

# EDITORIAL

*This issue is our first report on the ongoing 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly (the final results will be published in the next issue). GA President, Srgjan Kerim, noted the importance of multilateral solutions to many of the world's most pressing problems.*

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*Former US Vice President Al Gore along with Dr R.K. Pachauri are in the news now as they receive the Nobel Prize. We have worked closely with Mr Gore for many years, especially when then-Senator Gore was forming a network/organisation linking national parliamentarians from the US, Europe and elsewhere on environmental issues, and collaborated on the Interparliamentary Conference on the Global Environment in Washington. Our congratulations to him are shared with Dr Pachauri, for whom we feel a special kinship, as he is the Editor in Chief of another journal printed by our publisher (IOS Press) – Resources, Energy, and Development.*

*This issue goes to print before the conclusion of the Bali Conference on climate change. We obviously share the view and confidence of the Secretary General, who said that “Today, the time for doubt has passed... the world's scientists have spoken clearly in one voice [on climate change]. In Bali, I expect the world's policymakers to do the same.” We hope that the Bali results will lead to forward movement, rather than further institutional discussions, as recently proposed by the Czech president.*

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*As noted in this issue at page 467, the US Senate is again discussing the ratification of UNCLOS, a proposal that is again facing peculiar opposition. We will continue to report on these events.*

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*The UN Secretary General has appointed Angela Cropper (Trinidad and Tobago) to the post of Deputy ED of UNEP. We are happy to express high hopes for Angela, with whom we have worked for many years, and to wish her a productive term in her new position.*

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*In an interesting development, the Parliament of the Swiss town of Zurich has decided to offer approximately 1.8 million francs to attract the Club of Rome to move from its Hamburg home, but is facing a civil society referendum in opposition to this expenditure.*

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*We note with hopefulness, recent evidence of how the vote of the citizens can have great impact internationally. The first action of the new Australian Prime Minister was to sign the Kyoto Protocol.*

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*Keep your eye open for our next issue, as volume 38 will present a “new look” for EPL, with emphasis on the difference between our publication, directed at facilitating the decision-making process, and the other journals focused on academic approaches to environment and sustainability.*

12 December 2007

*Wolfgang B. Steyer*