

World Environment University: Aim and Overview

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Abstract

The name of the University. While there is a close relationship between the environment and peace, this should be reflected in the establishment of an institute or program rather than in the name of the University which should be, as originally conceived, the World Environment University. The credibility of the University will depend on the involvement in it from the beginning of highly influential leaders of the world environment movement. There is no better way of ensuring this than to obtain the formal involvement of IUCN which has in its membership most of the leading nongovernmental and governmental organizations of the environment and conservation movement

Key words :

the World Environment University, influential leaders of the world environment movement, the formal involvement of IUCN.

Introduction

On October 30, 2019, Chang H. Ko and Jytte Marstrand started to talk about how to actualize Maurice Strong's original plan for the World Environment University (we can call it as the University). In March of 2021, we can reach an agreement to establish weu in Jeju Island Korea and its sister university in Strasbourg France.

On March 22, 2010, Maurice Strong sent an email to me : "... 1) The name of the University. While there is a close relationship between the environment and peace, this should be reflected in the establishment of an institute or program rather than in the name of the University which should be, as originally conceived, the World Environment University. 2) The credibility of the University will depend on the involvement in it from the beginning of highly influential leaders of the world environment movement. There is no better way of ensuring this than to obtain the formal involvement of IUCN which has in its membership most of the leading nongovernmental and governmental organizations of the environment and conservation movement ..."

The aim of this paper is to introduce the aim of the proposal, the Role of IUCN and overview of weu by Maurice Strong.

The Aim of proposal

A Feasibility Study report (2010) says the aim of below in Chapter 1 :

It is based on extensive consultations with interested parties in the environment, academic and policy fields that have taken place over a period several years. This has confirmed the interest of a broad cross section of organizations and governments.

The purpose of the University □ accord with the Korean government's green growth policy.

The progress of the Korean government and civic society, in environmental protection over the past several years, is impressive. It reflects the concept of sustainable development in a practical and feasible way, of which its green policy is a very good example. It would be a fine manifestation of Korean environmental policies and philosophy on the world stage, and would help in developing a world network of leading academics and experts.

As such, the Government of the Republic of Korea has decided to establish in Jeju Island "The World Environment University" as a key center of this international project would make Jeju Island

a capital of world environment (People say it as World Environmental Hub). "The Korean Government and Jeju Special Self-Governing Province seek to ensure wide participation and obtain broadly-based, international input in formulating the objectives, design and program of the University.

This is an outline of the intended objectives, institutional framework, substantive program and methodologies of the University as currently conceived. It is designed to provide the basis for further in-depth discussions and consideration by the appropriate authorities of Jeju and ROK as well as other experts and organizations interested in participating in or associating in various ways with the University. Their comments and advice will be integrated into the final design. The charter and the academic program of the University.

This proposal incorporates of the combined ideas and perspectives of the basic and combined proposal of the University of General Secretary, Mr. Robert Martin Lees of the Club of Rome and responses of Peace Island Initiative Movement by the World Association for Island Studies led by Professor Chang Hoon Ko and Professor Dai-yeun Jeong of Cheju (Jeju) National University based on the initiative of Honorable Maurice Strong and Dr. Young-Hoon Kwaak. Maurice Strong has indicated his belief that Jeju Island in establishing the World Environment University could also realize its aspiration to create an innovative organization. First of all it has clear object to provide proper high quality of education to students who wants right perspective and best outputs from world class education of world environment over the world even though it will be built newly. Secondly, the program contribution to the process through its Peace Island Initiatives Movement, the World Environment and Peace Summer School program and the Peace Island Forum. These existing projects help lay a foundation of experience, which will contribute to establishment of the World Environment University that will, of course be a longer and more complicated process.

Martin Less responded to Chang H. Ko as for WEU on his email to me on March 2, 2010:

"As I suggested , You can start in the first year with a series of short courses. Including a basic course which can become a foundation course later on. Or you could start, after more preparation, will two full Master Programees in first/second year.

