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Item Type	Book
Authors	Earth Charter
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EARTH CHARTER INITIATIVE

ANNUAL REPORT

2008



Earth Charter International Secretariat

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I. Introduction

This report provides an overview of the most important activities carried out by the Earth Charter International Secretariat, regarding communications, networking, youth, religion and sustainability as well as efforts on Education for Sustainable Development.

In addition, this document has compiled a sample of activities implemented around the world by active groups and individuals involved in the Earth Charter Initiative. The purpose is to provide the reader with a snapshot of how the Initiative's mission is being put into practice.

The Earth Charter Initiative is the collective name for the diverse and global network of people and organizations who promote the Earth Charter.

Strategically, the EC Initiative has been focusing on ways to operationalize the **"Decentralized Empowerment for Scaling Up"** policy, launched in 2007, in order to better achieve the Initiative's ambitious mission. A concerted effort between the Council, Secretariat and various other individuals and organizations is underway to implement this strategy in the best possible ways.

The Earth Charter family has been working hard to advance and spread the vision and Mission of the Earth Charter globally. Many innovative initiatives and activities have been undertaken this year to make this a reality. The translation of the Earth Charter text and other related documents is an important mechanism to share Earth Charter values globally. Presenting the Charter in different forms such as music and artwork is also a great way to reach a wider audience (example are the paintings of Lorena Priego from Mexico, on the 16th principles of the Earth Charter).

The Secretariat has also made a point of having important documents such as the EC Initiative Handbook available in English Spanish and French. The creation of a new website and the Earth Charter Virtual Library has been of great importance to offer a better information platform and exchange mechanism for those involved in the Initiative. Having the website available in different languages is necessary to further expand the Initiative. We are making a special effort to make this happen and of course any help will be welcome.



Artwork inspired by Principle 4 of the Earth Charter. By Lorena Priego, Mexico.

There are qualitative indicators that can give us an idea of how the EC Initiative is advancing in the achievement of its Mission and Vision. Information about these indicators is presented throughout the report. One indicator used is the number of new publications produced that help promote a better understanding of the principles of the Earth Charter. This year, the Initiative produced 24 new publications including articles, books and theses. Nine were developed by the Secretariat, five by Interns and ten by Affiliates and Partners. In addition, having new affiliates, endorsers, volunteers and youth groups is an indicator of the continuous interest in the Earth Charter around the world. This year there were 20 new affiliates, 15 new youth groups, 18 interns and 371 new volunteers.

ECI Mission Statement

The mission of the Earth Charter Initiative is to promote the transition to sustainable ways of living and a global society founded on a shared ethical framework that includes respect and care for the community of life, ecological integrity, universal human rights, respect for diversity, economic justice, democracy, and a culture of peace.

EC Initiative Vision Statement

We envision individuals, organizations, businesses, governments and multilateral institutions throughout the world, including the United Nations General Assembly and UN agencies, acknowledging the Earth Charter, embracing its values and principles, and working collaboratively to build just, sustainable and peaceful societies.

In 2008 two new members were welcomed into the Earth Charter International Council: they will be filling the vacancies in the European Region. The Council and Secretariat was pleased to warmly welcome to Alide Roerink from Netherlands and Barbro Holmberg from Sweden.

Using words from the EC: the spirit that animated all of us and that we are trying to carry to the world is solidarity and kinship with all life.

Steven Rockefeller, EC Council Meeting, NY, 2008

II. Implementing the decentralization policy

Throughout 2008, the ECI strategy of decentralized empowerment for scaling up (in short the decentralization strategy) has evolved. This strategy was first discussed in the Third Meeting of the ECI Council, held in Sao Paulo Brazil in 2007. Since then, it has been refined through discussions between Council Members, staff, advisors and affiliates.

The decentralization strategy is based on the EC Initiative mission statement; the idea is to expand the Initiative but keeping a small Secretariat. Lots of volunteer work will be promoted, guided by few operational principles (Action Guidelines).

During the **Fourth Meeting of the ECI Council**, held in May 2008 in New York, the long range plan of action of this strategy was discussed in great depth. This plan is not based on actions of ECI's central administration but on actions and results generated by self-organizing groups and individuals interested in promoting one or more of the specific Earth Charter focus areas. In the long range plan there are projects that are to be run by individuals and institutions independent from ECI that are able to take action and make things happen in their spheres of influence and in their countries. They will be guided and directed by the 12 action guidelines found in the Earth Charter Initiative Handbook and their respective task force.

Therefore, an important part of this strategy is the refinement, revision and creation of more guidelines as well as the engagement of the groups and individuals that will take the lead in this effort and who are geared to take action around the focus areas and specific realms of interest of the EC Initiative, which are: **Education, Religion and Sustainability, Youth, Media, the United Nations and Business.** The idea is to identify the specific niche that the EC has in these different areas, develop tools to help people further embrace the Earth Charter in their actions and work with different partners and collaborators to promote the vision of the Earth Charter and its implementation.

By the end of 2008, small groups of interested people involved in the Initiative had come together to start organizing the task forces and identifying their major goals. The idea with these initial action plans is to stimulate leaders to not only incorporate Earth Charter principles into their work and areas of influence but also engage other influential organizations and groups to do the same. This will help the movement to evolve naturally.

An initial presentation and discussion of these action plans happened in December at the **Earth Charter Network Meeting**, held in Amsterdam, organized by NCDO and ECI Secretariat. The purpose of this meeting was to bring together members of the EC Initiative to share experiences and ideas about the decentralization strategy and to further explore the EC links with the efforts to address Climate Change and Human Rights and also to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Important contributors and supporters of the Earth Charter were present at this occasion, such as Ruud Lubbers, Steven Rockefeller, Erna Witoelar, Rabbi Awram Soetendorp, Ashok Khosla, Mohammed Sahnoun and many others. There were approximately 140 attendees, mostly coming from European countries. More information about this meeting can be found in the Meeting's Summary Report available on line.



Ruud Lubbers, Henriette Rasmussen and Mohamed Sahnoun, Earth Charter Meeting, Amsterdam.

> *An Earth Charter meeting in NCDO is like the Earth Charter heaven.*
>
> *Brendan Mackey*, EC Amsterdam meeting, December 2008.

It is important to notice that this meeting gave an important opportunity to start grasping the meaning of decentralized empowerment and how to put into practice as well as exploring the role of the task forces in this process. The first day of this meeting was devoted to presenting the action plans. People interested in each of the task forces got together to exchange their vision, experiences and to start the communication process of how to organize these task forces.

There are many uncertain aspects about how these task forces will evolve, most likely each will have their own dynamic, but this is a "learning by doing" process. Time will tell how they will be implemented. Those interested in learning more about the task forces and how to join them can found more information in our webpage, or contact the EC Secretariat.

In addition to the task forces, the long range plan discussed during the Council meeting detected two infrastructure projects to be implemented by the Secretariat: a global web platform and an online virtual library. These will be discussed in the following section.

III. Activities of the ECI Secretariat

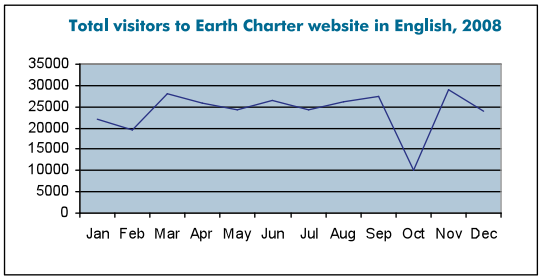
The Earth Charter International Secretariat has been serving the Initiative in different ways: offering possibilities for networking, catalyzing experiences, disseminating information and providing opportunities for capacity building. Strategically, it has facilitated efforts in following up the long range plan of the decentralization strategy, focusing on developing the web platform, the virtual library, and implementing specific actions through work on communication, education, religion and sustainability and engaging youth.

a. Web platform

During 2008, the Earth Charter Secretariat started a process of designing a new website on a new web platform. The number of visits per month on average was over 20,000 with a cumulative total of over 287,213 visits for the year and these are the figures for the English website only.

For more convenience, the comprehensive and central website will be available in English, Spanish and French by early 2009. The website will continue to be constantly updated by the Secretariat, and will have a virtual library, news, ways to contribute, activities per country, endorsements, actions of the task forces, and more. The web addresses are: www.earthcharter.org, www.cartadelatierra.org, www.chartedelaterre.org

Efforts are underway as well to have a basic web platform for every country and in every language to make information regarding the Earth Charter readily available to as wide an audience as possible. In collaboration with the ECI Secretariat, Amana-key (EC Partner from Brazil), developed a template that can be utilized anywhere in the world and adapted to different languages and contexts. Currently this template is available in Portuguese, Spanish and English and translations into Arabic, Russian, Chinese, Thai and many others are on the way.



b. Virtual Library

An important service the Secretariat provides to the Initiative is the compilation and distribution of publications and diverse materials to help people use and understand the principles of the Earth Charter, and to get ideas and inspiration about how to implement them. In this sense, during 2008 a significant effort went to the organization of the physical resource center at the Secretariat office in Costa Rica, and to create a virtual library in which products related to the EC can be downloaded from anywhere. This involves essays, speeches, educational materials, books, report of events and historical materials among others. Visit the virtual library at: http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/invent/

c. Communication with Affiliates, Partners, Volunteers and Interns

The Secretariat has made important efforts to communicate closely with affiliates, partners, youth groups, volunteers and endorsers, as well as working side by side with many interns. The growing number of interns is an important indicator of increasing interest and growth in the Initiative.

