



EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

An inevitable and anticipated event has occurred. Mikhail Gorbachev - the leader of GCI since its inception in 1992 - has stepped down from the position of Chairman of the Board. Jan Kulczyk, a Polish businessman, and Member of the Board, was elected as the new Chairman. Mikhail Gorbachev is certainly not leaving us : he will continue his work in the capacity of Founding President and Member of the Board of Directors.

However, this transition, uneasy for some, painful for others, is a major milestone in GCI life that has raised a lot of questions amongst the National Organisations as to its future impact on GCI's agenda.

The recent GCI Council Meeting, as well as the first steps taken by our new Chairman have shed some light on this question. In order to introduce Dr. Kulczyk to our readers we have included a brief excerpt from an interview with him as this issue's feature article. I hope this will give you better a understanding of his thinking and motivation.

Jan Kulczyk brings with him a long and successful business expertise that, coupled with his environmental concerns, will contribute to the effectiveness of GCI activities and be pivotal for engaging the business community to work on the issues in our agenda. But, as a "newcomer" he will certainly need our support, knowledge, and expertise in order to be able to add this value to our work.

Thank you all for your support over the past year, and may I take this opportunity to wish you the very best for the holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Alexander Likhotal
President, Green Cross International

FEATURE STORY

Green Cross International interview with Dr. Jan Kulczyk, Green Cross International's new Chairman of the Board

What inspired you to join Green Cross International? How have you been involved before with environmental work?

I am a Polish businessman operating in the international arena. The most significant experience, however, that influenced my professional approach was the transitional period from the communist economy to the free market and parliamentary democracy.

From the start I was really involved in economic changes in Poland. In the early 90's I purchased provincial breweries, whose technological and environmental standards were really distant from the standards applied in the companies of a similar nature operating in the countries of long-lived democracy. Now this company is proud of the greatest technological achievements as well as its substantial mission to protect the environment. Expanding my companies, implementing new technologies and optimizing natural resource management, I have always remembered to make these changes profitable, not only for our companies, but for the environmental as well. Eighteen years ago the breweries I took over were in a squalid condition and significantly poisoning the environment. Nowadays, however, the breweries have the most modern sewage treatment plants, which has reduced the biological charge contained in the brewery sewage by 80 percent. Standing as merely one example in which I have taken an interest in greening one of my companies, the breweries serve to demonstrate the ability of the business community to rally around the environment.

So, to come back to what inspired me to join GCI, and given my experience, I would say I have a strong motivation to show to worldwide businesses that it is possible to green their activities and do so in a way that is at the same time genuine, consistent, and beneficial in terms of profits. (...) ●

Extract taken from GCI interview with Dr. Jan Kulczyk.
For a full transcript of the interview, please see : www.gci.ch



GCI Founding President Mikhail Gorbachev, GCI President and CEO Alexander Likhotal, and GCI new Chairman of the Board Jan Kulczyk, during the 2007 General Assembly

PREVENTING AND RESOLVING CONFLICTS OVER NATURAL RESOURCES

■ Pakistan : Waste water no longer threatens Kasur



Mercury, Chromium and Lead effluents in surface water are a threat to human and animal health

The tanning industry is big business in Pakistan. One of the places the tanning industry is concentrated is Kasur, near the Indian border. The industry has recently boomed in Kasur, and has become the

livelihood for most of the 350,000 residents. However, because of this, 9000 cubic metres of waste is discharged daily in Kasur. With much of the waste entering waterways ; and the rest forming pools of stagnant water, from which an odour rises and hangs over the town.

People are now aware that this water, laced with toxins, is unsafe : yet they still have to use it. Furthermore, the toxins seep into crops watered from polluted sources.

Green Cross Pakistan and its partners from the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, have treated the contaminated water, employing the technique of Biosorption. Almost 1500 people have now benefited from this kind of wastewater treatment. Residual traces of the toxins are no longer found in the foodchain.

Contact : Masood Ul-haq, Green Cross Pakistan, environmentpk@yahoo.com

■ Green Cross France partners with the Agence Française de Développement in Paris

Mikhail Gorbachev, the Founding President of Green Cross International, was invited to discuss new global challenges related to sustainable development imperatives, along with French and international politicians and economists. At first, the roundtable discussion was dedicated to the links between environmental degradation, poverty and international security, and the esteemed panel gave their respective views on the need for a new form of global environmental governance.

