



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

A comprehensive conference documentation (including ppts and video-on-demand) can be found at:
www.investscienceseesee.info/ccandun/

Recommendations of the Regional CEE/SEE Colloquium "Teaching Climate Change and the United Nations System"



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 and better coordinated action is 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**, transparent **regulations**, law **enforcement, 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 promote **sustainable 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 and generations** should be promoted.

Belgrade, 18th of May 2010

New orientations, not continuing with business as usual, must be considered. **Radical restructuring**, societal and economic systems **innovation**, 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 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 **common good**. 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**.

International scientific cooperation may prove cost effective, increase knowledge of problems and solutions, accelerate capacity building, and lead to the development of **regional centers of excellence** in the fields of **research** and **higher education** which could feed their **knowledge** into good **climate change governance**.

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

A better **understanding of the United Nations system** and what can be expected of international organizations (external aid) and communication of this knowledge on all levels of **formal and informal education** would also be desirable.

It is clear that most **climate change adaptation** will have to be undertaken by the effected countries themselves. Nonetheless, **external 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** and the other **coorganisers** and **partners** of the event 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**.

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