

Steering Committee News

Kuska Takes Up New Post in Abu Dhabi

July 2008 -- Steering Committee member Dr. Gerhard Kuska is now a Principal at Good Harbor Consulting, where he serves as Senior Advisor to the Crown Prince for the Maritime Strategy in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

In his new position, Gerhard, in concert with the government of Abu Dhabi, will be developing a new maritime strategy for Abu Dhabi's coastal and ocean areas. The maritime strategy will be an all-encompassing approach to managing and sustainably using Abu Dhabi's ocean and coastal areas that balances defense, security, safety, mobility, economic development, natural resources, and conservation.

Prior to his appointment, Dr. Kuska served as Associate Director for the White House Council on Environmental Quality and Director of Ocean and Coastal Policy in the Executive Office of the President of the United States.



Golitsyn Elected to International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

June 2008 -- Dr. Vladimir Golitsyn, a member of the Global Forum Steering Committee, was elected on June 13 by the Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Law of the Sea Convention as judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) for a term of nine years commencing on October 1, 2008.

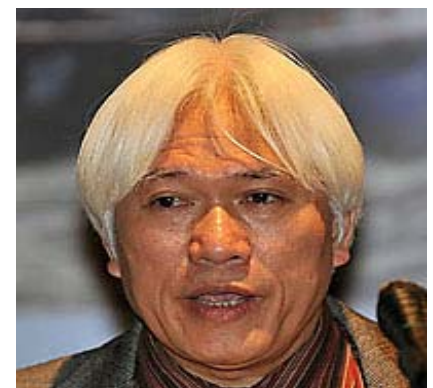
The Tribunal is an international judicial body established pursuant to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea to adjudicate disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and all matters specifically provided for in any other agreement conferring jurisdiction on the Tribunal. By helping States Parties to the Convention to settle their disputes by peaceful means on the basis of law and through its advisory opinions, the Tribunal contributes to ensuring peaceful cooperation and good governance on the seas and oceans.



Dr. Nguyen Chu Hoi Named as New Deputy Administrator for Vietnam Administration for Seas and Islands

May 2008 -- Steering Committee member Dr. Nguyen Chu Hoi has been appointed as the Deputy Administrator for the Vietnam Administration for Seas and Islands (VASI).

Previously, Dr. Nguyen Chu Hoi served as Director, Vietnam Institute of Fisheries Economics and Planning under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Vietnam, where, among other notable contributions, he served as the Conference Focal Point for the recent Fourth Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands held April 7-11, 2008 in Hanoi, Vietnam.



Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain Receives Coastal Management Award

April 2008 -- Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain received the 2007 Coastal Zone Management Award, given by the Coastal Zone Foundation. The honor was presented following a plenary address at the April 2008 Solutions to Coastal Disasters Conference in Oahu, Hawaii.

The foundation's board of directors noted that Dr. Cicin-Sain is an internationally recognized leader who has consistently encouraged and applied the integration of science and policy for coastal management. The award was given in recognition for her outstanding leadership and dedication to integrated coastal and ocean governance, both in the United States and around the world.



Dr. Ali Mohamed Appointed Permanent Secretary, Ministry of State for Special Programmes in Kenya

April 2008 -- Dr. Ali Mohamed, member of the Global Forum Steering Committee, was recently appointed as the new Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of State for Special Programmes in Kenya.

In his previous capacity, Dr. Mohamed served as the Coordinator for the Coastal and Marine Secretariat at the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) which is charged with the promotion of the ocean agenda in Africa.



Steering Committee Gathers at Esteemed Explorers Club

June 2008 -- The Global Forum Steering Committee and friends gathered at The Explorers Club in New York City on June 22, 2008.

During the meeting, the group reviewed outcomes from the Fourth Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands that recently took place in Hanoi, Vietnam in April 2008. The group also looked at paths to further the Global Forum's strategic planning process to advance the global oceans agenda to 2016.

A reception and tours of the historic facility and the Club's ground-breaking expeditions, led by Club Vice President Garrett Bowden, followed the meeting.



