

INAUGURATION OF THE *IUCN ACADEMY OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW*
Together with its 1st Colloquium on Energy Law for Sustainable Development^{*}
Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai, People's Republic of China
4 – 7 November 2003

On 4 November 2003, UN Secretary General Kofi A. Annan welcomed the establishment of “a new global network of university law departments” dedicated to environmental law, “the principles and rules that states have adopted in order to protect precious ecosystems and resources upon which all life and progress depend.” His message to the over 150 professors, representing 90 university law faculties from forty-one nations,^{*} meeting for four days in Shanghai, China, stated, “The United Nations looks forward to the teaching and research that the Academy will now undertake. And we welcome the academic contributions that law professors worldwide will make towards our common goal of sustainable development on our one and only planet.”

Similar greetings were extended by Prof. Xie Shengwu, President of Shanghai Jiao Tong University, which hosted the gathering, and by Prof. Isaac Mbeche, on behalf of the Vice Chancellor of the University of Nairobi (Kenya), which will host the 2004 Colloquium of the Academy. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) established this new Academy to implement recommendations made at the 1992 “Earth Summit” in Rio de Janeiro. The *IUCN Academy of Environmental Law* is the first worldwide learned society in the field of environmental law. Its establishment also marks the first time that law schools, departments and faculties have formed an international academic consortium on any subject. The Colloquium on the Law of Energy for Sustainable Development was the first scholarly examination of the energy reforms advocated at the Johannesburg summit meeting on sustainable development held in 2002.

In addition to participating in Academy's inaugural Colloquium, the professors (among whom several were also Vice Chancellors, University Trustees, Deans and Directors) compared their teaching programs, and established working committees to develop collaboration on joint teaching, exchanges of faculty and inter-regional research. The University of Auckland (New Zealand) and Macquarie University (Australia) have committed to hosting the 2005 Colloquium, with 2006 in New York (Pace University) and 2007 in Brazil (Instituto O Direito por um Planeta Verde), the latter assessing the progress in Environmental Law worldwide on the 15th anniversary of the Rio “Earth Summit.”

The Academy also established its first course of lectures on Environmental Law, delivered by Professor Alexandre Kiss of the Robert Schuman University of Strasbourg, France and Director of Research Emeritus of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. The Academy will publish Prof. Kiss' three lectures as a book. Each year, a

^{*} Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Botswana, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, India, Italy, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and United States of America. In addition, forty professors from another twenty-five nations sent messages that they could not attend but would wish to participate in the new IUCN Academy of Environmental Law. The professors present reported that, collectively, they represented over 550 additional teachers of environmental law at their respective universities. For further information, contact IUCN Academy of Environmental Law, Godesberger Allee 108-112, Bonn D-53175, Germany, 49-228-269-2225; fax 49-228-269-2240; Prof. N.A. Robinson, Chair, IUCN Commission on Environmental Law (12 Nov. 2003).

distinguished senior scholar in the field will be invited to deliver these lectures, restating and synthesizing the field.

IUCN's Commission on Environmental Law (www.iucn.org/themes/law) has organized the Academy. Founded in 1948, IUCN is the oldest international organization dedicated to environmental issues, with over 75 State Members and 480 NGO members. Since 1963, IUCN's Environmental Law Programme has been located in Bonn, Germany. During 2004, the IUCN Environmental Law Centre in Bonn serves as secretariat for the new Academy, while arrangements for a university host are completed. IUCN's Director General, Achim Steiner, welcomed the launch of the Academy, stating that "The spirit of academic exchange and collaboration that the IUCN Academy will foster bodes well for the strengthening of environmental law, an important discipline without which much of our work in nature conservation will have no solid institutional and legal basis."

At the first Colloquium, Dr. Thomas Johansson, Professor and Director of the International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics at the University of Lund (Sweden) delivered the keynote address, on "The Imperative of Energy for Sustainable Development." Other featured lectures were on "China's Legislation Initiatives on Energy for Sustainable Development," by Feng Zhijun, Vice Chairman, Committee on Environmental and Resources Protection, National People's Congress; "Issues in Privatization and Electricity Restructuring," by Peter Bradford of the Regulatory Assistance Project, who was a past Commissioner of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and past Chairman of the New York and Maine Public Utility Regulatory Commissions; "Energy Assessment: Chinese Perspectives," by Dr. Zhou Dadi, Director, Energy Research Institute, State Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China; and "The Legal Framework for Energy for Sustainable Development," by Richard L. Ottinger, Dean Emeritus of Pace University School of Law and former Chair of the Energy Conservation and Power Subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Panel discussions included representatives of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Development Program/Beijing, the Climate Change Programme of the Global Environmental Facility, and environmental law professors from Australia, Brazil, China, Germany New Zealand, Nigeria, United Kingdom, Ukraine, and the United States of America. The Royal Dutch Shell Group presented business perspectives on energy resources for sustainable development.

The Colloquium proceedings are being edited for publication in spring of 2004, along with a second volume of legal instruments on sustainable energy law. Among the principal legal, environmental, economic and policy issues, explored and essentially endorsed by the speakers, were the following:

- The need to phase out, across-the-board, the current subsidies provided to polluting fuels
- Legal systems to use traditional fuels more efficiently and to expand the use of renewable fuels
- Chinese accomplishments in integration of environmental and social concerns in tandem with its efforts to promote economic growth
- Legal measures appropriate to regulate against market abuses in privatized energy systems
- The need for greater research and development in cleaner utilization of fossil fuels and in development of new clean energy sources, such as hydrogen
- The role of sustainable energy as a prerequisite in order to meet the UN Millennium objectives of poverty reduction, together with legal provisions to ensure public participation
- The opportunities for promoting energy for sustainable development through local governments