



oikos newsletter 2008 - Edition 1

May 2008

Be informed – get involved – make a difference in 2008

Dear oikos friend!

Welcome to the first oikos newsletter in 2008. oikos is the international student organisation for sustainable economics and management and a leading reference point for the promotion of sustainability change agents. On the following pages you will find a selection of oikos events and developments in the first half of 2008.

In line with the oikos motto *be informed – get involved – make a difference*, oikos International has significantly increased the support we offer to our Local Chapters at universities around the world: We provide coaching on project management skills via the new Project Leadership Programme, give feedback on project proposals and support student projects with co-funding via the Project Development Fund. Moreover, we empower oikos Chapters to better use the potential of the local Advisory Councils and the international network.

Being thrilled by the quantity and quality of existing and upcoming projects in the oikos community, I would like to invite you to engage with oikos in 2008.

Whether you are a student, a former member of oikos or representing a corporation, we very much look forward to your questions and ideas – and to working with you in the future.

Together, we can make a difference!

Katharina Beck
President oikos International

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Feel free to distribute the oikos International newsletter!

find the latest information always at www.oikos-international.org
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oikos International News 2008

Ten project leaders participated in first oikos Project Leadership Programme coaching weekend

Ten project leaders from nine different oikos Local Chapters have participated in the first coaching weekend of the new oikos Project Leadership Programme (PLP). With the oikos PLP we are offering a one-year action learning programme to selected oikos members that fosters sustainability entrepreneurship within the oikos network.

The oikos PLP 2008 supports the participating oikos students to realise their project ideas – like a “sustainability report for the University of Bayreuth”, a project from the University of Wageningen for “establishing coconut fiber as sustainable resource in Mexico” and a project from Hamburg for making a local “sustainability guide for Hamburg”.

In addition, businesses can offer case study ideas for PLP participants to tackle within the PLP. This year IKEA is providing the project question: “What would it take to make IKEA sustainable within 20 years?”

At the end of the programme, the project leaders will present their projects in front of company representatives. oikos covers travel costs as well as accommodation for the oikos members participating in the programme.

For further information contact Nina Hug: hug@oikosinternational.org or visit our website: www.oikosinternational.org/projects/plp

oikos Project Development Fund supports dialogue on sustainable timber production

The first supported project by the newly installed oikos Project Development Fund (PDF) is a panel discussion on 12 June 2008 at the University of Bayreuth, addressing “timber export from Africa’s green heart – chance for development or destruction of the rainforest”.

The oikos PDF boosts the development of projects by oikos Local Chapters – by giving

feedback on the project proposal, specific personal coaching on identified challenges and the provision of co-funding. The oikos International Executive Board evaluates the project proposals four times a year.

The oikos PDF is financed through an innovative funding mechanism: donations from oikos Alumni are matched by a corporate sponsor, the GLS Bank.

For further information contact Nina Hug: hug@oikosinternational.org or consult: www.oikosinternational.org/projects/pdf

9th oikos PhD Summer Academy 2008 on Entrepreneurial Strategies for Sustainability

The 9th oikos PhD Summer Academy (25-29 August 2008) focuses on the role of entrepreneurial strategies in achieving environmental, social and economic sustainability. The 16 selected candidates from 12 countries will present and discuss new ideas and solutions with regard to how businesses (and other stakeholders) can contribute to overcome key sustainability challenges. Feedback is given by peer PhD students and internationally known and well-reputed professors. In 2008, the following faculty will attend:

- Dr. Johanna Mair, Associate Professor of General Management, IESE, Barcelona, Spain
- Dr. Michael V. Russo, Lundquist Professor of Sustainable Management, University of Oregon, USA
- Dr. Rolf Wüstenhagen, Assistant Professor for Energy and Sustainability, University of St.Gallen, Switzerland

Further information on the PhD Summer Academy is available at: www.oikosinternational.org/projects/phd

More than 80 students participated in the oikos Spring Meeting in Cologne

“Thanks for the intense and amazing days”, says Martin Held from oikos Clausthal. Over 80 oikos members from 17 different Local Chapters and numerous guests met in Cologne for the oikos Spring Meeting 2008 from 24 to 27 April. With the biannual Spring and Autumn Meetings, oikos International brings together students from the global oikos network.

