

EDITORIAL

The deadline for this issue fell before World Environment Day on the 5 June. This year's theme is "Connect with the World Wide Web of Life" and if something of concern to our readers should occur, you will read of it next time. We shall also report then on the Diplomatic Conference held in Stockholm, where we have heard with delight that 91 Governments have signed the Convention to control 12 persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

With regard to developments surrounding the Kyoto Protocol, many people are very active, not least COP-6 President Jan Pronk, who is doing his best to reach a positive solution. We now feel more optimistic about the result.

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We report (see pages 124 and 179), on meetings dealing with the issue of International Environmental Governance. Later this month, UNEP will organise Expert Consultations on the same theme in Cambridge, UK where participants will conduct an extensive survey of the institutional, financial and conceptual dimensions of this issue and the need to evolve new responses. We intend to continue our coverage of this very important topic.

In addition to the IMO report on page 140, there have been several other meetings on maritime questions, including the ongoing meeting of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which we plan to cover in the next issue.

Many negotiations, including the latest sessions of the CSD with CSD-10 acting as the first PrepCom (see page 138), are now taking place at the national, sub-regional, regional and international levels, in preparation for the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). All involved are nervous about the prospects for success, but hope that the preparations will pave the way for a positive outcome at Johannesburg next year.

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We try hard to keep you informed of the widening debate surrounding the field of environmental policy and law. However, at the moment any consideration of environmental policy leads immediately to thoughts of the US position and the effects the change of majority in the US Senate may have. We shall have to wait for the impact, but perhaps the environmental community will have grounds one day for erecting a statue in praise of the Senator in question!

21 May 2001

Wolfgang R. Steury