An effective Master Programme on a specific topic should not be too big as it depends on real interaction

between professors and students. Around 30 students per master programmes is a good guess but you can run two parallel courses (60) on any topic.

There is also the dimension of distance e-learning as we discuss but this is not simple or cheap and it also relies on a solid academic base.

My suggestion of 300 students after five years is based on UPEACE experiences where we have around 200 students now on 8 Master programme.

The build up and strategy will also be determined by the level of funding available

I hope this is useful.

Sincerely, "(The Feasible Study. Marti.233)

The Role of IUCN

We introduce it as below from 1.2 The Role of IUCN from the Feasibility Study (*ibid.* pp. 6-7.).

Of special importance is the interest of IUCN, the World's leading environment and conservation organization which will hold its 5th World Conservation Congress at the International Convention Center in Jeju Island in September 2012. This will provide an auspicious opportunity for the formal launching of the World Environment University in which IUCN can be expected to play a very key role.

It will be a large gathering of governmental delegates, world-renowned scholars, civic group and the private sector. The IUCN Congress to be held in Jeju in 2012 is specially important as a global forum for exchange of ideas, experiences and plans. It will also serve to introduce the University to IUCN's members, the most extensive group of governmental and non-governmental environment organizations.

IUCN has a unique status and standing as the only conservation and environment organization that includes both governmental and non-governmental organizations and has been accorded special status by the United Nations. It has been consulted closely concerning the establishment of the World Environment University and has expressed strong support for the concept and its interest in participating in it.

IUCN already has a special relationship with Jeju Island as the chosen site for its World Congress in 2012. This and its agreement to establish in cooperation with the government a Asia Climate Training Institute place it in a unique position to contribute significantly to the development of the

University and a leading role in its continuing structure and programs. Its extensive worldwide membership would provide a rich source of expertise for the faculty of the University and its research programs as well as facilitating enrollment of the most promising students. Its relationship with the University could be formalized by giving its President or Director-General an important ex-official role, for example as ex-official programs and activities. This close relationship would be valuable both to setting up a high quality of education in the World Environment University and to IUCN as their interests and programs coincide over a broad range of their respective activities.

At World Local Government Summit on September 5, 2019, Mr Geun-min Woo, governor of Jeju Special Self-Government Province mentions the University, " he declined to support Maurice Strong's the University anymore."

Background

In the more than quarter century since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, in 1972 put the environment issue on the global agenda, the concept of the environment has been broadened to encompass the wide range of economic, social, biological and climate conditions that affect the quality and the sustainability of life on Earth. It is within this larger context that the University has been conceived.

Since 1972, there has been impressive progress in understanding of the systemic and interacting nature and extent of human impacts on Earth's Environment and the actions and policies required to address them. At the same time, scientists have warned of acceleration in the deterioration of some of the Earth's principal life-support systems, notably through climate change. Growing public awareness and political responses to this evidence has moved the environmental issue and its intrinsic relationship with the economy and with energy to the top of the political agenda.

It is through the economy that the policies and decisions that impact the environment are made. Yet environmental ministries and agencies. Yet environmental ministries and agencies are relatively weak in relation to their economic and industry counterparts and when they have a place at the table where decisions are taken they too often have little

influence.

Since Stockholm, there has been a great extension of education and research in the environment–economy relationship and many universities and institutes now have extensive programs in addressing these issues. Some like Yale’s University’s school of Forestry and the Environment have earned world recognition as leaders in the field. Nevertheless, no single institution has yet emerged as the center of the network of universities and institutes that have their own important programs. Most would be willing to cooperate with an organization that could facilitate exchange of information, experience and cooperation. The proposed World Environment University would be designed to provide not only proper high quality of education to students who wants right perspective and best outputs from world class education of world environment over the world, but also significant support and services to meet this need while at the same time developing a core program of this own. It will pave the way for setting up basic and integrated scheme of academic paradigm for world environment and economic growth toward new alliance of civilizations as a whole.

