services for a fee that is within our budget.

The ISEE Board is now considering a new set of By-Laws. At this time, it appears that it will provide for board members directly elected by ISEE members as well as some board members who would be appointed by a yet to be organized "Regional Council" of regional ecological economics societies. After the Board makes its views clear, draft bylaws will be circulated to the leaders of regional societies for their input after which it will return to the Board for their approval and then go out to the membership for their endorsement. Once these steps have been followed, we will initiate elections for new Board Members and Officers.

Robert Costanza, through various research and other grants, and the University of Maryland subsidized ISEE extensively during our first decade. While handling elections, collecting dues, etc. are core functions, the Ecological Economics Bulletin has been an expensive experiment that does not fit within our existing dues structure. It will be replaced by a less expensive Newsletter in the near future. Further decisions will be made by the soon to be elected board members and officers.

Our contract with Elsevier provides for up to four pages of the journal per issue for ISEE news and announcements. We have not taken advantage of this as effectively as we should and need to establish ways of doing so.

ISEE will probably be doing more of its communication electronically and to this end the development of a wholly new web site is beginning to be discussed.

Developments in ISEE Governance and Administration

By Martin O'Connor and Clive Spash

Several reforms of the International Society's administration and governance structures are being implemented during 1999. These reflect the broadening of international activities within the ISEE, notably the creation of active regional branches in India and the USA along side established organisations in Australasia, Brazil, Russia, Canada and Europe. Since the creation of the ISEE, most administrative activities have been centred at the Institute for Ecological Economics at the University of Maryland under the management of Robert Costanza (President of ISEE from its funding until 1997). Now, moving into the second decade of the ISEE's development, the various administration and governance activities are going to become more widely distributed

- **ISEE Membership administration.** As advised by the ISEE President (Dick Norgaard), in the message printed in this ESEE Newsletter, from April 1999 the ISEE Secretariat will no longer be operating from the Institute for Ecological Economics at the University of Maryland. The administration of ISEE membership will be operated as a service from the office of the **American Institute of Biological Sciences**, an umbrella organisation that operates similar services for many associations and societies. (The ISEE has been affiliated with AIBS for many years).
- **The Ecological Economics Bulletin.** The ISEE Bulletin which has been an excellent source of information and form of communication, is also rather expensive to produce. The decision has been made that it will be discontinued, and replaced by a less expensive ISEE Newsletter in the near future. The last issue of the Bulletin has been produced, early in 1999, and should have been received by all ISEE members (if you have paid your subscriptions on time!).
- The journal **Ecological Economics**. The journal is operated as a commercial enterprise by the publisher, Elsevier, edited by Robert Costanza. Decisions on the journal's format, frequency and so on are taken by the publisher, in consultation with the editor. The ISEE Board, and members of the journal's editorial board, can be asked to give opinions and can offer opinions, but do not have a decision-making role. Subscribers will have noted some changes in the editorial board for the journal, as from the beginning of 1999.

(Continued)

In part these reflect pressure from within ISEE to have the members of the editorial board more widely reflecting the membership - notably the intellectual, institutional and geographical spread of ecological economics activity. Some members of ISEE have been pushing for a much stronger role for the ISEE membership - through the ISEE Board, or the journal's editorial board, or both - in the governance of the journal *Ecological Economics* than is presently the case.

The change in the ISEE Secretariat may, of course, mean some minor hiccups. First, in the transition period the Maryland secretariat has applied rigorously a policy of not mailing the ISEE Bulletin to any member whose 1999 subscription payment had not yet been received. However, ESEE members (who pay a combined ESEE/ISEE subscription), should all have received, by now (end of April 1999), a copy of the last Bulletin, dated early 1999. If you have not yet received it, please contact the ESEE Secretariat immediately, and we will check the situation. If you did not pay your ESEE/ISEE subscription until after mid-March, there might be a delay. (And if you have not yet paid, pay NOW!).

The journal *Ecological Economics* is sent directly from the publisher to those ISEE members who subscribe. Again, we can expect a few cases of delay (hopefully not many), for the same reason as with the Bulletin (see above) and also because the procedures for forwarding journal subscription information from the ESEE to Elsevier via the new ISEE Secretariat have not yet been tested. Once again, please advise the ESEE secretariat if there seems to be a gap.

The past ISEE structure has been heavily centralised. Since 1995, if not longer, there have been proposals, coming from many quarters of the world including Europe, for a more "representative" governance structure with a more open and democratic process of

decision-making, and also for communications, information exchange and publications better adapted to the geographical, political and language diversity within the international society. Dick Norgaard, as ISEE President-Elect since 1996 and current ISEE President, has been supportive of these reforms. As things presently stand, the ISEE Board which holds governance power under the legal constitution of the society, is an unelected body (its members are Herman Daly, Juan Martinez-Alier, John Peet, Ann-Mari Jansson and Bob Costanza), whose real decision-making role, if any, is not clear. Its members are individually eminent but the capacity of this group to manage the society and to represent regional diversity is doubtful.

In 1998, several informal and formal proposals for reform were produced, and the intention was to have these circulated to the ISEE membership prior to the ISEE general meeting held in Santiago, Chile, in November 1998. As it happens, no such diffusion took place. However, in Chile a variety of representatives of the regional chapters from Australia/New Zealand, Canada, Europe, India and Russia did formally meet with members of the ISEE Board. It was agreed at that time, that a new Society constitution is to be drafted which shall provide, inter alia, for regional participation in governance on a democratic basis and for replacement of the current Board with a new one having a different structure.

During the coming months, there will be several steps in the ISEE governance reform, also initiatives concerning a new format ISEE Newsletter, network structures and project cooperations between regions. Please give your suggestions on the reform process to Clive Spash and Claudia Carter (Vice-President and Secretary, respectively, of ESEE, who are coordinating the ESEE inputs to ISEE), or, of course, contact Dick Norgaard directly (E-mail: norgaard@igc.org).

Ecological Economics in Africa

By Samir Allal, (University of Versailles-St.-Quentin-en-Yvelines), France

As announced during the last ISEE meeting held in Santiago (Chile) in November 15-19, 1999, H.E. Mr. Moncef Ben Abdallah, the Tunisian Minister for Industry, renews his invitation to accept Tunisia as host for the 2002 ISEE Meeting. The ESEE has indicated its support for this proposal and willingness to give its assistance and its support to the success of this important event.

Right now, climate change and North-South relations are registered as priorities of the co-operation between the African Association of Ecological Economics (an autonomous association) and the ESEE, taking a new methodological task of the policies of co-operation and on the energy and environmental policies practiced in Africa. This will lead the two Associations to:

- reflect together on the methods and instruments of decision-

making aid and financing of this co-operation, as well as on the institutional aspects and the forms of governance adapted in Africa

- jointly organize a certain number of seminars and workshops on the topic of climate change and durable energy and environmental policies. These seminars and workshops will give the opportunity of meetings between the ESEE members and the members of the African Association of Ecological Economics, and will also be opened to African and European decision makers, industrialists and bankers.

For further information, contact Samir Allal by E-mail: allal@ome.org

Workshop on Ethics and Development

By Patrick Jolivet, C3ED, France

The research group "ethics and sustainable development" of the C3ED (Centre d'Economie et d'Ethique pour l'Environnement et le Développement, Université de Versailles St-Quentin-en-Yvelines, France) has hosted about fifty researchers for a seminar on development ethics on March 19th and 20th, 1999. The two day workshop was organised around the two main themes:

- A definition of economic ethics from both a theoretical (ethics of responsibility) as from a practical (ethics of local development) perspective.

