



The World Student Community for Sustainable Development



Student Summit for Sustainability

S³.2008

REGINA . SASKATCHEWAN . CANADA

CONFERENCE REPORT



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Proud Host of the 2008 Student Summit for Sustainability

FROM THE SUMMIT CHAIR...



It is with great pleasure that I present the final report of the 2008 Student Summit for Sustainability (S³.2008), held in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada from May 12 – 16.

The University of Regina Students for Sustainability (WSC-SD Regina) was proud to host this year's summit of the World Student Community for Sustainable Development (WSC-SD); the first to be held in Canada.

This year's theme, "Societies of Tomorrow", brought together an extraordinary group of young people from about 40 different countries and very diverse backgrounds, whose unique approaches to creating tomorrow gave unparalleled beauty to this conference. In just a few days, a lifetime of inspiring memories was created as interaction upon interaction gave birth to new hopes and visions; unleashed raw creativity and possibilities; and opened the doors to real partnerships for the future.

Topics considered essential to the successful establishment and sustenance of tomorrow's societies were explored through various sessions and activities. Participants were encouraged to see beyond today's challenges and build on the amazing advancements of the present to create the next innovative solutions for our common future.

This year's summit was highly successful as evaluated by attendees and generated the right momentum to power the next phase of the WSC-SD's growth and expansion. From Regina, Canada, we now March to Zurich, Switzerland, where in January 2009 we will partner with the Alliance for Global Sustainability (AGS) to host the S³.2009.

This has been a most fulfilling experience. My sincere thanks go to all our 27 sponsors and partners who made this summit possible through their generous contributions. Special mention must be made of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for its exceptional support.

I am indebted to my outstanding colleagues on the Organizing Committee who gave so much of their time, energy and sheer passion to see this project greatly succeed. You guys are simply the best!

Lastly, I thank all the participants – you, my dear friends – for honoring us with the beauty of your presence at S³.2008. See you in Zurich!

Nnaemeka Okochi

*Chair, 2008 Student Summit for Sustainability
& President, WSC-SD Regina*

Recognizing our generous sponsors and partners...

THANK YOU...

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- Aramark Higher Education
- Craik Sustainable Living Project
- Innovation Place
- Institut Francais
- oikos International
- Regina Inn – Hotel and Conference Centre
- Regina Public Interest Research Group (RPIRG)
- SpringBoard West Innovations Inc.
- University of Regina Students' Union



A salute to the dream team...



The Organizing Committee of the 2008 Student Summit for Sustainability

Standing (from L-R): Funke, Meka, Morayo, Leye and Judith.

Sitting: Juliet, Jose and Nathalie.

Absent: Ore, Laurentia, Catherine and Kristina.

Committee Members

Nnaemeka (Meka) Okochi – Chair & Director, Strategy and Operations

Jose Condor Tarco – Director, Fundraising & Sponsor Relations

Olufunke (Funke) Okochi – Director, Communications & International Relations

Kristina Nelson – Director, Administration

Catherine Roberts – Director, Logistics

Judith Nkongolo - Associate Director, Fundraising and Finance

Juliet Nmezi - Associate Director, Delegate Affairs

Morayo Oladele - Associate Director, Selection, Registration & Awards

Nathalie Bay - Associate Director, Media Relations

Laurentia Akoto - Associate Director, Sponsor & International Relations

Ore Ogunrinde - Associate Director, Events

Leye Adeboye - Associate Director, Strategy & Operations

Introduction

The Student Summit for Sustainability

Once every year, members and partners of the WSC-SD, as well as students and other invited guests from destinations all over the world converge in one physical location at the Student Summit for Sustainability, “S³” (pronounced ‘S-Cube’).

This annual event provides a rich platform for interaction between students from various academic institutions, disciplines and levels of study. Also, students get the opportunity to network with key public policy makers and administrators, business leaders, leading researchers and other outstanding achievers, who strive through their actions to propagate the knowledge and practice of sustainable development, locally and globally.

May 2008 marked the first time ever that the Student Summit for Sustainability was held in Canada. Participants from countries including Sweden, South Africa, United States, Nepal, Ecuador, Tanzania, Egypt, Brazil and Russia, amongst many others, attended the conference which was hosted by the Regina chapter of the World Students Community for Sustainable Development (WSC-SD) otherwise known as the University of Regina Students for Sustainability or URSS. In all, 150 participants from 40 different countries were present at the event.

S³.2008 was themed “Societies of Tomorrow” and took place from May 12 – 16, 2008. A variety of seasoned speakers and delegates shared their perspectives with us throughout that week on the challenges and opportunities that will help shape tomorrow’s story.

Three areas considered essential to the successful establishment and sustenance of tomorrow’s societies were chosen as core focus topics for S³.2008. These were Urban Infrastructure, Energy and Environment and Economic and Social Development.

The World Student Community for Sustainable Development (WSC-SD)

WSC-SD is a vibrant international network of students and progressive sustainability organizations in universities around the world that work together to address issues pertaining to sustainability, and take action locally and internationally. It comprises the following Member and Partner Associations:

- Alliance for Global Sustainability – University of Tokyo (Japan)
- Association for Sustainable Development – University of Yaoundé (Cameroon)
- Chalmers Students for Sustainability – Chalmers University of Technology (Sweden)
- MIT Students for Global Sustainability – Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA)
- Project 21 – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ) and University of Zurich (Switzerland)
- Quark Society – American University Cairo (Egypt)

- UNIPOLY – The student organization for sustainable development at University of Lausanne and Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) (Switzerland)
- UoN-SfGS – University of Nairobi Students for Global Sustainability (Kenya)
- UR Students for Sustainability – University of Regina (Canada).
- St. Andrews University (Scotland)
- St. Petersburg Students for Sustainability – St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University (Russia)

Call for Papers

The following is an excerpt of the Call for Papers...

