

EDITORIAL

The Elizabeth Haub Colloquium on "The Cutting Edge of Environmental Law: Compliance and Emerging Norms", was held from 17–19 April, 1997 in the Tengelmann Building in Wiesbaden, Germany.

The Elizabeth Haub Prize for Environmental Law was established in 1974. Readers of this journal will know that the Prize is awarded every year by the Free University of Brussels and the International Council of Environmental Law for exceptional achievements in the sphere of environmental law. The Prize is named after Elizabeth Haub in recognition of her support in the field of environmental law und policy.

There had never been an opportunity for all the laureates to meet together and exchange views on their various areas of expertise. It was felt that much could be gained from such a meeting and Winfried Lang (Austria), the 1993 laureate, proposed that a seminar or colloquium should be arranged where the Prizewinners could review the situation of international environmental law and its possible future direction.

Helga Haub, as Chairperson of both the Karl-Schmitz-Scholl-Fund for Environmental Policy and Law (KSSF) in Bonn, and the Elizabeth Haub Foundations in Washington and Toronto, immediately welcomed this proposal and invited the laureates to a colloquium in Wiesbaden as guests of KSSF and EHF. Both organisations also support the International Council of Environmental Law and the law programme of IUCN.

The Colloquium fitted well into the framework of the Tengelmann Group's engagement for the protection and improvement of the environment.

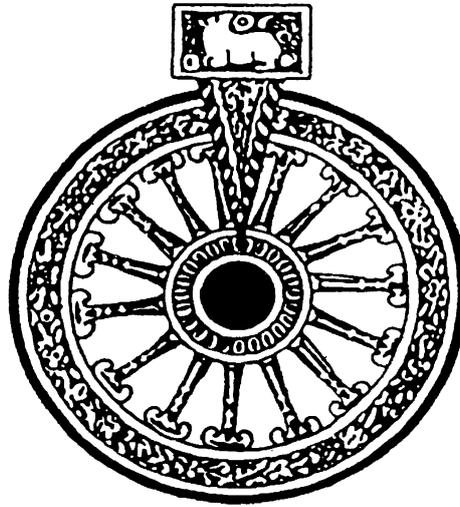
After consultation it was decided that the subject matter of the presentations should be open, as every participant was an expert in his or her field. It was agreed that the papers would be distributed amongst the participants in advance; thus, an introduction to the paper at the colloquium of 7 minutes should suffice to provoke what were hoped would be intensive discussions.

As it was likely that some laureates might choose a similar area, it was decided to form "clusters" of papers and to deal with these together in the Meeting. It was hoped that rather than having a purely academic focus, the topics addressed would reflect action-oriented results and perspectives.

It was agreed that the award ceremony for the 1996 Elizabeth Haub Prize should take place within the framework of the Colloquium. Hence, there was a formal dinner hosted by KSSF, the International Council of Environmental Law and the Université Libre de Bruxelles on the evening of arrival for the Colloquium participants, which was at the same time the celebratory dinner for the 1996 Prizewinner (see also last issue at page 210).

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In welcoming the guests to the colloquium, Helga Haub spoke of her pleasure that the majority of the laureates were able to attend. Some of the Prizewinners unfortunately could not be there, and these she thanked for their continued support: Professor Cano (Argentina), Judge Russel Train (USA), Prof. Michel Carpentier (France), Prof. Heribert Rausch (Switzerland), Judge Jacques Hoeffler (Belgium) and Prof. Jean Lamarque (Belgium).



Others had left the gathering forever, and she reminded the guests of their actions in their field of the environment. She asked for a minute of silence in memory of Professors Jean Paul Harroy (Belgium), Michel Despax (France), Waclaw Brzezinski (Poland) and Louis Paul Suetens (Belgium).

It was noted that papers had been received from two of the laureates unable to attend the Colloquium. The paper from Jacques Hoeffler, which had been received in time and distributed to participants before the Meeting, was accepted for discussion. The participants regretted, however, that they would be unable to discuss the paper from Jean Lamarque, which had been promised for a later date but had not arrived at the commencement of proceedings.

In declaring the Colloquium open, Helga Haub asked that two thoughts be kept in mind:

“all of you have helped to craft environmental law as it is today. The challenge now is to implement these instruments where they exist.

– all of you need to assist in crafting environmental law where this is still needed: in the international field, in developed countries, but foremost in the developing world.”

She added that the Elizabeth Haub Prize was created not only to recognise achievements in the field of environmental law and policy, but also as an encouragement for more to be done. “We look forward to achieving more, with your help”, she said.

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The meetings were chaired by Helga Haub, who requested Nicholas Robinson and Winfried Lang to act as Co-Chairmen for the proceedings, and Wolfgang Burhenne as Co-Chairman for general matters.

It was decided not to have a podium, so that speakers could address the Meeting from their seats to enable a more direct discussion.

The structure of this journal follows that of the Colloquium: The papers relevant to a cluster have been printed at the beginning of each section, followed by the introductory remarks from each of the authors, and then the discussion among the participants.

A day-and-a half was taken up with presentations and discussions. A general debate was held between clusters 6 and 7.

On the 18 April, participants and accompanying partners were driven to dinner in a converted mill in a beautiful wine-growing area, which gave the guests an opportunity to meet and discuss on a more personal level. Several agreed to continue their dialogue in an informal manner after the Colloquium.

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The general feeling of participants at the end of the proceedings was that the idea of establishing where their interests were, and where their concerns for environmental law lay, had been a very fruitful one.

*We hope that by sharing this experience through publication in *Environmental Policy and Law* we can benefit others active in the field of international environmental law.*

No "conclusion" to the Colloquium was intended. It was felt that a free exchange of views would be more productive than the attempt to reach "conclusions" on various topics.

Maureen Jahke

1 June, 1997