



## Center for Governance and Sustainability

at the University of Massachusetts Boston

Dear Friends of the Center,

Several important milestones marked the past few months. We begin by commemorating and celebrating the life and legacy of Maurice Strong, Secretary-General of the first UN Conference on the Human Environment that took place in Stockholm in 1972 and of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, and the first Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme. Maurice Strong passed away in November 2015, just days before governments gathered in Paris for COP21 and concluded with the landmark Paris Agreement, the first universal global commitment to combat climate change.

In December 2015, we released our 2014-2015 Progress Report. In January, we spent two weeks in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where we held the first Regional Environmental Diplomacy Institute (REDI) at the Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre & Network at Gullele Botanic Garden. We also facilitated the first visit of a team of the UMass Boston Coasts and Communities IGERT PhD program to the Horn of Africa to create joint research projects and collaborations. Craig Murphy retired from his position as Co-Director of the Center and we thank him for all his work and inspiration!

Maria Ivanova

### Regional Environmental Diplomacy Institute (REDI)



Professor Jeff Pugh Presents at REDI

candidates Natalia Escobar-Permbetherthy, Negusu Aklilu, Wondwossen Wondemagegnehu, Michael Denney, and Linda Holcombe.

UMass Boston and the Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre and Network (HoA-REC&N) delivered the first Regional Environmental Diplomacy Institute (REDI) supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia. The UMass Boston team along with several local experts provided training in negotiation and international environmental governance. The team included Dean David Cash, Prof. Maria Ivanova, Prof. Jeff Pugh, and doctoral

Thirty officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and

Climate Change, academia, civil society, and parliament took part in the workshop, discussing key global environmental governance concerns for Africa and the performance of African countries on global environmental goals. The findings of the [Environmental Conventions Initiative](#) - a research project at the Center for Governance and Sustainability - formed the core of the substantive instruction. The workshop delivered on its goals and participants expressed strong desire to continue it on a regular basis.

## Doctoral Students Visit Ethiopia



UMass Boston Team in Addis Ababa

On January 16th, 2016, UMass Boston's Integrated Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) fellows arrived in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. For some, this was the first trip to the continent, or even a developing country. Their agenda was packed with meetings and introductions to professors, researchers, and various professionals; the goal was to become acquainted with the environmental challenges present in the Horn of Africa.

From the 16th-23rd, the fellows conducted a whirlwind survey of environmental work in Ethiopia. They engaged with Dr. Araya Asfaw of HoA-REC&N, the flagship partner of our Center. HoA-REC&N's support and facilitation of the visit were crucial to the success of the trip. Dr. Admasu Tsegaye, President of Addis Ababa university hosted the team for a luncheon and students and faculty engaged with Dr. Jeilu Oumer, Vice President of Addis Ababa University and Dr. Zenebe, Director of External Affairs. Students had the opportunity to tour the beautiful campus and meet with representatives from the Business and Biology departments and the Center for Human Rights.

On Wednesday, the entire group piled into 3 vans and headed off for Lake Ziway. The fellows made it to Ziway in time for enlightening presentations from Sileshi Degefa and Dr. Osamu Saito of United Nations University on their work in Ethiopia. Before returning to Addis the fellows engaged with HoA-REC&N's office in Ziway, visited a new commercial compost site, Soil & More, attended a presentation from the Fisheries Research Institute, visited Castel winery, and took a boat trip on the lake. The trip was designed to spark fellows' interest in the Horn of Africa as they prepare dissertation proposals and chart the course of their future research. Check out pictures of the trip [here](#). David Cash, Dean of the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies accompanied the PhD students and published an [op-ed](#) in the Reporter about his experience in Ethiopia and the country's potential for sustainable growth.

## Christiana Figueres To Speak at Edward M. Kennedy Institute at UMass Boston



Christiana Figueres returns to UMass Boston for Climate at a Crossroads: UMass Boston Speaker Series. On April 6th from 5:30-8:00pm at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute, Executive Secretary Figueres will give a talk titled *Lifting the Billions: the Intersection of Climate and Development Policy*. She will reflect on how the Paris Agreement can be a turning point in global economic, energy, environment, and development policy, and a catalyst for bringing the poor out of poverty worldwide. The event is free

and open to the public. It is sponsored by the Sustainable Solutions Lab at UMass Boston, a collaboration of the College of Liberal Arts, College of Management, McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, School for the Environment, Center for Governance and Sustainability, and the Center for Sustainable Enterprise and Regional Competitiveness.

## Center Releases 2014-2015 Progress Report



The Center for Governance and Sustainability has released its [Activities and Achievements - Progress Report for 2014-2015](#). Since its founding in 2011, the Center has expanded its research portfolio and attracted a diverse group of students and faculty.

Three think pieces frame this report. David Cash, Dean of the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies; Araya Asfaw, Director of the Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre and Network at Addis Ababa University; and Fatoumata Keita-Ouane, former head of the chemicals branch at the UN Environment Programme, discuss some of the analytical aspects of the Center's research initiatives.

The Report includes information on our core projects, such as the Environmental Conventions Initiative and Science-Policy Interface, as well as on our conference presentations and publications over the past two years. The Center continues to engage with students, researchers and faculty members in various countries. In 2014-2015, we had 12 students from 6 universities engaged as research associates and 13 faculty from 4 universities involved in research projects.

## Maurice Strong's Life and Legacy Celebrated in Ottawa



Maurice Strong, pioneering environmental leader and first Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), passed away on November 28th, 2015, and was [memorialized](#) in Ottawa on January 27th, 2016..