Under the heading “Manufacturing the future – prospects for sustainable Consumption and Production,” speakers from both corporate and academic backgrounds gave presentations and took part in a panel discussion on the subject. In addition, the oikos students participated in a case study competition to develop a sustainable solution for a “real life” case on bio-plastics (in cooperation with BASF) or on water scarcity and its effects for a consumer goods company (in cooperation with Henkel).

For further information contact Katharina Beck at:
beck@oikosinternational.org
or visit the website
www.oikosinternational.org/p/meetings/sm08-cologne.html

oikos advisors gathered for oikos Advisors Retreat 2008

The oikos Advisors Retreat on 7 to 8 March 2008 brought together oikos advisors from across all oikos Chapters. oikos advisors do not only provide support to active oikos members in the form of feedback, sustainability competence, access to social networks and managerial know-how. They also turn into motivating role models, bearing the organisational memory that is so crucial in sustaining oikos Local Chapters.

The oikos Advisors Retreat further leverages the great potential oikos advisors offer the organisation.

For further information please contact Lars Stein at:
lars.stein@unisg.ch
or consult
www.oikos-international.org/projects/advisors.html

Two new oikos PhD Fellows started their Fellowship in February

Nina Hug and Martin Herrndorf have been appointed as the two new oikos PhD Fellows, starting their doctoral studies at the University of St.Gallen, Switzerland, in February 2008. Two additional Fellowships are offered by oikos, starting in September 2008. The selection process is currently in progress.

Nina Hug (hug@oikosinternational.org) will pursue her PhD Studies in collaboration with the Centre for Social Enterprise on Social Value Measurement. Her thesis is supervised by Prof. Miriam Meckel, Director of the University's Institute for Media and Communication Management.

Martin Herrndorf's (herrndorf@oikosinternational.org) research focus is on Strategies for Promoting Sustainable Business Innovations in Developing Countries, supervised by Prof. Steven Floyd, who is Director of the Institute of Management at the University of St.Gallen.

Learn more about the oikos PhD Fellowship Programme at
www.oikos-international.org/projects/fellowship.html

Do you make a difference? oikos Student Award 2008

The annual oikos Student Award recognizes outstanding student driven projects in the field of higher education for sustainable development. In 2008, we honour projects of student entrepreneurs that focus on ‘Sustainable Campus’ and ‘Curricula Change’.

For further information please contact Martin Herrndorf at:
herrndorf@oikosinternational.org
or consult
www.oikos-international.org/projects/award.html

oikos President wins 1,000 Euro gift coupon for keeping the oikos office waste free

Katharina Beck, oikos International President 2008, has won a memo (sustainable office equipment) gift coupon about 1,000

Euros in a competition of offices who tried to make their bureaus waste free. During one month, Katharina documented her activities on her profile blog at www.utopia.de, the German online platform for strategic consumption that organised the campaign.

“The biggest challenges are definitely the immense quantity of plastic packing materials and all the catalogues and printed conference invitations you receive via post”, says Katharina.

You want more information? Contact Katharina at beck@oikosinternational.org

Job offer: oikos International President 2009

oikos International is seeking to fill in the position of its President for the year 2009. We look for a highly motivated person who wants to support the existing Local Chapters, helps founding new Chapters, runs the oikos office and represents oikos International in the public.

Send in your application comprising CV, motivation letter and attestations until 15 June 2008.

Questions? Write an e-mail to Katharina Beck at beck@oikosinternational.org

or consult

www.oikos-international.org/about-oikos/president09.html

oikos Local Chapter News 2008

oikos Johannesburg: African Development Partnership launched

oikos Johannesburg conducted the first ‘African Development Partnership’ (ADP) in February 2008. The ADP is an initiative that bridges the gap between today’s leaders and the youth by creating an environment for engagement between the two generations. Each year, the African Development Partnership will seek out key areas in which structures for the development of youth leadership lack and find solutions.