Development ethics in a North-South perspective, comprising both theoretical research as well as empirical applications (in the

workshops on "altruism and social capital" and "ethics of North-South co-operation").

The presented articles are available on the workshop website:

http://www.cybercable.tm.fr/~jarmah/public_html/seminaire.htm

The number of participants and the richness of the debates with the auditorium are a major incitement for the organisers to arrange a conference on the same subject in about two years.

For further information contact Patrick Jolivet at the C3ED: Patrick.Jolivet@c3ed.uvsq.fr

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEXT ESEE CONFERENCE IN VIENNA

"Transitions Towards Sustainable Europe - Ecology - Economy - Policy"

The conference will take place at the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration /
Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien,

on May 4th to 6th 2000

Topics of panels:

Risk and Uncertainty in Sustainable Development

Political Ecology

Socio-Economic, Evolutionary and Institutional Approaches

Social Dimensions of Sustainability

The Challenge of Transition - New Ideas for Sustainable Solutions in Eastern Europe

Ecological Economics - in Search for Contributions from Austrian Thinkers

Regional Sustainable Development

New Approaches to Environmental Management - Institutions and Practice

Social- and Technological Environment-oriented Innovation

Ecological Economics of Material and Energy Flows

The Consumers' Part in Industrial Transformation

Dates:

2nd Announcement and Call for Papers: June 1999

Deadline submission of abstracts: 31.10.1999

Website

Updated information on the conference will be available from:

<http://www.wu-wien.ac.at/esee2000>

Co-ordination:

Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration:

Uwe Schubert and Klaus Kubeczko

Email: esee2000@wu-wien.ac.at

Ongoing Research

Social Psychology and Economics in Environmental Research (SPEER), funded by the European Science Foundation; Project Leader: Dr. Clive L. Spash

The central objective of the SPEER project (**speer** (verb) Scottish: *to ask or inquire*; derived from Old English: *to seek after or search*) is to create a European network of active researchers interested in combining economics and social psychology to improve understanding of environmental problems and policy responses. Environmental research in Europe has been developing somewhat separately in economics and psychology while addressing common themes. SPEER aims to increase communication between these disciplines in order to advance the interpretation of existing work on environmental problems and methods for mitigation, and to identify new areas for cooperation. A philosophical perspective on methodology and the meaning of concepts in environmental research (e.g. valuation) is seen as a key component of this process.

This involves several aims:

- to identify European researchers with a background in social

- to run two workshops as a focus for stimulating new ideas;
- to reassess past research projects and findings;
- to exchange work and learn more about each others institutions;
- to map out areas of interaction between economics, social psychology and philosophy;
- to develop new policy-relevant research ideas;
- to identify areas for cooperation between those interested in economics and social psychology in addressing resource and environmental issues.

Two workshops are planned. The focus will be on discussing links in the subject areas of social dilemmas / public goods provision by, for example, looking at behavioural research, environmental valuation, uncertainty and risk perception. Also, issues such as the dynamic process of behaviour formation and the role of environmental attitudes and ethics in predicting behaviour are expected to form one focus of interest.

Workshop I (August 1999) will bring together researchers within the SPEER group to present their ideas to one another and gain some

used as an opportunity for debating the goals of SPEER. Organiser: Anders Biel, University of Göteborg, Sweden.

Workshop II (April 2000) will take an in-depth look into the research themes identified in Workshop I. The aims are to focus on methodological issues in terms of the applicability of social psychology and economics to environmental problems and to define future research agendas in the area. This workshop would be attended by senior researchers as well as young scientists (post-graduates and recent doctoral graduates). Organisers: Clive L Splash and Claudia Carter; University of Cambridge, UK. A website will shortly be established located at <http://www.landecon.cam.ac.uk/speer/>

For further details, please contact SPEER project manager: Claudia Carter, Cambridge Research for the Environment (CRE), University of Cambridge, Department of Land Economy, 19 Silver Street, UK - Cambridge CB3 9EP, England, Tel. +44 1223 330802, Fax. +44 1223 337130, E-mail: cec29@cam.ac.uk

Environmental management in small handwork companies in Europe

By Grégory Schneider-Maunoury, Université Européenne de l'Environnement, France

Environmental issues have been spreading among business and companies for now more than fifteen years. Exclusively a technical problem in the beginning in the 70-80's, environmental protection slowly became a management problem. However this evolution has mainly been restricted to the borders of the plants and factories or some consulting offices. Anyway in the streets of our towns and villages, few experiences can be observed. And environmental issues still seem far from the day-to-day life in the following sectors: baker, butcher, woodwork, photographer.

This is why it is interesting and relevant to undertake a research of the European pioneers in small handwork companies (companies with less than 10 employees). Two experiences will be selected in every European Union country. In the first step such experiences have been identified in nearly every country of the European Union. This research will enlighten the tools of environmental

strategy (for the companies), and the tools of environmental policy (for governments) in order to enhance green initiatives in these very small companies. First, some innovative diagnostic methods for such very small companies could be used in bigger size companies. Some parts of bigger plants might need such tools to make reluctant employees or managers aware of environmental issues. Second, beyond the traditional debate between ethics or regulation, there is a new field of investigation of the enhancement and enforcement tools of environmental improvement processes in such small companies.

For more information please contact: Dr. Grégory Schneider-Maunoury, Université Européenne de l'Environnement; 6, rue de Chantilly; 75009 Paris; Tel: 33 1 45 26 97 75; Fax: 33 1 42 81 25 78; E-mail: uee@wanadoo.fr.

French-Belgian Research Project on "Industry's Climate Change Strategies"

By Sybille van den Hove, C3ED, France

C3ED (University of Versailles – France) and Centre Entreprises Environnement (IAG – Catholic University of Louvain – Belgium) are collaborating on a research project funded by the French Ministry of Environment on: "Industry's climate change strategies". The project includes a survey of 4000 major firms in France and Belgium to investigate their climate change strategies. The survey will be complemented by in-depth interviews with key industrial players in both countries. In a third phase, results from the survey and the interviews will be used to construct, together with the business sector, possible scenarios for French climate policy. These scenarios will be tested in multi-stakeholders participative workshops.

The objectives of the project are:

- To gain insight on French and Belgium firms' strategic positioning with regard to climate change.
- To construct and test alternative policy scenarios for climate policy.
- To propose participative methods of stakeholders involvement in the French and Belgian climate policy processes.

Project duration: November 1998 – April 2000

For more information contact: sybille.vandenhove@c3ed.uvsq.fr

Diverse Publications

Special Review of European Union Environmental Policy

In November last year, a milestone was reached in the development of EU environmental policy. Twenty five years after the adoption of the First Environmental Action Programme, environmental policy is recognised as one of the most successful aspects of European political integration. A special edition of the journal Government and Policy (Environment and Planning C) issued this month, reflects upon the development of the environmental acquis and offers some predictions for the future of this important and fast moving sector of EU activity. Edited by Dr. Andrew Jordan from CSERGE, the issue (Volume 17, No. 1, pp. 1-126) draws together distinguished commentators from both sides of the Atlantic, including Profs. Albert Weale and Alberta Sbragia.

