

suspension of disbursements to one major project and an eventual increase in the number of its environmental employees from six to more than fifty. The Bank now has fifteen published policies and guidelines on environmental topics ranging from those of Tribal Peoples through Pesticides to Asbestos. Goodland ended his paper with an optimistic look at opportunities for sound investment in projects in which environmental costs are internalized.

The debate that followed these papers recorded two points of view. One view, characterized as the 'prudent banker view', pointed out that a banker's first duty rests with the shareholders. It was a banker's duty to invest for profit and pay a return to the shareholders. The second view strove to explain that a long-term view of this duty meant that environmental costs must be internalized now.

#### *Watch for Changing Legal Climate*

The afternoon began with Robert Lee showing that a changing legal climate meant that liabilities for pollution (land) were increasingly seen as residing with banks, when statutory bodies were faced with mortgagors who were unable to discharge their obligations. The changing legal climate was as much due to the changing perceptions of courts as to new legislation. The uncertainties inherent in a changing situation were not an excuse for neglect and complacency.

Further uncertainty was revealed in the final paper, by Dr Gordon McKerron, on electric power, the World Bank, and the environment. The electric power industry is both capital-intensive and the source of a large impact on the environment. It is responsible for a large fraction of CO<sub>2</sub> emission which is in turn responsible for some 50% of global warming. By describing the changing capital structure of the industry, it was made apparent that a bank's lending policies could have an important environmental impact quite separately from its explicit environmental policy. The need to bring these policies into harmony, and to study the environmental effects of such factors as the high cost of capital, was strong concluding advice.

#### *Bankers Seemed Committed to Advance*

The discussion of these issues and the workshop sessions revealed the personal commitment of bankers to solving such problems. However, in the 'real' world, a number of important constraints had to be overcome. Of these there were three that raised the most concern: the uncertainty associated with adopting the 'right' policy; competition and 'prudent' banking which meant that many banks were unable to shake off old, well-tried practices; and finally impatience with traditional practices (radical solutions) that could destroy confidence and the banks' ability to lend.

The suggested solution to these constraints put great emphasis on education and the sharing of experiences. Contributors offered their experiences in ethical 'green' trusts, in debt-for-Nature swaps, and in writing a short play 'High Sea'. The play involved all participants, and engaged them in ways which other methods 'could not reach'.

The network is now established and it will be for members to stay in contact. A publication is planned and follow-up activities are being organized.

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#### **Important Prospect**

THIRD INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON BATTERY-WASTE MANAGEMENT, TO BE HELD IN THE OCEAN RESORT HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER, DEERFIELD BEACH, FLORIDA, USA, DURING 4-6 NOVEMBER 1991

Sponsored by Ansum Enterprises, Inc., of Boca Raton, Florida, and BDT, Inc., of Clarence, New York, this Seminar and Workshop will continue discussion of the important issues relating to the management of Battery Wastes. The world-wide interest that was demonstrated in the First and Second Seminars indicates clearly the significance of this subject. The discussions will cover manufacturing and use of wastes of the important primary and secondary battery systems, with the focus on lead, acid, nickel, cadmium, alkaline manganese, and lithium, batteries.

The Seminar will treat technical, economic, administrative, and general management, concerns and include discussions of (1) the current world-wide status of the various battery-waste problems; (2) local, state, and federal government, regulations, and recent actions and trends, affecting the battery industry in important countries; (3) the technical, economic, and practical, aspects of waste-control programmes — including source reduction, collection and sorting, and recycling; (4) the long-range outlook for battery-waste management; (5) important legal issues; (6) the general management of battery-relating environmental problems; and (7) other relevant matters.

The occasion will bring together management, engineers, and marketing and other interested people, from battery manufacturers, material suppliers, users, waste handlers, recyclers, equipment companies, government regulatory agencies, private environmental organizations, attorneys, and other interested parties, from around the world, to constitute a unique forum that is designed to educate interested groups and to facilitate discussion of this entire subject. The Seminar can also serve as a training programme for newcomers to the field.

Space is available for exhibitors. The Seminar brochure will be mailed in the Summer of 1991. The Proceedings on the 1st and 2nd Seminars are available.

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#### **Important Prospect**

CMDC\* WORLD CLEAN ENERGY CONFERENCE, TO BE HELD IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, DURING 4-7 NOVEMBER 1991

\* Acronym for *Cercle Mondial du Consensus* = World circle for [Survival] Consensus — Ed.