Affiliates and Partnerships

This year the Secretariat started a process to sign a new Memorandum of Understanding with each Affiliate. This MOU has helped to clarify the relationship between Affiliate and EC International, and to open the doors for increasing collaboration.

Partnership with Montfort Social Institute in India

MSI and the ECI Secretariat started a partnership to collaborate in the development of curriculum and educational materials that will link human rights education with education for sustainable development. This institute will serve as a resource center to train teachers of primary and secondary schools and promote understanding of sustainable development and human rights in this region.

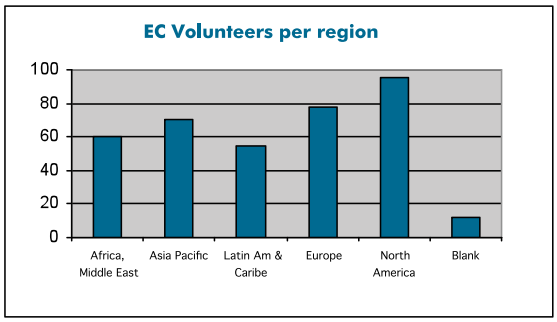
The following organizations joined the Initiative this year as Affiliates:

- Argentina People and Nature Foundation, Argentina.
- Caribbean Integral Institute, Curacao.
- Carta de la Tierra PERU, Peru.
- Centro Cultural Poveda, Dominican Republic.
- Centro de Defensa dos Direitos Humanos de Petrópolis, (Human Rights center), Brazil.
- Centro de Estudios Sociales Padre Juan Montalvo, Dominican Republic.
- Eco-Stewardship International, Nigeria
- Edmund Rice Centre, Australia
- Elsa Potter, International Institute of Culture and Language, Belize.
- Fundación Avalon, Spain.
- Graciela Satóstegui, Agenda 21 Escolar, Argentina.
- Instituto BioMA, Brazil.
- International Network for Educational Exchange –INEX, Austria
- Josefina Spaillat, Dominican Republic.
- Mitra Doherty, Canada.
- Montfort Social Institute, India
- New Angles SARL, Switzerland.
- UMAPAZ, Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- Workers Education Association of Zambia

An important communication task of the Secretariat is to facilitate networking between EC Initiative Members. This year the Secretariat took advantage of international events like the IUCN Conference in Barcelona to bring members of the Initiative together. During the conference, space was arranged for EC members to meet each other and share experiences. In December, at the Earth Charter Networking meeting in Amsterdam similar opportunities were provided.

Volunteers

At the end of 2008, there were 371 people registered as volunteers for the Earth Charter Initiative (the figure below shows the distribution of volunteers per region). The effort to catalyze volunteer help was started in October 2007 and has been growing steadily, with 26 new volunteers enrolling on average per month. Volunteering is an option available through our website for people that want to contribute to the Initiative.



Volunteers can choose to enrol in one of seven projects: *Translation; Fundraising; Sponsor an exhibition or publication; Arts and Communication; Educational activities; Write letters to governments and leaders; or Contribute with anything else.* Volunteers communicate with the Secretariat to receive information and materials for each of these projects, and occasionally they send updates of their work.

Some of the achievements from the volunteers are the following:

- Translation of the Earth Charter text into: Greek, Polish, Turkish, Portuguese of Portugal, Urdu[1], Lithuanian[1], Haitian Creole[1], Farsi[1] and Telugu[1]. They have also helped the Secretariat translating other documents,

[1] Translation in progress

such as the "Guidebook for Teachers" into Italian, the "Action Guidelines" into Greek, the "Good Practices using the Earth Charter" into Portuguese, and short messages and announcements into French. Most of these translations are in the revision process.

- La Sociedad Ecologista Hidalguense (the Ecological Society of Hidalgo), is sponsoring an office to promote the Earth Charter in Hidalgo, Mexico.
- Many volunteers have given presentations to schools and developed training workshops for teachers, or in their work places.

We presented the Earth Charter to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction earlier in December and shared the Charter as well as educational materials with approximately 400 attendees. It was quite well received! Valerie Schmitz, EC volunteer, Teach Me Peace, USA.

Internships

This year the Secretariat started a process to consolidate a partnership with University of Jyväskylä, Finland, to receive two master level students for six month internships at the Secretariat in Costa Rica. The Secretariat received Lisa Jokivirta for the first semester of 2008, and Jaana Laitinen and Daniel Korpela for the second semester. These interns have been very helpful and supportive in all areas of Secretariat work.

Also, throughout the year we had 15 University for Peace students that enrolled as interns in the Secretariat. They did many activities, such as organizing workshops with EC materials in schools in marginalized areas, generating research papers, helping with translations and two of them wrote their theses about topics related to the Earth Charter.

d. Education for Sustainable Development

The main educational activities led by the Secretariat focused on developing training workshops and courses, disseminating educational materials, organizing the online virtual library, and continuing with the outreach efforts in order to seek new partnerships and strengthen the existing ones.

The Earth Charter Center for ESD has become a member of the MEdIES - Mediterranean Educational Initiative for Environment and Sustainability. This is a vibrant European Educational network with partners from relevant Governmental Bodies, Educational Institutions, Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organisations. They regularly place information on the Earth Charter educational activities on their website and informational letters.



Workshop organized by UPEACE students at El Rodeo community school, Costa Rica

Workshops and courses

The EC Secretariat organized three workshops at the 4th IUCN World Conservation Forum, held in Barcelona, Spain. Many EC Initiative members also participated in this Congress and in some Earth Charter workshops. This was an occasion to show how members of IUCN can use the Earth Charter as part of their work, in their spheres of influence and, as such, implement the IUCN endorsement of the Charter (Res 3.022, 2004).

One of the workshops organized by the Secretariat was called **"Reflections on bringing values into education."** The workshop was led by ECI Affiliates: Prue Taylor and Klaus Bosselman, from the University of Auckland, New Zealand; and Usha Srinivasan, from CLEAN India – Development Alternatives. They shared their experiences using the Earth Charter in their activities. Another workshop was focused on the Intergenerational Partnership Campaign of the Youth Initiative (see Youth section).

The third workshop was a learning opportunity, these were half-day workshops intended to provide a space for the Forum's participants to share more deeply with each other, and to learn about new tools, projects, etc. The Secretariat took this opportunity to share EC Assess.

EC Assess Learning Opportunity

Twenty people from fifteen countries attended this workshop facilitated by Dominic Stucker and Alicia Jimenez. After getting acquainted with each other, the Earth Charter and EC-Assess through interactive sessions and a presentation, participants were given the opportunity to practice using EC-Assess. The subjects chosen for assessment were the IUCN Commissions. Background reading on each Commission was provided beforehand to facilitate this assessment. Participants gave positive feedback on the EC-Assess tool, highlighting its systematic approach and the richness of the discussion that was stimulated. Participants readily identified ways in which they could apply EC-Assess in their own countries, including in schools and universities, as well as local governments and youth networks.

EC Assess workshop at IUCN Conference, Barcelona.



EC Assess has served as an educational tool for different audiences and purposes. For example, INEX (EC Affiliate from Austria) organized a summer program for European Master's students. They used EC Assess to evaluate the tourism sector in Quepos (Costa Rica). EC Assess helped students identify stakeholder possibilities for improving sustainability.

The Secretariat was involved in the **teachers training project** in Costa Rica, which is part of the Presidential Initiative called **Peace with Nature**. Early in 2008 the Secretariat joined with the Ministry of Education, to spearhead an effort to incorporate values of sustainability into the formal education system. This training process directly responds to the commitment made by the Government of Costa Rica to implement the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. The coordinators decided to use the Earth Charter as the framework for this teacher training process. The Secretariat offered the first training session to set the tone offering a holistic perspective of sustainability and its principles. Fifty teachers participated in this pilot process, which will be replicated throughout 2009.

In addition to these workshops, the Secretariat gave presentations in Latvian and Costa Rican schools and Universities. Including, for example,

Final session of teacher's training, Peace with Nature Initiative, Costa Rica.



Playa Azul School and the Water Fair of the University of Costa Rica. In Latvia, at Daugavpils University, Marina Bakhnova offered short-term courses on the Charter and ESD. As a result, 11 graduate students of the M.Sc. programme and 2 PhD students chose the Earth Charter as the main theme of their graduation thesis.



Activity with children of Playa Azul school, Costa Rica.



Outreach efforts

There have been continued efforts to build on existing partnerships in Europe and Central Asia as well as to expand the Earth Charter network to new regions in the world particularly in Africa.

Africa

An important part of our outreach efforts were focused on **Africa**. The Earth Charter Initiative still needs to strengthen its presence in this region. Nigeria has been chosen as the primary focus due to its large population and strategic location in West Africa. Yakubu Joseph, UPEACE alumni, was hired from August to December 2008 to help in the process of promoting the EC in this country. The work in Nigeria has focused on: printing and distributing Earth Charter brochures, translating the Earth Charter into local languages, developing Earth Charter workshops and seminars and strengthening partnerships for the continuation of the work with the EC in Nigeria. Some specific partnerships that will be followed up in 2009 are with the Youth Empowerment and Development Initiative, and the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC).

Specific activities developed in Nigeria were:

- A seminar: "The Earth Charter and the Need for Sustainable Development in Nigeria," held on 30 August, at the auditorium of the National Library in Jos. It was organized by Choice Concept Network, and 72 people participated
- Workshop for junior staff of the Federal Ministry of Mines and Mineral Development, organized by Continental Business School, held on 12-14 August 2008.