The conference was held on October 26th at the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris, a French University.

Yves Paccalet, President of Green Cross France, and Jean-Michel Severino, President of the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the partnership between the two organisations, which have been working together since 2006, particularly in the Middle East.

Contact : Marie-Laure Vercambre, Green Cross France, marie-laure.vercambre@greencross.fr

..... GLOBAL WARMING

ANTARCTICA THE GLOBAL WARMING

Sebastian Copeland, the photographer, Global Green USA's board member, and long-standing Green Cross International supporter is holding an exhibition in the Westin Hotel, Paris, France, between the 28th and 11th December.

LO4ART is organizing the event that is open to all and free of charge. The collection will comprise photographs from his new book, "ANTARCTICA THE GLOBAL WARMING," which he took after a voyage to the Antarctic at the end of 2006. The book has a forward by GCI Founding President Mikhail Gorbachev, an introduction from Leonardo DiCaprio, with a preface from Luc Besson, who is also the book's editor.

Sebastian's traveled with a scientific expedition to the Pole on board the Ice Lady Patagonia, to highlight and bear witness to the acceleration of the melting of the Polar ice-cap.

He described the Antarctic as being a place of exceptional beauty that sadly highlights the alarming obvious signs of Global Warming The expedition itself was sponsored by Global Green USA, the US affiliate of Green Cross International, and 5% of the book's revenue is kindly being donated to Green Cross International

Sebastian Copeland was the recipient of the 2007 International Photography Awards' "Best Professional Photographer of the year" for the book. ●

Marie-Laure Vercambre, Green Cross France, marie-laure.vercambre@greencross.fr - <http://www.sebastiancopeland.com>



Photo : Sebastian Copeland

PREVENTING AND RESOLVING CONFLICTS OVER NATURAL RESOURCES

..... RIGHT TO WATER

The 3rd International Dialogue on World Water Crisis demands a Global Convention on Water

The 3rd International Dialogue on the World Water Crisis that Green Cross Spain organised with the support and collaboration of Emasesa Metropolitana and the Seville City Council in Seville, Spain, on November 15th and 16th, was an opportunity for international experts to go into depth on the global situation of conflicts related to water and how innovation and cooperation can both provide solutions.



Green Cross Spain staff (from left to right) : D. Angel Luis del Castillo, President, D. Fernando Martinez Salcedo, Vice-President, and D. Alberto Fraguas, Executive-Director

Water has become a politic and geostrategic issue, and it is present in all politic agendas at summits because water is often the root cause of conflict.

Technology was propounded as one of the ways in which communities can help themselves obtain and manage water in an efficient way ; and, similarly, how well selected and adapted, appropriate technologies can constitute a fundamental tool to help NGOs. Therefore, research, engineering, and technology companies all play a fundamental role.

At the Dialogue specific and contrasting conflict areas such as Chad, the Ganges, Jordan, the Nile, the Tigris and the Euphrates were highlighted to show different viewpoints and problems that are faced and very different solutions were best applied.

In concluding the Dialogue, the need for a global and common Water Convention was stressed, one similar to that of the Climate Change Convention (that gave rise to the Kyoto Protocol) and the Biodiversity Convention. With such a convention, the worldwide water crisis would be tackled in a global way, with the goals of an equitable distribution of water whilst minimising existing conflicts related to water.

The 3rd International Dialogue's conclusions have been relayed to the organisers of the 2008 Zaragoza Expo, Spain, as well as the 5th World Forum to be held in 2009 in Istanbul, Turkey.●

Contact : Irene Perez, Green Cross Spain,
central@greencrossspain.org

EARTH CHARTER IN BRIEF

■ Green Cross Solar park opens to great fanfare



The Green Cross Solar Park in Sri Lanka had its official inauguration on 19th October 2007. The opening ceremony began with a welcome address delivered

by Professor Chandima Wijebandara, an Advisory Board Member and Past Vice Chancellor of Sri Jayawardenapura University, Sri Lanka. Mr. Jagath Seneviratne, GC Cross Sri Lanka president, expressed his thanks at this auspicious time, with GC Japan mentioned for their generous assistance. The ceremony was attended by a host of Ministers from the Sri Lankan Government including : the Honorable Jeewan Kumaranathunga, Chief Advisor of Green Cross Sri Lanka and Minister of Land Development, members of local bodies, environmentalists, school teachers, parents and children.

