



International Society for Ecological Economics

December 2003 Newsletter

Contents

President's Report	1
Election Results	3
The New ISEE Board (2004-2005)	3
ISEE's New President: Funding Ecological Economic Research	4
Report on Montreal 2004	5
Online Encyclopaedia of Ecological Economics (OEEE)	8
Elsevier Negotiations and Contract	9
Report on ECOECO (Brazil) Conference	10
Report on USSEE Conference	11
Report on Canadian SEE Conference	12
Report on Russian SEE Conference	13
Report on Australia and New Zealand SEE Conference	14
Past President's Parting Patter	15

President's Report

This is my fourth and final President's report via the ISEE Newsletter; my term ends on 31 December and Charles Perrings takes over as President on 1 January 2004, for the period 2004-2005. Charles gives below his assessment of the issue of research funding for ecological economics and how this may be developed.

This month also brings us the results of the elections for the new ISEE President-Elect and Board. The full results of the election are shown below, and I'd like to offer my congratulations to the successful candidates and commiserations to those not elected (or should it be the other way around?). Also shown is the composition of the new ISEE Board for 2004-2005.

This is also the end of Dick Norgaard's eight-year commitment to the Society, two as President-Elect, four as President and two as Past-President. I'm delighted that Dick has taken this opportunity to reflect on the Society and its development in an article that forms the end-piece of this issue.

I'm sure we are all looking forward eagerly to the ISEE conference in Montreal next summer, and we have a report on progress in its preparation. The conference promises to be a gala occasion, and marks our return to a North American venue for the first time since Boston in 1996. Montreal is a lively and attractive city, easily accessible by air and land, and in July the weather is usually very clement. So if you haven't booked already, now is the time to do so!



An important area of development for ISEE is our web-based encyclopaedia, which has made considerable and rapid progress under the very able and energetic editorship of Eric Neumayer. Eric reports on encyclopaedia developments in his article, and I think this new ISEE venture holds great promise.

We also have reports on some ISEE business, in the form of a report on the current renegotiation of the contract between ISEE and Elsevier, the publishers of our journal. These negotiations have been lengthy, but it seems that we are near to an agreement that will give appropriate recognition to the Society's role in the governance of the journal, and also provides us with a very welcome royalty income.

While ISEE holds its conference in even years (e.g. 2004), the odd years are when our regional societies meet. Since the last Newsletter, conferences have been held by our regional societies in the US, Russia, Brazil, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and (very recently) in India. We have conference reports from all of these save India (whose report will appear in the June 2004 Newsletter).

Concerning these conferences, I was delighted to be able to attend the meetings of USSEE (in Saratoga Springs) and RSEE (on Lake Baikal in Siberia). Both were lively and energetic, and although to neither was the weather very kind, it was clear from the quality of the presentations and the large number of young researchers attending, that ecological economics is flourishing in both the US and Russia. I had also proposed to attend the ECOECO conference in Brazil, but unfortunately an illness in my family meant I had to cancel at the last minute – to my very great regret. ISEE was also represented at the Canadian meeting (in Jasper) by Dick Norgaard, and at the Australia and New Zealand meeting (in Auckland) and the Indian meeting (in Kolkata) by Charles Perrings.

Perhaps I can offer a final few words on my experience as ISEE President over the past two years. One crucial development has been the transfer of the editorship of our journal, *Ecological Economics*, from Bob Costanza to Cutler Cleveland. I was delighted when Cutler agreed to take on this large and important task, and even more delighted with the seamless way the responsibility was transferred to Boston. Cutler has established a very competent editorial office, and our journal seems set to grow in influence and quality.

Another area I think we have made good progress in recent years has been our web presence, and I hope that with further developments (to complement our encyclopaedia) our website can continue to expand to serve ISEE members and other people interested in ecological economics.

Of course, information technology is not glitch-free, as we noticed with the apparently complete failure of Elsevier's subscription database, which meant many members (including me) did not receive their journal issues for many months. After much badgering, Elsevier seems to have got its act together, and regular deliveries have resumed. More work is also necessary to ensure that our membership database is kept up-to-date, and shared fully and promptly with the regional societies, so that we all know just who our members are and how we can contact them. I know that this is an area that Charles Perrings intends to address, and trust that progress can be made rapidly.

Also retiring is the current ISEE Board, and I'd like to thank Paula Antunes, Kate Brown, Kanchan Chopra and Jonathan Harris for all their efforts on behalf of the Society over the past two years. I'd also like to like to express my appreciation of Charles Perrings, who as President-Elect has been a prime mover in organising the



Montreal 2004 conference, as well as playing a central role in the Elsevier contract negotiations, and representing ISEE so ably at the ANZSEE and INSEE conferences. I wish Charles well during his period as President, and trust he will find it rewarding and not too exhausting!

