



### EDITORIAL

Dear colleagues, dear readers,

With the two-year mark quickly approaching since the last meeting of the GCI General Assembly the leaders of the GCI network are preparing to meet face to face. GA will discuss the pressing issues of enhancing security, poverty eradication and sustainable development, while also looking towards the future of Green Cross International.

Over these last two years GCI has made large strides worldwide through various initiatives and projects in water, sustainable energy, demilitarisation, clean up and dealing with the consequences of Chernobyl, environmental education and awareness. The Legacy of the Cold War programme continues to develop and involve more and more citizens ; in 2006, GCI's global work on water won Mikhail Gorbachev the prestigious UN award of "Champion of the Earth" ; the Earth Charter is endorsed by a growing number of governments and organisations. The greatest sign that a network is in good health is the growth in membership: we have welcomed GC Sri Lanka, Australia, and Canada in 2006-2007.

GCI has been developing quite positively since the last GA in Moscow. However, new trends and challenges that seemed rather vague just a couple of years ago now seem to be obvious and powerful. It concerns general international situation as well as the multiplying setbacks of the sustainable development agenda.

For all these reasons, GCI has initiated a reassessment study of our strategy to be completed by the GA. I hope that all National Organisations will actively contribute to this work at the GA in order to shape actively GCI future rather than wait to be pushed into it !

Alexander Likhotal  
President, Green Cross International

## Earth Dialogues 2006 give rise to Green Cross Australia

### FEATURE STORY

In July 2006, Green Cross International (GCI) partnered with Brisbane Festival to stage the Earth Dialogues Brisbane. Mikhail Gorbachev, Alexander Likhotal, world experts on sustainable development, and a number of Nobel Peace Laureates spoke about the need to recognise that the world is in a global time of trouble.



*Left to Right : Brett Godfrey, Peter Ellyard, Clem Campbell and Ian O'Connor GCA Directors, Premier Peter Beattie & Lord Mayor Campbell Newman (seated).*

During the course of the Dialogues, the Premier of Queensland, Peter Beattie, and the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Campbell Newman, made a commitment to support the establishment of a national branch of Green Cross in Australia. This was particularly significant as the Lord Mayor and Premier are from opposing political parties.

Green Cross Australia was launched in Brisbane on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2007 and while project planning is finalised, the interest in the organisation has been overwhelming. The Earth Dialogues made a huge impression on Australians, and GCA is confident it can bridge government, industry, and community to reach across conflicts that divide communities to reach fair and equitable outcomes to be an effective protector and healer for our future.

President Gorbachev, in his message read at the GCA Launch said "Australia is a key country for GCI: Green Cross Australia will lead the call to action across this vast, diverse land and reinvigorate citizens in the quest for a sustainable and peaceful future for the Pacific region. Australia is a beacon of democracy and stability, but at the same time a nation with highly consumptive habits, and which emits more carbon dioxide per person than any other country apart from the United States. The potential for Green Cross Australia to forge partnerships needed to activate concrete change is clear." GCA is confident that there is the will among Australians to achieve this potential and all involved in GCA will work tirelessly and strategically to this end.

GCA has a wealth of experience and expertise amongst its Directors and Advisory Panel members. The Directors are Ian O'Connor Vice-Chancellor of Griffith University, Brett Godfrey Chief Executive Officer of Virgin Blue Airlines Group, Peter Ellyard, Futurist and Clem Campbell, Australian Chair of Earth Charter. ●

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■ **York University's 'Conflict Conference'**

Green Cross International priorities were front and centre at a recent conference hosted by York University entitled "Conflict and the Environment in the Middle East." Academics and experts presented on various environmental issues faced in Middle East conflicts, and Iraq in particular.

John Coo, Vice President of Green Cross Canada, was asked to present the findings



*Kuwait Oil Fires*

of Green Cross International's "Kuwait - 7 years after" assessment of the environmental aftermath of the 1991 Gulf War.

Participants were also intrigued by Green Cross International's current "Water for Peace" programme taking place primarily in Israel, Palestine and Jordan.

