

## **EARTH CHARTER AUGUST 2002 NEWSFLASH**

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### **\*\* The Earth Charter in the 'FORUMZINHO' - The World Social Forum for Children - 23 – 28 January 2003 \*\***

The Earth Charter and Eco-pedagogy will be the central theme of the Second World's Little Forum for Children known as 'Forumzinho' - an Initiative stressing the importance of the voice of children in defining a sustainable new world. Forumzinho is a parallel event to the World Social Forum taking place for the second time in Porto Alegre, Brazil and will gather thousands of children and teenagers (6 to 14 years old) to address the value of life, environment, equality among people and people's solidarity. Throughout a series of simultaneous workshops, participants are free to generate their own expressions and ideas about how they see the world and how they want to contribute for a better world.

The organizers are finalizing an outstanding Earth Charter booklet adapted for children to be used in the 'Forumzinho' and beyond. In addition, for the upcoming January event The Circle of Friends for Childhood and Adolescence, the NGO responsible for the organization of the 'Forumzinho', planned a series of preparatory training workshops to ensure all involved in the organization fully understands and share the Earth Charter vision. The schedule for the preparatory events is as follow: the Environment Week (16 June), the Spring Week (22 September), the Child's Day (12 October) or the Book Fair (3, 10 and 17 November). The State Secretariat of Environment of Rio Grande do Sul, among other entities, is supporting this initiative. For more information about this event see <http://www.forumzinho.palegre.com.br> or contact: e-mail: [forumzinho@portoweb.com.br](mailto:forumzinho@portoweb.com.br)

### **\*\*"WE LIVE TOGETHER" PROGRAM, in the Balearic Islands, Spain \*\***

During the school year September 2001 to June 2002, 44 schools in the Balearic Islands in Spain have been putting into practice the principles of the Earth

Charter through an Intercultural Education for Peace and Cooperation Program named "We Live Together (Vivim Plegats)". Through experiences and reflections, the students worked on the themes related to multiculturalism, education for peace and cooperation among individuals, peoples and diverse cultures, always taking into account the Balearic culture and recognizing the value of the other cultures that arrived there recently.

The ideological base of the program is in the knowledge and the practice of human rights: for this reason the program uses the texts of the Children's Rights Convention and the Earth Charter to offer a broader vision to the participants. With the Cooperation of UNICEF Committee of the Balearic Islands and the UNESCO Center of Catalunya, pedagogic materials have been edited for this program including an adaptation of the Earth Charter for children and youth, which was translated into Catalan, Spanish, French, English, German and Arab to facilitate multicultural work. A team of teachers developed a methodology to bring to students the understanding of values, as well as human rights and show examples of the contents of the Earth Charter. This exercise relates to the reality of context of teachers, students, their families and their social environment.

For more information about this program, please contact Guillem Ramis: [gramis@dginnova.caib.es](mailto:gramis@dginnova.caib.es) or visit the Earth Charter site under the Section of Spain [www.earthcharter.org](http://www.earthcharter.org)

**\*\* THE EARTH CHARTER IN THE WORLD EDUCATION FORUM, Porto Alegre, Brazil, 19 - 22 January 2003 \*\***

The 2<sup>nd</sup> World Education Forum will take place in January 2003 just before the World Social Forum. **Education and Transformation: The Public Education in the Construction of a Possible New World** is the main topic of the Forum; one of its goals is to highlight education in the themes and discussions of the World Social Forum. Three central themes will be developed in the various conferences and debates: *The City and the Education*, *the Social Construction of Knowledge*, and lastly *the Political and Pedagogical Project*. The Earth Charter will be part of the agenda on 22 January in a session entitled "Living together: understanding and living the Earth Charter", which will be a round-table activity and exchange of experiences among educators regarding Education and the Earth Charter.

Over 70 local, national and international institutions are members of the Organizing Committee. Approximately 15,000 participants, from over 60 countries attended the first Forum in October of 2001.

The registrations for the World Education Forum will start on the second half of August - only by Internet at: [www.forummundialdeeducacao.com.br](http://www.forummundialdeeducacao.com.br).

**\*\* PEACE SUMMIT, Vermont, USA, 28 September 2002 \*\***

A Peace Summit, organized by Children of the Earth and fifteen non-profit organizations, will take place in three different sites in Vermont on 28 September 2002. Two Congressmen, Dennis Kucinich and Bernard Sanders, who co-sponsored the US Congressional Bill proposing the creation of a Department of Peace (and a National Peace Academy) as a cabinet level US agency, will address both youth and the public in two separate forums. Dr. Steven Rockefeller, member of the Earth Charter Commission, will present the Earth Charter.

