



**IUCN Academy on Environmental Law Preparatory Meeting, April 2003**

**A Message to the Participants from the IUCN Environmental Law Programme**

Dear Friends and Colleagues

Warm greetings from the IUCN Environmental Law Centre in Bonn and from the IUCN Environmental Law Programme.

The IUCN Academy of Environmental Law is an inspired initiative of the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law and it enjoys the full support of the IUCN Environmental Law Programme. The IUCN Academy provides a wonderful opportunity to further progress academic endeavour and excellence across the globe through collaborative efforts and it will make a significant contribution towards achieving the IUCN Environmental Law Programme's mission of:

*“Laying the strongest possible legal foundation at the international, regional and national levels for environmental conservation in the context of sustainable development.”*

I would like to extend our congratulations to Professor Nicholas Robinson and everyone else who has been involved in developing the IUCN Academy beyond the concept stage, in particular Professors Koh Kheng Lian and Lye Lin Heng of the National University of Singapore and Professor Rob Fowler. The governance model that has been developed will help ensure that academic endeavours are linked and made available to the broader IUCN Programme.

It is a great pity that I am unable to join you for this critical meeting, but the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law and the IUCN Environmental Law Centre have launched so many initiatives over the past 18 months that it is becoming harder and harder for Nick and I to attend the same events! Rest assured that all of us here at the Environmental Law Centre are with you in spirit.

Sincere thanks to Pace University and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund for making this meeting possible. The IUCN Environmental Law Centre has been happy to provide back up Secretariat support to help make sure the meeting is a success and we look forward to a continuing professional engagement with the IUCN Academy over the coming years.

I look forward to joining you for the launch of the IUCN Academy at the Shanghai Jiaotong University, Shanghai in November and wish you every success for a successful and rewarding meeting.

Best regards



**John Scanlon**  
Head, IUCN Environmental Law Programme  
Director, IUCN Environmental Law Centre, Bonn

9 April 2003