Publisher: Pion Ltd, 207 Brondesbury Park, London, NW2 5JN, UK. Tel: (00) (44) (0)181 459 0066; web:

<http://www.pion.co.uk/en/>

Axel Michaelowa: Climate policy and interest groups – a public choice analysis, in: Intereconomics, 33, 6, 1998, p. 251-259

Climate policy will be particularly subject to distortions from activities of interest groups due to the variety of groups concerned, the global repercussions and the long time scales involved. Thus, public choice theory is suitable to explain the reality of climate policy. On a national level, emitters' interests are very strong even in countries with high voters' preferences for environmental and climate policy. Therefore, a stringent climate policy will be pursued only in rare cases. Usually, measures that have been enacted for other reasons are declared to be climate policy. Such measures are generally inefficient and do not lead to a real emission reduction. On the international level results of climate negotiations run counter the expected free-rider behaviour. The structure of the negotiations suits those interest groups that promote climate protection. Thus decisions are taken

that surpass a minimal consensus. Nevertheless, these decisions become binding only in the far future. Their transformation in national policies is very difficult and incomplete due to the different constellation of interests. Emitters' interests manage to reduce politicians action to mainly symbolic action.

Other publications by the same author (you can contact him by E-mail at michaelo@easynet.fr):

- Michael Dutschke, Axel Michaelowa: Issues and open questions of for greenhouse gas emission trading under the Kyoto Protocol HWWA Discussion Paper No. 68, Hamburg, October 1998
- Axel Michaelowa: Impact of interest groups on EU climate policy in: *European Environment*, 8, 5, 1998, p. 152-160
- Michael Dutschke, Axel Michaelowa and Marcus Stronzik: Tightening the system: Central allocation of emission rights, HWWA Discussion Paper No. 70, Hamburg, November 1998

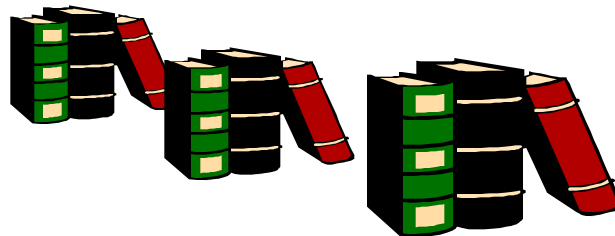
Sylvie Bonny, 1998, *Will biotechnology provide food security tomorrow? (article in French) "Les biotechnologies, source de sécurité alimentaire pour demain?" Cahiers Agricultures, special issue "Plant Biotechnology, breeding, risks and food security", novembre-décembre 1998, pp 440-446*

Biotechnology, particularly genetic engineering, is subject to controversy. Its supporters, especially the companies which have invested in this sector, often put forward the fact that these techniques are "essential to feed humankind in the 21st century". On the other hand, especially in Europe but also at

the international level, various associations are becoming suspicious and evoke a certain number of risks. This paper examines the possible effects of biotechnology and genetic engineering on three key-elements of food security: (1) sufficiency and quality of food; (2) environmental sustainability of the agricultural techniques used and the preservation of the production potential; (3) improvement in the conditions of life and in the economic standing of poor populations. The advantages and the potential risks of biotechnology in these various domains are presented.

Friedrich Hinterberger, Daniel Bannasch, Kai Schlegemilch, Hartmut Stiller, Thomas Orbach, Andreas Mündel: "Greening the Financial Sector"

This background paper, submitted to the International Business Forum of the Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft which was held in Berlin October, 12th - 14th 1998, describes the links between financial institutions and environment. It points out the risks and opportunities for financial institutions dealing with environmental aspects of their business and focuses in some more detail on environmental risk assessment, ecological rating and reporting as important instruments in "greening" the financial sector. As empirical evidence indicates, good environmental management may lead to superior financial performance, thus serving shareholders and creating opportunities for green investment funds. Finally, some aspects of globally integrated financial markets and investment flows regarding the environment together with alternative approaches are discussed briefly. Contact: fritz.hinterberger@wupperinst.org. Download of document: <http://www.wupperinst.org/Publikationen/Greening.pdf>



Ecological Economic Teaching and Courses

**Graduate course in Institutional Economics
May 25th to June 18th, 1999, Uppsala, Sweden**

Teacher: Professor Daniel W. Bromley

Prerequisites: BSc or MSc in economics or graduate students from other disciplines (such as Political Science, Sociology).

Goal and content: Institutional Economics concerns the social construction of market processes - property rights, the collective definition of individual choice sets (which market transactions are allowed and which are not, and why), the distinction between positive economics and normative economics, the interrelation between legal and economic processes, and the presumptions that economists can draw regarding the "efficiency" of various outcomes. The policy dimension will concern environmental policy, collective decision rules such as benefit-cost analysis, and the challenge of creating a market economy in central and eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The course comprises full time studies (5 credits).

Registration: Monica Waller, Department of Economics, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, SE-750 07 UPPSALA. Tel. +46-18-672600. E-mail: monica.waller@ekon.slu.se. Deadline for application: April 1, 1999, <http://www.ekon.slu.se/~pigge/instec99/info.htm>.

Ecological Economic Teaching and Courses

Master in Environment and Development - London School of Economics and Political Science

A new one-year Master-programme in Environment & Development is offered jointly by the Department of Geography and Environment and the Development Studies Institute of the London School of Economics and Political Science. The programme is intended for those with a primary interest in the linkage between environment and development. It provides students with a rigorous training in the social science dimensions of environmental policy, management and evaluation within a developing country context. Both environment and development studies are multi-disciplinary by nature, and the programme seeks to integrate key concepts and perspectives from a range of core social science disciplines. The aim is to provide students with an understanding of the issues involved in sustainable development and Ecological Economics both from a theoretical and practical perspective.

Students can enter the programme on either 'Stream A' or on 'Stream B'. Students in stream A take two compulsory courses and can choose two more courses. Students in stream B take the same two compulsory courses, and a third compulsory course on research methods. Students in stream B must also write a dissertation in the field of environment and development of not more than 10,000 words.

Compulsory core courses (Stream A and Stream B):

- Institutions, Development and the Environment.
- Environmental Evaluation of Economic Development.

Optional courses for Stream A:

One of the following:

- Development Management.
- Poverty.
- Complex Emergencies.

One of the following courses:

- Environmental Regulation.
- Environmental Impact and Risk Assessment.
- Hazard and Risk Management.

Compulsory course for Stream B

- A course on research methods, which consists of two half units: (a) Social Research Methods in Developing Countries; (b) Environmental Assessment Methods.

The course starts in October of each year. Application by 1 May at latest is highly recommended. For more information and an application form see <http://www.lse.ac.uk/graduate>, Contact: Eric Neumayer (programme manager), Lecturer Environment & Development, London School of Economics and Political Science, +44-171-955-7598 (phone), E-mail: E.Neumayer@lse.ac.uk

Advanced Study Courses

European Commission Environment and Climate Programme

The Environment and Climate Programme of the European Union are funding 12 Advanced Study Courses in 1999 on current research issues in the field of Environment and Climate. Graduate and post-graduate students of EU, EEA/EFTA countries and other States associated to the EC Environment and Climate Programme can apply to participate in one of these residential courses (duration ranges from 1 to 3 weeks). The aim of these courses is to enable students to gain first-hand knowledge from academics and researchers.