EC workshop held at the National Library in Jos, Nigeria.

Europe and Central Asia

The outreach activities on this region were focused on Latvia, Russia, Tatarstan and Tajikistan. ECI staff member Marina Bakhnova stayed a period of 7 months in the region to promote various activities on the Earth Charter. A sample of activities carried out in each country is presented here.

Latvia

The establishment of the Earth Charter Regional Center for ESD at the Institute of Sustainable Education of Daugavpils University is facilitating, in great extent, the promotion of the Earth Charter in the University and in this country. Efforts included short-courses on the Earth Charter to the university students and a number of visits to primary and secondary schools involving presentations and discussions on the EC. As a result, several schools in the rural areas of Latvia and one in Lithuania expressed their interest in using our Earth Charter Guidebook.



Latvian rural school.

As part of the collaboration with the Institute for Sustainable Development, the Earth Charter Center for ESD participated in the development of a course syllabus on teacher training for graduates and PhD Students as well as in the development of a textbook on sustainable education research. The Earth Charter is part of both efforts.

Russia

The Center for Environmental Policy and Culture (EC Affiliate in Russia) incorporated the EC in two important Conferences: the All-Russian Conference on the problems of Education for Sustainable Development (7-9 May), and the Public Hearing and the Scientific Conference "Ecology is the Future of Russi" held at the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation (22-23 September). It was possible to present the Earth Charter and engage participants in a discussions about it.

Marina Bakhnova had strategic meetings in Russia with different organizations and people who expressed their interest in using the Earth Charter in their practices. Some examples are: the Director of Institute of Systemic Pedagogy, several Directors of Children- and Youth Environmental Centers in Siberia; the Chair of the Public Chamber of the Republic of Chechnya and the Gorbachev Foundation.

"This document is particularly close to all Chechens, as its main message is that of love and care for all the community of life and peace for everyone".

Mr. Jabrailov, Chechen Public Chamber.

Tatarstan

Plans are underway to develop a Volga Regional Earth Charter Center for Education, which will be established in cooperation with our Affiliate in Tatarstan Elena Minakova PhD, professor of the Tatar State University.

During her visits, Marina Bakhnova had intensive meetings at the Tatar Academy of Sciences, to follow up the Tatar Government's endorsement of the Earth Charter. The Academy is composed of the Tatar Public Chamber, the Ministries of Environment and Education, the Kazan State University, the Tatar State University for Liberal Arts and several secondary schools in the city of Kazan. More information on Earth Charter activities in Tatarstan are available at http://www.rt-online.ru/articles/206/84635



Meeting with the Chairman of the Public Chamber, Tatarstan.

Other approaches used this year to spread the word about the Earth Charter were the participation in various international conferences and by addressing the media. Examples include the Regional Preparatory Conference for the 48th Session of the International Conference on Education, held in Riga in February 2008 , and participation in the TV Roundtable "How we see the future in future generations" organizes by the Regional TV Network "Latgalia" in October in Daugavpils, Latvia, where the Earth Charter ethical vision was discussed.

e. Religion and Sustainability

With the generous support of the Kendeda Fund, EC International made significant progress in engaging the religious sector with the Earth Charter through new partnerships, outreach efforts and development of educational resources for religious audiences.

Educational materials

During 2008 an **Earth Charter Guide on Religion and Climate Change**, was written by Michael Slaby, as Coordinator of the Religion and Sustainability Programme. The Guide went through several rounds of comments of leading experts in the interfaith movement and also by key Earth Charter Council Members. The Alliance on Religion and Conservation, Religions for Peace, and the European Christian Environmental Network (major international interfaith and ecumenical organizations), have committed to spread the word about the release of the document and offered to help disseminating it among its many local partners and members.

A draft version of the Guide was presented at the 7th Assembly of the European Churches Environmental Network (ECEN) that took place in Milano, Italy, from September 23 to 28.

A **narrative of the religious contributions to the Earth Charter drafting process** has also been drafted; it describes in detail the international interreligious consultations that took place before the Earth Charter launch. This paper will be published in 2009.

Partnerships with religious organizations

In their annual convention in November 2008, the **Episcopal Diocese of New York** has officially endorsed the Earth Charter. The resolution calls upon the Diocesan Social Concerns Committee to start developing "action steps" to be taken by the Episcopal community for implementing the Charter locally, nationally and internationally. It also urges the Diocese to take the Charter to the General Convention of the entire Episcopal Church to be held in July 2009, and to seek its approval and endorsement.

The Evangelical Church of Baden, Germany, which represents more than 1, 3 Million Christians and 630 local congregations in the German state of Baden-Württemberg, started to use the Charter as a background document in their training of environmental tutors and auditors.

Partnerships with Interreligious Organizations

The **Global Peace Initiative of Women** used the Earth Charter in several international youth trainings they organized in India. During its second global summit of women spiritual leaders, the Earth Charter was introduced to high-level religious leaders such as HH, the 17th Gyalwang Karmapa of Tibetan Buddhism, H.H. Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi (Amma), and Imam Moulana Umair Ilyasi, secretary general of the All India Organization of Imams and Mosques that reaches out to several million Muslims in India.



His Holiness, the 17th Karmapa, with Youth Leaders from Iraq in a peace training.

Outreach efforts

The support of the Ecumenical One World Initiative (EOWI) - German Earth Charter Affiliate – to the Earth Charter and Religions efforts has been enormous. They hosted Michael Slaby in their offices, and have been actively engaging in the outreach efforts, such as highlighting the work of the ECI programme on Religion and Sustainability in the EOWI Earth Charter Newsletter and the spring edition of the "Oekumenischer Informationsdienst," the journal of key ecumenical groups, organizations and networks involved in the conciliar process in Germany.

On May 18, Michael Slaby presented the Earth Charter at the Kids' Conference of the World Future Council (WFC) and led a working group on climate change. During the meeting, Michael reached out to senior leaders in the WFC such as Judge C. G. Weeramanty, former Vice President of the International Court of Justice. In addition, the WFC agreed to partner with EOWI in conducting a major youth forum on the Earth Charter to be held in January 2009 which will have a strong focus on interreligious cooperation among young people for a better future.

f. Youth and the Earth Charter

The Earth Charter Youth Initiative successfully worked on the expansion and empowerment of youth by using cutting edge communications and opportunities for capacity building.

Expansion of Youth membership

ECYI used several communications options to enhance the possibilities to network and spread the word about the Earth Charter. Examples are an e-mail group hosted by our partner TakingItGlobal (TIG); new groups and causes in Facebook and WiserEarth; and, the Youth blog in the Earth Charter initiative's main website.

The number of individually registered Youth Initiative members has more than doubled during 2007 – 2008, growing from 245 to 544. In 2008, 15 new Youth Groups joined the Initiative.

New Earth Charter Youth Groups, 2008	
• Youth in Environment and Agriculture (YEA) Ghana	• ECYG Climate Natural
• Kenya Disabled Action Network (KEDAN)	• Farz Association of Rehabilitation and Development, Pakistan
• ECYG for Sustainability and Peace	• ECYG KRIO
• CCN Earth Charter Youth Group	• ECYC Dushanbe: "Live Earth"
• ECYG Lagos and ECYG Abuja, Nigeria	• School Connect Project
• The African School of Excellence, in Suleja, Nigeria	• University for Peace Environmental Club, Costa Rica
• YEDI ECYG for Sustainable Development, Nigeria	• ECYG United World College Costa Rica
• ECYG for Social Development and Empowerment	

Capacity building

The capacity building opportunities for Youth groups involved in the Earth Charter Initiative came about through courses, projects, campaigns and supporting Youth representatives' involvement in global governance processes.

A successful example was "e-GLO" (Earth Charter Global Learning Opportunity). This is a semester-long, online digital storytelling and community leadership course inspired by the Earth Charter. In partnership with BeatBoard and Heart-in-Action Enterprises, Earth Charter International developed and offered the course to 30 young people from 23 countries. Participants met every other week for eight two-hour sessions in e-GLO's real-time virtual conference environment.

In an effort to bridge digital and gender divides, the Earth Charter Youth Strategy aimed to attract at least 5 of the 30 participants from rural areas, while ensuring a balance of men and women. According to our survey, we graduated 10 rural participants and 14 women.

Karim El Mantawi, former student in the Media, Conflict, and Peace Studies Master's program at the University for Peace, conducted and wrote an in-depth evaluation of e-GLO, as his thesis (see ECI publications section).

Another capacity building activity was the "Special Projects Fund" (SPF), to financially support our Youth Groups in promoting and applying Earth Charter principles among youth. This project was launched in October 2008. Six proposals out of the 16 were selected to receive funding to implement specific local projects.

Supporting Youth participation in global governance processes is another key area that ECI placed special attention. Active Youth members were supported to participate in CIVICUS Youth and World Assemblies, the UN Commission of Sustainable Development and the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress.

A Campaign for Intergenerational Partnership for Sustainability (IPS) was another activity where youth efforts were focused. The Campaign used strategic international events to draft a Framework for Forming IPS; these efforts succeeded in getting the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN's) Member's Assembly to adopt a Resolution on IPS. It also involved the setting up of a successful "Buddy Experiment" between youth and members of the IUCN's Commission on Education and Communication (CEC).

Empowerment of Youth leaders

The creation of the Youth Leadership Team (YLT) in 2007 aimed to empower Youth members to take leadership roles, and demonstrate their leadership through actions. The YLT Plan of Action for 2008 – 2009 has resulted in the implementation of two global action projects: a radio campaign and a publication.

