

President's Message Board

Dear Friends, Environmental Historians,

The first World Congress in Environmental History, held in Copenhagen from 4 to 9 August, went beautifully and was a great experience/event. Hosted by The International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations (ICEHO), Roskilde and Malmö Universities, it was opened by a lecture given by the Nobel laureate, Professor Paul Crutzen. With more than 130 panels and round-tables (and as many as 14 parallel sessions!), it was a wonderful opportunity for the 550 participants coming from all the continents, to learn of the latest research in the field, meet new colleagues and weave connections all over the world. The large number of participants had made possible the setting up of various and very coherent panels, allowing for fruitful discussions. The delegates were unanimous in their praise of the overall quality of the conference.

This congress was also the opportunity for the ESEH, many members of which were attending the congress, to celebrate, in presence of a large number of delegates, its 10th anniversary, the retirement of its first Vice-President (and President of its predecessor organization), Professor Christian Pfister, and to hold its 5th Ordinary General Meeting. This OGM elected, for the first time by secret ballot, a new Board and a number of new Regional Representatives. You will find the list of new ESEH officers on our website, but let me cite here the new members of the Board, Professor Christof Mauch (Munich), vice-president, Dr Phia Steyn (Stirling), secretary, Dr Andrea Kiss (Budapest) and Dr Finn Arne Jørgensen (Trondheim). The OGM also adopted unanimously the new ESEH constitution prepared by the outgoing Board, aimed at making our internal constitution more efficient and democratic. You will find this document on the society website, as well as the biannual report on the society's activity for the years 2007–2009.

One of the exciting results included in the ESEH report is the establishment of a book series, titled 'The Environment in History. Environmental Perspectives.' This is a co-operation with the Rachel Carson International Institute for Advanced Environmental Studies in Munich, Germany, and Berghahn Publishers (Oxford/New York). The series will investigate the interrelationship between human society and the natural world from a cultural and historical perspective. The main, but not sole focus will be on Global Environmental History, with a special interest for Europe, located in its wider context. The series will encourage a wide interdisciplinary and comparative approach to studies in environmental history. Such volumes in the series could include translations from several European languages. More details and instructions for authors will soon be made available on our website.

A new term is now opening for the ESEH, and the new Board is already working on a number of exciting projects. 2010 will see the first ESEH Summer School in environmental history. We will tell you more about it in a future notepad, and ESEH members will receive all the details on this new activity by email. Another project that will soon be implemented, is the opening of the new ESEH Council of Regional Representatives to new areas. A call will soon be issued inviting regions not represented yet in the CRR to propose candidates. The new Board has several other projects of which you will be precisely informed through the so-call "project plan", which will be adopted within the coming months.

Let's hope that the other, even more important Copenhagen conference, the UN World Climate Change Conference, to be held in December, will prove fruitful, and that the countries responsible for the main part of the global warming, will make serious commitments in order to slow down significantly a global warming for which the poorest of the world are already paying the bill.

Geneviève Massard-Guilbaud
President of the ESEH
September 2009

Encounters of Sea and Land

The Sixth ESEH Conference, Turku, Finland

28 June – 2 July 2011

The European Society for Environmental History cordially invites you to participate in its sixth biannual conference being held from 28th June to 2nd July 2011 at the University of Turku and Åbo Akademi University.

The five-day meeting will comprise presentations of papers and posters, a keynote lecture, field trips and social events. Besides the main theme *Encounters of Sea and Land*, the conference will deal with a broad range of subthemes scattered both geographically and chronologically. The participation of young scholars and researchers applying multidisciplinary approaches is particularly encouraged. The conference also provides an opportunity to become better acquainted with Nordic research on environmental history.

Paper and session proposals on any topics of environmental history are invited. The Call for Papers will be opened in autumn 2009. The scientific committee of ESEH will announce the selection of papers and sessions in late 2010.

Further information will be available at the conference website (<http://www.eseh2011.utu.fi>)

Timo Myllyntaus
Chair, Conference Committee

European Society for Environmental History

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ESEH aims to promote environmental history in Europe, by encouraging and supporting research, teaching and publications in the field. The ESEH maintains its website at <www.eseh.org>.

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Items for the next Notepad should be sent by 15 December 2009 to the address shown below.

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