Details on the courses can be found on the internet at: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg12/envsc/asc.html>. Alternatively, a copy of the EC publication "Environment and Climate Programme - Advanced Study Courses to be held in 1999 - Information Brochure" can be obtained free of charge by contacting: European Commission DG XII / D1 - Preserving the Ecosystem I, Biodiversity and Global Change, SDME 7/36, Wetstraat 200 / Rue de la Loi 200, B-1049, Brussel / Bruxelles, BELGIË / Belgique, Fax: ++ 32 2-296 3024, E-mail: sandra.downes@dg12.cec.be, or: environ-infodesk@dg12.cec.be

Advanced Study Course 1999, EC Environment and Climate Programme "Decision Tools and Processes for Integrated Environmental Assessment" Barcelona, Spain

Responsible of the course: Dr. Joan Martinez-Alier (UAB, Barcelona) and Dr. Giuseppe Munda (UAB, Barcelona).

Venue and date of the course: The course will take place at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, from September 20th to October 1st, 1999.

Applications: Interested students shall request the Application Form from the responsible scientist at the address specified below. The students will be selected by a Scientific Panel. Accommodation will be provided for 25 selected students by the organiser of the course. The deadline for submitting the application to the responsible scientist is 15th May 1999.

Information and Application Forms to be requested from: Dr. Giuseppe Munda (Advanced Study Course) Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Department of Economics and Economic History, Edifici B, 08193 Bellaterra (Barcelona), Spain, Fax: +34-93-5812012, E-mail: iehe7@cc.uab.es

Programme:

"Integrated environmental assessment" (IEA) can be considered a set of approaches able to organise various sources of information in order to arrive at the evaluation of different policy alternatives. In this framework, decision tools and processes have an important role clearly. Although decision theory, complex systems theory and operations research have made a considerable progress in the last couple of decades, most of the practitioners of IEA still consider cost-benefit analysis as the main decision tool for their needs.

Ecological Economic Teaching and Courses

Acquisition of knowledge. Basic knowledge of the concept of sustainable development and related indicators. Basic knowledge of the notion of Environmental Integrated Assessment. Basic knowledge of the theory and practice of cost-benefit analysis. In-depth knowledge of the citizen participation issue and multicriteria evaluation in the framework of environmental integrated assessment.

Acquisition of know how. To tackle environmental integrated assessment issues by means of complex systems theory. To structure environmental multicriteria evaluation processes. To evaluate environmental cost-benefit analyses.

Lectures: Main topics:

- Weak and Strong Sustainability
- Commensurability and Incommensurability of Values
- A Classification of Theories and Methods in Ecological Economics
 - Cost-Benefit Analysis and the Environment
 - Monetary Values in Decision-Making
 - Efficiency and Equity in Cost-Benefit Analysis
 - Reflexive Complex Systems and Post-Normal Science
 - Complexity and the AMOEBA Approach
 - The Theory and Practice of Institutional Analysis
- Multicriteria Evaluation for Environmental Decision Processes
- The Complete Comparability Axiom: Multi-Attribute Utility Theory (MAUT)
 - The Partial Comparability Axiom: Outranking Methods
 - The Issue of Qualitative Information: The REGIME Method
 - The Issue of Fuzzy Information: The NAIADE Method
- Goal Programming: Theory and Environmental Applications
- Structuring Problems as Hierarchies: The AHP method
- Uncertainty and Quality in Integrated Environmental Assessment: the NUSAP System

Case studies:

During the course various case studies will be presented to the students. Some of these are the following. Ecosystem valuation and the concept of biodiversity: coral reefs in the West Indies; computer aided social participation: the Venice example; multiattribute decision aid for soil remediation; integrated water management; the Spanish hydrological plan.

The students will be also requested to develop some case studies during the course. The time to be devoted to this activity will be around 12 hours of assisted group work.

The main invited lecturers are:

E. Beinat	VU, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
M. Creel	UAB, Barcelona, Spain
B. De Marchi	ISIG, Gorizia, Italy
S. Faucheux	C3ED, Paris, France
S.O. Funtowicz	JRC, Ispra, Italy
L. Fusco Girard	Univ. Napoli, Italy
G. Galopin	Stockholm Environmental Institute, Sweden
M. Giampietro	Ist. Nazionale della Nutrizione, Roma, Italy
J. Martinez-Alier	UAB, Barcelona, Spain
J.M. Moreno	Univ. Zaragoza, Spain
G. Munda	UAB, Barcelona, Spain
J. O'Neill	Univ. Lancaster, Great Britain
P. Nijkamp	VU, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
M.F. Norese	Politecnico, Torino, Italy
M. O'Connor	C3ED, Paris, France
A. Pereira	JRC, Ispra, Italy
C. Romero	Politecnica, Madrid, Spain
J.P. van der Sluijs	Utrecht University, The Netherlands
C. Spash	Univ. Cambridge, Great Britain
R. Strand	University of Bergen, Norway
J. Subirats	UAB, Barcelona, Spain

Scientific panel:

B. De Marchi	ISIG, Gorizia, Italy
S. Faucheux	C3ED, Paris, France
M. Giampietro	Ist. Nazionale della Nutrizione, Roma, Italy
A. Liberatore	Scientific Officer, EC-DG XII, Brussels, Belgium
L. Lemkow	UAB, Barcelona, Spain
J. Martinez-Alier	UAB, Barcelona, Spain
G. Munda	UAB, Barcelona, Spain
P. Nijkamp	VU, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
I. Rotmans	Maastricht University, The Netherlands
B. Wynne	Lancaster University, Great Britain

**Proposal to make the advanced study course on
"Decision Tools and Processes for Integrated Environmental Assessment" - an annual event**

At a meeting of the ESEE board on March 26th 1999 in Paris, the proposal was made to try and establish the two-week course for graduate and post-graduate students on the topic of *Decision Tools and Processes for Integrated Environmental Assessment* as a regular event. This year's course is one of twelve courses funded by the European Commission Environment and Climate Programme (see articles above). Running the course again in 2000 and following years would require to apply for funding to the EC and/or other potential funding bodies. The course coordinators (and hence probably the venue too) would change each year to share the administrative involvement. Future courses could take the current scientific panel and the invited lecturers as a base and as the field develops change and expand the course accordingly.

If you and your institute are interested in taking this idea forward, please contact the ESEE president Sylvie Faucheux (E-mail: Sylvie.Faucheux@c3ed.uvsq.fr) or the new ESEE secretary Claudia Carter (E-mail: cec29@cam.ac.uk).

Ecological Economic Teaching and Courses

The European Ecological Economics and Sustainable Development Policy Masters and Doctoral Programme, Inaugural Year 1999

The Programme Objectives

The programme seeks to promote at European level, post-graduate inter-disciplinary research training on the interface of economy, environmental science, civil society and policy studies. The training offered through the 3^E-SDP teaching programme sets out to assure the full span of professional skills, in social processes as well as technical and scientific competence.

The teaching cooperation is being established initially between four universities which already have firmly developed commitments in Ecological Economics and sustainability studies teaching and research. This cooperation will result in a coordinated programme of teaching and support of doctoral research that will make post-graduate training accessible to students from all parts of Europe and that will maximise the value in teaching of the growing research and policy analysis expertise scattered across Europe at this stage.

An important dimension of the development of the 3^E-SDP teaching programme is co-operation with the large network of researchers and teachers across Europe. This activity, which has a strong expression in policy-oriented work (e.g. sustainability scenarios, employment and environment, indicators for sustainable development, environmental valuation, risk assessment and governance...), is represented professionally by the European Society for Ecological Economics as a branch of the ISEE. Complementary to teaching and research activities of its members, ESEE publication initiatives including the new "International Library of Ecological Economics" series with Edward Elgar and the Inderscience-Ecological Economics partnership (supporting the International Journal of Sustainable Development and the International Journal of Environment and Pollution, among others). These initiatives enhance publication opportunities for young scholars in ecological economics, helping to assure a healthy development of the professional community.