Earth Charter radio programmes were developed by YLT members and are in the process of being translated in different languages. These are planned to be aired in 2009, and feature brief radio spots to be broadcast in local languages.

The publication focuses on personal narratives and pictures for a worldwide, publication on the theme of "…moments of unexpected connection or oneness in life…" Over 100 submissions have been received from all corners of the world. The publication is planned to be released in 2009 or 2010.

The YLT made significant contributions to the design of the emerging Youth Task Force, as well as the continued role of the YLT within it.



Hind Ottmani and Didier Gleyze at CSD16, New York

G. ECI Secretariat CO_2 Emissions

Following a recommendation from the ECI Council the ECI Secretariat underwent the process of calculating its greenhouse gas emissions through air travel for 2008. All the flights were compiled for ECI Secretariat staff, for youth representatives and some Council Members. The total distance of all flights of Earth Charter in 2008 was 667 233 km. To estimate GHG-emissions, the IPCC Special Report on Aviation and the Global Atmosphere was used (http://www.ipcc.ch/ipccreports/sres/aviation/). According to this report CO_2 is the main greenhouse gas produced through aviation and has an emission factor constant and equal to 3.16 kg CO_2 from 1 kg of jet-fuel (kerosene). For the purpose of simplifying the calculation we assume the average CO_2 emissions is around 0.15 kg CO_2 /passenger*km, this figure was derived from British Airways fleet emission averages in 1997-1998. Using this calculation the CO_2 emissions from airline travels of Earth Charter in 2008 is equal to 100.08 tons of CO_2. The offset price for 1 ton of CO_2 varies from one place to another. The offset price for 1 ton of CO_2 in Costa Rica is about 5 US dollars. In the Costa Rican context the Earth Charter payments for Carbon offset would be 500.4 $(USD). The institution in charge of calculating and managing carbon offsets in Costa Rica is reviewing that. The full report will be available on our website soon.



Artwork inspired by Principle 1 of the Earth Charter. By Lorena Priego, Mexico.

IV. The Initiative around the world:

Overview of activities of Affiliates, Youth Groups and partners

The following is a compilation of some of the activities that were implemented by Earth Charter Initiative members. It is important to acknowledge that this is not an exhaustive list as we believe there are thousands of activities that were carried out and we were not aware of. Activities are organized by regions and countries.

AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST

CAMEROON

The Cameroon Association for the Protection and Education of the Child (CAPEC) has organised a series of meetings with youth leaders, schools and other institutions to promote the vision of Earth Charter in Cameroon. Recently CAPEC organised two weeks of workshops for 100 orphan children.

NIGERIA

The Center for Peace Advancement in Nigeria endorsed and adopted the Earth Charter this year. The organization has already hybridized its School Peace Clubs to form an Earth Charter youth group. There are currently 12 schools participating in the project in Plateau State.

Also, in Calabar and Warri, Earth Charter youth groups have been collaborating with several schools to promote the Earth Charter through school rallies, dramas, and organizing open-days in secondary schools.

Stephanie Tansey, has been using the Earth Charter to advance concept of "community" in a secondary school in Suleja, Abuja. She created a website to share what the students are doing: http://www.earthchartercommunities.org/nigeria/

SIERRA LEONE

The Youth have been very active in promoting the Earth Charter as a guide to achieve a culture of peace in Sierra Leone, especially after the difficult civil war they experienced in the 90s. A total of ten ECYG groups have been created in Sierra Leone: four in Freetown, two in Bo, two in Kono and two in Makeni.They are collaborating with various other youth groups, youth-serving agencies and other organizations across Sierra Leone.



CAPEC workshop with orphan children, Cameroon.

ZAMBIA

The Workers Education Association of Zambia (WEAZ) – a new EC Affiliate –participated in the Climate Change Community Summit, launched by Earth Charter U.S. on October 11 2008. The Summit had 52 participants from various Local Organizations. The Earth Charter was discussed and analyzed during this event. As an outcome of the Summit, three committees were created corresponding to three pillars of the Earth Charter: Ecological Integrity, Social and Economic Justice, and Democracy, Non Violence and Peace. These committees will identify actions that WEAZ can do related to each pillar.



Local Community Summit
Lusaka, Zambia.

AMERICAS

ARGENTINA

Ala Plástica (Earth Charter Affiliate) incorporated the Charter in an Interface Exercise Project held in the framework of Kultur-Natur, from July to August. More information at http://www.natur-kultur.net/

They disseminated the Earth Charter within the itinerant project "Temporal Office," an open space to share with the community and let them express ideas and thoughts about ways to facilitate self-organization. More information on this at http://www.hacercomunidad.org/Nota.aspx?IdNota=3135

They also work in the promotion of the Charter at the Center of Knowledge and Social/ Environmental care of the Plata Basin in Foz de Iguazú, Brazil. More information here: http://www.saberycuidar.org/home/



Activity of the Temporal Office project, Argentina.

BRAZIL

The Earth Charter movement is very vibrant in Brazil. Listed are here just a few activities that happened this year.

The company **Embraco**, who develops compressors for refrigerators, has been giving awards for 15 years to schools in Brazil who promote environmental culture through specific projects. In 2008, the Embraco Ecology Award, encouraged the applicants to use the Earth Charter as inspiration to develop their projects. For this, they printed and distributed a special brochure to further raise awareness and understanding of the Earth Charter. More information at www.embraco.com

UMAPAZ celebrated a Meeting of the Earth Charter and Eco-pedagogy in June. The purpose was to present initiatives that will contribute to sustainable education and promote the sharing of experiences among the schools participating in the Earth Charter Education Program that they led. More information on this and other Earth Charter events from UMAPAZ can be found at http://ww2.prefeitura.sp.gov.br/secretarias/meio_ambiente/umapaz/cartadaterra.html

The **Earth Dialogues 2008,** organized by **Green Cross International** (Earth Charter Affiliate) was held in the city of Belo Horizonte, from 26 to 28 November. Members of the Earth Charter Initiative participated in this event, which brought together more than 2000 people to discuss the action plans for bringing about sustainability in Brazil and beyond. One keynote speaker was 2007 Nobel Peace Prize winner and IPCC Vice-President Mohan Munasinghe.

The **Open School Program** of the University of Brasilia adopted the Earth Charter as a sustainability and ethical reference for its activities and undertakings. The objective of this program is to improve the quality of education, social inclusion and the construction of a culture of peace through community outreach activities. Between 2007 and 2008 they worked with 41 public schools in 13 neighbouring cities. More information here http://www.cartadaterra.com.br/

The **Vivemos Juntos** (We live together) blog: http://vivemosjuntos.blogspot.com/, has been actively sharing different experiences with 44 environmental education networks in Brazil. Since June, this blog provided weekly updates related to the Earth Charter in Brazil.

CANADA

ECI Affiliate, **Little Anima-tion Inc.,** continues to surprise us with wonderful developments. Their flagship project "Kids' Stories International", a series of animated shorts in English and French, was completed at the beginning of the year and is now being distributed to the educational market by CinéFête.

My Life Me comedy was launched into production this year for Teletoon, France 2 and Canal J, with broadcast set for September 2009. Equally exciting was the financing of the Little Earth Charter (LEC) educational web and video series, funded by Little Animation and Manitoba Conservation's Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF). This material has been approved for early years learning by Manitoba's Ministry of Education, Citizenship and Youth.

The LEC's eight shorts have been animated by 1996 Oscar nominated director Alexei Kharitidi and produced by Little Animation Inc. with co-producers Rosie Emery and Studio Kinetika. It will be available for distribution in spring 2009.

The Little Earth Charter was presented by Rosie Emery as keynote speaker at the Early Childhood Circles of Care Conference in Fort Myers, at the Florida NAEYC Conference in Orlando, and at the League of Environmental Educators of Florida. For more information, please visit: www.littleanimation.com and www.littleearthcharter.org



Postcard of little Earth Charter, Canada.

Enough Already!.. is a song written and performed by Pam Gerrand, a Canadian artist that got inspired by the Earth Charter to create this song, in honor of the celebration of Earth Day, at the Symposium in Stratford, Ontario. More information can be found at Pam's website: www.pamgerrand.com Also, the video of this song is in You Tube, in the following link: http://ca.youtube.com/watch?v=SYwQLWlMLZA

Mitra Doherty (EC Affiliate) has been presenting the Earth Charter at different activities and institutions such as School Boards and CIGI (Canadian International Grains Institute). More info: http://utility.theigloo.org/media/F4T_Mitra_Doherty_April162007/Untitled/SupportingFiles/Viewer.html. She is the chair of a health advocate group called "Quantum Health Alliance". The group has adopted the Charter as its main tool to bring Health care professionals together and bring about effective health at a core environmental level.

She also created a photo exhibition based on the Earth Charter using the individual photos. The exhibition is being showed at the Cold Water Gallery www.coldwatergallery.com

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Ministry of Education carried out some orientation courses using the Earth Charter for teachers that are obtaining their Master Degree in Science at the Pedro Enriquez Ureña University. 60 teachers from different regions of the country have already participated in these courses. Each educator learns about the Earth Charter and makes a commitment to use it in their classrooms and share it with their co-workers.



Orientation course with the Earth Charter, Dominican Republic.

COSTA RICA

Leonardo Boff visited Costa Rica from 9 to 11 March, invited by La Salle University. He participated in several events as the keynote speaker. An important event took place at the National Theater, where the Minister of Education invited him to address approximately 400 teachers coming from all over the country. Boff focused his presentation on the messages of the Earth Charter. In addition a special event took place at La Salle University, which brought together over 500 participants and Boff presented the EC Video and inspired participants with the vision of the Charter.