The conference resulted in establishing a national "Conflict & the Environment" network of Canadian academics, experts and NGOs to work together on research, issues, and projects. This network will study and work on the environmental causes and consequences of conflicts everywhere in the world. A perfect fit for future Green Cross International involvement!

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■ **Green Cross Argentina continues to enjoy strong ties with Buenos Aires**

The City of Buenos Aires' Ministry of the Environment has signed a contract with Green Cross Argentina (GCA) to make a preliminary study and proposal on how to change waste management in order to lower pollutants released into the atmosphere from landfills, treatment plants, and transference plants to name but a few... The first working meetings are currently underway, and being held at GCA headquarters. Carlos Lerch, a well-known industrial technologist, Engineer, and UNIDO Senior Project Director, has been charged with heading this project.

On a similar vein, GCA was invited twice weekly to discuss environmental issues with candidates for the position "Chief of Government" in the City of Buenos Aires that took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. It was important that all the different political parties approached GCA to present opinions on their environmental proposals for the city, and receive feedback accordingly.

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## PREVENTING AND RESOLVING CONFLICTS OVER NATURAL RESOURCES

..... ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### The SAGAX REVO & Green Cross International "Double Top" expedition - Ready to go!



Green Cross International is partner of the "Double Top" Greenland expedition. From June 18<sup>th</sup> to July the 18<sup>th</sup> a team of environmental scientists and adventurers, accompanied by children, will traverse Greenland from its highest mountain "Double Top," Hvitserk Gunnbjørnsfjeld, the highest peak in the Arctic and a symbol of

Greenland's shrinking ice-cap, to the northernmost dry point on Earth, Kap Morris Jesup/Oodaaq Qeqertaa: the top of the Arctic. Their mission: to assess the impact of Global warming on wildlife and vegetation in the Arctic Region. Using science and education, the expedition's goal is to create awareness about Global warming with an emphasis on the melting of Greenland's glaciers and pack ice.

Sagax's scientific and environmental eco-science team will have one month to complete a large scientific programme. Luc Hardy, venture capitalist and adventurer climber, is the expedition leader. The Arctic Ecology Research Group's scientists will head the mission that among other things will locate new colonies of the ivory gull, the most emblematic and sadly the most endangered Arctic Seabird, improve the current estimate of its global population, monitor known colonies to assess its population trends, and document its habitat by using 12 gram satellite transmitters. Four scientists, Olivier Gilg, Brigitte Sabard Adrian, Aebischer et Nette Levermann, will have many other scientific tasks to fulfill: census of Flora and Fauna in the Fjord region, lichen and Moss sampling, status and origin of the Greenland Whales relict population, mapping of Archaeological sites, botanic sampling. Four children, varying in age from 4 to 15, will also be members of the expedition to give a fresh perspective on Global warming.

The expedition was officially launched in front of French Media on June 6<sup>th</sup>, where Yves Paccalet, President of Green Cross France, linked this awareness campaign to Green Cross' Global Solar Fund project. The Global Solar Fund offers a new approach to the global energy issue by calling for the creation of a US\$ 50 billion fund to lower the cost of solar energy, combat energy poverty, and stem climate change. ●

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## PREVENTING AND RESOLVING CONFLICTS OVER NATURAL RESOURCES

..... ACCESS TO WATER

### Green Cross France and Spain on how best to quench drought

The International Forum on Drought, held in Seville, Spain, from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of June, 2007, gathered together top experts on water and drought.

The Spanish Ministry for the Environment, the Zaragoza 2008 Expo, the Andalusian Regional Government, the Seville Provincial Council, and the Seville City Council organised the event.



Over 50 events were held over the four days of the Congress, including themed conferences, plenary sessions, open discussions, round tables and other cultural parallel to the main topics. The Forum on Drought has become an international reference bringing together personalities and experts in water scarcity from all over the world seeking to identify solutions that cover social, environmental, cultural, economic, and resource management aspects. Designing strategies for managing and preserving water resources and proposing planning models for drought prevention are some of the main achievements of the gathering.