I'd like to salute my two predecessors as ISEE President. Bob Costanza did an amazing job, establishing both the journal and the Society, and ably running both for many years. Dick Norgaard took over a society that was growing and rapidly becoming more international and disparate in its nature. He saw into being our new constitution, and did much to weld together ISEE and the emerging regional societies into a mutually reinforcing whole. ISEE owes them both a great deal.

Finally, let me say to be elected President and to serve the society of our important and rapidly growing discipline has been a great honour, and one that I shall always treasure. I now look forward to playing the role of Past President, and for the next two years working with our new President, and the new ISEE Board.

John Proops

ISEE President

Election Results

President-Elect

Joan Martinez-Alier	251	(elected)
Mike Young	77	

Board Members

David Barkin	117	
Jon Erickson	130	(elected)
Jonathan Harris	117	
Steve Hatfield Dodds	56	
Richard Howarth	129	
Pushpam Kumar	151	(elected)
Wendy Proctor	146	(elected)
Dale Rothman	99	
Carlos Young	171	(elected)

By-Laws Revision

Accept the Revisions	254
Oppose the Revisions	3

The New ISEE Board (2004-2005)

<i>President</i>	Charles Perrings (cap8@york.ac.uk)
<i>President-Elect</i>	Joan Martinez-Alier (joan.martinez.alier@uab.es)
<i>Past President</i>	John Proops (j.l.r.proops@keele.ac.uk)
<i>Board Members</i>	Jon Erikson (jon.Erickson@uvm.edu)
	Pushpam Kumar (pkumar5in@yahoo.com)
	Wendy Procter (Wendy.Proctor@csiro.au)
	Carlos Young(young@ier.ufrj.br)



ISEE's New President Funding Ecological Economic Research

Ecological economics has reached something of a cross-roads. The importance of interdisciplinary approaches to the science and management of environmental problems has been widely accepted by research funding agencies – at least in principle. But with a few notable exceptions, research funding agencies have yet to translate this into support for an ecological economics research agenda. Instead, research programmes have had either to fit the monodisciplinary programmes favoured by funding agencies, or to be packaged in such a way that their component parts can be separately evaluated by monodisciplinary peer review panels. This is true of even the best interdisciplinary funding initiatives – the NSF's Biocomplexity Programme. There are some encouraging developments on the horizon. The UK's RELU initiative, for example, is designed from the outset to be interdisciplinary. But there have been other encouraging developments before, and all have failed at the same hurdle – the peer review process. The net result is that funded 'interdisciplinary' environmental research is still being undertaken by consortia cobbled together to meet the needs of individual calls, in which the primary aim remains to do parallel research into the ecology, hydrology, economics, sociology etc of the problem.

ISEE was formed to support the efforts of scientists who understood that the physical interdependence of natural and social processes requires an interdisciplinary approach. Indeed, Bob Costanza went further in suggesting that it required a 'transdisciplinary' approach. The society has delivered on the expectations of its members in two important areas. First, the journal founded and initially edited by Costanza provides a very successful forum for the publication of the results of interdisciplinary research. There is every reason to believe that it will continue to do so under Cutler Cleveland. Second, the society has successfully run a series of biennial international conferences at which people can report their results and exchange views and experiences with others in the field. These conferences have proved to be more inclusive of work across the sciences, and so more attractive than many other environmental meetings. The effectiveness of both the journal and the conferences is reflected in the membership of the society. So far, however, the society has not delivered on the expectations of its members in a third, critically important area.

What ISEE has yet to do is to persuade the research funding agencies and the scientific community who peer review research funding applications that the science of anthropogenic environmental change, environmental management and environmental economics is better science if it is interdisciplinary. Ecological economics is still very poorly represented on the programme review boards of research funding agencies, and it is still poorly perceived by those who do serve in such capacities. This has two implications. The first is that there are very few properly funded ecological economics research programmes. Since the level of research funding attracted by a field is an indicator of the importance attached to that field, this is a problem. But it is more a problem because it is still difficult to point to research results that show ecological economics to be better science. Without such results it is hard to convince users including policy-makers, funding agencies, university appointments and promotions committees of the value of the work. The second implication follows from the first. The ecological economics research agenda is itself skewed. A good deal of time and effort is still wasted in criticism of the science of others as



researchers try to assert the right to be heard. It is still common, for example, to hear ecological economists railing against the science of neoclassical economics. The other side of the same coin is that much of the funded research that is done by ecological economists is still tailored to fit the constraints of the existing funding system, and so loses many of the advantages of working across disciplines.

Both things make it harder for the society to press the ecological-economics research agenda. Yet that is what we have to do. We have to persuade those who fund both the basic and applied science of environmental change that ecological economics does indeed offer a serious alternative. It is only if given problems are investigated from an ecological economics as well as more conventional disciplinary perspectives that we can put the claims made by those in the field to the test. It is routine in other fields to fund multiple approaches to given problems in order to find the one that works best. This has yet to happen in the economics of environmental change. It may be premature to talk of the 'mainstreaming' of ecological economics, but we need to make sure that ecological economic science is given the opportunity by mainstream funding agencies to show that it works. I see this as the primary challenge of my presidency.