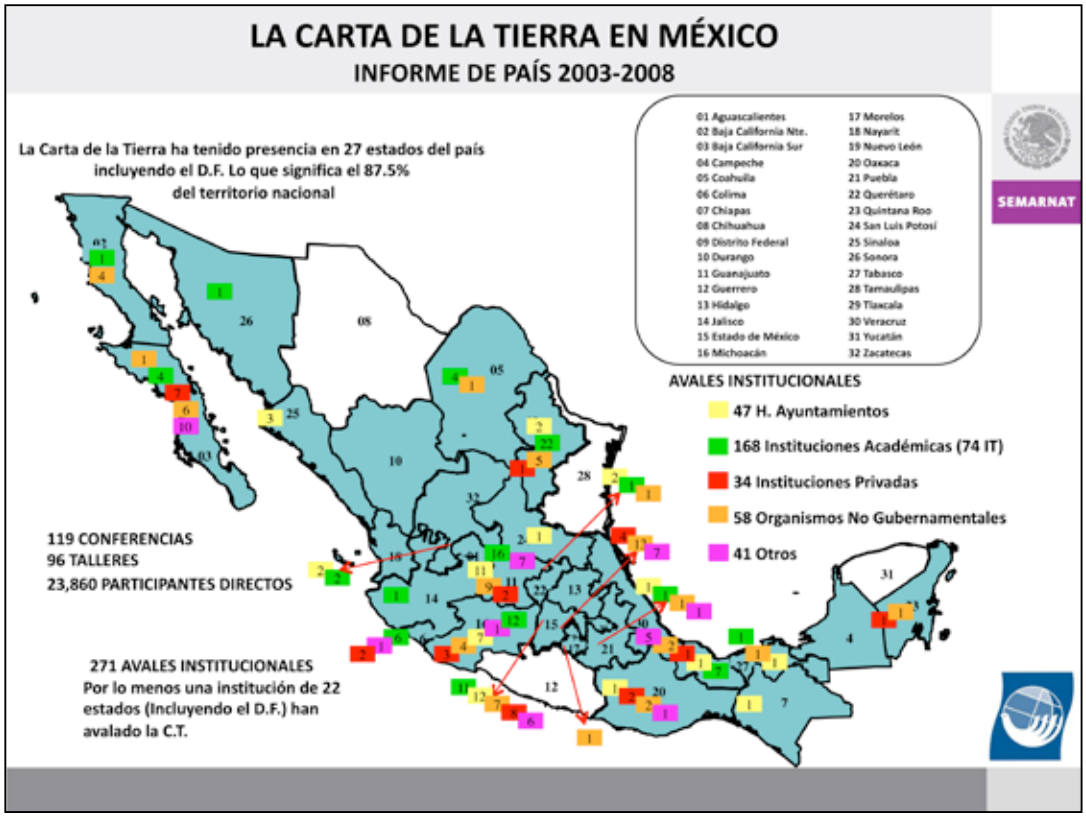


Leonardo Boff and Leonardo Garnier, Ministry of Education of Costa Rica.

> *"The Earth and Humanity's situation makes us reflect.... What is the next step? More of the same? ... The next step should be this: find the inexhaustible spiritual capital and begin to organize life, production, society and our daily life around it"*
>
> *Leonardo Boff*, speech at La Salle University.

MEXICO

Report on Earth Charter actions in Mexico, 2008.



In Mexico, the Earth Charter movement is very vibrant. The following map shows where the Initiative has been growing in terms of endorsements, partnerships and various activities.

It is important to highlight the work done by the painter Lorena Priego. She created 16 paintings inspired by the EC, employing a wide range of media and styles. She first presented them in the exhibition called **"Llanto Verde"** (Green Cry), at Tabasco Planetary 2000 in April. This exhibition was also presented at the VI International Congress on Urbanism and Environment, held at the Autonomous University of Puebla, in May. Her work was made possible thanks to the contributions of the Federal Government and the State of Tabasco.



Artwork inspired by Principle 15 of the Earth Charter. By Lorena Priego, Mexico.

PERU

Earth Charter Peru is a new Affiliate who has been raising awareness to various groups about the Earth Charter. They are also promoting the Earth Charter in the education sector, by visiting schools and sharing educational materials on the Earth Charter. One example is the visit they made to the Leonardo Da Vinci secondary school in Lima. As a result of this visit, several courses started to incorporate activities and content on the Earth Charter.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A remarkable event this year was the **Earth Charter Climate Change Community Summit** (ECUS), held on October 11, 2008. It was an international event where members of the worldwide EC Initiative were invited. Using the Earth Charter's ethical framework for sustainability, each organization custom designed its Summit to bring people together to most effectively address climate change and its effects in their locale. The videos with some of the speakers for the Summit, as well as the list of participant cities and organizations from the US and internationally can be found in ECUS webpage

Another important happening this year was the official endorsement of the **Episcopal Diocese of New York**. This endorsement was agreed during their 232nd Convention held from Nov. 14 to 15 in Mahwah, New Jersey. The Diocese consists of more than 200 congregations. It was one of its members, the **Episcopal St. Matthew's Church**, in New York, who first endorsed the Earth Charter and then actively sought an endorsement from the whole Diocese. The Earth Charter will be on the agenda of the General Convention of the entire Episcopal Church in July 2009 that is made up of around 7,500 congregations across the United States and abroad.

SGI-USA has been also actively promoting the Earth Charter. The "Seeds of Change" exhibition was presented in Las Vegas on 19 April. Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman proclaimed April 19 **"Earth Charter Day"** in the city, and Fox and CBS television affiliates and local newspapers provided media coverage. More information here.

The Arlington Hilton, in Washington DC has been promoting the Earth Charter. The whole personnel of the hotel have been introduced to the EC vision and have individually endorsed the Charter and are exploring ways to put it into action, some examples are:

- Hilton Arlington sponsored food/turkey drives and made donations to neighbouring community shelters
- Their Chef doesn't purchase species that are endangered, and is adding more sustainable food items to the menus.
- The housekeeping & Kitchen are using more environmentally friendly cleaning products
- The hotel partnered with Ashlawn Elementary School and ACE (Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment) and developed the ***Global Citizenship Project***, which aims to bring the Earth Charter to the strategic plan of Arlington Public Schools. There is more information on their Environmental Initiatives in their website.

A **New York Earth Charter Alliance** was formed in October, and launched a website were participants can interact in discussions about possible actions, apply the vision and the principles of the Earth Charter to the life of New York City.



ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

AUSTRALIA

The **Australia Earth Charter Committee** has been very active this year. They have been raising awareness about the Charter within a universities network called ACTS Inc. (Australian Campuses Towards Sustainability). They organized a workshop at their annual conference in October, where 'EC-Assess' was presented.

The Committee also launched the Queensland version of the **Earth Charter poster for children** through a schools competition, and, has been supporting the establishment of Green Cross Australia.

A new Affiliate from Australia joined this year, the **Edmund Rice Centre.** Nonetheless, this organization has been using the Earth Charter for several years now. In 2005 they started the **Eco-Justice project**, a self-evaluation to examine how they could better integrate ecological concerns in to the practice and work of the Centre. From the starting of this program, the Earth Charter was used as philosophical framework. For more information visit: http://www.erc.org.au/

Activities using the Earth Charter to implement the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development have been on the rise in Australia. The Minister of Education, Training and the Arts presented to the Queensland parliament the "**Statement on Sustainability for All Queensland Schools - Enough for All forever" (12 March 2008).** The statement complements the *National Environmental Statement for Australian Schools - Educating for a Sustainable Future* and builds on the commitment made at the 2006 Brisbane Earth Dialogues to integrate the Earth Charter and embed sustainability across school curricula and operations. This document has been endorsed by the CEOs of all three education sectors; the Queensland Catholic Education Commission, Independent Schools of Queensland and the Director General of the Queensland Department of Education, Training and the Arts.

Wondai State School in Queensland, is putting into practice their commitment to the DESD and to the Earth Charter. They wrote a song about the Earth Charter, and created a video. This year, they built a community permaculture garden and are in the process of building a mud brick classroom in the middle of the garden. They created wearable art, implemented renewable energy projects, tree planting campaigns and held a 'Funky Futures Festival' showcasing student's experiences regarding sustainability.



This is the Earth Charter of Wondai School

It's how we want to live and it's pretty cool
We have enough for us, plenty more to share
We want the whole wide world to know we care…

Earth Charter Song,
Wondai State School.

CHINA

Several environmental educators from different NGOs of Chengdu, China, produced a series of environmental education textbooks for students from grades 1 to 11. Yang Liu, a long time supporter of the Earth Charter, is one of them. The textbooks were requested and ordered by the Chongqing Provincial Education Bureau and Chongqing Provincial Environmental Protection Bureau. By November they were already printed and distributed, to the whole region of Chongqing, an area with 30,000,000 people. The Earth Charter was introduced in the textbook for students in grade eight, with case studies of how young people in other countries are putting into practice environmental and social ideas through Earth Charter principles. Also, the books contain information of the history of the Earth Charter.



Cover of Chinese environmental education materials.

> *For us this is the first time that we work with a governmental organization and to introduce the advanced environmental education experiences from NGO field to a large number of students. This is something rare happening in China!*
>
> *Yang Liu*, environmental educator.

