

Worldwide Efforts

Global Assembly on Women and the Environment

The Global Assembly on Women and the Environment: Partners in Life was held in Miami, Florida, from 4 to 8 November, 1991. The four subject areas were water, waste, energy (as it relates to climate changes) and environmentally friendly systems, technology and products. Over 325 success stories from the five geographical regions (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America) were presented at the Assembly. The Division for Advancement of Women (UN) participated and contributed in the area of women and leadership.

The Assembly was followed by the World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet, held on 8-12 November 1991 in Miami, Florida, which had been organized by the International Policy Action Committee on Environment and Development. The Congress featured tribunals, with a panel of distinguished women jurists. The judges heard dramatic testimonies from women in every region of the world presenting evidence of their battles against ecological and economic devastation.

Women and Children First

A symposium on the impact of environmental degradation and poverty on women and children entitled "Women and Children First", was held in Geneva from 27 to 31 May 1991. It had been organized by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which is to be held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

The participants adopted a statement in which they requested that gender issues be addressed at the conference as a distinct topic, in addition to being integrated horizontally into all discussions, and that the recommendations of the symposium, as well as those emanating from the Global Assembly on Women and the Environment: Partners in Life and the World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet.

Greenpeace International



Greenpeace is an international non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of the natural world. The organization actively campaigns on a wide range of issues under the four main campaign areas of Nuclear, Toxics, Atmospheric and Ocean Ecology. Greenpeace co-ordinates its campaigns on national, regional and international levels. For more information and contribution contact: Stichting Greenpeace Council, Greenpeace International, Kiezersgracht 176, 1016 DW Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Conference of La Communauté Des Universités Méditerranéennes (C.U.M) (*) The Community of Mediterranean Universities

Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean: A Violation of Marine Laws

The faculty of Law of the St. Joseph University, Kaslik in Byblos, Lebanon organized a three day conference to discuss Marine Pollution and the violation of Marine Laws in the Mediterranean on July 4-5 and 6, 1991. The papers presented discussed Marine Laws; The various forms of marine pollution; The ecological condition of the Near East Mediterranean region; Solid waste disposal on the Lebanese shores; Lebanese and International laws regarding pollution; Unification of regulations in Mediterranean waters and legal protective measures; and Education for a better environment.

The conference emphasized the implementation of International and United Nations articles, rules and regulations passed in three global conventions for protecting the Mediterranean and which have been signed by 17 Mediterranean countries. The relevant articles and laws were declared at the Convention for Protecting the Mediterranean Against Pollution held in Barcelona in 1976; Measure for Cleaning up Pollution produced by sea vessels discussed in Athens on May 17, 1980 and Protection of the Air of the Mediterranean emphasized in Geneva on April 3, 1982.

(*) C.U.M is a non-governmental, cultural and scientific organization whose aim is to reinforce and develop the role of culture, research and technology in promoting peace and collaboration between people and to establish permanent links between universities in the Mediterranean area. The member countries are Lebanon (St. Joseph University, Kaslik [USEK]), Egypt, France and Italy, from which papers from at least three universities are presented in each research project.



Picture taken from CUM Brochure

Newly Available from the International Center for Research on Women

Women, Poverty and Environment in Latin America. by Michael Paolisso and Sally W. Yudelman, 1991, \$6.00. The report explores the ways by which women in the region contribute to protecting natural resources and the environment. This report identifies how local organizations are supporting women's environmental efforts and offers specific recommendations for donor support in solving the dual problems of persistent poverty and environmental degradation in Latin America by enhancing women's environmental roles. This report is available by contacting: Program Assistant, ICRW, Suite 302, 1717 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington DC 20036, tel.(202) 797-0007 or Fax (202) 797-0020.

Environmental Fair at AUB

An environmental Fair was held on the campus of the American University of Beirut in the summer of 1991. The fair was organized by the students of the Environmental Health and Nutrition branch of the School of Public Health and the Department of Geology, and coordinated. The fair, which was coordinated by Dr. May Jurdi, consisted of booths each concentrating on a particular aspect of environmental awareness. Women had a significant share of the action. Hence, a number of booths catered to women giving them tips and instructions in proper housekeeping habits. For example, they concentrated on methods of water filtration, cooking temperatures, safe ways to store and protect food, means of maintaining a healthy kitchen and kitchenware. In the geology booth, the students presented information and displayed a number of photographs depicting the conditions of the shores and the land.