Charles Perrings

ISEE President-Elect and Incoming President

Report on Montreal 2004

VISIT THE WEBSITE: www.iseemontreal2004.com

ISEE 2004 will take place at the Montreal Palais des Congrès from 11 to 14th July: under the title *Challenging Boundaries: Economics, Ecology and Governance*.

The Conference will explore the scientific basis for the modelling, regulation and management of international and interdisciplinary problems such as climate change and biodiversity loss. It will examine the many boundaries – between disciplines, between ecosystems and political entities – that structure our approach to such environmental problems, and will assess the impact these boundaries have on both science and governance.

The Structure of the Conference and How to Submit Contributions

The conference program will comprise plenary sessions with eminent speakers from different disciplinary backgrounds including Bob Costanza, Partha Dasgupta, Buzz Holling, Juan Martinez-Alier, Hal Mooney, Mohan Munasinghe and Joan Roughgarden. It will have core and regular parallel sessions, poster sessions and special sessions. The final status of core and regular parallel sessions will be determined by the Scientific Committee on the basis of the proposed papers (see below). The papers presented in Core sessions will be published in an Ecological Economics Proceedings special volume.

Special sessions may be organized on any topic relevant to the conference theme, even if they were not identified by the organising committee. These are seen as a way of engaging with organizations such as NAFTA, the CBD and the Montreal Protocol and other similar institutions. Special sessions may take a variety of forms including round-table discussions, panel sessions, or tutorials.

The following topics were identified by the organising committee for core and regular parallel sessions:



- Biodiversity, biotechnology and biosafety: Resource management in first nations
- Biodiversity, biotechnology and biosafety: Intellectual property rights
- Climate change policies
- Behavioural economics and game theory
- Macroeconomics and the environment
- Transboundary resource management
- International environmental policy
- Resilience
- Epistemological foundations of ecological economics
- Ecosystem health and environmental indicators
- Uncertainty and the precautionary principle
- Links with environmental impact assessment
- Links with industrial ecology
- Ethics, values and the environment
- Complexity, post-normal science and ecosystem approach

Some of these topics are now under the specific responsibility of individual or groups who have volunteered to lead them (David Waltner-Toews for Complexity, post-normal science and ecosystem approach, Bob Costanza for Ecosystem health) other topics related to ecological economics will also be considered and already a number of proposal for other regular parallel sessions have been sent to the organising committee such as:

- Ecological economics applied to the case of Mountain areas studies
- Governance challenge of global economic integration and immigration. Do environmental concerns have a role to play?

Their final status will be confirmed on the web site by the the 1st of February.

A number of proposal for special sessions have been received so far:

- The *North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation* is becoming a Major Partner of the Conference and will organise a special session on economic aspects of GMO.
- The *National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (Canada)*, also a Major Partner, will organise a special session to discuss their organization's work in the field of Canada's Natural Capital (including topics such as indicators, urban communities, rural communities and the creation of a natural capital information system).
- *DIVERSITAS*, the international global environmental change research programme related to biodiversity issues will organise a one day session and take the opportunity of the Conference to hold an internal post conference workshop.
- *The Institut de l'énergie et de l'environnement des pays francophones (IEPF)* will host the first scientific meeting or the recently launched network of environmental economists of the Francophonie as part of the ISEE meeting. It will contribute to the participation of colleagues from French speaking Africa and some other French speaking developing countries.

More proposal of this kind are welcome but make sure you submit them by January 15 (extended deadline from December 15)

How to Submit

CORE SESSIONS



If you want your presentation to be included in a Core Sessions, authors must submit full papers electronically no later than January 15, 2004. These papers should be sent as attachments to info@iseemontreal2004.com, in Word (.doc) or Acrobat (pdf) format.

(See Submission Standards on www.iseemontreal2004.com)

REGULAR SESSIONS AND POSTERS

For regular parallel sessions and posters, authors should submit abstracts, sent as attachments to info@iseemontreal2004.com. They should refer to one of the main themes of the conference. However it is possible to submit abstracts under other topic headings and they will then be regrouped in new themes when relevant.

The use of posters differs greatly from one discipline to another. Posters will serve as an important means of communication at this Conference. They will be displayed in one or more sessions during the Conference, depending on the number of poster abstracts submitted, and should be ready for display on the opening day. The authors will have several occasions to discuss on an individual or small group basis with the participants. Summaries of the poster contributions will be included in the oral sessions. Detailed information about poster presentations will appear on the website in January.

Contributors whose papers or abstracts are not accepted for presentation in one of the regular parallel sessions may be offered the opportunity to bring a poster to the conference.

