

**The Interdisciplinary Conference on the Evolution of World Order - EWOC
and Science for Peace Round Table Video Conference on the
"Implementation of Global Sustainability Education"**

October 13th, 2004

**Global Sustainability Education Curriculum and Lesson Plans including GSE through IHTEC's
International School Peace Gardens (ISPG).**

Julia Morton-Marr, Chair, EWOC Sustainability Education.
Email: julia@ihtec.on.ca Website: www.ihtec.org

Paper

Urgency of Sustainability Education

The EWOC conference Global Sustainability Education (GSE) team believes that as we are in the 6th Extinction, the first extinction that has been man made, that ALL education must focus on our survival and the survival of all species. The scientists around EWOC have shown significant scientific proof, that our world leaders have created such chaos, that even those who have created these conditions are now at grave risk themselves. Never before has the importance of solving world issues peacefully become so evident.

Therefore we believe that Education for Sustainability as a curriculum should be **COMPULSORY** and available in all formats especially web-based. All educational institutions must produce courses that have beneficial effects for the survival of all life on the planet. Every student must study a compulsory GSE course at University. Every existing teacher must be retrained. The future looks bleak, all children need to know what we face and that we can change. We do not know who will survive the future of climate change and the effect of wars and chemical emissions. Humanity is **BEYOND WAR** and beyond finding our answers in one academic discipline at a time.

Future Learning requires all humans to **STOP** and **THINK**, then implement a new set of values, new spirit, a new heart and agape love, that is the energy of all living things.

"Declarations" are no good unless they are implemented. In Canada, many schools have begun to develop sustainability educational programs through IHTEC and Green Teacher and other people like Chuck Hopkins, Eric Foster, David Bell, Learning for Sustainable Futures (LSF), Dorothy Goldin-Rosenberg and many others. Eric Schneider has links on his WFS website to many other existing sustainability education sites.

Knowledge

Universal sharing of knowledge using the web and video conferencing, can quickly give all nations the graciousness to **PROTECT EACH OTHER**. We have all the interdisciplinary knowledge base for sustainability education curriculum and Government and NGO's who can participate. Desmond Berghofer's paper for UNESCO "Creating a Knowledge Society: The Building Blocks of a New Transcendent Humanity" last year is the best I have seen so far.

GSE Tasks

There are three main tasks:

1. To teach humans how to clean up the mess that has been made of the planet. This to be done until the basis of life is sustainable again.
2. To teach students what sustainability is and how to maintain it so that we never make the same mess again.
3. It is imperative to teach our future leaders to resolve conflicts peacefully at all levels of society. War is no longer an option.

GSE Framework Slide ...

Method

The implementation of this concept may be a little difficult to grasp, for inclusion in curriculum. It can be simplified by using one issue or problem as a pivot at a time, applying the interdisciplinary framework over the issues. Some schools allocate special interdisciplinary study time each week. IHTEC has used Helmut's framework, which works for

- ! program development by IHTEC in 'Butterflies Breath'
- ! developing global commons concerns using 'mind maps'
- ! analysing a country's problems
- ! establishing balance in an issue, and for
- ! identifying and prioritising tasks.

IHTEC - GSE one pager Slide ..

IHTEC's contribution to sustainability education, through its concepts and materials, began in 1993, and melded with EWOC in 1996. IHTEC's concepts and modules for curriculum have been designed as part of a Global Peace Plan for Education. They are a practical and creative way to teach

- ! who to connect with for the knowledge base in the community.
- ! what issues to focus on
- ! dedication and commitment in the peace garden.
- ! a focus on global issues democratically at the local level.
- ! development of civic organization and which strengthens the UN at the same time as helping with the planet's health.

ISPG - Slide ...

ISPG is an engine for curriculum implementation and teacher training, and helps create change through children and the community. Other great resources include the Green Teacher and Learning for a Sustainable Future. The pivot curriculum includes

Eric blue slide ...

The Fraser Basin Council in British Columbia are finding that working with watersheds are a successful method of implementing sustainability in communities.

Conclusion

The folly of NOT teaching sustainability education is great. The economics of NOT teaching GSE are massive. During the recent SARS epidemic, some schools were closed. So how will we educate now? How will we educate when the Ozone depletes, when the air is polluted or the low level radiation makes it impossible to go outside OR when the next SARS outbreak hits us?