The four participating universities are:

- **The Université de Versailles-Saint Quentin en Yvelines (France)**

Department of Economics and C3ED, led by Professors Sylvie Faucheux and Martin O'Connor,

- **Keele University (United Kingdom)**

Department of Environmental Social Sciences, led by Professors John Proops and Michael Redclift and Dr. Paul Ekins,

- **The Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain)**

Department of Economics and Economic History, led by Professor Juan Martinez-Alier and Dr. Giuseppe Munda

- **Cambridge University (UK)**

Department of Land Economy and Cambridge Research for the Environment (CRE), led by Dr. Clive L. Spash.

Several universities in Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany, Greece, Portugal and elsewhere have expressed interest to link up within one or two years.

The 3^E-SDP Masters Degree

The European Masters degree shall be obtained based on satisfactory completion of a one-year full-time programme. With special permission, the programme may be taken over two years. Each student will follow a programme composed of three components: (1) Obligatory core papers (45%); (2) Optional papers (30%); (3) Research project (25%). These components are defined as follows:

Obligatory Core Papers of the Masters degree programme:

Each participating institution will offer papers in the three core topics of: Sustainable Development; Environmental Valuation; Economy-Ecosystem Modelling and Decision Support. A common element will be assured through exchange of curriculum material, agreed core reading lists and exchanges of teaching staff.

- Sustainable Development: Emergence of the concept of sustainable development in the 1980s. Historical antecedents in the classics and heterodox economic thought. Development and environment; écodeveloppement; alternatives to development. Indicators and norms for sustainable development. Modelling perspectives. Key policy issues: energy; water; biodiversity; sustainable consumption; governance.
- Environmental Valuation: Introduction to philosophical and methodological perspectives on valuation of the environment. Opportunity cost, substitutability and monetary valuation. Incommensurabilities and multi-criteria perspectives. Uncertainty and complexity. Deliberative processes. Examples of applications to local and global scale issues. The role of environmental valuation in greened national accounting.
- Economy-Ecosystem Modelling and Decision Support: Examination of issues of quality and pertinence of scientific information for sustainability policy. Institutional dimensions of decision-making. Multi-stakeholder perspectives. Establishing criteria for decision-making and quality assurance. Scales of measurement, analysis and aggregation. Uncertainties. Modelling software. Potentials of ICT (information-communication technology). A variety of applications.

Optional Papers:

Two further papers (or their equivalent), counting in total 30% of the assessment weighting for the Master's course, shall be selected from those offered by the host institution in relevant fields such as economics, development studies, environmental social sciences and ecosystems science. These two papers (or their equivalent) should, together, involve not less than 100 contact hours during the teaching year.

Research Project for the Masters degree

A theoretical or applied research project shall be presented in the form of either a Research Essay or a Project Report. Cooperations with outside private and public sector agencies are encouraged.

The Doctorate

The degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) shall be awarded after successful completion by a candidate of a thesis that reports on a minimum of two years of full-time study (or a minimum of three years if enrolled part-time for the degree) following a programme of research approved by the 3^E-SDP Management Board.

Completion shall be completed not later than the European Masters Ecological Economics and Sustainable Development Policy or a closely related field. The candidate shall submit to the 3^E-SDP Management Board of a detailed thesis topic and shall conform to the general regulations for doctoral degree enrolments and examination of the host institution.

Two enrolment options are available to a candidate: either s/he may enrol for the degree at one of the participating institutions, or s/he may enrol

latter case, co-supervisors shall be appointed from each of the participating institutions. The prima facie justification for conjoint enrolment shall be the advantages of pursuing a programme of study that unites the expertise and research opportunities of the two establishments.

The 3^E-SD Programme Administration

The European Ecological Economics and Sustainable Development Policy teaching programme is managed through the following administrative and advisory structures:

University Programme Committees: Each participating institution operates a small Committee that oversees enquiries, information provision, enrolments and ordinary teaching activities, and coordination with other participating institutions.

The 3^E-SDP Management Board: is chaired by the Programme President and composed of two representatives of each participating institution, and is responsible for advising and approving the individual institution's teaching curriculum, approving enrolments and supervision arrangements, coordination of teacher and student exchanges, and marking of doctoral theses and Master's research essays/reports. The members for the inaugural period are:

Programme President: Professor Sylvie Faucheux (ESEE President)

Université de Versailles-Saint Quentin en Yvelines: Professor Martin O'Connor, Dr. Bernard Gérard

University of Keele: Professor John Proops, Dr. Sandrine Simon

Autonomous University of Barcelona: Professor Juan Martinez-Alier, Dr. Giuseppe Munda

Cambridge University (UK): Dr. Clive L. Spash, Dr. Claudia Carter

The Programme Advisory Board is made up of expert advisors from all parts of Europe and overseas, whose role is to ensure that the teaching programme meets high pedagogic standards and responds to policy and scientific preoccupations in Europe and other parts of the world.

Further Information and September 1999 Enrolments

Details of enrolment procedures and programme options for the year starting September 1999 within each university may be sought from the host institutions. Contact persons for information and enquiries are:

Dr. Sandrine Simon

Department of Environmental Social Sciences,
Keele University, Staffs. ST5 5BG, U.K.

(tel. +44 1782 583160 (sec); fax. +44 1782 584144; E-mail: eva24@envss.keele.ac.uk)

Dr. Jessy Tsang

C3ED, Université de Versailles-St Quentin en Yvelines
47 bd Vauban, Guyancourt 78047 cedex, France

(tel: +33 1 39 25 53 75; fax: +33 1 39 25 53 00 E-mail: Jessy.Tsang@c3ed.uvsq.fr)

Dr. Giuseppe Munda

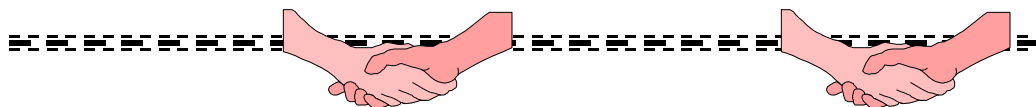
Dept. of Economics & Economic History, Autonomous University of Barcelona
Ed.B, 08193 Bellaterra (Barcelona), Spain
E-mail: iche7@cc.uab.es

Dr. Clive Spash

Dept. of Land Economy, University of Cambridge
19 Silver Street, Cambridge CB3 9EP, U.K.

(fax: +44 1 223 337130; tel: +44 1 223 339773; E-mail: cls27@cus.cam.ac.uk)

Contacts



Biotechnology and GMOs

Are there among the ESEE members any researchers working on the issues and the impacts of biotechnology and genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in the agricultural sector? I would be interested in exchanges about this topic, about their research work on this subject and about the situation of biotechnology in the European agricultural sector.

Contact Sylvie BONNY: E-mail: bonny@grignon.inra.fr.



Ecopolitics Discussion List

This discussion Group is organized by faculty and graduate students in the Political Science Department at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, USA, but is not sponsored by any university department. Besides English, the editors read Spanish and French. They will make an attempt to find someone who can approve messages in other languages, even if only a small portion of the subscribers to the list would be able to understand what is posted. In addition to discussion, we would welcome academic inquires, and announcements of conferences, job openings, recent publications, interesting websites, etc. To subscribe to the mailing list, send an E-mail message to: listproc@efn.org with the following in the body of the message: "subscribe ecopolitics" and give your real name. The list owner is Milton Takei, E-mail: <miltont@efn.org. The list was started in April, 1998.