Training Workshops

It is also important to remember that, prior to the Conference, from Thursday, July 8 to Saturday, July 10, a series of workshop will be organised for individuals (either from the academic sector, civil servants, consultants, students) with undergraduate and postgraduate training and experience in fields such biology, engineering, chemistry, and geology, as well as economics, geography, and other social sciences.

The goal is to give participants increased familiarity and competence in capacity building for sustainable development by enhancing their understanding in:

- The dynamics of ecosystem functioning
- The concepts, methods, and paradigm of ecological economics
- The biological, physical, and socio-economic and institutional implications of ecosystem management decisions

Participants should also expect to be stimulated, perhaps provoked, to go beyond the comfort zone and challenge boundaries of their own and other discipline.

The following topics were identified as priorities but the final list will be confirmed at a later date:

- *WS 1: The Paradigm of Ecological Economics and Sustainable Development*
- *WS 2: The Ecosystem Production Function: Circulating Human and Natural Capital*
- *WS 3: Valuation of the Ecosystem Production Function: An Embedded Value of a Environment-Economy Transaction Matrix*
- *WS 4: Industrial Metabolism: the Entropy Process and Material-Energy Balance Accounts*
- *WS 5: Complex Systems Analysis: Biodiversity, Biosafety and Biotechnology*



- *WS 6: Management: Mapping, Monitoring and Modeling of Ecosystem Health and Integrity*
- *WS 7: Risk Assessment in Complex Systems Analysis: the Theory of Limits and SD*
- *WS 8: Indicators for sustainable development an Integrated Environment-Economy Accounting Approach*

A workshop on a specific topic will last from 10 to 17 hours in total (3 hours on Thursday afternoon, followed by 7 hours on Friday and on Saturday), and is the responsibility of a single Tutor or Team. The final choice of topic to be examined will depend on the number of registrations, with a minimum of 10 participants with a maximum of 20. All workshops will run in parallel, therefore a participant can only register to one activity. Switching from one WS to another is not permitted. The registration fee is \$700 CAD per workshop for ISEE members and \$900 for non-members.

At this stage the organising committee is searching participants as well as trainers. If you are interested in delivering a training session on one of the topics identified above or on a topic you think relevant to members of ISEE, let us know. General correspondence for the training workshops should be sent to oei@er.uqam.ca.

We hope to see you in all in Montreal where we are planning exciting events, both on the academic and social side.

Frank Muller and Jean-Pierre Revéret

For the Organising Committee

Online Encyclopaedia of Ecological Economics (OEEE)

Defining the distinct identity of ecological economics is an ongoing task its supporters are committed to. The Online Encyclopaedia of Ecological Economics (OEEE) represents an important step in this direction. It was launched in March 2003 by ISEE and can be found at: <http://www.ecologicaleconomics.org/publica/encyc.htm>.

This encyclopaedia provides students, academics, journalists, activists, policy makers and everybody else interested, with a first-hand introduction to many of the topics at the heart of ecological economic analysis. Most of the entries of the OEEE not only provide a detailed analysis of the chosen topic, but also discuss the contribution that ecological economics and ecological economists have made. References enable the reader to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the topic.

We regard the OEEE as a unique and exciting project. The great advantage of having an online encyclopaedia is that new entries can be constantly added and – in the future – existing entries can be updated. There are no physical limits to the number of entries the encyclopaedia can contain!

Our thanks go to the many authors who have already contributed. Current entries cover the following wide range of topics relevant to ecological economics:

- Climate Change
- Discounting the Future
- Early History of Ecological Economics and ISEE
- Entropy
- Environmental Kuznets Curve



- Environmental Policy Lessons of Alternative Theories of Economic Behaviour
- Environmental taxation and the double dividend
- Equity
- Industrial Ecology
- Joint Production
- Kyoto Protocol and its flexibility mechanisms
- Material Flow Accounting and Analysis (MFA)
- Methodological Pluralism
- Monetary Valuation
- Multicriteria Assessment
- Resilience defined
- Post-Normal Science
- Sustainability and Sustainable Development
- Sustainability Indicators
- Technological "lock-in"
- Trade and Environment
- Welfare Economics and Ecological Economics Valuation and Policy

In addition, the following topics have already been commissioned and are to be added to the OEEE in the near future:

- Biodiversity Conservation
- Common Property Resources
- Environmental and resource accounting
- Multiple Capital Paradigm
- Poverty and the environment
- Property rights
- Scale: Its Relation to Allocation and Distribution

Most importantly, we actively welcome suggestions for new entries. Ideally, such proposals are accompanied with suggestions for authors as well, which could be the same person or somebody else. If not, we do our best to find an expert to write the entry. Importantly, as an open forum, the encyclopaedia's authors are not restricted to members of the ISEE (even though most authors are members). Authors retain the copyright and can therefore use their own entries in other publications.

For suggestions on topics, authors or any other idea relevant to the encyclopaedia, simply send an Email to e.neumayer@lse.ac.uk mentioning the encyclopaedia in the subject line.

