

Freiburg Forum on Environmental Governance 2008

The Role of Religion in Environmental Governance

18 – 19 April 2008, Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany

Confirmed Speakers:

His All Holiness, Bartholomew I, Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch (Turkey)

His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is spiritual leader to 300 million Orthodox Christians world-wide. Born in Imvros (Gokceada) Turkey (1940), he is 270th successor to the 2000-year-old Church founded by St. Andrew, serving as Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch (1991).

Patriarch Bartholomew has worked for reconciliation among Christian Churches and supported Orthodox countries emerging from religious persecution behind the Iron Curtain. His efforts to promote human rights and religious tolerance, together with his pioneering work for international peace and environmental protection, have placed him at the forefront of global visionaries as an apostle of love, peace and reconciliation. In 1997, he was awarded the Gold Medal of the United States Congress. Studies: Theological School of Halki (1961), Pontifical Oriental Institute of the Gregorian University (1966), Ecumenical Institute (1967) and University of Munich (1968). Ministry: Assistant Dean at the Theological School of Halki (1968-71), Personal Secretary to the late Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios (1972-91), elected Metropolitan of Philadelphia (1973) and Metropolitan of Chalcedon (1990). He speaks Greek, Turkish, Italian, German, French and English.

Dr. Arthur Lyon Dahl (Switzerland)

of Geneva, Switzerland (<http://yabaha.net/dahl>), is a retired Deputy Assistant Executive Director of UNEP with 40 years' experience in environmental assessment, indicators and sustainable development. An ecologist by training, he has long advised developing country governments, and organized the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. He represented the Baha'i International Community at the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment (1972), was in the Secretariat of the Rio Earth Summit (1992), and participated in the World Summit on Religions and Conservation (Windsor, 1995) and the World Parliament of Religions (Barcelona, 2004). He is now Coordinator of the UNEP/University of Geneva Environmental Diplomacy Programme (www.unige.ch/formcont/environmentaldiplomacy/), President of the International Environment Forum (www.bcca.org/ief) and on the governing board of the European Baha'i Business Forum (www.ebbf.org). His books include "*Unless and Until: A Baha'i Focus on the Environment*" and "*The Eco Principle: Ecology and Economics in Symbiosis*".

Ms. Liza Higgins-Zogib (Switzerland)

Liza works for WWF International in the capacity of Manager, People and Conservation, where she leads the 'poverty and conservation' initiative and is strengthening WWF's work and position on indigenous peoples' issues. She is particularly interested in the role of the sacred / spirit in the conservation of biodiversity and she co-authored the WWF/ARC publication *Beyond Belief: linking faiths and protected areas to support biodiversity conservation*. Her expertise also includes protected area management issues and she has assisted many governments around the world to think through and assess how their protected areas are managed. Aside her official duties with WWF, Liza is studying for a doctoral degree in Yoga Philosophy and Meditation with the International Vedic Hindu University, and is a practitioner and teacher of Raja Yoga.

Mr. Fazlun M. Khalid (UK)

Founder and director of the Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences (www.ifees.org.uk) in Birmingham, U.K., Fazlun Khalid is recognized as the foremost expert on ecology from the Islamic perspective. He has also worked as the director of training at the Alliance of Religions and Conservation and served as a consultant for WWF. Khalid believes that protecting the environment is a form of worship, and that humans have a basic right to the benefits of a healthy planet. "As the guardians of Allah's creation we have a responsibility to protect the environment," he says.

Dr. Claude Martin (Switzerland)

Claude Martin has been the Director General of WWF International from 1993 to 2005. During his term WWF developed into the world's largest conservation organization with local WWF organisations in about 100 countries, and over 4400 staff. Currently, he is the chairman of the International Sustainability Innovation Council of Switzerland (ISIS), and the chairman of the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB) – both initiatives of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH/EPF). He is also the Chancellor of the International University in Geneva – a business school. He serves as Board member of Precious Woods, a tropical forestry company leading in FSC certified timber in Latin America and Africa, as well as a Board member of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), several WWF National Organisations, and several other environmental organizations. Claude Martin is a Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science, and was awarded the "Commander of the Golden Arc" by the late Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands. A Swiss, Claude Martin was born in Zurich in 1945. Claude Martin holds a MSc. in zoology from the University of Zurich where he graduated with a PhD thesis in wildlife ecology in 1975.

Dr. Peter Pavlovic (Belgium)

Peter Pavlovic is Study Secretary of the Church and Society Commission of the Conference of European Churches in Brussels and Secretary of the European Christian Environmental Network. Dr. Pavlovic holds university degrees in physics and theology and is an ordained minister of the Lutheran church. In his current position he works on promoting both the dialogue among the churches in Europe and the dialogue between the churches and the European political institutions, such as the European Union and the Council of Europe. In his work, he is particularly engaged in the relation between churches, religions and politics as well as protection of the environment and globalisation.

Prof. Dr. Bron Taylor (USA)

Bron Taylor is President of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture and editor of the *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture*. He has written widely about environmental movements and environmentalism globally, with special attention to their religious, moral, and political dimensions. His publications include the multi-volume and award winning *Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature; Ecological Resistance Movements: The Global Emergence of Radical and Popular Environmentalism and Affirmative Action at Work*. His next book, *Dark Green Religion*, will appear soon. Since his appointment as the Samuel S. Hill Ethics Professor at the University of Florida in 2002, he has taught in the world's first graduate program focusing on Religion and Nature. He is the host of www.religionandnature.com, which is a gateway to the above-mentioned initiatives, research, and teaching.