Institutions

ECOTEC Research and Consulting

ECOTEC Research and Consulting carries out policy relevant research on environmental and social issues. Our clients include the European Commission and member state governments. We often collaborate with individuals and organisations. I am keen, where possible, to involve members of the ESEE as collaborators. If you are interested on working in collaboration with us please e-mail me your contact details at <prashant_yaze@ecotec.co.uk> and a few keys words summarising the policy and countries you have expertise in.

Interdisciplinary Centre for Sustainable Development, University of Göttingen, Germany

By Felix Rauschmayer, Göttingen, Germany

In September 1998, the Senate of the University of Göttingen, Germany, founded the Interdisciplinary Centre for Sustainable Development. The focal point of this new Centre is a better understanding of the economic and social dimensions of Sustainable Development. Thereby the Centre complements the university centres for nature conservation, forest eco systems, tropical agriculture and forestry, and the centre for agriculture and the environment, which all concentrate their knowledge of sustainability on the natural sciences. The Centre for Sustainable

Development is still in its organising process; yet, members already come from 8 different faculties (e.g. economics, social sciences, philosophy, law, biology, etc.).

The Centre is actually undertaking activities in fields as different as:

- Evaluation and management of biodiversity in the context of the international convention on biodiversity;
- Local production of energy, mainly originating from biomass, and its economic, social and psychological implications;
- Changes in individual life styles as a local Agenda 21 project;
- Development and monitoring of indicators of regional sustainability;

In the case of the Biodiversity project, progress has already been considerable: 15 professors from 8 different disciplines work together in order to prepare a Ph.D. program with two research areas, one in Germany and one in Guatemala.

The office of the centre will be set up this summer. If you want to contact us before, do not hesitate to get in touch with Dr. Regina Birner, Institute for Rural Development, Waldweg 26, 37073 Göttingen, Germany; Tel.: + 551 - 39 39 04; Fax: + 551 - 39 30 76; E-mail: rbirner@gwdg.de; Our homepage, currently under construction, is: <http://gwdg.de/~IZNE>

Jobs

Population, Migration and the Determinants of Environmental Change in Vietnam

By Neil Adger and Mick Kelly, UK

The issue to be addressed is demographic responses to environmental and policy change in rural communities in the developing world. This will be undertaken through examining the specific socio-cultural and institutional factors which mediate resource use. Demographic changes can potentially create new stimuli to the economy, but also lead to demonstrable negative environmental impacts and consequences for sustainability and social resilience. Social resilience is the ability of a community to withstand shocks and stress without significant upheaval and can be observed through the magnitude of disruption to a community at the collective level which can be absorbed before there are significant changes in social structure. The conceptual link between social resilience, migration and resource use is based on the observation that coping strategies - the means by which communities respond to environmental shock or stress - evolve in response to changing social, economic and political conditions, including migration options, and that these coping strategies depend on and, in turn, affect local resources.

The research is part of a wider project being undertaken by the co-supervisors on 'Migration and Social Resilience in Vietnam' sponsored by the MacArthur Foundation and in collaboration with the School of Development Studies at University of East Anglia and the Vietnam National University, Hanoi. The student will undertake micro- and macro-level analysis of the issues outlined above in Vietnam. The aim will be to quantify the distinction between spontaneous migration and policy-driven planned migration and the changes in livelihood strategies associated with recent changes in society and economy in Vietnam. The research will address major policy questions and challenges for Vietnam as it enters a period of economic change based for the first time on decisions by individual land owners as well as the vagaries of the globalised economy.

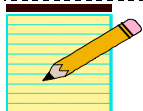
We seek a graduate of economics, demography, geography, anthropology or a related social science discipline with excellent analytical skills and a desire to undertake fieldwork in the Vietnamese setting. The candidate should have, or be expected to attain, a first class degree or equivalent in a Masters level training, and should be from the UK or EU. The student can if possible **register in June 1999 or alternatively in October 1999**. Fieldwork experience in South East Asia or other developing countries is advantageous. The project will be explicitly interdisciplinary between the social and natural science elements of the issues to be addressed.

Inquiries can be directed to Dr. Neil Adger (n.adger@uea.ac.uk) in the School of Environmental Sciences, UEA. Details and an application form are available at: <http://www.uea.ac.uk/env/all/studentships/welcome.htm>, or contact: Mrs Elly Reynolds, Administrative Assistant (E.Reynolds@uea.ac.uk) School of Environmental Sciences University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ, UK, Tel.: 01603 592544, Fax: 01603 593035

Ecological Economist in Hawaii

Possible position(s) opening for an ecological economist with the ability to work with a broad interdisciplinary team of ecological planners, engineers, and natural scientists as part of an appointed political administration in Hawaii. The position is a four-year political appointment (with possibility of a 2nd four-year term). The availability of the position is dependent on the outcome of the 2000 elections. Duties include some or all of the following: 1) designing and implementing (property and use) tax reform, 2) developing and applying economic and welfare measures of sustainable development, 3) proposal and grant writing, 4) personnel managing, and 5) public outreach, education, and communication. Applicants must be able to work in a politically charged environment, and must be willing to put in long hours as part of a team committed to creating and implementing a model of sustainable development. Salary approximately \$70,000.

For more information submit resume to Dr. Michael Christopher, Policy Chair, Friends of Keiko Bonk, P.O. Box 1316 Hilo, HI 96721, or mchristopher@ilhawaii.net ❖



Forthcoming Conferences and Workshops

Conference on "Managing the Future Growth of Cogeneration in Europe", April 26th - 28th 1999, Prague

For further information contact Penny Richards: ++44 171 4535491, or by E-mail: cust.serv@ibcuk.co.uk

International Conference on "Sustainable Development, problems of protected areas network and traditional nature use in the Lake Baikal Region", May 1999, Chita, Russia

For further information contact: Dr. Gazhit Tsybekmitova, Scientific secretary of the Institute of Natural Resources of Siberian Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences, 16 Nedorezova street, Chita, 672014, Russia, Tel: +7-302-221-24-98, Fax: +7-302-221-25-82, E-mail: root@cinr.chita.ru

Conference on "Combustion and Global Climate Change. Canada's Challenges & Solutions", May 26 - 28, 1999 Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Conference organized by: Natural Resources Canada and Canadian Environment Industry Association (CEIA). For further information contact: CC '99 Coordinator Canadian Environment Industry Association (CEIA) 350 Sparks St., Suite 208, Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA K1R 7S8 Tel.: (613) 236-6222; Fax: (613) 236-6850, E-mail: info@ceia-acie.ca

International Congress "ECO 1999", June 7th - 9th, 1998, Paris, France

For further information contact the congress office: Convergences ECO 1999, 120 avenue Gambetta, 75020 Paris, France, Tel.: ++ 33 143647777, Fax: ++ 33 140310165

"Eco Efficiency 2000 Conference" June 13th - 15th 2000, Stockholm, Sweden

This business oriented event towards sustainable economic growth offers a qualified arena and a market place to scientists, executives, other professionals and business people from the industry and industry related sectors as well as from the public one. For further information, take a look at the conference website: <http://www.nutek.se/ecoefficiency2000>

Conference on "Implementing the Kyoto Protocol", June 14th / 15th 1999, London, UK

The Royal Institute of International Affairs. Further information can be obtained by E-mail: gwright@riia.org, or by phone: ++44 171 9575700