Green Cross played a major role on the last day of the Forum, which was officially closed by Mrs. Eveline Hefkens, the Executive Coordinator of the UN Millennium Campaign. Green Cross organised the theme session "Framework Convention on the Right to Water. Water is a Right, not a Privilege" in which Bertrand Charrier, Vice-President of Green Cross International, and Alberto Fraguas, the Executive Director of Green Cross Spain, highlighted the main reasons for the lack of an adequate international legal framework - one of the major obstacles to overcoming the current world water crisis. It is for this reason that Green Cross International, together with other organisations, launch worldwide campaigns to claim that the United Nations adopt a specific Convention on the Right of Access to Water as a universal Human Right. This Right would allow all citizens currently deprived of access to water to benefit from the binding enforcement of such a legal framework without any form of discrimination: thus providing access to a natural resource, essential for life, and the development of people and communities. ●

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## EARTH CHARTER IN BRIEF

### ■ Sharing water and knowledge across boundaries in the Sahelian region

Bamako, Mali, 6 and 7 June 2007 - Green Cross



PROGRES workshop

Burkina Faso, represented by CEO Ousséni Diallo, took part in the kick-off workshop of the Sahel Water Governance

Learning Group (PROGRES from its French title *Projet de Gouvernance des Ressources en Eau au Sahel*), as the focal point for the project's work in Burkina Faso. PROGRES is a four-year programme to tackle water issues in Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. It promotes better policies, laws and practices that address the governance and property rights challenges of improving access to water for farming and herding. The project is being coordinated by the International Institute for the Environment and Development. GC Burkina Faso, using its expertise in water management and water as human right, will be facilitating exchange of experience and informed debate in the country, based on the results of the scoping phase.

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### ■ XIII International Conference "Environmental Education for Sustainable Development : Experiences and Prospects"

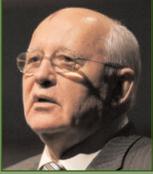


Green Cross Russia (GCR) has just held the XIII International Conference "Environmental

Education for Sustainable Development" from the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2007 in remembrance of the passing of the academician, Nicolay Moiseev, the first President of GCR. The International Conference was jointly organised by Green Cross International, the Russian Environmental Congress, Green Cross Russia, and the International Independent University of Environmental and Political Sciences (MNEPU). Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is a holistic process, which aims to address the issues of the environment and development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Conference covered several issues surrounding the ESD concept : implementation, educational technology and teaching methods, training of teachers, educating the general public, and public health. Participants discussed practical experience and development prospects and held plenary sessions, round tables, topical workshops and poster sessions.

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■ **“Climate change and water security: solving the equation”**



GCI Chairman  
Mikhail Gorbachev



AFD CEO Jean-Michel Severino

Mikhail Gorbachev, Green Cross International (GCI) Chairman of the Board, and Jean-Michel Severino, CEO of the Agence Française de Développement (French Development Agency), recently published an article detailing the ever-growing concern of global warming and the need to adapt water management to climate change. “The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently released alarming data on the consequences of global warming in some of the world’s poorest regions. By 2100, one to three billion people worldwide are expected to suffer from water scarcity. Global warming will increase evaporation and severely reduce rainfalls such that the amount of water available per person could be halved by mid-century in these regions.” Whilst initially dealing with current forecasts for this ‘bleak’ future, the article went on to discuss what could actively be done to avoid this growing crisis. The two men highlighted the physical interventions that could be made, like medium size dams for regulating water supply to ease transboundary tensions ; similarly, local development initiatives to promote change should be encouraged. The article was published in various international and national newspapers worldwide.