The inaugural African Development Partnership focussed on sustainable development with the overall theme being “*Creating an Environment for Sustainable Development*”. The participants attempted to find ways in which the African youth can engage as leaders in sustainability-oriented action on focused topics.

For further information please contact Katlego Moilwa at:

katlego86@gmail.com

or have a look at:

johannesburg.oikos-international.org/african-development-partnership.html

oikos St.Gallen: Sustainability Thesis Award

For its 20th anniversary in 2007, oikos St.Gallen has established an award for the best St.Gallen masters thesis in the area of sustainability. The new *oikos St.Gallen Sustainability Award* is open to St.Gallen students from all disciplines and is endowed with 3,000 Swiss Francs.

In 2008, Andreas Burkhalter is the first to win the newly created Sustainability Thesis Award with his work on product design in a free electricity market. He received the Award from the President of the University of St.Gallen in April.

For further information please contact Vera Reinhard at:

oikos-stgallen@oikosinternational.org

or consult

stgallen.oikos-international.org/projekte/oikos-sustainability-award.html (German).

oikos St.Gallen: Model WTO on “Trade and Sustainability”

From 4-9 May 2008, oikos St.Gallen organised the oikos Model WTO, a simulation game of the World Trade Negotiations. The

2008 oikos Model WTO focused on “Trade and Sustainability”.

40 Students from all over the world negotiated in their country roles in different committees to finally present a declaration with which they travel to the WTO headquarters in Geneva. There they discussed their achievements with WTO experts. The one-week programme included several presentations on the topic of trade and sustainable development.

Selected speakers: William New (Intellectual Property Watch), Garnt Louw (Royal Dutch Shell), Carsten Fink (World Bank), Luzius Wasescha (Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation to the WTO and EFTA), Jean-Pierre Lehmann (IMD Lausanne).

For further information see www.modelwto.org

oikos Bayreuth: China Symposium glances ‘behind the mask’

With its China Symposium oikos Bayreuth will present a “glance behind the mask of the dragon” from 27 to 28 May 2008. China, being symbolized by the colourful dragon, is perceived in different ways in the western world: Some see the monster behind the dragon, others a talisman that is bringing luck to the people.

As not only China but also the rest of the world is more and more confronted with numerous social and environmental problems linked to the fast development of the Chinese economy, oikos Bayreuth is seeking a deeper understanding of China’s challenges, trying to balance the views of the ‘dragon’. With the symposium, oikos Bayreuth provides a platform to develop innovative and constructive solutions for a sustainable economic development in China. Please, feel invited to join the Symposium.

For further information see bayreuth.oikos-international.org/english.html (English) or contact Li Chen: li.chen@china-symposium.de

oikos Friedrichshafen: Student Study on capital markets and sustainability

oikos Friedrichshafen is conducting a student study on capital markets and sustainability. In a two-semester seminar with guest speakers and work on specific case studies the students will explore the linkages between financial markets and society. A leading question will also be if and how the concept of the modern financial economy is compatible with the concept of sustainability. The outcomes of these case studies will be published in a reader on the topic at the end of 2008.

For further information please contact Florian Lucke at: friedrichshafen@oikosinternational.org

oikos Clausthal: Solar Power for Education

With its ambitious project “Solar Power for Education” oikos Clausthal will support sustainable development in the two fields of renewable energies and education. With the help of sponsors, oikos Clausthal is building a 30 kilowatt peak solar power station on the roof of the university’s cafeteria. The 250 m² of solar panels generate electricity that will be fed into the grid. The benefit of the income will flow towards the education of students in Clausthal. Thus the project “Solar Power for Education” connects two visions: education and sustainability. It also demonstrates solar power as an efficient part of future electrical power generation to the students and inhabitants of Clausthal.

Now that oikos Clausthal has signed the contract of permission to build the plant with the University’s Management they are looking for sponsors and media partnerships.

Further information is provided on: www.solarkraft-fuer-bildung.de (German)

www.oikos-international.org