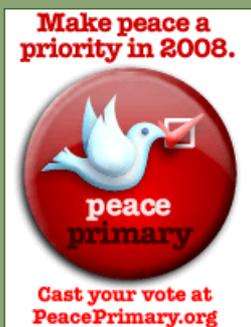
Contact : Jagath Seneviratne, Green Cross Sri Lanka, gcorglanka@sltnet.lk

■ Global Green USA announces the winners of the Designing a Sustainable and Secure World Awards

Global Green USA has honoured leading innovators for their extraordinary contributions at the 8th Annual Designing a Sustainable and Secure World Awards event at New York's Ritz-Carlton, Battery Park on Monday, December 3rd. The awards embody the environmental spirit and vision of Mikhail S. Gorbachev and Global Green USA. Created in 1994, these awards celebrate the success and courage of extraordinary individuals, companies and organizations who recognize the connection between humankind and nature. "For the first time, all of our honourees are leaders from the corporate world," said Matt Petersen, President and CEO of Global Green USA, "In a year when an unprecedented number of companies are deciding on going green, American companies should look to this year's award winners and the innovative results they have achieved through a balanced approach to sustainability which have also proven to be profitable," In a year when most companies are rushing to "go green," Global Green USA is honouring five corporate leaders who were pioneering green initiatives before it was trendy. See full list of winners : http://www.globalgreen.org/events/nyawards/awards_home.htm.

Contact : Ruben Aronin, Global Green USA,
raronin@globalgreen.org

■ Peace Primary Campaign



Global Green USA, the U.S. affiliate of Green Cross International, participated in the Peace Primary-an online campaign organised by the Ploughshares Fund that allows people to vote for the issues that they think are the most important today. Twelve groups working on peace and security issues were

selected to compete, with Global Green USA being the only environmental organisation. The two-month campaign ran between September 1st and October 31st. Votes were cast and the organisation with the most votes received an additional \$100,000 from the Ploughshares Fund. Global Green USA would like to extend its congratulations to TrueMajority, a Vermont based organisation. All twelve groups took away a share of the \$326,000 that was raised online over the course of the sixty-day campaign. Global Green USA used this opportunity to call on leaders to focus on climate change, water shortages and global weapons elimination as a means to improve peace and security. You can read more about Global Green USA and the Peace Primary at <http://peaceprimary.org/organizations/gg>.
Contact : Jennie Minter, Global Green USA, jminter@globalgreen.org

■ Russia : Schuch'ye Update



The second Russian chemical weapons' destruction facility at Schuch'ye is, about 10 miles north of the weapon's stockpile site, and had been scheduled

to become operational by summer 2008. However, disputes between the U.S. and Russia over the past years have delayed construction of the U.S. designed facility, one of two buildings where neutralization of the agents is to take place. The neutralization of these weapons could begin by the end of 2008. Paul Walker, Director of Green Cross International's Legacy Programme, recently said that this date might be somewhat optimistic. GCI's primary concern in the area is, of course, risk. The risk that the construction workers for the site will have to face ; and the consequences of their being exposed to live agents from the one existing and operational Russian destruction facility.

Contact : Cristian Ion, Legacy Programme Associate, cion@globalgreen.org

ADDRESSING THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WARS AND CONFLICTS

..... LEGACY OF THE COLD WAR

Green Cross International continues to push for the implementation of the CWC

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) held its 12th annual Conference of States Parties (CSP) in The Hague, The Netherlands, from November 5th to 9th to review and discuss the implementation of the 1993 international Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Dr. Paul Walker, Director of the Green Cross Legacy of the Cold War Programme, attended and represented Green Cross International at the conference.

The Chemical Weapons Convention entered into force in April 1997. Now 182 countries have signed and ratified the treaty. The CSP annually brings all States Parties et al. to the OPCW headquarters in The Hague to help coordinate and improve implementation of this historic treaty. The Director-General of the OPCW, Ambassador Rogelio Pflirter from Argentina, welcomed delegates to the meeting. Several of the OPCW's were noted, the most important being the elimination of chemical weapons stockpiles. The OPCW has verified destruction of more than 25 020 tons of chemical weapons in six states.