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■ **Green Cross Sri Lanka - General Activities**



GC Solar Park - Sri Lanka

2007 will be the third year that the “Green Wave for School Kids Environmental Diary” will have run for in Sri Lanka. The diaries are being distributed to primary school classes in two schools in Moratuwa, the Sunandopananda School and the Prince of Wales College. The diaries are currently being translated and printed from Japanese into Sinhala. The competition will run between June and September. The Green Cross Solar Park’s construction work was completed at the end of May, and GC Japan kindly shipped the Solar Panels and other lighting equipment for the opening ceremony. A further project that Green Cross Sri Lanka is following up on is tree planting and maintenance of Ebony plants, which were distributed to villagers from the Mahaweli region in March 2006. The plant’s growth and development is being carefully monitored by GC Sri Lanka staff and members of various Governmental Departments.

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**ADDRESSING THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WARS AND CONFLICTS**

..... LEGACY OF THE COLD WAR

**Green Cross visits Russian submarine dismantlement shipyard**

Green Cross staff from the “Legacy of the Cold War Program” visited three of our local outreach and information offices in Russia in early June. Dr. Paul Walker, Legacy Program Director ; Dr. Stephan Robinson, Legacy Program Coordinator ; Dr. Vladimir Leonov, Program manager; and Cristian Ion, Legacy Program Associate all visited the Green Cross offices in Severodvinsk in northwest Russia. They were accompanied by Diana Gosens, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Dutch Foreign Ministry to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague.



The Green Cross delegation at the Zvezhdochka shipyard in front of several Russian nuclear submarines in process of dismantlement. Left to Right: Shipyard worker, Paul Walker, Cristian Ion, Diana Gosens, Stephan Robinson, Vladimir Leonov, Nicolai Stephashin (Director of the Green Cross office in Severodvinsk).

The main objective of the Green Cross Legacy Program is to facilitate the safe and sound elimination of weapons of mass destruction globally. The international programme has been involved in the destruction of some 20 000 tons of chemical weapons in both Russia and the US, and has recently opened its 12<sup>th</sup> local outreach and information office in Severodvinsk to help advocate safe and timely submarine dismantlement.

Severodvinsk, in northwest Russia, is best known for its two shipyards - Zvezhdochka and Sevmash, that play a major role in the dismantlement of the 197 strategic and attack nuclear-powered submarines, decommissioned since the end of the Cold War.

The Green Cross group toured the Zvezhdochka shipyard and viewed nuclear submarines and a nuclear powered cruiser in various stages of dismantlement, both in the water and dry-dock. The spent nuclear fuel storage and cable recycling facility, both new buildings constructed with funds from the G-8 Global Partnership, were of interest.

Sevmash is constructing the questionable and hardly criticised world’s first “floating nuclear power plant,” a Russian effort to provide portable nuclear power to the developing world, while Zvezhdochka is handling the interim storage and shipment of nuclear and radioactive waste from the Northern Fleet to the Southern Urals. The group discussed environmental and public health, stakeholder involvement, non-proliferation, terrorism, and transparency issues concerning radioactive and toxic waste storage and processing.

The Global Partnership seeks to dismantle Russia’s 197 decommissioned nuclear submarines by 2010, of which 116 are in the Northern Fleet. Russia has signed cooperation agreements with the US, Britain, Canada, Japan, Italy and Norway. Russia scraps 18 nuclear submarines annually at a cost of \$7 million each. ●

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## PROMOTING VALUES AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGES

..... AWARDS

### Global Green USA celebrates Environment Leaders at 2007 Green Cross Millennium Awards

Los Angeles (June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007) - Green has taken on a new glow over the past year and Global Green USA honoured some of the leaders that helped make that happen on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. They were honoured at Global Green USA's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Green Cross Millennium Awards event.

The Green Cross Millennium Awards were established in 1996 to recognise and herald those whose lives and livelihood embody Global Green USA's mission of "fostering a global value shift toward a more sustainable and secure world."

"We have entered an exciting new time in the environmental movement- people are paying attention and ready to act. The individuals we are honouring today have played an important role in making that change," said Matt Peterson, President and CEO of Global Green, "These leaders may work within the political, entertainment, corporate, philanthropic and academic fields, but they've been important activists in fostering the value shift towards a safer more sustainable future."

The evening featured Global Green USA's diverse 2007 award recipients, representing a broad range of environmental action and leadership with Irmelin DiCaprio, Mayor Gavin Newsom, Jena King, David Orr and Pierre André Senizergues all being honoured at the event.