For three days the fair was publicized in the media and made open to the general public. The overall purpose of the fair and the way it was organized was to reach the public with information, instructions and awareness. The methods of presentation using audio-visual material and very simple language emphasized the practical goal and scope of the event •



Environmentally Active Groups in Lebanon

Dr. Mohamad Khawli, Chairperson of the Department of Geology at the American University of Beirut is active in the efforts to save the environment. Dr. Khawli's activities, which range from attending conferences to taking an active part in action groups, continuous research and others, can be summarized as creating awareness and motivating people to protect their environment. Presently, Dr. Khawli is responsible for the Lebanese chapter of the International campaign for collecting "100 milion" signatures from around the world for the "Mandate for Life on Earth". Hence a copy of the mandate's signature page is enclosed in this issue for you to sign and to distribute to friends and acquaintances for signature. Once your page and other photocopied ones are filled, please mail directly to the Geology Department of The American University of Beirut, Box 11-0236, Beirut, Lebanon.

Dr. Ricardos Michel Haber is another prominent figure in the area of protecting the environment. He is the founder and Director of the "Friends of the Environment Association" since 1971, which is active in field activities and promoting environmental awareness. Dr. Haber is also professor of science at the American University of Beirut. The contributions of the Association and Dr. Haber include lectures to students at the various universities, schools and associations throughout the country. The lectures discuss the natural resources of Lebanon, civic and environmental education, public health, protection and preservation of the environment. Environmental issues are also channeled through talk shows, media coverage and photographic exhibitions depicting important environmental conditions and issues. Dr. Haber has also published a number of articles and lately, in 1991, a book entitled *Tabi'aat Lubnan ...Bi'at al-Insan: mawarid fi tariq al Zawal (The Nature of Lebanon ...an Environment for Humans: Resources on the Way to Extinction)*. Dr. Ricardos Haber ca be contacted at P.O.Box 123, Jounieh, Lebanon or through the Department of Biology at the American University of Beirut •

Technology

Acid Rain will cost Europe 155 million cubic yards of wood, worth \$30 billion, every year for the next century. (New Scientific, and World Watch.)

Forty-two of Sub-Saharan Africa's 46 countries required food aid in 1990; 14 of them still did not receive enough to meet their minimum requirements (FAO).

One fourth of the world's extinctions of mammals recorded since 1600 have taken place in Australia. Almost half of the continent's surviving mammals are threatened with extinction (Australian Conservative Foundation).

Levels of Hydrogen in the air have more than doubled since pre-industrial times, from around two hundred parts per billion to more than 500. The additional hydrogen -- most likely resulting from burning vegetables and the release of methane through farming and livestock rearing -- could be contributing to stratospheric ozone loss through its role in cloud formation at the poles (Nature).

Global carbon dioxide emissions declined slightly in 1990, for the first time since 1983. The two main reasons for the fall were the recession in North America and the collapse of energy-intensive industries in East Europe and the Soviet Union. Another decline is possible this year (British Petroleum (BP) Review of World Energy).

1990 was the first year in the 35-year history of commercial nuclear power that no new construction began on a nuclear power plant. Only three were expected in 1991. (International Atomic Energy Agency).

The Environment

Nature has provided enough for everybody but not enough for one man's greed (Ghandi)

Poverty is one of the main causes of many environmental in developing countries (Tress for Life).

Over the last 5,000 years we've cleared 60 percent of the world's forest. In the last 40 years alone, Africa lost 23 percent of its forests and Central America, 38 percent (The Almanac of Science and Technology).

The global average temperature for 1990 was the highest ever recorded. The seven warmest years since 1880 have occurred in the past 11 years (Goddard Institute for Space Studies).

An average global temperature rise of 2-5 degrees centigrade during the next century is predicted. (Trees for Life).

Warming will be greatest in the polar regions, possibly by as much as 5-10 degrees centigrade in high latitudes (trees for Life).



Taken from Trees for life, theme of the World Food Day, Food and The Agriculture organization of the UN.

Tips

The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle will light a 100-watt bulb for four hours (50 Simple Things you can do to Save Your Earth, The Earthworks Group, Earthworks Press, 1989).

Recycling one ton of paper saves three cubic yards of landfill space and 7,000 gallons of water needed to make paper from scratch (Save our Planet by Diane MacEachern, Dell Press 1991).

It costs about 40 percent less to refill a "disposable" laser printer cartridge than to buy a new one. You can reuse most cartridges three to six times before adding them to the 14 million we're now sending off to landfills each year (The Recycler's handbook by the Earthworks Group, Earthworks Press, 1990).

Glazing office windows with transparent low emulsive film reduces the amount of ultraviolet rays from sunlight so the space stays 20 to 50 percent cooler (Save Our Planet, Ibid)

Indoor plants clean air naturally--they can remove up to 87 percent of toxic indoor air, including such dangerous pollutants as formaldehyde, benzene and trichloroethylene, within 24 hours (The Green Consumer Letter).

A single 18-watt compact fluorescent bulb produces the same amount of light as a 75-watt incandescent bulb and last 13 times as long, saving generating capacity at the power station as well as the cost of replacing the bulb (Design for Livable Planet by Jon Naar, HarperCollins 1990). •