Strong, whose vision and efforts were key to founding UNEP, worked as its first Executive Director from 1972 to 1975. He also presided as Secretary-General over two key international environmental conferences: the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, and the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. At the memorial service, IISD aired a [short tribute](#) to the Strong.

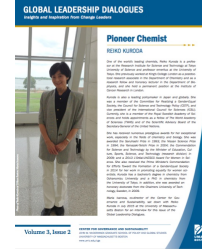
In 2009, the Global Environmental Governance Project convened the [Global Environmental Governance Forum](#): Reflecting on the Past, Moving into the Future in Glion, Switzerland. It was the first and only time that all five successive UNEP Executive Directors Maurice Strong, Mostafa Tolba, Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Klaus Töpfer, and Achim Steiner came together to discuss UNEP's past and deliberate on its future. Maurice Strong urged us all to "be bold, ambitious, and audacious." We seek to carry on Maurice Strong's legacy, and continue his work. For interviews with and videos of Maurice Strong, click [here](#).

## New Issues in Global Leadership Dialogue Series

The two new issues of Volume 3 in our Global Leadership



Dialogues Series feature two women scientists and members of the Scientific Advisory Board to the UN Secretary-General. Dr. Hayat Sindi and Prof. Reiko Kuroda are prominent figures in the fields of biotechnology and chemistry, respectively. Dr. Sindi is cofounder of Diagnostics For All, a nonprofit



Volume 3, Issue 2 - Reiko Kuroda

Volume 3, Issue 1 - organization based in Massachusetts that designs low-cost diagnostic devices to improve health services in developing countries. Prof. Kuroda is based at the Research Institute for Science and Technology at Tokyo University of Science and is professor emeritus at the University of Tokyo.

Forthcoming issues will feature Achim Steiner, UNEP's Executive Director and Rachel Kyte, former Vice President and Climate Envoy of the World Bank Group and the new Chief Executive Officer of the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) initiative.

## Center Delegation Attends COP21



Prof. Ivanova presents at Yale event at COP21. Panelists lock hands in the climate sign

COP21 was a flagship event in global environmental governance in 2015, and the final agreement, the Paris Agreement, commits all nations to reducing their carbon footprint and commits wealthy nations to providing financing for green energy transitions in low-income countries. Dean David Cash, Professor Maria Ivanova and research associate Natalia Escobar-Pemberthy presented at COP21 and engaged with other universities, civil society organizations, and businesses.

They reported on various events in the Rio Pavillion that focused on linking climate change, biodiversity, and land management; the Global Landscapes Forum that hosted the launch of AFR100, a commitment to reforestation among 10 Africa countries; and the general progress of the negotiations. Additionally, both Dean David Cash and Professor Ivanova published op-eds in the Boston Globe about the summit.

## Rachel Kyte Speaks at UMass Boston



Former Vice President and Special Envoy for Climate Change at the World Bank Rachel Kyte delivered an honest and lively talk about COP21 at UMass Boston on November 10th. Speaking two and a half weeks before the COP, Vice President Kyte spoke about the challenges that negotiators face in Paris, and how to implement the necessary actions that will lead to sustainable development worldwide. She brought a positive and exciting outlook on the future. No doubt there will be hard decisions and challenges ahead, but this is not a closed-package created by developed countries which is being imposed on developing nations. Rather, the agreement can serve as a roadmap and an emerging framework in global governance whereby policy makers from many different countries can effectively collaborate with each other and "close down the space for silly politics." To read more about the talk, click [here](#).

## Matt McWhorter Hired at Federal Energy Regulatory Commission



The Center is pleased to announce that former Research Associate and recent McCormack School Graduate Matt McWhorter has been hired as an Energy Industry Analyst in the office of Energy Market Regulation at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Matt's capstone project at UMass Boston looked at energy markets as a component of international relations. He also worked extensively on the Environmental Conventions Index. His work with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will focus on the integration of renewable energy resources into the electrical grid.

Congratulations, Matt!

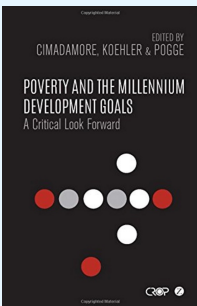
## Miranda Chase Presents at Yale



Research associate V. Miranda Chase presented at the 22nd annual conference of the International Society of Tropical Foresters at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies on January 29th, 2016. She shared field experiences from her research in the Amazon basin, and talked about how community-based fishery management projects in the area were successful in promoting food security, but how they are also heavily gender-biased. The presentation inspired

many discussions, and led to an interesting conversation about striking a balance between promoting sustainable development and gender equity on one hand, and respecting cultural traditions on the other. The presentation will be published as an article in a special issue of the *Journal of Tropical Forests*.

## Maria Ivanova and Natalia Escobar-Pemberthy Publish Book Chapter



Maria Ivanova and Natalia Escobar-Pemberthy have penned a chapter in a new book on global governance: *Poverty and the Millennium Development Goals - A Critical Look Forward*. In their chapter, *The Quest for Sustainable Development: The Power and Perils of Global Development Goals*, Ivanova and Escobar-Pemberthy argue that decisions surrounding the Sustainable Development Goals have two important dimensions: how the the goals are articulated and how they are implemented. The political process to articulate the goals took into account integrating diverse variables like economics and environmental protection, so the process to implement the goals should do the same. The book is available on [Amazon](#).

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