

EARTH CHARTER NEWSFLASH MAY 2002

**** Senate Puerto Rico Fully Endorses The Earth Charter ****

On 22 April, the Senate of Puerto Rico, approved the Resolution Number 1582, endorsing the Earth Charter and expressing the commitment of the Senate of the Free Associated State of Puerto Rico to the principles declared in the Earth Charter. The resolution includes a quote as follows: “The Senate of the Free Associated State of Puerto Rico, exhorts the Government and all sectors: arts, science, religious, educational institutions, media, business and non governmental organizations to adopt and agree to be ruled by the principles established in the Earth Charter and to develop and put into practice, with creativity, the vision of a sustainable way of life at a local, national, regional and global levels.” This was issued in the office at the Capitol, San Juan, Puerto Rico, with the stamp of the Senate of the Free Associated State of Puerto Rico. This is a major accomplishment for the Earth Charter to receive such recognition from parliamentarians at the highest levels.

**** All Municipalities in Jordan Endorse the Earth Charter ****

On Wednesday 15 May, the heads of the Kingdom of Jordan’s 99 municipalities endorsed a declaration of support for the Earth Charter at the Greater Amman Municipality. According to the Jordan *Times* of 16 May 2002, the adoption of the Earth Charter by local municipalities is intended to promote an integrated and strategic plan in Jordan to advance sustainable development in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. This significant event under the patronage of HRH Princess Basma was organized by the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development and the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Environment, in cooperation with the General Corporation for Environmental Protection.

**** Australian Capital Territory – What a Commitment! ****

The Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory (<http://www.act.gov.au/>) has endorsed the Earth Charter and calls on the ACT Government (which is drawn from the majority party in the Assembly) to adopt the Earth Charter as a framework of principles to help guide the work of its new Office of Sustainability. This endorsement follows a number of multi-sector forums and public meetings held over the last few years where support for the Earth Charter was expressed by the major political parties, civil society representatives, and progressive business leaders. Special thanks also to Kerrie Tucker, MLA from the ACT Greens party, who proposed the motion.

**** Soria Declaration in Spain 14 to 17 May ****

Last week a European Seminar on Protection of Land and Sustainable Development, issued the second Declaration of Soria where participants reiterated their commitment to the Earth Charter as a guide for their planning. They have also re-affirmed their support to establish a World Forum for Sustainability in Soria. This event gathered European Parliamentarian and government officials from the region. It was organized by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with Fundacion Deyna. All the municipalities in the province of Soria Spain have been exploring ways to incorporate the Earth Charter in their work following the unanimous endorsement of the Association of Municipalities of Soria Province for the Earth Charter.

**** Websites in French and Spanish ****

This month the Earth Charter Initiative has launched websites in French and Spanish, in an attempt to respond to the growing interest the Earth Charter Initiative from the many non-English speaking countries. See: www.cartadelatierra.org or www.chartedelaterre.org

**** Teaching for the Environment in Higher Education: The Promise of the Earth Charter ****

A remarkable Academic Symposium organized by The Chewonki Foundation and the Center for Respect of Life and Environment took place 17 – 19 May in Wiscasset, Maine, USA. The Symposium brought together a number of academics, university representatives, and students to address questions such as:

What is the moral responsibility of the academy toward the environment? Why is teaching for the environment in higher education so problematic? How can the Earth Charter inform the liberal arts curriculum? What might be a pedagogy of the Earth Charter? For all of those who participated, the Symposium generated wonderful insights, motivation, and materials to use in higher education. For more information, contact: crle@aol.com

**** Earth Charter Launch in Jakarta, Indonesia ****

As a joint effort of the Institute for Environmental Awareness and Ethics, KEHATI and Sokka Gakkai Indonesia, the Earth Charter launch in Indonesia is taking place this week on 22 May 2002, at Hotel Aryaduta, Jakarta. Approximately 350 participants are expected, including the media. During this event an Earth Charter publication in Indonesia will be launched. The will also include youth and children through a presentation entitled: "Expressions from children of Earth."

**** Earth Charter Events in Bali during PrepCom IV ****

For those of you going to Bali, Indonesia for PrepCom IV, and all those who are interested in joining us, the Earth Charter Initiative has organized the following events in collaboration with many others:

1 and 2 June (during the day) – Earth Charter Partnership working session – at Hilton Hotel

2 June (evening) – Cultural event organized by Soka Indonesia. A 2-hours-cultural event in the evening, consisting of songs, poems, *angklung* (bamboo musical instrument), a video show, and probably Bali/Javanese dance.

3 June – (at lunch time) Side event at the UN Conference entitled "Can we Achieve Sustainability without a Common Ethical Framework?: The Promise of the Earth Charter"

6 June – (at lunch time) HRH Princess Basma Bint Talal of Jordan will make a presentation on the Earth Charter process in Jordan. This will have limited participation.

**** Brazilians Moving Forward with the Earth Charter ****

A major event entitled "The Earth Charter for a More Secure City" is taking place on 19 - 21 June 2002 in Joinville, Santa Catarina - Brazil. The Mayor of the city of Joinville, Dr. Luis Henrique da Silveira, is closely involved with the organization and invitations.

The objective of this event will be motivate our political, administrative, business, and technical leaders as well as the population in general to reflect together and exchange experiences in the context of a global order and democracy. Participants will also debate and promote relevant themes in the agenda of municipalities towards a more secure city. The whole society is invited and hopefully all major groups will be directly or indirectly involved. Some of the invitees for this event are government officials, state governors and 6000 mayors, municipality councils, individuals from social movements and NGOs, primary schools' professors and pupils, secondary schools, universities, businessmen, senators as well as national and departmental members of parliament.

The promoters of the event include: Institute Paulo Freire, Institute for Sustainable Development, Brazilian Municipal Association and States and Municipalities Mail Magazine, in conjunction with the city government of Joinville; and UNESCO, World Educators Union, and the Earth Council.

For more information please contact via e-mail: cartadaterra@terra.com.br or ids.joinville@terra.com.br

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