Overview

Under the collaborative leadership of leading environmental experts and advocates, Honorable Maurice Strong, Honorable President of United Islands and Cities for World Environment and Peace UICWEP, Mr. Robert Martin Lees, General Secretary of the Club of Rome, Dr. Young–Hoon Kwaak, President of World Citizens Organization, Chang Hoon Ko PhD, President of World Association for Island Studies and Professor of Jeju National University, and Da–yeun Jeong, Professor of Jeju National University with support of the Korean Ministry of Environment, the Jeju Special Self Governing Province and the authority of the Jeju National University, extensive consultations and research have been carried out withing South Korea and internationally since October 2009 to explore the feasibility of proceeding with this proposal.

The results of these consultations and research are focused on the World Environment University which provides the highest quality of post graduate teaching and research in the fields related to the environment.

A. Without exception, all those consulted welcomed

the prospect of the establishment in Jeju Island of an international university and research center with worldwide outreach specifically focused on the critical issues related to the protection and sustainability of the world’s environment. It was clearly understood that consultation and collaboration with a wide range of interested parties would continue in designing, establishing and operating the University.

B. This memorandum is based on the valuable advice and suggestions received from those consulted, which, besides the Government, included the academic and business communities of Jeju Island and Korea, the leadership of the Jeju Special Self–Governing Province Government, Jeju National University, World Association for Island Studies, research institutions, experts, practitioners and officials, corporations and NGOs, and international organizations, particularly IUCN with its unique and extensive membership of both governmental and non–governmental parties.

C. These consultations in Jeju Island and the wider international consultations and analysis of world issues of environment, its relationship with the economy through sustainable development, have produced a solid cooperation that the establishment of the University collaboratively with help of Mainland China, India, Japan and ASEAN countries as world class university network and research institute in Jeju Island as World Peace Island is productive and feasible means for building up Asian community through sharing with high quality of environmental educational programs.

D. The Government of the Republic of South Korea and the leadership of the Jeju Government have therefore decided to proceed with the establishment of the University as set out in Section 2.10 below.

E. The Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Maanee Lee has confirmed the support of the Government of Korea which has taken the decision to undertake the rapid development and initiation of the University on a scale sufficient to be globally credible and influential.

F. It was pointed out by many contacts that the timing for this initiative is auspicious. The scale and urgency of the worldwide challenges arising from

the risks to the human future from unsustainable development and environmental deterioration. There is growing public awareness of these challenges, particularly, a deep concern about the immediate and future impacts of climate change and the impacts of human activity on the natural world.

G. Education, training, and research will play a vital role in generating the new leadership, knowledge and the skills required to manage the issues of sustainable development at every level of society, from the global level to the grass roots_ local level. The University will foster understanding and develop the capacity to resolve the critical issues of sustainable development which will determine the future of humanity and maintain rich ecological and environmental systems of our planet.

H. Jeju Island has significant advantages as a site location, being conveniently located in northeast Asia, and on the Pacific rim. Its recent designations as World Peace Island by the Korean central government, and of World Heritage sites by UNESCO have given Jeju international recognition as a centre of environmentalism and an example of sustainability and diplomacy. Jeju's new initiative in establishing a center of international education with its Global Education City project is an impressive example. Jeju has also become a location conducive to diplomacy and peace research, hosting such events as the Jeju Peace Forum, Peace Island Bulteok Forum and for conferences and events such as international summit meetings.

I. A carefully focused fund-raising program is being designed in parallel with the substantive definition of the academic program of the University and the clarification of those institutional forms and organizations. A generous contribution to initiate the launching of the University has been made by the World Association for Island Studies WAIS , World Environment and Island Institute of Jeju National University WEII and United Island and Cities for World Environment and Peace UICWEP, whose Regional Office is located in the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, South Korea.

