

### From the President's Desk

The First World Congress of Environmental History will be held in June 2009. The city of Copenhagen and the University of Roskilde will be the hosts of a gathering of perhaps as many as one thousand environmental historians from around the globe.

The decision to call the congress was made by IC-EHO, the International Consortium of Environmental History Organisations, and reflects the truly global character of our field. In the past thirty years environmental history has grown from being the preoccupation of a few eminent pioneers and specialised organisations, especially in the United States, into a mature field of research and education. The emergence of an organisation of South Asian environmental history is but the latest of a proliferation of organisations in recent years.

Bringing together many people from afar comes at a cost. Indeed the competing hosts were asked how they would cut the environmental costs of the congress and meet green concerns. Copenhagen has a long commitment to green issues, which also commends it as a conference venue. It is a very safe city and is served by many direct flights from around the world.

Environmental issues are high on the global political agenda. The First World Congress of Environmental History will be an important step towards bringing historical perspectives on environmental change to the attention of mass media and politicians.

Poul Holm  
President, ESEH

### Association of South Asia Environmental Historians

In March 2006 the Association of South Asia Environmental Historians was established. This is a positive and very welcome development and an indication that the subject is going truly global. The recently launched web site of the ASAEH provides information about the organisation, what environmental history is, how to become a member and the annual *Journal of South Asia Environmental History*. The ESEH wishes the Association of South Asia Environmental Historians the very best for the future!

### **News on the 2007 Congress in Amsterdam, ‘Environmental Connections’**

We are very happy with the overwhelming number of submitted proposals for papers and posters: 287 in total, coming from all corners of the world. We thank everyone who contributed to this fine result, in particular ESEH vice-president Jan Oosthoek and ESEH secretary Lenka Uhlířová for their work in spreading the Call for Papers everywhere. At the moment we are busy preparing the congress preparation meeting of the Scientific Committee, the Executive Board and the Local Organising Committee in Amsterdam. By 1 October we will start with the registration. Follow the events at our conference web site: [www.vu.let.nl/conference/eseh](http://www.vu.let.nl/conference/eseh). Feel free to register on the web site as a web site user, so we can keep you informed by email.

Welcome to Amsterdam!

Petra van Dam  
Head LOC

### **Conference Report: ‘Environmental history, a tool for sustainability’, Carmona (Sevilla, Spain) 6–9 April 2006**

The meeting was held in the beautiful little town of Carmona, (medieval but with archaeological sites of the Carthaginian period), located 30 km north of Sevilla. It was organised with the help of the Regional Representative of the ESEH in Spain, Prof. Manuel Gonzales de Molina, presently also director of the office of agroecology in the Regional Government of Andalusia. The meeting is the first official meeting of the SOLCHA (Sociedad Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Historia Ambiental); it was already decided during the conference held in la Havana (Cuba) in 2004, where the decision to found the society was taken. The opening was held in the beautiful fortress at the entrance of Carmona and the sessions in a small but nice religious building inside the town. All breaks, buffets and conference dinner, were offered by the organisation, and the registration fee was 100 Euros.

During the meeting the Statute and the board of SOLCHA was approved by the assembly, as also the venues of the next meetings: La Paz, Baja California (Mexico), in 2008, and Belo Horizonte (Brazil) in 2010. The vote for the board was supposed to be a secret ballot, however, an open ballot was requested, asking to those in favour to raise their hands, and to those against and abstentions (all at the same time) to do the same afterwards. The proposed members of the board were elected with only a couple of abstentions.

About 77 papers were presented, and the sessions were attended only by the participants. The proceedings lasted for three days and were organised into three parallel sessions occurring from Thursday afternoon to Saturday morning. The subjects of the sessions were the following:

- 1 Social–environmental conflicts and sustainability
- 2 Agriculture and sustainability
- 3 Perception of nature and history
- 4 Forest management and sustainability
- 5 Environmental impact of urbanisation
- 6 Methodological aspect of environmental history
- 7 Social metabolism and sustainability
- 8 Environmental policies and sustainability
- 9 Fishing and sustainability

Items 1, 2, 3 and 4 were treated in several parallel sessions, since most of the papers presented referred to these matters. 15 presentations came from Spain, 6 from USA and 3 from the rest of Europe, all the other presentations came from south and central America: Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Cuba. The most represented countries were Brazil and Mexico. Except for the papers presented in the sessions on social metabolism and a few other exceptions, the methods and approaches presented were those typical of historical studies, based on the analysis of printed sources or manuscript documents.

Mauro Agnoletti  
Vice-President ESEH

### **New Secretariat Address for ESEH**

The ESEH Secretariat has moved to a new place. Please send all correspondence for ESEH to the following address:

ESEH Secretariat  
c/o Lenka Uhlířová  
CENIA, Czech Environmental Information Agency  
Kodaňská 10  
100 10 Praha 10  
Czechia  
Email: lenka.uhlirova@cenia.cz

### **European Society for Environmental History**

#### **Executive Board:**

President: Poul Holm, *Roskilde University*  
Vice-President: Mauro Agnoletti, *University of Florence*  
Vice-President: Jan Oosthoek, *University of Newcastle upon Tyne*  
Secretary: Lenka Uhlířová, *CENIA, Czech Environmental Information Agency*

Treasurer: Ulrich Koppitz, *University of Düsseldorf*

**Ex officio:**

Petra van Dam, *Free University Amsterdam*

**Regional Representatives:**

Benelux, **Petra van Dam**, The Netherlands

British Isles, **David Moon**, England, UK

Czechia & Slovakia, **Leos Jelecek**, Czechia

Francophone Countries, **Geneviève Massard-Guilbaud**, France

Germanophone Countries, **Andreas Dix**, Germany

Hungary, **Lajos Racz**, Hungary

Iberian Peninsula, **Manuel Gonzáles de Molina**, Spain

Italy, **Marco Armiero**, Italy

Nordic Countries, **Timo Myllyntaus**, Finland

Russia & additional Eastern European Countries, **Daniel Alexandrov**,  
Russia

ESEH aims to promote environmental history in Europe, by encouraging and supporting research, teaching and publications in the field. The ESEH maintains its web site at <[www.eseh.org](http://www.eseh.org)>.

**Notepad Editor:** Lenka Uhlířová

**Items for the next Notepad should be sent by 1 October, 2006 to the address shown below.**

All correspondence should be directed to the secretariat:

C/O Lenka Uhlířová

CENIA, Czech Environmental Information Agency

Kodaňská 10, 100 10 Praha 10

Czechia

E-Mail: [lenka.uhlirova@cenia.cz](mailto:lenka.uhlirova@cenia.cz)