Conference on "Environment and Law", June 16th 1999, London, UK

The Royal Institute of International Affairs. Further information can be obtained by E-mail: gwright@riia.org, or by phone: ++44 171 9575700

BCC '99 - Barcelona Copernicus Conference on Sustainable Universities: Inter-, multi- and transdisciplinary issues and options, July 1st - 2nd 1999, Barcelona, Spain

Further information can be obtained by E-mail: maria.cava@racc.es

Workshop on "Market-Based Instruments for Environmental Protection", July 18th - 20th 1999, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

For further information contact Robert N. Stavins, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, 79 John F. Kennedy Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138, Phone: 617-495-1820, Fax: 617-496-3783, E-mail: robert_stavins@harvard.edu, Internet: <http://ksgwww.harvard.edu/~rstavins>

Central and East European Workshop on "Integrated Regional Assessment of Climate Change", August 7th - 12th 1999, Budapest, Hungary

For further information take a look at the following website: <http://www.essc.psu.edu/cira/cee>

Symposium on "New Opportunities for Forest-Related Rural Development", August 23rd - 28th 1999, Aberdeen, Scotland

The IUFRO and the University of Aberdeen, Department of Agriculture organize a symposium on, among others, the factors of success of forest-related rural development activities in developed countries, to compare the experiences of different regions. For further information please contact Bill Slee or Irene Wilson by E-mail (rwslee@abdn.ac.uk / i.wilson@abdn.ac.uk) or by phone: ++44 1224 274140.

4th International Conference ISEE/Russian Chapter '99: Nature and Society of the Next Millennium: Globalization and Regional Ecological Economic Problems, July 5th - 9th, 1999, Saratov, Russia

The Fourth International Conference of the ISEE Russian Chapter in Saratov will be an international forum to discuss advances in Ecological Economics approaches to decision and policy making by government and business in transition to sustainable development. Specifically, it is aimed to exchange findings in the above areas, expose Russian scholars to relevant international research and practice, discuss the Russian experience to date, and recommend further efforts contributing to sustainable development.

The Conference will be held in Saratov - a picturesque city on Volga river. It is located in around 700 kilometers south-east of Moscow and can be reached by train or by air. Please, inquire your agency about the best option (normally you would need to travel via Moscow, but some direct flights to Saratov via Frankfurt, Hanover, and other terminals are available).

The Conference will focus mainly on:

1. Growth, Globalization and Internationalization
2. Indicators and Strategies of Sustainable Development
3. Social Factors of Sustainability and Health of Population
4. Environment, Institutions and Society
5. Natural Resources and Environmental Damage Valuation and SEEA
6. Transport, Energy, and the Environment
7. Ecological-Economic Modeling and Information Systems
8. Environmental Management Systems
9. Environmental Policy Mechanisms
10. Green Tax Reform
11. Environmental Risks and Insurance
12. Environmental Protection Technologies and Innovation

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International Organizing Committee:

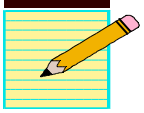
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The conference will be organized by:

- International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE)
- International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE)
- European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE)
- Canadian Society for Ecological Economics (CANSEE)
 - Center for Economic and Social Studies on Environment, Free University of Brussels (CEESE/ULB)
- Russian Academy of Sciences
- Russian Ministry for Environmental Protection and Natural Resources
- Saratov Affiliate of the Russian Ecological Academy
- Saratov State Social-Economic University
- Saratov Regional Committee of Natural Resources
- Saratov Regional Administration



Forthcoming Conferences and Workshops

Participants are invited to submit abstracts of their papers on those and closely related topics for plenary and parallel sessions, as well as propose panel discussion and round tables themes. Selected papers will be considered for publication in a book. A limited number of demonstration stands will be available for business presentations. The working language of the Conference will be English. English to/from Russian translation will be provided.

Deadlines

Submission of abstracts (up to 300 words in English by e-mail) March 31, 1999 - continuing (after this date abstracts can be accepted, but you should inquire if the panel space is still available in the Programme); Registration: June 1st, 1999; Submission of full papers: July 5th, 1999

Upon acceptance of your application, please, contact Local Organizing Committee on all traveling, accommodation, and visa arrangements through:

Professor Anatoly POPOV

ul. Dzerzhinskogo 41,2,

Saratov, 410600, Russia

Tel/Fax: +7 (8452) 721034

E-mail: anatoly@popov.saratov.su, or popov@mail.saratov.ru

Conference "Beyond Growth", September 24th - 26th 1999, Berlin, Germany

Current debates about economic policies focus on the goal of economic growth. This goal remains largely unquestioned despite the call for a sustainable development. The relationship between economic growth and sustainable development is a key issue of our time. If and how sustainable development and growth are compatible is of crucial importance for development options in the future. Many difficult questions arise from this issue, such as the problem of delinking environmental pressure from economic activities and the role that economic growth can and should play as a goal of economic policy.

This is the context of the conference "Beyond Growth", which will take place on September 24-26 in Berlin. "Beyond Growth" will be organized by the Heinrich Böll Foundation in close cooperation with the ESEE, the ISEE, the Vereinigung für Ökologische Ökonomie (VÖÖ), and the Wuppertal Institute for Environment, Climate, Energy. The organizers intend to combine international high level scientific inputs with meaningful political discussions. Speakers from the scientific community and the civil society as well as politicians will debate the consequences of the call for sustainable development for the goals of (economic) policy. The aim is to get an idea if and how policies "beyond growth" are possible.

For further information contact: Fred Luks, E-mail Growth99@aol.com or Gundula Fienbork, Heinrich Böll Foundation, E-mail fienbork@boell.de.

International Conference on "Society, Nature, and History: Long-Term Dynamics of Social Metabolism", September 30th - October 2nd 1999, Vienna, Austria

This interdisciplinary conference is devoted to understanding the long-term societal transformations from a social ecological perspective with an emphasis on understanding the material and energetic exchanges between societies and the natural environment. The conference comprises six key symposia that elaborate the various facets of the overall theme. It will attract participants from a variety of scientific communities-natural, social, cultural-as well as government official and policymakers.

Information: Barbara Smetschka, IFF-Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies of Austrian Universities, Social Ecology, Seidengasse 13, A-1070 Vienna, Austria, Tel: ++ 43 1 526 75010, Fax: ++ 43 1 523 5843, E-mail: barbara.smetschka@univie.ac.at, website: <http://www.univie.ac.at/iffsocec>

64th EAAE - Seminar On "Co-operative strategies to cope with agro-environmental problems" October, 27th - 29th 1999, Berlin, Germany

This seminar is supposed to focus on the question whether, and in which problem areas, participation, and co-operation can lead to adequate solutions. The main purpose of the seminar is to find concepts that are appropriate to reconcile the conventional goals of agricultural and horticultural production with a broader notion of social, ecological and economic objectives necessary for a sustainable development in agriculture, horticulture and rural areas. Accordingly, the participants in the seminar will discuss whether and how voluntary cooperation among farmers and with other groups and agents in rural areas can contribute to the achievement of the following objectives:

- to facilitate the process of consensus building for protecting natural resources,
- to make use of the advantages of participation in order to improve acceptability,

- to consolidate the manifold demands farmers face in this area,
- to develop and to organize farmers' supply of ecological goods,
- to mobilize farmers' endogenous potential of knowledge and motivation,
- to emphasize decentralized regional approaches for agro-environmental policies.