OEEE Editor

Eric Neumayer, London School of Economics (LSE)

Elsevier Negotiations and Contract

First, I should offer colleagues some background information. Our society and journal *Ecological Economics* were both founded in 1988, with Bob Costanza having the dual role of Society President and journal editor. A contract to publish the journal was negotiated with the publishers Elsevier, giving ISEE members much reduced subscription rates. As is common in such contracts, the ownership of the title was held by the publisher, which agreed to pay royalties to the Society to allow the support of the editorial office. The contract was for a five-year term, and was renewed twice, expiring in December 2003.



With the appointment of Cutler Cleveland as the new journal editor, the opportunity was taken to reflect in the Elsevier contracts the current separation of the roles of President and editor. Consequently, Cutler negotiated a contract whereby a fixed annual payment is made by Elsevier to support his editorial office in Boston.

In negotiating the new contract between Elsevier and ISEE, the Board has tried to achieve three aims.

1. That there is an explicitly recognised role for ISEE in setting the aims of the journal, and in the selection of future editors and editorial boards.
2. That a journal royalty payment is made direct to ISEE, to support our activities.
3. That there is a service level agreement, to ensure that if Elsevier again fails in its deliveries, that they would make suitable recompense to the affected ISEE members.

I am pleased to report reasonable success on all three fronts.

- The role of ISEE concerning the journal was already implicitly accepted by Elsevier, but the new wording of the contract makes this explicit.
- We have agreed a journal royalty payment to ISEE, which should be of the order of US\$30,000 per year. This will allow us to expand our activities while still keeping the ISEE subscription rate quite low.
- We are agreeing a service level agreement, which will give one year's free journal subscription to ISEE members whose journal deliveries fall below a certain threshold of punctuality.

Also, to reflect the acceptance by Elsevier of their failings in journal delivery over a considerable period, Elsevier has agreed to make a donation to ISEE of US\$10,000, to support attendance at the Montreal conference of colleagues from poorer countries.

Full details of the contract and service level agreement will be published on the ISEE website once they have been finalised and formally agreed by Elsevier and the ISEE Board.

John Proops

ISEE President

Report on ECOECO (Brazil) Conference

The 5TH ECOECO conference was held on 3rd to 6th September 2003 in the University of Caxias do Sul, at Caxias do Sul, State of Rio Grande do Sul, in the southern region of Brazil.

“Brazil and Southern Cone: Challenges and Opportunities for a Sustainable Development” was the theme of the 5TH ECOECO conference, aimed at promoting a cross-border debate, especially to build efforts to integrate research contributions from the MERCOSUR region.

The increasing interest in ECOECO's activities was confirmed by the record number and the high quality of the papers for the 5TH ECOECO conference (60 papers were selected for oral presentation plus 80 posters).

In the opening session, Luciana Togeiro de Almeida, ECOECO's President, was followed by the former Presidents – Peter May, Carlos Young and Maurício Amazonas – presenting a view of the international and national diffusion of



Ecological Economics, pointing out the contribution of ECOECO. Beyond offering a rich understanding of the role of the ECOECO, the highest moment of this session was Peter May's presentation, who performed for John Proops' (the ISEE President due to unexpected events could not attend ECOECO's meeting as was planned). "Peter Proops" speech on the Ecological Economics Perspectives was presented in English – with a distinctive British accent – with "simultaneous translation" provided by himself. This was no doubt a very interesting and high-spirited session.

The complete programme of the 5TH ECOECO conference included discussions on theoretical and applied issues, strongly aimed at contributing to sustainable development in Brazil, addressing the linkages between environment, urban development, poverty and sustainability of the agribusiness.

Walter Pengue attended the 5TH ECOECO as member representative of the Asociación Argentino Uruguay de Economía Ecológica (ASAUEE). Based on empirical evidence, Pengue reported the environmental and social-economic problems caused by the expansion of the soy production area in Argentina.

The programme also included special sessions: (i) the presentation by Peter May on the Research Project "Valuation of Environmental Services in Conservation Unities", a joint initiative of IBAMA/Ministry of Environment and ECOECO; (ii) the presentation by Clóvis Cavalcanti on the Research Project "A Contribution to the Sustainable Development in Angola".

The Parallel Session on "Teaching and Research on Economic, Society and Environment" addressed the question of how to foster this theme in the curriculum of undergraduate and graduate courses offered in Brazil.

The ECOECO Board for 2004/2005 was elected by the Assembly of the Members occurred during the 5TH ECOECO conference. Ademar Romeiro (Professor at Institute of Economics, University of Campinas, State of São Paulo) and Amélia Rodrigues (Professor at Federal University State of Pará) – President and Vice-President – will take charge of ECOECO from 1st January 2004. The mandate of Luciana Togeiro de Almeida and Luciana Simões – President and Vice-President during 2001/2002 – was approved by the whole Board and indicated for re-election. The outgoing Presidency ("Double LU") were thankful for the confidence vote but preferred to continue only as members of the Board.