Green Cross International at the OPCW 12th Conference of States Parties

Many challenges remain for the complete and verified elimination of chemical weapons globally. 65% of declared stockpiles in five countries remain to be destroyed. The CWC deadline for completing destruction is April 2012, but this does not currently appear likely. There are also several thousand industrial chemical facilities across the globe not yet inspected by the OPCW. A final major issue worth noting is the fact that 13 countries still remain outside of the CWC regime ; the OPCW and Green Cross have announced "CWC Universality Campaigns" to promote full accession to the treaty by 2012.

The Green Cross Legacy Programme has worked closely with the OPCW, the G-8 Global Partnership, and other stakeholders to help advocate, mediate, and facilitate the safe and sound elimination of chemical weapons stockpiles. Paul Walker serves as the only NGO representative on the OPCW Academic Forum Organising Committee and Green Cross maintains eleven local Public Outreach and Information Offices (PIOs) at chemical weapons stockpile sites in Russia today.●

Contact : Cristian Ion, Legacy Programme Associate, cion@globalgreen.org

ADDRESSING THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WARS AND CONFLICTS

..... ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES

Volunteer emergency response workers get a boost from GC Australia

Australians are on the front line of climate change. Droughts, storms and floods are hitting more frequently and with greater intensity, and extreme weather insurance claims have hit record levels. Despite this, Australia is the planet's highest per capita emitter of greenhouse gases ; and the link between how energy habits contribute to changing weather patterns is not yet fully understood by the community. To foster a change in values and behaviour, Green Cross Australia will work with Australia's volunteer emergency relief sector to boost their resources, visibility and ability to spread the message of sustainability.

Australia has a proud tradition of voluntary participation in emergency disaster relief. 500,000 Australian volunteers provide vital support during response operations in major fires, floods and storms, working as fire-fighters, ambulance drivers, Red Cross workers, and "State Emergency Service" workers who respond to floods, storms, cyclones and tsunamis. Climate change is placing greater pressure on this volunteer network at a time when volunteer levels in many areas are stable to declining. 18 NGOs have come together in Australia under the banner of "Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum" in order to advocate for better training, legal protection, funding, and recognition. Green Cross Australia has decided to help take on the challenges raised by this NGO network.

Green Cross Australia will not recruit or train volunteers directly. Instead they aim to : develop tailored training programmes that can be delivered over the Internet and at a new purpose-built National Emergency Volunteer Training Centre based in Queensland ; build corporate and government funding partnerships to contribute to volunteer equipment and crucial ICT needs ; and create public relations campaigns to support volunteer recruitment. Leading celebrities will celebrate the contribution of this vital frontline group in insuring a secure and informed community as climate change impacts grow. ●

Contact : Linda Dregghorn,
Green Cross Australia,
linda@greencrossaustralia.org



GREEN CROSS IN BRIEF

■ Belarus : Green Island Facility news

GC Belarus is proud to announce the development of Green Island, a facility in Belarus that will be the new location of Green Cross therapy camps, workshops, and mother and child projects. Green Island will work in two complementary directions : ecological education and social and medical rehabilitation. This project, initiated by Green Cross Belarus, is run in partnership with the Social and Medical Care (SocMed) programme. But the scope of Green Island activities goes far beyond the SocMed programme : this summer 'Green Island' held a pilot summer school for students and youth, called Youth Summer School 2007. The idea here was to make this as engaging and exciting for the children as possible, whilst using the time as an opportunity to train volunteers, youth workers, and teachers in making the environment accessible to children. These school-children from 3 countries made their first attempts to design a new world and implement this in the park. At the end of the project, villagers and other guests came to see the performances. In the future, the 'World Garden' project will open - this will have a far more international slant, and invite children from all over the world.

Contact : Vladimir Shevtsov, Green Cross Belarus,
gcb@greencross.by

■ Spanish Green Charter for Sport takes off



Jaime Lissavetzky, Secretary of State -
President of the High Council for Sport-

The Spanish Green Charter for Sport is an initiative promoted by the Spanish Sports Agency in collaboration with Green Cross Spain. The Charter is currently open for a period of comments and suggestions to all of the principal sport targets in

order for them to have the opportunity to improve the content of the text and be part of the initiative by signing it. Likewise, an Observatory body for the Spanish Green Charter for Sport has been launched. The aim of this group is to monitor the Green Charter's signatory organisations. To motivate this initiative, the creation of a prize for Sustainable Sport has been announced by Jaime Lissavetzky, Secretary of State, and President of the High Council for Sport, for the organization that best undertakes and promotes the principles contained within the Green Charter. Green Cross Spain will continue collaborating with the Spanish Sport Agency, and specifically with the Observatory of the Spanish Green Charter for Sport in order to make the Green Charter as widespread and effective as possible.

