



*2nd CEE/SEE Regional Colloquium
Capacity Building on Global Governance and the UN System*

Teaching Climate Change and the United Nations System

Date: Monday May 17th & Tuesday 18th, 2010

Venue: Faculty of Law, Bulevar kralja Aleksandra 67, Belgrade

Recommendations of Regional Colloquium "Teaching Climate Change"

The participants of the SEE Regional Colloquium "Teaching Climate Change and the United Nations System" agreed that all countries in the region could learn from each other and that a platform for continued exchange of teaching materials and successful programs should be establishing, utilizing an existing forum or creating a dedicated network.

More needed to be done to raise public awareness of the dangers of climate change, promote the involvement of civil society and community action, and make clear what individuals can do to alleviate the stress on the environment

Argumentation that urgent actions had to be taken now must be based on authoritative scientific conclusions, enlightened self interest, global citizenship, ethics, economics, penalties, transparent regulations, incentives, and international agreements

New educational approaches had to be taken at elementary, secondary, and tertiary education levels, harnessing the potential of modern, age-appropriate pedagogical techniques, simulations, and e-learning.

Media coverage needs to attract human interest and provide a larger context for catastrophes, pollution, and climate change stories. Local consequences of the lack of attention to adaption or mitigation programs should be featured.

Public pressure for governmental action needs to come from the different sectors of society, the scientific community, businesses, religious groups, conservationists, youth, women, and local communities. Elected politicians should also provide leadership on complicated issues.

Effective climate change policies are multi-sectoral and interconnected with energy, transportation, housing, industrial, water, forestry, agriculture and regional development policies. They must also be transnational and dampen extravagant consumption patterns.

Greater utilization of alternative energy sources, cutting energy wastage, reducing the domestic ecological footprint, and not simply transferring the environmental damage to other countries should be promoted.

New orientations, not continuing with business as usual, must be considered. Radical restructuring, setting new priorities, reallocation of funds, and taking political risks will probably be necessary.

A fair critique of the performance of international organizations should be undertaken and greater cooperation between the United Nations agencies encouraged. A better understanding of the

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work of UN organizations should be promoted with an expectation that the United Nations also pursue closer collaboration with civil society.

Solidarity with the least developed countries, low lying vulnerable islands and coastal regions, and poor arid areas should be understood for human security reasons but also to avoid environmental refugees, potential armed conflicts, and even greater human tragedies.

Climate Change mitigation can be seen as a human rights issue, the basic right to life food and to development, but also a duty to protect and responsibility towards the commonweal. An appeal to basic values may find an echo among empathic citizenry.

Different approaches to young people, through songs, the entertainment industry, movies and the popular culture may prove effective. Greater use of the new media, internet, blogs should be attempted.

The historical, cultural, geographical, mountain/ watershed,, and riverine connections should be exploited to promote closer collaboration in the region. Environmental cooperation may also lessen political tensions and facilitate economic integration.

Scientific cooperation may prove cost effective, increase knowledge of problems and solutions, accelerate capacity building, and lead to more centers of excellence, specialized institutes, better universities and higher institutions of education and research.

Effective climate change research involves many disciplines - meteorology, applied physics, medicine, hydrology, engineering, law, international relations, diplomacy, anthropology, ethics, political science, journalism, administrative sciences.

A better understanding of the United Nations system and what can be expected of international organizations (external aid) would also be desirable.

It is clear that most adaptation will have to be undertaken by the affected countries themselves. Nonetheless, assistance from particularly those countries which have benefited from polluting industrialization should be expected. The participants agreed to push for the above cited conclusions of the colloquium in their individual capacities and through their own institutions.

The participants expressed their appreciation to the Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office, the Faculty of Law of the University of Belgrade, and the Academic Council on the United Nations System for the opportunity to meet and exchange information.

They expressed the wish to remain in contact and hoped that there would be other occasions to discuss critical issues of global governance and the UN system