The seminar will be organized by Prof. Dr. Konrad Hagedorn, Chair of Resource Economics, and Prof. Dr. Uwe-Jens Nagel, Chair of Agricultural Extension and Communication Sciences, both at the Department of Agricultural Economics and Social Sciences, Humboldt University of Berlin, in collaboration with the Institute of Cooperative Studies at Humboldt University.

The seminar will be held on October 27-29, 1999, at Humboldt University of Berlin, Senatssaal, Unter den Linden 6, D-10117 Berlin. The papers and discussions will be in English.

For further information please contact: Sigrid Heilmann, Humboldt University of Berlin, Department of Agricultural Economics and Social Sciences (WISOLA Berlin), Luisenstraße 56, D-10099 Berlin, Germany, Phone: +49-30-2093 6305, Fax: +49-30-2093 6497, E-mail: s.heilmann@rz.hu-berlin.de

International Conference on "Transdisciplinarity: Joint Problem-Solving among Science, Technology and Society, February 27th - March 1st 2000, Zurich, Switzerland

This conference aims at "new forms of mutual learning involving science, technology and society to efficiently meet the complex challenges of the 21st century". For further information contact by e-mail: transdisciplinarity@snf.ch or take a look at the following website:

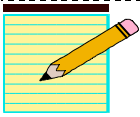
<http://www.snf.ch/transdisciplinarity/home/html>

First biennial conference of the INDIAN SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS (Indian Chapter of the International Society for Ecological Economics) on "Ecological Economics for Sustainable Development", December 1999

The first biennial conference of the Indian Society for Ecological Economics will be held in December 1999. The conference theme is "Ecological Economics for Sustainable Development". It is planned as a two and a half day event with plenary sessions, concurrent sessions and panel discussions on selected topics. Papers are invited on the following sub-themes: Accounting for sustainability : concepts and experiences. Strategy for green growth in developing economies Water resources, technology and sustainable development Economic recycling and waste management : ecological and economic implication for the sustainable use. Infrastructure and Energy. Bio-diversity, Water and Air. Institutions and environmental governance. Resource Valuation, Management and Policy. Methodology as central in problems of the environment : cost/benefit, multi-criteria, other paradigms. Inter species study for human development : legal aspects, ethics and equality . Trade and environment. Papers focusing on inter-disciplinary aspects and highlighting the inter-linkages between economic and ecological/environmental dimensions of the sub-themes shall be given preference. They may deal with theoretical aspects and/or present results of case-studies using statistical or scientific tools of analysis. Papers highlighting developing country problems shall be given preference. **Abstracts of papers of about 500-800 words may be sent so as to reach the following latest by April 30, 1999:**

Ms. Preeti Sethi, Indian Society for Ecological Economics, R. No. 206, Institute of Economic Growth, University Enclave, Delhi-110007.

Authors of papers selected by the Programmes Committee for presentation shall be informed by July 15, 1999 and full papers are to be submitted by September



Forthcoming Conferences and Workshops

49th Conference of the International Atlantic Economic Society, March 15th – 20th, 2000, Munich, Germany

The International Atlantic Economic Society will be hosting its 49th conference in Munich, March 15-20, 2000 at Ludwig Maximilians Universität. University and government economists from over 40 countries will gather to discuss a wide array of topics. Professor Hans-Werner Sinn of Ludwig Maximilians Universität will present the Distinguished Address on Thursday, March 16, at 9:15 am. Professor Allen H. Meltzer of Carnegie Mellon University will deliver his Presidential Address on Friday, March 17 at 11:30 am.

Additional information on the conference can be found on the IAES web page at:

http://www.iaes.org/conferences/future/munich_49/index.htm

For further information, contact the International Atlantic Economic Society by phone at (314) 454-0100, by fax at (314) 454-9109, or by E-mail at iaes@iaes.org.

Special note to ESEE members : the organizers of the Munich conference have invited the ESEE to organize one or more joint sessions at the conference. Paper submission fees will be waived for the papers on this session. Also, the session participants can register for the conference at the IAES member rate instead of the nonmember rate. Proposals for sessions should include all of the information listed in the Paper Submission section. In order to coordinate your proposals into a common ESEE proposal, we invite you to submit your proposals and ideas to the ESEE E-mail: esee@c3ed.uvsq.fr

International conference on 'The Future of the Mediterranean Rural Environment: Prospects for Sustainable Land Use and Management', May 8th - 11th, 2000, Menemen, Turkey

The meeting is being supported by ESEE. For further information please contact Professor Peter Bullock, Cranfield University, Silsoe, Bedfordshire, MK45 4DT, United Kingdom, Fax ++ 44 1525 863001

ISEE 2000, "People and Nature" July 5th - 8th 2000, Canberra, Australia

Down under, in Australia and New Zealand, Ecological Economics is making a difference. ISEE 2000 is being organised by the Australia New Zealand Society for Ecological Economics. ISEE 2000 offers a chance to learn a lot more about Ecological Economics and to visit Australia. The Ecological Economics community consists of professional ecologists, resource managers, geographers, psychologists, lawyers, sociologists, systems theorists and economists.

ISEE 1992 identified Investment in Natural Capital as a "Prerequisite to sustainability". ISEE 1994 explored had the theme "Down to Earth: Practical Applications of Ecological Economics". ISEE 1996 focused on "Designing Sustainability: Building Partnerships among Society. ISEE 1998 went beyond growth to identify "Institutions and policies for Sustainability." ISEE 2000 will be about "People and nature." - About people's behaviour, how institutions mould it, and how policies can be designed to change it. About managing environmental change, and learning from the experience of Australia, New Zealand, and the Asia-Pacific, and building a sustainable future.

Plenaries

All plenaries will be presented by internationally recognised experts. In addition, each day we plan two parallel semi-plenaries. One focusing on the pragmatic, the other on the conceptual. Some global in focus, others more regional. Some Topics under development include:

- Business management and the Environment
- Natural Resource Use & Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific
- Learning from Australia and New Zealand's experiments in the pursuit of sustainability
- Macro-economic policy for a sustainable future
- Alternative models of human behaviour in relation to the environment
- Institutions and environmental change
- Environmental justice and equity - environmental distribution
- Profiting from the environment and its natural capital

Parallel papers, posters, workshops and discussion panels

ISEE 2000 will focus on opportunities to explore new ideas. There will be opportunities for all people to present their work, whether as a formal paper presentation, poster, or as a participant in a panel discussion or workshop.

Let us know what issue you would like one to focus on before March 1999 and we will try to include your interest in the first call for papers.

Training course

We are exploring options for a certified two-week training course in Ecological Economics immediately prior to the conference. Using leading ecological economists and focusing on holistic approaches to resource environmental management, the course will give people hands on experience and training in the use of Ecological Economics to Asia, the Pacific and other developing countries.

Field trips

Australia is one of the 12 megadiverse countries in the world, and the only developed one.

"Where do you want to go in 2000? Let us know!"

- The Great Barrier Reef, via Australia's wheat-sheep belt to Canberra - be well informed for the Conference.
- Meet with those who manage Australia's native forests and its internationally renowned irrigation areas?
- The Kakadu World Heritage Area, Ayers Rock and Australia's outback meeting with Australia's indigenous people, or pastoralists and mining communities along the way?

To register your preliminary interest, E-mail John Dash at john.dash@anu.edu.au. We will then send you more information.

If you want us to consider a specific proposal please send an E-mail to Mike.Young@adl.clw.csiro.au or David.Stern@adl.clw.csiro.au

dstern@cres.anu.edu.au