Dr. Awni Behnam Named United Nations Commissioner

March 2008 -- Dr. Awni Behnam, long time Steering Committee member and President of International Ocean Institute, has been named UN Commissioner General for the Shanghai World Expo 2010 by United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon.



Commenting on Dr. Behnam's qualifications for the post, the Secretary-General said, "given your distinguished career with the United Nations for over 27 years and proven leadership in organizing large international events, I am confident that your contribution to this endeavor will result in yet another successful participation of the United Nations in an international exposition."

The Shanghai World Expo 2010 on *Better City, Better Life*, is an international exposition that will take place from 1 May to 31 October 2010 in Shanghai, China. The Expo hopes to attract 70 million people to see the displays of exhibitors from over 200 countries from the public and private sectors, civil society, and international organizations. It is expected to show initiatives for achieving better living conditions in urban environments - where over half of the world's population lives.

The Pavilion will highlight the UN's One UN effort in its display. The Expo is also a chance to display how all UN agencies can join forces for a "single mission," Dr. Behnam noted, with the Pavilion showing how "each organization has its own uniqueness, but all feeding into one aspiration and one hope."

The United Nations Pavilion will show the results of its activities, policies, best practices and partnerships towards the achievement of sustainable cities. As the lead agency in the United Systems for sustainable urban development, UN-HABITAT will coordinate participation of the United Nations system in the Shanghai Expo 2010.

Steering Committee Members Visit The White House

February 2008 -- A meeting of the Global Forum Steering Committee was held February 4-6, 2008 in Washington, D.C.

During the meeting, members of the Steering Committee and invited guests were treated to a special tour of The White House organized by Steering Committee member Dr. Gerhard Kuska, Associate Director for the White House Council on Environmental Quality and Director of Ocean and Coastal Policy in the Executive Office of the President of the United States.



From left to right: Caitlin Snyder, Miriam Balgos, Julian Barbieri, Philippe Vallette, Gerhard Kuska, Zac Hart, Biliiana Cicin-Sain, David Johnson, Peter Neill, Tonny Wagey, Isabelle Vanderbeck, Manuel Cira, Shelby Hockenberry, Janot Reine Mender de Suarez, Dong Sung Kim, Richard Delaney

Biliana Cicin-Sain Receives the Elisabeth-Mann-Borgese Meerespreis ("Prize of the Sea")

November 2007 -- Biliana Cicin-Sain, director of the Gerard J. Mangone Center for Marine Policy and Professor of Marine Policy at the University of Delaware's College of Earth and Marine Studies, has been awarded the Elisabeth-Mann-Borgese Meerespreis ("Prize of the Sea") by the Ministry of Science, Economics and Transport of the Land Schleswig-Holstein in Germany.

The prize is awarded to prominent personalities that advocate the protection and preservation of the sea in politics and society. In 2006, the first time it was given, Professor Klaus Topfer, former director of the United Nations (U.N.) Environment Programme and German Minister for the Environment, received the prize.



Dr. Cicin-Sain is shown at a press conference at the Blue Planet Forum in Brussels on November 27, 2007. The Meerespreis was announced at the Blue Planet Forum where Dr. Cicin-Sain made acceptance remarks in the plenary. The Blue Planet Forum was organized by the European Commission, the European Committee on the Regions, and the World Ocean Network.

The Meerespreis is named after Elisabeth Mann-Borgese, known as "the Mother of the Oceans." The daughter of noted German writer Thomas Mann, Professor Borgese worked incessantly to promote integrated management of oceans as the "common heritage of mankind" and to build the capacity of developing nations to manage their ocean resources. She had a major impact on the U.N. Convention on Law of the Sea and was the founder of the International Ocean Institute, with 25 teaching centers around the world.

The Meerespreis Jury cited Cicin-Sain's "political and scientific engagement for an ecosystem-based integrated management of the oceans [which] has been instrumental in promoting a responsible and sustainable use of marine environment within the international public."