The organizers of the 5TH ECOECO acknowledge the financial support from ISEE and give their special thanks to John Proops.

Luciana Togeriro
EcoEco President

Report on USSEE Conference

The Second Biennial Meeting of the United States Society for Ecological Economics (USSEE) was held in Saratoga Springs, New York, May 22-24, 2003. Over 250 people were in attendance, participating in over 40 contributed paper sessions with over 130 individual presentations and panel discussions. Highlights of the conference included keynote presentations by Juliet Schor, national best-selling author of *The Overworked American*, and Jim Kunstler, author of *The Geography of Nowhere* and *The City in Mind*. Plenary sessions tackled the themes of ecosystem health featuring ecological economists Bob Costanza and Bill Dennison representing the International Society for Ecosystem Health, and the relationship between biodiversity loss and



climate change with world-renowned conservation biologist Stuart Pimm and climatologist Stephen Schneider.

The conference also marked the inaugural presentation of USSEE's Herman Daly Award, "established to recognize individuals who have connected ecological economic thinking to practical applications and implementation of solutions that are sustainable in scale, equitable in distribution, and efficient in allocation." The 2003 award was presented to David Batker, Director of the Asia Pacific Environmental Exchange (APEX) Center for Applied Ecological Economics, in recognition of his advocacy work and practical application of ecological economics in combating the globalization of unsustainable economic policies, particularly in the areas of toxics, forests, fisheries and global trade policy.

A number of selected conference papers will be published in an edited volume by Edward Elgar Publishing, on the themes of environmental valuation, biodiversity and ecosystem health, climate change, and energy. The USSEE is also soliciting conference and other papers for an online working paper series. The USSEE's third conference is currently being planned for the Seattle, Washington area during the summer of 2005. For information on past conferences and updates on the 2005 conference, please see www.ussee.org.

Jon Erickson

Conference Organiser

Report on Canadian SEE Conference

The Canadian Society for Ecological Economics (CANSEE) held its fifth biennial conference in the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge, an exclusive and unique environmental setting in Jasper National Park, Alberta, from October 16 to 19, 2003. Over 150 persons were in attendance with over 35 from international destinations including the United States, Japan, Germany, France and South Korea.

The title of the conference was: "Sustainability: Making Genuine Progress", The conference explored how ecological economics is helping to shape public policy, corporate governance, and community well being on the path towards a sustainable economy. Herman Daly and John Cobb Jr. opened the conference with lucid and provocative presentations "On the Path to Sustainability: Are we making Genuine Progress"? Their wits, charm and provocative statements set the tone for this conference. Daly explored the views of ecological economics from outside our discipline while John Cobb Jr. reflected on the progress society has made towards the vision of a sustainable future that he and Daly laid out in their book *For the Common Good*. A panel on the ethical values underpinning sustainability presented a diversity of opinions from both academic, business and community voices.

The 20 concurrent sessions explored the theory, research and practical application of ecological economics for households, communities, corporations and governments in implementing sustainability. The primary focus of these sessions is to explore the evidence for progress towards sustainability principles and objectives. Where is genuine progress being made, and why? Each session produced a set of recommendations on future ecological economic research and development needs of importance to government, business and communities.

The conference concluded with closing reflections by both Herman Daly and John Cobb, facilitated by Bob Fessenden, Deputy Minister of Alberta Sustainable



Resource Development. The recommendations of all 20 concurrent sessions were also presented and will be available on the CANSEE website. Several of the presentations and papers will also be available on the CANSEE website sometime in December.

The conference provided a healthy reality check on the progress that has been made by ecological economics in guiding the world towards a sustainable future. Some feel that real progress has been made while others are less optimistic, even pessimistic.

Overall, the participants were excited, engaged in the various discussions, and curious to learn more about ecological economics. It was a good opportunity to raise the profile of ecological economics and the contribution ecological economists have and continue to make in shaping public policy and in sustainable business practices. There were many members from the Alberta Government and Federal Government in attendance. As a result of the conference, roughly 12 new members have joined, the majority of participants came from NGOs and the provincial government of Alberta.

The conference was a financial success running a healthy \$20,000 surplus with over \$43,000 in government and corporate sponsorship. The surplus is being profit-shared with our successful conference organizer (Mr. James Van Leeuwen) and to CANSEE's coffers to revitalize our bank account to create a healthy cash float for the next 2005 conference. The next conference will likely be held at York University in Toronto.

ISEE was represented by Richard Norgaard and the USSEE was represented by its president, John Gowdy. CANSEE is very grateful to our conference organizing team: James Van Leeuwen as conference manger, and Mark Anielski, as conference chairman. It seems that CANSEE is in the process of developing a new tradition, namely that successful conference organizers become the CANSEE-president.