Matt Petersen with Millenium Award Winners (from left to Right): David Orr, Irmelin DiCaprio, Pierre André Senizergues, Jenna King, Mayor Gavin Newsome

Past recipients of Millennium Awards include Ted Turner, Leonardo DiCaprio, Pierce Brosnan, Kevin Bacon & Kyra Sedgwick, Woody Harrelson, Julia Louis Dreyfus, National Geographic, Ray Anderson - Founder of Interface, Paul Hawken, David Orr, Winona LaDuke and many many more. ●

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## GREEN CROSS IN BRIEF

### Green Cross Japan's 2007 Environment Diary Programme



Local Leaders, Principals, and Municipal and Company Managers reading the Diary

The Environment Diary Programme seeks to give children a better idea of the world in which they live, and what they can do to make it more environmentally friendly. Green Cross Japan (GC Japan) has also started a campaign to help children willing to take environmental action who were stimulated by the diary. Thus far this includes an interview by the national radio station TBS, an article by the national business paper NIKKEI (the Earth day edition), a collaboration with Sanyo Electric Co. Ltd to hold lectures at schools with company staff members, and numerous guidance lectures from GC Japan in schools. The Diary continues to go from success to success, with 100000 copies distributed this year. Meetings are currently being held for schoolmasters, councillors, and company managers to explain what the diary is by reading directly from last year's entries written by school kids. Contact : Tom Kawamoto, Green Cross Japan tom@gcj.jp

### 'The Life of an Ecosystem' - Green Cross Belarus International Summer School

The Green Cross (GC) Belarus is currently running its annual Summer School (from June 26<sup>th</sup> to July 7<sup>th</sup>). This International Summer School's role is to provide children with answers to the most common questions on ecology including, "What role do we human beings occupy in the world?" This year 70 children and 20 teachers from Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia are attending the International Summer School to investigate "The life of an Ecosystem." One of the School's secondary goals is the exchange of methods (both proved and pilot teaching techniques) to promote ecological education.

The School is set to become a vital and practical cooperative project between GC Belarus, GC Russia, and GC Ukraine for ecological education. Members of the Green Cross family are encouraged to join in next year!

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■ **Green Cross Spain has moved offices. Their new address is :**

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## PROMOTING VALUES AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGES

..... ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

### Powerstock Festival - Three Days of 'Alternative Energy'

Green Cross Italy (GC Italy) has partnered with Powerstock Festival to raise awareness on clean energy and sustainability. The three-day international Festival, scheduled to kick-off July 26-28<sup>th</sup>, includes a high-quality roster of



electro-pop musicians who will perform in the picturesque setting of Albanella, a wind-farm in the vicinity of Naples and Capri.

The NGO's missions consist of helping ensure an equitable and sustainable future to all and it does so through a variety of programmes designed to encourage a shift towards a new understanding of global cooperation. The first edition of the Festival is therefore an initiative that highlights Green Cross International's cultural sensibility and pioneering spirit, which has always been at the forefront of campaigns designed to involve citizens in engaging and interdisciplinary ways. In Italy, for example, GC Italy has been the leader in educational programs by organising yearly contests that involve Italy's youth in ways that help them understand sustainability and environmental problems while taking a personal stance. The organisation also serves as an information resource for those who wish to learn more about development, international cooperation and sustainability.

Powerstock is the culmination of the NGO's work, an event where GC Italy's various campaigns on water, environmental education, energy and the Earth Charter merge while providing three days of media entertainment to demonstrate that green technology can be "cool." The Festival will be inaugurated by Jean Michel Jarre, who is also a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Youth and Renewable Energy, as well as the likes of Moby, Klaxons, The MFA, AlexKid, Black Strobe and Fennesz.

The event is part of the DESD (Decade of Education for Sustainable Development declared by the United Nations) and is coordinated by UNESCO in partnership with Green Cross Italy. ●

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## Green Cross International Newsletter

July 2007

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