Contact : Irene Perez, Green Cross Spain,
central@greencrossspain.org

■ **Australia : Queensland incorporates the Earth Charter into schools :**

UNESCO recognised The Earth Charter as a key tool in the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. As a result of the highly successful Earth Dialogues Brisbane 2006, the Earth Charter is being incorporated into the school curriculum in Queensland, Australia. The Earth Dialogues Challenge Programme for schools uses the Earth Charter to invite students to investigate ways of reducing their eco-footprint and becoming active in their community to promote sustainability.

The highlight for the students was Education Day, where over 500 students heard Mikhail Gorbachev officially close Earth Dialogues Brisbane 2006 and saw the Student Blueprint for action presented to the Queensland Premier. Students contributed to sessions led by student leaders and scientists in the fields of climate change, human rights and alternative energy. During his Education day address, Premier Peter Beattie announced the inclusion of the Earth Charter into Queensland's curriculum, and the creation of a Queensland Youth Environment Council to enable young Queenslanders to raise their environmental concerns and suggestions with the Government.

The principles and values of the Earth Charter are being addressed in a new values framework being developed for Queensland state schools, Active and informed citizens for a sustainable world- What state schools value, which highlights the interconnectedness of the social, ecological and economic issues we currently face as a society. A range of online materials are being developed which will guide teachers as they incorporate the values and principles of the Earth Charter into their current pedagogical practices. This process will move beyond the traditional content focus of curriculum and towards a more transformative approach, providing authentic opportunities for students to develop the knowledge, skills, values and understandings necessary to solve real-world problems that are relevant to them and to actively participate in the creation of a just, sustainable and peaceful society.

Contact : Linda Dreghorn, Green Cross Australia, linda@greencrossaustralia.org

PROMOTING VALUES AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGES

..... EARTH CHARTER

Children take a lead on environmental issues with Green Cross Italy

On the 12th October, the President of the Italian Republic, His Excellency Giorgio Napolitano, chaired the Award Ceremony for the 15th Earth Charter Youth Contest organised by Green Cross Italy. The Youth Contest is part of Green Cross Italy's environmental educational programme, and is held every year. Its goal is to contribute to the diffusion of environmental protection and sustainable development amongst youth on a global scale. It was



Rita Levi Montalcini (Nobel Prize winner and Honorary President of GC Italy) and Elio Pacilio (Vice-President and CEO of GC Italy) during the Earth Charter Youth Contest Award Ceremony

launched within the framework of promoting the principles and values of the Earth Charter.

Three hundred children from all over Italy attended the Ceremony at the gardens of the Quirinale Palace, along with the Honourable Alfonso Pecoraro Scanio, Italian Minister of the Environment, Land and Sea, the Honorary President of Green Cross Italy, Nobel Prize Laureate Dr Rita Levi-Montalcini, the actress Claudia Cardinale, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador and member of the Board of GC Italy, and Senator Guido Pollice, President of GC Italy. The contest enjoys the patronage of the President of the Republic, the President of the Senate, the President of the Chamber of Deputies, the Prime Minister, and local and regional authorities ; and is supported by the FAO, UNESCO Italy, and the Italian Red Cross.

Every year Green Cross Italy proposes a topic for the Contest and this year it was "young reporters of climate change." Teachers were asked to oversee the children's suggestions and proposals, while encouraging their desire for knowledge, and their creativity. Green Cross Italia also encouraged school children to get out of the classroom to reach those green areas close to them. Prize money was given out to four winners to donate to an environmental project chosen by them. Through the years Green Cross Italy has seen the enthusiastic participation of more than 30 thousand students from nursery to secondary school age. ●

Contact : Elio Pacilio, Green Cross Italy, e.pacilio@greencrossitalia.it

Green Cross International Newsletter

December 2007

Contact Information :

David Alix, Director of Communications - david.alix@gci.ch

Green Cross International - 160a Route de Florissant - 1231 Conches - Geneva, Switzerland

Tel : +41 22 789 16 62 - Fax : +41 22 789 16 95 - www.greencrossinternational.net