INDIA

The EC Affiliate CLEAN India Program, of Development Alternatives, has been effectively following up the **Earth Charter Educational Programme**. It was launched in 2007 for schools in **Delhi**. This year, they organized a series of workshops for teachers. Participants got an opportunity to interact with scientists, farmers, artists and activists, and learn about techniques and methodologies to put sustainability into practice. In these trainings they received manuals, posters and brochures.

Examples of ongoing projects initiated by schools in 2007-08 under EC Programme:

- Green million by Delhi School students – reforestation with more than a million trees
- Celebrating River yamuna – Monitoring the river water quality, cleaning of the banks.
- Waste paper recycling systems in schools
- Adoption of a resettlement slum (*Gol Kuan*) in an industrial area in Delhi
- Towards Zero Waste Schools and Rag pickers "going to School" programme

Organized in partnership with the Delhi Government at the Delhi Secretariat, the outcomes of the EC Programme were presented at a seminar called "Partnership for Sustainable Development" on 22 April. The Chief Minister and the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Forests attended this Seminar, and addressed the teachers and students.



Activities of the Earth Charter Educational Programme in New Delhi, India.











A partner of the EC Religion and Sustainability Programme, the **United Religions Initiative (URI),** has declared its strong interest in joining forces with the Earth Charter Youth Initiative. As a first step for this partnership, they invited Anant Singh, ECYI representative in India and spokesperson of the United Sikhs, to speak at the URI global youth assembly in November 2008.

INDONESIA

LENTING has been actively promoting the Earth Charter in Indonesia for many years, especially among Indigenous groups. In January, they visited schools and indigenous groups in Sumatra. They engaged in dialogue with teachers and community leaders, who agreed to consider incorporating the EC principles to their local values and wisdom.

On Earth Day 2008, the Earth Charter was incorporated into several events. LEAD Indonesia conducted a public seminar called "Toward Sustainable Cities in Indonesia" opened by Erna Witoelar, Earth Charter Council Member. This event launched a training process on the topic of "Sustainable Cities: an investment for our future leaders as the agents of change". The Madania School celebrated with the "Earth Week Exhibition", where works from students of all levels were featured.

JAPAN

The members of the **Earth Charter Asia Pacific & Japan** are doing great things for the Earth Charter Initiative. They have been distributing the EC in Japanese throughout the country. A member of this Committee, Mr. Takeuchi, started a booklet explaining and giving examples of the meaning of each principle contained in the Earth Charter, in English and Japanese. Senator Wakako Hironaka, member of the ECI Council, is part of a group in parliament that discusses issues related to the environment. They organize a major event bi-annually, with distinguished speakers, to share about the Earth Charter. The **Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC),** held its third forum in Hiroshima, Japan from 24 to 26 May. It brought together more than 350 religious leaders, Nobel Peace Laureates and senior UN officials to launch the new educational resource *"Learning to Live Together: An Intercultural and Interfaith Programme for Ethics Education"* which makes a reference to the Earth Charter. ECI Council member Henriette Rasmussen gave the opening key note address on "The Ethical Imperative to Protect the Earth" it can be found on GNRC's website.

MALAYSIA

Earth Charter Malaysia is promoting the Earth Charter through many activities, the following are some examples:

- A Series of lectures organized with more than 1000 local community leaders.
- The Distribution of EC brochures during neighborhood functions and meetings.
- A Drawing competition on the EC Logo for school children.
- Press Statements in the local newspapers to call on people to endorse the EC

TAIWAN

In July, the Taiwan Ecological Stewardship Association (TESA - Affiliate of the EC Initiative) started a network called **Earth Charter Taiwan**. Since its beginnings, EC Taiwan has been very active. It has offered Study Groups, Immersion Camps, Basic Courses, and Youth Volunteer Training. In addition, TESA organized a series of **Environmental Ethics Lectures**, conducted by Dr. Holmes Rolston III, the Father of Environmental Ethics, where the Earth Charter was discussed in depth. These lectures lasted six weeks, from 30 September to 15 November.

A partner of the EC Religion and Sustainability Programme, **Dharma Drum Mountain World Buddhist Association** of Taiwan, is using the Earth



Activity of immersion camp in the tribal villages, Taiwan.

Charter in its campaign of protecting the spiritual environment and has declared its firm interest in partnering with ECI to host Earth Charter-based training workshops for religious leaders at their centers in Taiwan and upstate New York.

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

FRANCE

A breakout session on the Earth Charter was conducted as part of the **61st Annual DPI/NGO Conference held at UNESCO Headquarters** in Paris (4 September). The session was called "Human rights, sustainable development and the Earth Charter." It explored the linkages between the Human Rights and the Sustainable Development movements and the role the Earth Charter can play in advancing these causes.

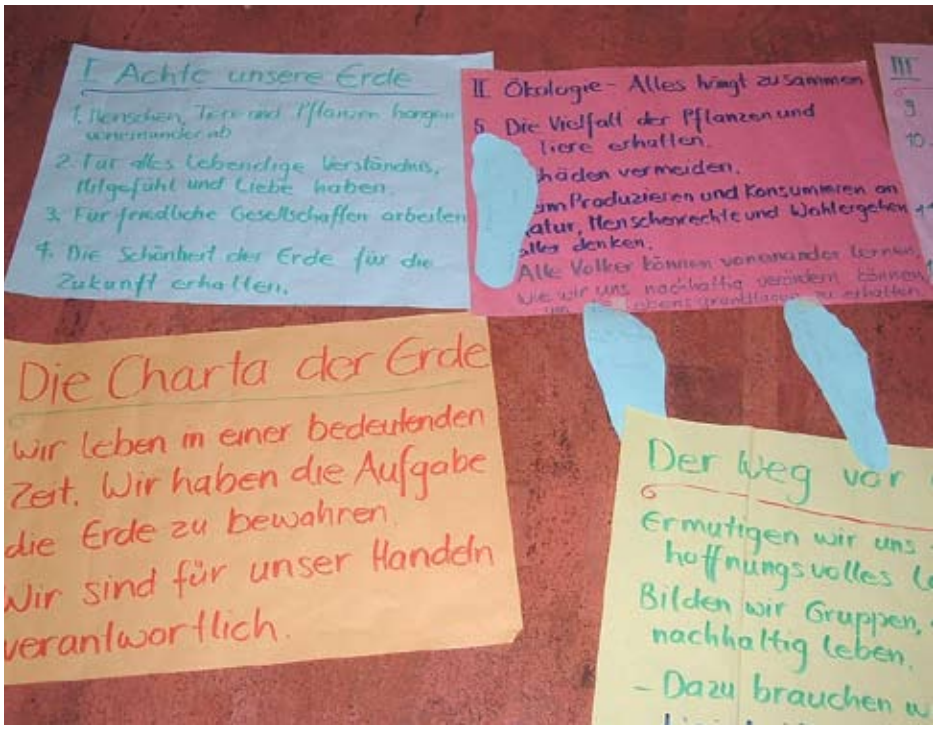
GERMANY

In 2008, education for sustainable development was high on the agenda of the Eumenical One World Initiative (EOWI). They did extensive work in the German round table for the DESD, and successfully promoted the inclusion of two Earth Charter related projects into the National Plan of Action that was published by the German UNESCO Commission in September.

The two Earth Charter projects focus on the creation of an Earth Charter Youth Network in Germany, and the facilitation of an exchange of experience between religious institutions in regards to the Earth Charter and ESD. In this context, the EOWI employed the intern Insa Lütge in an annual programme to promote the Charter among youth organizations and interested young people in Germany. As a result, an Earth Charter Youth Group has been created in the Northern part of Germany. On several occasions, EOWI members started to reach out to the young and conducted Earth Charter workshops in schools.

The German translation of the EC teacher's handbook was published in its third edition and is being circulated widely among teacher training institutions in Germany.

During the summer, the city of Königsfeld in the Black Forest conducted a series of 25 events that had the topic "The Earth Charter lends wings to Königsfeld". Königfelds's Earth Charter Summer was prepared by a network of organizations around



Workshop with youth in Germany.

the Albert Schweizer Center and included lectures, festivals, nature walks and a Turkish-German cultural event that attracted many participants.



Cultural Earth Charter event in Königsfeld, Germany.

GREENLAND

An international conference on **Climate Change and Sustainability** was organized by a local Earth Charter group from the small South Greenlandic town of Narsaq, in collaboration with Green Cross Sweden and WWF, Denmark. The event, that took place in this town from 20-23 April, participants included a group of international scientists, local high school students and representatives from the local community. At the end of the seminar, a group of high school students from the near-by town of Qaqortoq arranged an event and published a **resolution**.

ITALY

"The healing hearth. The wisdom of nature and sustainable communities", is the name of an international conference organized by the Cogeme Onlus Foundation, EC Affiliate, on 8 November, in Castegnato (Brescia,).

This Conference was organized in collaboration with the Municipality of Castegnato, sponsored by Fondazione Cariplo, and supported by UNESCO, the Lombardy Region (Environmental quality division), the Università Cattolica Sacro Cuore and Italian Ministry of Education.

The main topic discussed was native peoples' culture and values: respect and love for Earth, sense of belonging and sacredness. They invited as special guest Henriette Rasmussen, representative of Inuit culture, member of the Earth Charter Council, founder of the Permanent Forum for Indigenous peoples under the UN; and former Minister for Social Affairs in Greenland.