J. Given the necessary support, the present timetable for the establishment and growth of the University over five years would be as follows: -July 2010: Completion of report on establishment of the World Environment University. Submit it to the Jeju

Special Self-Governing Province, Korean Ministry of Environment, and Korean Congress Committee for Labor and Environment. It proclaims that (1) the University places first priority to provide proper high quality of education to students who wants right perspective and best outputs from world class education of world environment over the world, (2) the University has an relationship with JNU for running research institute WEII and World Environment and Peace Summer School jointly as partner, (3) the University have an obligations to call for explicit and integrated educational strategies for the restructuring national economies to meet the social, economic, environmental and development challenges of the 21st century.

- June 26 – August 20 2010 : the 4th World Environment and Peace Summer School and the 10th Peace Island Bulteok Forum : joint international summer school with support of WEII of JNU

- November 1-3 2010 : the Islands of 20 : 1-20 as finalizing phase of preparation of the University and the Institute

- September 2010 : Opening of one collaborative lectures titled as International Governance for World Environment and Peace at Public Administration Department.

- December 2010 : completion of the preparatory phase with institutional design, proposed academic program, business plan, indicative budget and commitments of funding for an initial five years.

- January 2010: definition of the initial academic program, legal establishment, and finalizing phase of preparation of the University;

- February 2011 : the Establishment of the Executive committee at Jeju Island to monitor establishment of the University.

- March 2011 : Opening of two courses of collaborative lectures : one is class of World Environment and Climate Change at Sociology Department of JNU, the other class of Islands Governance and Environmental Policy at Public Administration Department. - June 2011: Selection of 50 students - July-August 2011 : 6 weeks course at World Environment and Peace Summer School of the World Environment and Island Institute at Jeju National University. - March 2012: initiation of two Masters Degree programs (50 students : 25 at two majoring fields)

- March 2013: initiation of four Masters Degree programs (100 students : 25 at four majoring fields)

- February 2014: initiation of 6 Masters degree programs (150 students : 25 at 6 majoring fields)
- February 2015: fully established academic, training, research and outreach programs, including international networking, distance learning, and the international sharing of knowledge through multimedia content in the framework of Graduate School of the University.
- March 2014: Completion of Master plan of the University
- February 2016 admission of 360 undergraduate students into the University
- March 2016: Decision whether we consider to start undergraduate programs at or in cooperation with the University.

K. The establishment of the University will enable Jeju Island to make an important contribution to worldwide efforts to respond effectively to the critical issues of climate change, the transition to a sustainable, environment driven economy, marine tourism and comparative cultural studies, and peace media and governance studies. The University will also contribute to the Asian education system fostering education for sustainable development, providing added opportunities for students and faculty. Bill Emmott write down as below, in his book titled as [Rivals : How The Power Struggle Between China, India and Japan Will Shape Our Next Decade, Penguin Books, London. 2009. p.25] : “ ... Today's Asia has been shaped by economics, it is an Asia of increasing prosperity, of interdependence and of global financial influence. This is the first time since the Mongol empire established by Genghis Khan in thirteenth century that Asia has become truly connected

Even though we run World Environment and Island Summer School as a pre program for establishment of World Environment Island in July and August of 2011, we didn't process it because we can't have fund or budget from Jeju Government for doing it officially. In August of 2016, we can run Jeju World Peace Academy by World Association for Island Studies. (Ko et al. 2016. P.39). In 2017, 2018 and 2019, we had run Jeju World Peace Academy by support of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province.

Conclusion

On February 2, 2020, Jytte Marstrand suggests her idea of WEU to Establish Sister University to World

Environment University, Jeju Island, S. Korea as a concept by Maurice Strong. Jeju National University is ready to respond to WEU concept as a program of World Environment University Online School from September 6–10, 2020 in Jeju Island, S. Korea.

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Receiving Date : February 3, 2020

Reviewing Date : February 10, 2020

Reporting Date of Article Appearance: February 17, 2020