

CLOSING OF THE SYMPOSIUM

Upon concluding all the presentations and discussions, Helga Haub made these final remarks:

“Distinguished participants, ladies and gentleman,

“Now it is my pleasure to close the Third International Symposium of Laureates of the Elizabeth Haub Prizes and Award, which has met from 14–16 November 2013. My first task is to thank the participants for their contribution. I was happy to see how many friends came together, exchanging not only affection, but personal and professional affinities. If I may add, I myself felt wonderful in your presence.

“I hope you agree that the different approach to the symposium this time has worked quite well, even if you were sometimes told to be brief. The papers presented were of a high standard. In consequence, the interventions were led by able facilitators and in the atmosphere of the meeting, our collective engagement in the process was palpable. I have heard from several sources that you have created new conceptual ideas for the development of environmental law.

“When I express my thanks for the success of the meeting, I have to mention those involved in its preparation and management. First of all, I don’t think I have to say anything about the engagement of Wolfgang in preparations, which started many months ago. He was very well supported by Aaron Laur who relentlessly did everything that we asked of him. I’m personally very thankful to my own assistant, Dagmar Henkel. She has worked with me on many such occasions and, this time, was able to work with so many nationalities. The same goes for Elvira Dederichs and for Nadia Edwards, who have not only worked hard. They showed a lot of dedication. Wolfgang can be very happy and he should be very thankful too.

“We can all be proud of this success and look forward to the same being reflected in the final publication. For that, of course, we need all your input and I hope everyone has provided their notes, so we may ensure an accurate record to assist third parties to build upon our achievement.

“As I said during the ceremony already, we are responsible for everything but the weather. So, you will need to come back to Murnau again to experience this beautiful region with blue and sunny skies.

“I now officially close the symposium. Thank you again and safe travels back to your homes”.

Before departing, Nicholas Robinson made one last comment:

“Helga, if I may, I have one small footnote to add. This has been a rare meeting because we’ve had a very large number of guests, and I would like to acknowledge some of them. This is the first time that we have had so many members of the Karl-Schmitz-Scholl-Fond (KSSF) Board of Directors with us. We’ve also had, for the first time, the Chairman of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law: Antonio Benjamin is not a Laureate but came especially from the Supreme Court of Brazil to be with us. Narinder Kakar, the Permanent Representative of IUCN to the United Nations in New York, is also here. The two Directors of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law, Yves Le Bouthillier and Jamie Benidickson have been here the whole time. And of course, Alejandro Iza, Head of the IUCN Environmental Law Centre was present. The Environmental Law Centre has always been represented at previous symposia, but the fact that all these IUCN individuals are taking back all our debates to their own programmes is remarkable. The conceptual law development in these dialogues has resulted in some new ideas that can be put into action when planning the future IUCN Environmental Law Programme. I can repeat that this was one of the hallmarks of Françoise Burhenne-Guilmin and Wolfgang – to produce conceptual law development. It is something that the IUCN Environmental Law Programme has cultivated and I think, if I can echo Parvez’s remarks, Françoise has been with us this whole time and we are very grateful to Helga, to Erivan and the whole Haub family for bringing us together to enrich all of us over this wonderful weekend. Thank you very much”.



Laureates present at the symposium