The Earth Charter will be discussed as a document of principles upon which a National Peace Academy could be built. This event will be broadcast on an international webcast to more than 20 cities in the US and 5 or more countries. Voters at 22 town meetings throughout Vermont already endorsed the Charter last March.

*For more information on this event, please contact Children of the Earth at [coevt@aol.com](mailto:coevt@aol.com) or visit their website [www.shiesl.com/peace](http://www.shiesl.com/peace)*

**\*\* ANTIOCH NEW ENGLAND GRADUATE SCHOOL AND THE EARTH CHARTER \*\***

Last May, the Education Department at Antioch New England Graduate School endorsed the Earth Charter and with it all the programs and related departments. Each department is looking into ways to integrate the Earth Charter into its programs and will assess their departmental alignment with the values embodied in the Earth Charter. Connections are also being made to other Antioch campuses (Seattle, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles and Yellow Springs).

**\*\* CHILE SUPPORTING THE EARTH CHARTER \*\***

On 16 July the Earth Charter was launched in Chile, in an event organized by the Institute of Political Ecology (IEP). Around 120 persons attended the event among political authorities, ecological organizations, NGOs, students from several schools and unanimously supported the creation of an Earth Charter Committee in Santiago to disseminate this document everywhere in Chile.

The 16 principles of the Earth Charter were presented and explained to the public by experts from the ecological, spiritual, scientific, political and cultural point of view. In a letter, the Foreign Minister of Chile, Sra. Maria Soledad Alvear V., expressed her support for the diffusion of the Earth Charter in Chile and expressed interest in taking it up to the Johannesburg Summit. For more see [www.iepe.org/cartadelatierra](http://www.iepe.org/cartadelatierra) or contact e-mail [comunic@vtr.net](mailto:comunic@vtr.net)

**\*\* EARTH CHARTER MEETING IN MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA \*\***

The launching of the Earth Charter in Melbourne attracted more than 200 persons. This 3-million-people-city has incorporated the Earth Charter into its strategic plan and have already undertaken an evaluation of how their existing policy matches the Earth Charter's main principles. The Mayor of Melbourne has been selected to represent all major Australian cities at the WSSD and will be taking the outcomes of this event in Melbourne to South Africa. For more information contact: Angela Lecomber, Earth Charter Victoria, at email: [alecomber@ozemail.com.au](mailto:alecomber@ozemail.com.au).

**\*\* EARTH CHARTER GOES LOCAL IN CENTRAL SCOTLAND \*\***

In the lead up to Earth Summit 2002, from 21 – 25 June, over 50 people from all walks of life explored the principles of the Earth Charter and reflected upon its significance in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in a unique program of grassroots community summits across Central Scotland. These community summits were organized by Earth Charter Scotland (ECS) in partnership with FOE Forth Valley, Common Ground Glasgow, EICWS and others.

Jan Roberts, Coordinator of the Earth Charter Community Summits, from Tampa USA, has been sharing her experience and worked in the development and promotion of the Earth Charter with groups in Glasgow, Stirling and Edinburgh. Jan said, "The Earth Charter is an extraordinary document. It may be the first global vision to recognize that humanity's environment, economic, social, cultural, ethical, and spiritual aspirations are interconnected."

*For more information, contact Anneruth Straus e-mail: [earthcharterscotland@hotmail.com](mailto:earthcharterscotland@hotmail.com) or visit [www.sustainable-scotland.com/Community\\_summits.htm](http://www.sustainable-scotland.com/Community_summits.htm)*

**\*\* EARTH CHARTER PUBLICATION IN DANISH AND GREENLANDIC \*\***

The Greenlandic and the Danish version of the Earth Charter have been finalized and released to the public by Nature and Peoples of the North. Copies of the publication can be available upon request through the homepage of Nature and People of the North at: [www.arctic-people.dk](http://www.arctic-people.dk). You can also find this material under the Earth Charter site at [www.earthcharter.org](http://www.earthcharter.org).

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For more information on these and other Earth Charter activities taking place around the world, please visit the Earth Charter website at: <http://www.earthcharter.org> or contact us at: [info@earthcharter.org](mailto:info@earthcharter.org)