CANSEE 2003 Executive

A new CANSEE Executive was nominated at our business meeting, including:

Mark Anielski, President, anielski@telus.net

Frank G. Müller, Past President, frank.g.muller@sympatico.ca

Adam Senche, Secretary-Treasurer adam.senech@ec.gc.ca

Kent Gustavson, Vice President, Research and Education

Terry Rolfe, Vice President, Program

(who has had to resign due to family illness but will be replaced by a consortium including Ellie Perkins esperk@yorku.ca and Peter Victor from York University)

Eva Kras, Vice President, Communications, evakras@telus.net

Frank Muller and Mark Anielski

CANSEE Past-President and CANSEE President

Report on Russian SEE Conference

The 6th Biennial Meeting of the Russian Society for Ecological Economics, RSEE'2003 (Baikal Conference), took place in Kultushnaya settlement on the shore of Lake Baikal, Eastern Siberia, Russia, on 18th to 23rd August 2003. The conference was organized by the Transbaikal Center for Ecological Economics and Institute of Natural Resources of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Chita, Russia). The event was supported by many institutions, such as ISEE itself, the Chita regional government, the Russian Fund for Basic Research, the



Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research, the University of Twente, Netherlands, Chita State University, Russia, the Institute for System Dynamics and Control Theory SB RAS, Russia, the Institute of Control Sciences, RAS, Russia, the Center for Economic and Social Studies on Environment, Free University of Brussels (CEESE/ULB), G.R. Herberger College of Business, Saint Cloud State University, Minnesota, USA, Gund Institute of Ecological Economics, University of Vermont, USA

More than 80 participants from 9 countries attended this event, and about a half of attendees were post-graduate students and young scientists. The list of the Conference topics included:

- Theoretical Aspects of Ecological Economics
- Ecological Economics and Education
- Natural Resources Valuation and Environmental Accounting
- Biodiversity and Regional Development
- Environmental Policy Mechanisms
- Ecological-Economic Modeling and Information Systems
- Environmental Management Systems, Environmental Audit, Risk Management and Insurance
- Ecological Economics for the Lake Baikal Region.

The Conference was opened by John Proops, ISEE President, with the presentation “Ecological Economics in the 21st century”. The Vice Governor of the Irkutsk Region, Professor Irina Dumova, was among the plenary lecturers with the paper “Experience of implementation of environmental policy tools in the Irkutsk region”. More than 20 papers were presented at the plenary sessions. There were several presentations devoted to theoretical aspects of EE (Peter Soderbaum, Malardalen University, Sweden, Anthony Friend, UBC, Canada, Alexey Voinov, Gund Institute of Ecological Economics,) and their consideration in the context of Russian economy in transition (Elena Ryumina, RAS, Sergey Bobylev, Moscow State University, Pavel Kasyanov, RSEE, and others). Many papers by Russian scientists were concerned with the social, economic and environmental sustainability of the Russian economy and the unsustainable path of the current development of Siberia. The empirical results of case studies showed that the recent economic growth in Russia is mainly resource-based and export driven.

Several papers addressed the valuation and quantitative methods and SD indicators. A new Russian-Dutch project, “Quality of growth indicators for transition economy”, was presented by Professors Anne van der Veen (University of Twente, Netherlands) and Irina Glazyrina (Transbaikal Center for Ecological Economics).

Prof. E. Wiehn, from the University of Konstanz, proposed to elaborate the Baikal Declaration of the Responsibility of Universities for environmental knowledge and environmental ethics in decision-making. This idea was supported by all of the participants. There was special discussion, resulting in consensus view of the role of the RSEE in environmental education and the promotion of ideas of SD policies in Russia.

A detailed report made by Prof. Anthony Friend can be found at the ISEE web-site www.ecologicaleconomics.org.

Vasilij Glazyrin and Irina lazyrina

Vice Rector of Chita State University and RSEE President



Report on Australia and New Zealand SEE Conference

ANZSEE and the New Zealand Center for Ecological Economics recently hosted an extremely successful one day 'Think Tank' titled "Ecological Economics at the Cutting Edge", in Auckland (New Zealand). The aim of the Think Tank was to increase awareness of ecological economic theory and practice within New Zealand and Australia. Over eighty delegates from diverse backgrounds (from members of Parliament to policy analysts and scientists) attended an equally diverse day's proceedings. Plenary presentations covered topics ranging from 'what is ecological economics?', 'ecological economics and public policy' through to 'the wisdom of ecological economics.' Of special note were the presentations made by New Zealand's Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, and the two international speakers Charles Perrings, and Matthias Ruth. A total of 18 papers were presented in six parallel sessions covering many areas at the cutting edge of Australasian ecological economics research: worldviews of ecological economics, ecological footprinting, sustainable engineering and energy, ecosystem services, sustainability and ecological economics in practice. We now aim to publish the proceedings in a book with a working title "Ecological Economics at the Cutting Edge in Australasia". The Think Tank was part of a wider conference on Businesses and Sustainability organised by the Sustainable Business Network, ANZSEE and The Natural Step.