The World Clean Energy Conference aspires to change the continuing widespread apathy and inertia towards clean energy generation and transmission — one of the most important issues facing our world today. To be held at the International Conference Centre in Geneva from Monday 4 November until Thursday 7 November 1991, the number one priority for this Conference is to set actions in motion rather than brandish more words. Accordingly the Conference will spell out what can actually be done substantially to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and environmental damage created by existing sources of fossil fuel — by implementing feasible, clean-energy projects.

The Conference will include sessions on how to optimize existing fossil-fuel technologies and use of nuclear energy, *plus* clean, renewable energy solutions. It will look at strategic, economical methods by which to clean-up our polluting technologies, as well as the economic and social implications of non-fossil-fuel technologies. Delegates to the Conference will come from both the private and public sectors, with experts drawn internationally.

There are to be three days of full plenary sessions, paralleled by expert technical working-groups. This means that the experts invited to participate in the working-group sessions can take real objectives and measures into the plenary sessions, for discussion by the delegates. On the Thursday morning, the Session Chairpersons will report on the recommendations, resolutions, and conclusions, of their respective sessions, followed by a final summary by the Conference Chairman.

These findings should lead to real action, to be implemented by governments and industry on a worldwide scale. There will also be recommendations to the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (to take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992).

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### Important Prospect

GLOBAL ASSEMBLY OF WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT: PARTNERS IN LIFE, TO BE HELD IN MIAMI, FLORIDA, DURING 4–8 NOVEMBER 1991

In November of this year, Miami, Florida, will be the site of a unique international meeting — The Global Assembly of Women and the Environment: Partners in Life. The Assembly will feature more than 200 success stories from over 70 countries where women have been key persons in implementing *repeatable, affordable, sustainable, and visible*, projects in the areas of *environmentally friendly systems, products, and technologies, involving water, energy, and waste*.

Over 120 representatives from academia, corporations, foundations, government agencies, and international and nongovernmental organizations, have been invited as *mentors*, who will assess the projects and the role of women in advancing their replication. They will also elucidate how institutional policies, priorities, and programmes, may be designed or reused in order to promote

similar projects in support of environmental management and sustainable development.

The Global Assembly is being convened by the Senior Women's Advisory Group on Sustainable Development of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in honour of UNEP's 20th anniversary. The Assembly will be followed by the *World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet*. The two events are linked, and the Congress will consider the policy implication of women and environment for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.

The Global Assembly is the culmination of four regional assemblies of women and the environment — also initiated by UNEP — which were held in Zimbabwe, Tunisia, Thailand, and Ecuador, between February 1989 and March 1991.

Another important aspect of the Assembly is the participation of 50 'New Generation Leaders'. These young people, between the ages of 18 and 25, will explore ways in which they can join forces with women practitioners in their communities to launch similar success stories and forge inter-generational alliances.

To date, the governments of Canada, Finland, The Netherlands, Norway, and the United Kingdom, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector, together with several UN agencies, are supporting this important event. Further information may be obtained from the undersigned.

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### Important Prospect

SIXTH SYMPOSIUM ON COMPUTER SCIENCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, TO BE HELD IN MUNICH, GERMANY, DURING 4–6 DECEMBER 1991

This Conference is being organized by the German Computer Society and Siemens Nixdorf. Its main purpose is to present and discuss international state-of-the-art applications in computer science concerning environmental protection. Research and development projects will be presented, new trends are expected to be derived, and future aspects will be elaborated. The aims of the Conference are the communication and exchange of experiences between research workers, developers, and practitioners.

The programme has the following topics:

- *Applications Related to the Environment*:— Waste Management, Water Protection, Noise Abatement, Air Pollution, Measurement Networks, Geographic Information Systems, and Ecosystems Research.
- *Computer Science Methods*:— Database Management Systems and Database Applications, Knowledge-base Systems, Modelling and Simulation, Visualization, and Distributed Systems.

The Conference themes will be introduced in a plenary session featuring invited speakers. Contributed papers will be presented in three parallel sessions, whereafter a panel discussion and an exhibition will complete the programme.

The Conference languages are English and German. Participants are encouraged to submit offered papers in the different fields mentioned above if possible by 30