LATVIA

Through the Earth Charter Regional Center for ESD at the Daugavpils University it has been possible to reach out to the Latvian Government. This year, the Minister of Education of Latvia agreed to the official integration of the Earth Charter into the national educational policy as one of the priority issues to be discussed at the governmental level in 2008-2009, including the translation of the Earth Charter Teachers Guidebook into Latvian and publishing it for wide distribution among the teachers and teachers training institutions.

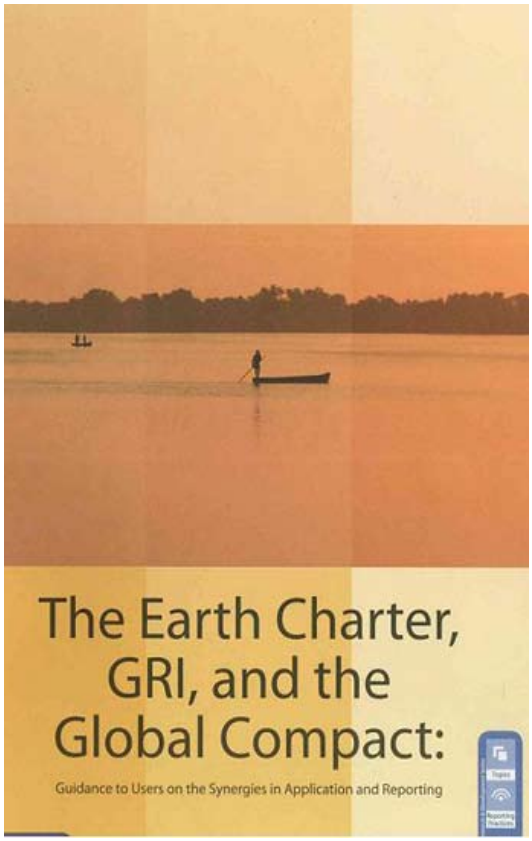
NETHERLANDS

ECI, NCDO and the Global Reporting Initiative hosted a special event on 8 May during the **'Global Conference on Sustainability and Transparency'**, in Amsterdam. The purpose of the event, chaired by Ruud Lubbers, was to discuss how the Earth Charter and the GRI can work together to better advance their partnership and shared missions and to discuss the publication called *"The Earth Charter, GRI and the Global Compact: Guidance to Users on the Synergies in Application and Reporting."* This publication can be downloaded on www.globalreporting.org. And more details about the actions of the Earth Charter Initiative with the business sector can be found in our webpage www.earthcharter.org

On May 11, the **International Association for Human Values (IAHV)**, one of the world's largest charity organizations founded by His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar of India, organized a charity concert to support of the Earth Charter Programme on Religion and Sustainability. The concert took place in Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, and generated 10,000 Euros for the Programme.

On December 3, a seminar on "Business and Human Rights" was conducted at the Royal

Tropical Institute in Amsterdam, many of the attendees of the EC meeting shared with hundreds of other participants from the private sector of The Netherlands. An important attendee that came especially to this meeting was Federico Mayor Zaragoza, EC Commissioner and Director General of UNESCO (1987 – 1999).



We need new leaders for new times of great transitions. From conflicts to deliberations. From a culture of violence and war to a culture of dialogue, reconciliation and peace. Great crises, great opportunities…"

Federico Mayor Zaragoza.

NORWAY

In Norway, two Affiliates of the EC Initiative - Leif-Runar Forsth and Halvor Stormoen are actively promoting the Earth Charter by organizing presentations and speeches in important events, such as the Forum for New Social Thinking and the Rotary Youth Leadership award. They have been targeting the private sector and have presented the Charter to top executives of corporations and to TEKNA, a National group of small business owners. They are also promoting the Earth Charter in the political sphere. They, for example, are in talks with the Municipality of Oslo about the possibilities of incorporating the principles of the Earth Charter into their strategic planning.



Halvor Stormoen presenting the Earth Charter in Norway.

PORTUGAL

ASPEA (Portuguese Association for Environmental Education) celebrated different activities this year, such as:

- The XV Pedagogical Meetings of ASPEA called in Leiria, from 25-26 January.
- The V Earth Charter Forum for Children and Youngsters, held in Aveiro from 22-23 April.

There were many more activities carried out by ASPEA in 2008 and they can be found at their website http://www.aspea.org/.

Sao Monteiro, a Portuguese teacher, has organized a truly international project using the EC and the Little Earth Charter (produced by Little Animation Inc. our Affiliate in Canada). He helped create a network of schools called **"Working Together"**, made up of schools from Russia, Belgium, Japan and South America among others. The students have been able to grasp and comprehend Earth Charter material very well.



Pedagogical Meetings of ASPEA in Portugal.

RUSSIA

EC Affiliates in Russia have been actively promoting the Earth Charter and their efforts have produced some good results. The Environmental Commission of the Russian Public Chamber adopted a resolution to use the Earth Charter in the educational activities of 90 organizational branches, particularly in their environmental education efforts. Also, this Commission and the Center for Environmental Policy and Culture adopted a resolution to appeal to the Russian government to use the Earth Charter principles as an ethical framework for the national system of formal education. In addition, the Center created 10 thousand copies of an educational CD "Ecology is the Future of Russia" to be used as an visual tool to compliment a 45-minute Earth Charter lesson for secondary schools.

These organizations are planning to organize a special presentation to the Russian government to propose the use of the Earth Charter as a foundation for the process of the development of the Russian National Agenda, the contents and focus of which is the subject of nation-wide discussions.

SPAIN

There is a great diversity of activities and organizations using and promoting the Earth Charter in Spain. The **Association of Sustainable Initiatives** organized a teachers training Seminar, to promote the Earth Charter as educational tool, the Seminar was held on 21 June in Salamanca. It was organized in collaboration with ASPEA (Portuguese Affiliate), the Union of Education Workers (STE), the Co-op Public Education movement (MCEP), Values Foundation, and with financial support from of the Social Work fund from Caja España.

Avalon Project (http://www.avalonproject.org/) carried out several Earth Charter-related activities including:

- A presentation of the Earth Charter to students and Faculty of Philosophy and Science at the University of Valencia.
- Workshops for children of different nationalities. These were carried out by a local group of volunteers from Requena, Valencia. They used an 8 page booklet in which included several drawings inspired by Earth Charter principles.

In May the 8th edition of **Foro Soria 21** was celebrated in Valencia, with the theme "Innovation and Sustainable Development". The attendees committed to follow up the decisions that were made before, such as the adhesion of Soria to the Earth Charter as an ethical framework for sustainable development, and as an educational instrument within the Decade of ESD. For more information on Foro Soria 21 visit http://www.forodesoria.org/programa_8_1.php

Fundación Valores continues to be a very active member of the EC Initiative. Some activities they did in 2008 include:

- Initiated dialogue with M.I.A. (Interreligious Round Table of Alicante), and convinced them to participate in the effective dissemination and application of the Earth Charter principles in schools.
- Introduced the Charter to the *Urban Angels Camp*, celebrated in Caceres and Madrid. These camps are dedicated to children and adults with different levels of physical disabilities. With this in mind, the Charter was presented in very creative ways, like games, dances, videos, stories and drawings. At the end of the activity all participants received a "Caretakers of the Earth" diploma.
- Represented the Earth Charter at the ninth edition of the National Congress on Environment, CONAMA 9, which took place on 1-5 December at the Municipal Palace of Madrid. More on these and other activities can be found in their 2008 Memoir at http://www.fundacionvalores.es/

Guillem Ramis, an individual Earth Charter Affiliate, brought to our attention the association "*Gent de Marratxí*" (People from Marratxi). Their main goal is to promote and nurture the active participation of citizens in the communitarian lifestyle and they offer the Earth Charter as a base for reflection and action. Their motto is "Another world is possible, another Marratxi too, think globally and act locally". Their website is http://www.marratxiner.org-a.googlepages.com/lecturesinteressants.

The **UNESCO Chair of UNED** (Long Distance State University, Madrid), has been using the Earth Charter in many of their activities. They, for example included an article on the Earth Charter in a well-known and indexed journal called Revista de Educación, of the Ministry of Education. María Novo, a Faculty member of this University and international speaker, has included the Earth Charter in many of her speeches on planetary citizenship.



Road safety education with the Earth Charter in Spain, Fundación Valores.

TAJIKISTAN

The **Tajik Civil Association "Foundation to Support Civil Society Initiatives (FSCI)"**, an Earth Charter Affiliate, has been actively involved with the EC Initiative since 1999. In 2008, they organized several activities with impressive media coverage, especially during the Earth Day celebrations. In addition, they translated and published the Earth Charter brochure, and the EC Guide for Teachers into Tajik. It was presented at the National workshop organized by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Tajikistan and FSCI, State Committee for Environmental Protection and the OECD country office.



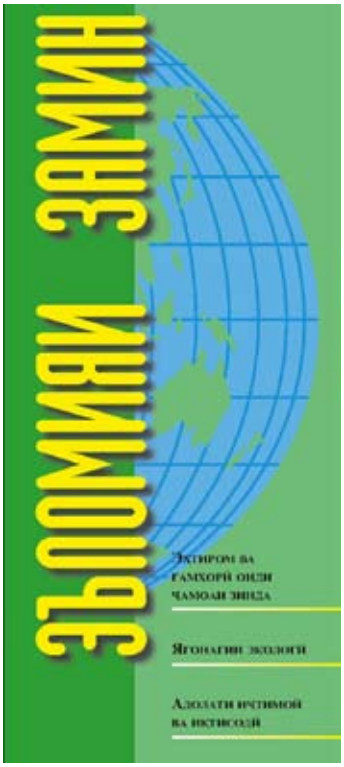
Students in Tajikistan learning about the Earth Charter.