For copies of the papers and more information about the Think Tank program, visit the website <http://eerg.massey.ac.nz/thinktank/thinktankindex.asp> or contact Nigel Jollands (nigel.jollands@agresearch.co.nz).

Nigel Jollands

Conference Organiser

AgResearch Ltd, Grasslands Research Centre, Private Bag 11008, Palmerston North, New Zealand DDI +64 6 351 8068 // Mob +64 29 200 5821 // Fax+64 6 356 8032 email: nigel.jollands@agresearch.co.nz

Past President's Parting Patter

ISEE has doubled in age since I was elected President-Elect eight years ago. Our efforts to foster the development of regional societies and promote membership in developing countries have been effective. New regional societies have emerged. Our membership has nearly doubled. We have transformed from an organization with members predominantly in the industrialized North to an organization whose members more nearly reflect the regional populations of the world. Our web site is looking very good, thanks to the contributions of many members. The journal is thriving. Democratic governance is working, though not without its customary difficulties. Much of our success has been due to the good insights and diligent efforts of John Proops as President-Elect and President.

More was being done under the ISEE banner during the vigorous leadership of Bob Costanza. Somewhat less is now being done, but what is being done now reflects the diverse interests of ISEE members. Our conflicting interests seriously complicate our efforts. While each of us has our own views on what ecological economists should be striving for, one of the advantages of being President is that you have the opportunity to discover how diverse the interests of ecological economists as a whole really are. Let me elaborate on these and how they conflict.



First, we want to establish our identity as ecological economists. To a large extent this entails differentiating ourselves from neoclassical environmental economics. We think the dynamics and thresholds of ecological systems matter; nature is not infinitely resilient. We think choice can be collective as well as individual, and that each impedes on the other, not simply collective choice on individual. We think equity questions have to be addressed head on; progress needs to be directed. Second, when we do use economics, one of our goals, and it is applicable to all of the disciplines, is to use it correctly. When we make this effort, we soon discover that neoclassical economists themselves have castrated their theory with respect to equity and collective choice in order to not be seen as a risk by those in the current power structure. Third, we want to win the respect of economists, but to do so means playing down our understanding of ecology, equity, and collective choice and winking at the illogic underlying how neoclassical economists have avoided these key issues. Fourth, we want to advance more rapidly along the frontiers of our field. Fifth, we want to encourage new recruits who are just finding their way. Allocating time to deepening our understanding reduces the time available to recruit and help train new ecological economists. Similarly, we want each article in our journal to be a clear advance over earlier articles, but where do new ecological economists publish their early syntheses? Sixth, we want to actually have popular, political, and policy influence, but this entails compromising our messages: reducing ecological complexity to footprints, sustainability to a greener accounting system. It also entails working with the existing power structure. Seventh, we support a future with broad and purposeful political discussion, one that gives moral depth and real substance to the democratic process. This, of course, gets in the way of playing powerful insider roles now within the existing system.

Some of these conflicts are true dilemmas; others can be resolved with sufficient time and financial resources. Of course, each of us puts different weights on the goals. Some of us have enough zeros on the right combination of goals to feel no conflicts at all. Unfortunately, those who put zero weight on particular goals do so differently. Some of us value all the goals and refuse to acknowledge the conflicts. Some of us put in the extra effort required to work toward competing goals, sacrificing other aspects of our lives.

The regional societies are balancing these dilemmas and conflicts differently. In part this is because some goals are less important to ecological economists in particular regions. In part this is because the conditions are different. Environmental economics plays a more important role in North America than elsewhere. In part, the differences between the regional societies are historical. Early leaders started with different approaches that still affect the evolutionary paths of the different regions. Thus we see an amazing amount of heterogeneity among the regional societies, and it is by no means clear that they are merging.

We could be doing better than we are as an international society. Democratic governance relies on the will to participate to attain collective goals. When the goals are riddled with dilemmas and resource conflicts, extra will is needed to work together. If each of us put a little more energy into our research and teaching, promoting the field, contributing to the success of the meetings, etc., ecological economics as a whole and each of individually would benefit considerably. May we have the will to do more.

At the same time, there are also bigger issues that must command our attention. The values we espouse toward each other and our environment as ecological economists



surely cannot thrive amidst the excessive impositions of power we see today. Whether exercised through great wealth and national military strength or the personal convictions and ultimate sacrifices of a few individuals, the will to control, and counter control, through violence prevents the collective learning and complex understanding necessary for 6 billion now, 9 billion in half a century, to live with nature and each other. As ecological economists we strive to keep complexities in mind, yet all about us we find the future unfolding around mistaken simplicities rooted in ideology rather than pragmatism. In the U.S., we have an administration so post modern that it thinks it can choose the reality it wants to work in, and it has been unreasonably successful at convincing the voters that it can. The human race has never needed what ecological economists stand for more than we need it now.

Richard B. Norgaard

Retiring ISEE Past-President)