

EDITORIAL

In this issue we are again catching up with reporting on a lot of developments our readers should be aware of. But we have realised yet once again that it is very difficult to cover all such events. Any judgement on what to deal with, especially with regard to the space available, can only be a subjective one. So to note what we are not covering, we have created a new section on "References to Other Topics," this time on page 194. We hope this will enable our readers to judge whether we are placing the emphasis as they would wish, or if we are being too restrictive in our choice. In any case, we would like to have your comments and/or input concerning this new section.

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Several years ago, we reported on the appointment of Gus Speth as Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). We had with him someone who came from the environmental movement and for whom sustainability was part of the solution. We are now saying goodbye to him in his UNDP capacity, but he will continue to be active in the academic world. During his appointment many changes have taken place at UNDP and the Programme is being asked to do more and more.

The latest Human Development Report, published on the 12 July, notes that "global integration is proceeding at breakneck speed and with amazing reach," but that the process is "uneven and unbalanced," indicating an increase in UNDP's burden. The main conclusion of the UN Report (see also page 194) is that tougher rules on global governance, including principles of performance for multinationals on labour, fair trade and environmental protection, are needed to counter the negative effects of globalisation on the poorest nations. It also calls for a "global forum" to bring together multinational corporations, trades unions, non-governmental organisations and governments to reinforce the trend towards ethical codes of conduct.

The UN Secretary-General has selected Mark Malloch Brown (UK), Vice President for External Affairs at the World Bank, as the new UNDP Administrator. Indeed, the World Bank has been unfortunate in losing several of its staff, among them Maritta von Biberstein Koch-Weser, who recently became the Director General of IUCN, some months later her husband, who is now State Secretary in the German Ministry of Finance and Charles De Leva, who has taken over as Head of the IUCN Environmental Law Centre in Bonn. This trend is understandable, as there is an accepted need not only to gain staff with good credentials but also those with a broad economic understanding of the tasks to be undertaken.

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The next issue of the journal, after the Summer break, is scheduled for October. Topics to be covered include any significant developments to come out of the July session of ECOSOC and the meetings of the International Law Commission.

- Wolfgang R. Steyer -

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