Throughout 2008, FCSI developed training processes using the Earth Charter, with different Tajik youth organizations such as: the young national intelligentsia, members of the national ecological movement "The Green Patrol", high school students from 25 country regions.

TATARSTAN

In 2001, the **Tatar government and Parliament** officially endorsed the Earth Charter. Seven years later, their commitment has not changed. The **Chairman of the Tatar Public Chamber** has confirmed the Earth Charter is used as a framework for their activities in different spheres of public life, particularly, in environmental policies and civil society capacity building. The Commissions on Public Policies, Environment and Energy Security, and Education widely use the Charter in their planning processes.

The President of the **Tatar Academy of Sciences** expressed that their sections on Environment and Civil Sciences carry out research and study the Earth Charter principles and use it in their scientific studies and expertise. Also 80,000 secondary school students are involved in environmental projects which are based on the Earth Charter principles, in particular, its 2nd Pillar "Ecological integrity".



Earth Charter booklet in Tatar.

UNITED KINGDOM

As an outcome of the training for religious leaders, organized by Earth Charter UK and ECI, in September 2007, an interfaith initiative of local religious congregations, spearheaded by Rabbi Neil Amswych and Rabbi Jeffrey Newman, successfully moved the Bournemouth Borough Council to adopt and endorse the Earth Charter. This happened in February, 2008.

V. PUBLICATIONS

Publications by the Earth Charter International Secretariat:

1. The Earth Charter Initiative Handbook (English, Spanish, French and Russian)

2. EC-Assess: The Earth Charter Ethics-Based Assessment Tool (English and Spanish)

3. Generating the Renewable Energy of Hope. The Earth Charter Guide to Religion and Climate Change. (English)

4. Article: Reflecting on climate change and ethics: An Earth Charter call to action. In Ingrid Srinath and Katsuji Imata (Eds.), e-CIVICUS, 2 July, Issue 396. Southdale, South Africa: World Alliance for Citizen Participation. http://www.civicus.org/ecivicus-newsletter.

5. Article: "Earth Charter perspective about competences for the 21st century literacy programs". (In: Report to the Ministry of Education of Costa Rica and UNESCO Office about the 21st Century Alphabetization). (Spanish)

6. Earth Charter Module – In the teachers training process: "Education for Democracy, Human Rights and Peace Culture" of Cultura de Paz Foundation, Spain. (Spanish)

Research papers by EC interns and volunteers:

"Int erwoven Stories: The fabric of community." Editors: Lisa Jokivirta and Jessica Moe.

"Protecting life from climate change. The need for synergies between policy, ethics, and education." By: David Chalmers.

"Earth Charter as a framework for intercultural dialogue." By: Melissa Elander.

Estrada de Oliveira, Marcos Roberto. 2008. *"Education for Sustainable Development within the formal curriculum in Costa Rica: The example of Earth Charter materials in primary schools."* Thesis. Master of Arts on Peace Education. University for Peace. Costa Rica.

El Mantawi, Karim. 2008. *"The Earth Charter Global Learning Opportunity – An evaluation of an Online Course in Digital Storytelling and Community Leadership."* Thesis. Master of Arts on Media, Peace and Conflict Studies. University for Peace. Costa Rica.

Publications by Partners and Affiliates:

"The Earth Charter, GRI and the Global Compact: Guidance to Users on the Synergies in Application and Reporting." Produced by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), is available for free download on www.globalreporting.org

"Inspiration for Global Governance. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Earth Charter." Written by Ruud Lubbers, Willem van Genugten and Tineke Lambooy, for the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights.

"A Voice for Earth: American Writers Respond to the Earth Charter." Edited by Peter Blaze Corcoran and A. James Wohlpart. More information about this publication: http://www.ugapress.uga.edu/0820331724.html

"Stand up for the Earth Community. Win the struggle against global warming." An article written by Song Li and Brendan Mackey, ECI Council Members, and published in the Pacific Ecologist Journal, volume 15, Summer 2007/2008. The article can be accessed here http://www.pacificecologist.org/archive/15/earth-charter.pdf

"TESA Series in Thought and Praxis of Environmental Ethics." Four volumes published by Taiwan Ecological Stewardship

Association, and edited by Nancy Tzu-Mei Chen:

I. Introduction to Environmental Ethics
II. From Land Ethics to Earth Charter
III. The Praxis of Environmental Ethics and Ecological Spirituality in Taiwan
IV. Reconstructing the Ecological Culture in Taiwan

"Histórias de Aprender e Ensinar para Mudar o Mundo." (Stories to learn and to teach how to change the world). Published by Instituto BioMA, this book is the result of the project called "Jovem Cidadão Amigo da Natureza" (Young Citizen Friend of Nature) which took place during 2006 and 2007 in Sao Paulo.

"Bringing Sustainability into the Classroom. An Earth Charter Guidebook for Teachers." The following versions of this ECI Publication were produced in 2008:

- Russian version published by the Association for Human Sustainable Development, EC Affiliate from Armenia.
- Tajik version, published by the Foundation for Support for Civil Societies Initiatives.
- German version, published by Ecumenical One World Initiative and the Pedagogical Center Rheinland-Pfalz.

"Ethics and the Challenge of Sustaining Gaia: Why the Earth Charter matters for climate change." By Johannah Bernstein, prepared for the National Committee for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development (NCDO), Netherlands.

Klaus Bosselman and Prue Taylor, Faculty members of the University of Auckland, New Zealand, and EC Affiliate published three books in 2008; all referring to the Earth Charter

- "The Principles of Sustainability: Transforming Law and Governance." Published by Ashgate.
- "Reconciling Human Existence with Ecological Integrity: Science, Ethics, Economics and Law." Published by Earthscan Ltd.
- "Governance for Sustainability. Issues, Challenges, Successes." Published by IUCN Environmental Law Programme. Environmental Law Centre, Germany.

"The truth of the matter is that something very powerful is now beginning, which is closely related to globalization: We are witnessing the awakening of a sense of the whole Earth."

Steven Rockefeller, EC Amsterdam meeting, December 2008.

VI. FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES - 2008

Earth Charter International - All activities
January 1 - December 31, 2008

INCOME	**USD**	**USD**
Foundation Grants		
Int'l Assoc for Human Values/Netherlands	15,550	
Plan Netherlands - General Support	0	
Plan Netherlands - Youth Initiative	0	15,550
Major Individual Donors		
Seaward Fund (S. Rockefeller)		81,882
Small Donors (Less than USD 10,000)		22,218
International Agencies		
UNESCO		4,500
Corporate / Business Donations		
Amana-Key (O. Motomura)	70,000	
NCDO	15,431	
Koninklijke Bam Group	15,801	
Carta da Terra/Brasil	12,738	
CH2M Hill, Inc.	50,000	
Dutch Gov't/Ruud Lubbers	234,208	
		398,178
Fees for Services (Courses etc.)		0
Sales of Products (Books etc.)		733
Return on invested fund/ Interest Income		-3,770
Other/Miscellaneous		0
Total Income		**519,291**
EXPENSES		
Salaries and Professional Services		178,903
Strategic, Program, and Communications Consulting Support		26,134
Youth Program (Restricted Funding)		93,885
Religion Program (Restricted Funding)		65,518
RBF - Education Resource - Program Development		11,816
Telecommunications & Internet		2,956
Translation Services		2,963
Travel		17,918
Council of Trustees Expenses (Travel and Meeting Costs)		12,914
Events and Meetings		8,956
Office (Rent, Equipment, Security, and Expenses)		5,565
Publications Development		0
Printing and Postage		9,792
Staff Training and Development		0
Insurance		0
Financial Expenses		620
Miscellaneous		7,847
Earth Charter Association Expenses		5,000
Legal Expenses, ECA & ECI		83,162
Fund Management Expenses, RPA		25,441
Total Expenses		**559,390**
SURPLUS / DEFICIT		**-40,099**

EARTH CHARTER INTERNATIONAL
STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCES

As december 31, 2008

ASSETS:		**USD**
RPA / Earth Charter Fund Balance		$ 1,118
UPEACE / Earth Charter Account Balance		109,049
		110,167
Amount Due from Seward Fund		
2008 Legal Fees paid in Jan. 2009	$ 19,162	
Pledge from the Seaward Fund (50% of the Grant making Fees)	12,720	31,882
		142,049
LIABILITIES:		
Balance Due Religious Program Account	8,762	
2008 Legal & Professional Fees	34,309	
Special Projects Grants - Youth Initiative	22,851	65,922
NET AVAILABLE ASSETS		$ 76,127
RESTRICTED & UNRESTRICTED BALANCES:		
General Fund		$ 68,410
Restricted - Plan Netherlands - Youth Program		245
Restricted - RBF Grant on Educational Resources		684
Restricted - Religious Program		6,788
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE		$ 76,127

Given the nature of the Earth Charter Initiative, in which many organizations contribute significantly to advancing the Initiative's objectives, financially accounting for all of this would considerably increase the total yearly expenditure of the Initiative. Therefore this Financial Report only partially reflects the financial flows of the Initiative.

In any case we should highlight here that over 2009 Earth Charter International received significant support from the University for Peace (for office space and general administrative and finance support), from Amana-Key (for national website designs and course support), from NCDO (for the major Earth Charter Network meeting) and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (for general administrative support), all together it would represent another US$300,000 at least of in-kind support.



This Report was prepared by
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