Theme: “Societies of Tomorrow”

Tomorrow houses a great potential for us as future world leaders to build on valuable lessons and milestones of the past and present, and steer the ship of our common destiny in a more enduring and profitable direction.

More than any other generation before us, we, as architects of tomorrow’s societies, have the exceptional opportunity to chart a novel and highly progressive course for ourselves and for our progenies. One important way to achieve this is through effective collaboration and constructive actions; and the course we choose to create must be one that generates innovations which keep our ecosystems intact and healthy, while providing a sound engine of economic and social development for our societies and their inhabitants. But the question remains, “Are you ready to act now?”

“Societies of Tomorrow”, will actively engage students in identifying significant gaps in their societies and proposing feasible, innovative solutions to the specified challenges. WSC-SD and its member organizations will subsequently liaise with not-for-profit organizations, research institutions, government departments, businesses and/or industries to consider the feasibility of further pursuing or developing any promising idea or opportunity that arises from the conference to bridge identified gaps.

Three areas considered essential to the successful establishment and sustenance of tomorrow’s societies have been chosen as core focus topics for S³.2008. These are:

1. Urban Infrastructure
2. Energy and Environment
3. Economic and Social Development

Urban Infrastructure:

Infrastructure covers a broad number of areas, some of which are often invisible to citizens, and are essential to daily life in communities. Drinking water, storm water and wastewater systems, waste management facilities, sidewalks, bridges, and roads are all part of the infrastructure of our cities.

Sustainable infrastructure is the backbone that supports healthy, prosperous, and viable communities. With the world's population expected to increase by 2.4 billion people over the next three decades (most of this growth is anticipated in urban areas), there will be significant demands on infrastructure systems around the world. Also, the future effects of climate change will require the adoption of new adaptation strategies for infrastructure systems. There is clearly a growing demand for environmentally responsible and economically sound solutions in urban infrastructure worldwide.

Energy and Environment:

Energy and the environment are essential components of living systems. Many countries are still disproportionately affected by environmental degradation and lack access to clean and affordable services. Energy challenges, climate change, loss of biodiversity and ozone layer depletion cannot be addressed by countries acting alone.

Societies of tomorrow must strengthen their capacity to address these challenges at global, national and community levels, seek out and share best practices, provide innovative and alternative policy advice and form partnerships to assist less privileged societies in their quest to achieve sustainable livelihoods.

The interdisciplinary nature of this topic covers areas of engineering, science, arts and the social sciences.

Economic and Social Development

Economic development and social development are two concepts which are closely interwoven. Economic development refers to the advancement of the economic state of a nation or region for the well being of its inhabitants. It embodies a sustainable increase in living standards typically measured in terms of jobs and income, but also includes improvements in human development, education, health, trade, fiscal policies, choice, and the environment.

When one speaks of social development, what comes to mind is also the sustained improvement in the well-being of the individual, family, community and society at large. The reduction or eradication of mass poverty, inequality and conditions of underdevelopment are widely accepted indicators of social progress. The dimensions of social development are: ideological freedom, social security; health; justice; education; housing; urban and rural development; to name a few.

Conference Events

Overview

- Day I** **May 12, 2008** – Brief orientation for international participants, “Discover Regina” tour and opening ceremony and welcome reception.
- Day II** **May 13, 2008** – All-day plenary and breakout presentations and workshops by invited guests and student participants. The “Celebration of Cultures” was held in the evening.
- Day III** **May 14, 2008** – Participants undertook a field trip to Craik, Saskatchewan and learnt about the “Craik Sustainable Living Project” (<http://www.craikecovillage.ca>).
- Day IV** **May 15, 2008** – More stimulating presentations, the “Images of the Globe” photo competition and the poster sessions were held.
- Day V** **May 16, 2008** – The week came to a close with an exciting excursion to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. The event was concluded with a farewell dinner and awards night. Participants with the best posters and presentations in each of the focus categories were awarded, as were other outstanding participants that made the event memorable.

Details of Conference Activities

Pre-conference Meetings

The summit kicked off with a series of pre-meetings by the Executive Board of WSC-SD international as well as presidents from different member chapters. The meetings held from May 9 – 11 and were a period for the WSC-SD leadership to deliberate on issues of importance to the organization, review activities and performance of the previous year and chart out its future course. During the meetings, the WSC-SD member organizations voted to upgrade University of Nairobi Students for Global Sustainability (UoN-SfGS, Kenya) to full membership status of the WSC-SD. Also, Quark Society, American University Cairo (Egypt) and St. Andrews University (Scotland) were granted partner status.

The Summit kicked off on May 12, 2008 with most participants arriving on May 10 and 11. A detailed description of activities undertaken at the Summit is elaborated below:

Monday May 12, 2008

Discover Regina Tour, Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception

After breakfast at the ‘Institut Français’, University of Regina (U of R), international delegates were given an orientation of the University environment, where they were accommodated at the New Residence Towers. Thereafter, they were treated to a ‘Discover Regina’ tour during which they visited the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (RSM) as well as the Legislative Building. Lunch was held as a picnic in the Wascana Park and delegates returned to their accommodations for some rest and relaxation before the Opening Ceremonies and Welcome Reception.



A group of conference participants pose for a shot before exploring Regina



A portrait from the First Nations Exhibit on display at the RSM



Summit delegates enjoy the tour of the Legislative Building in Regina

The Opening Ceremonies and Welcome Reception was held in the evening at ‘The Terrace’ (Innovation Place) on 10 Research Drive, Regina. Mr. Matt Rapley, Canadian Idol finalist, opened the event with the Canadian National Anthem, while the Justin Sheppard Curio Band provided the night’s entertainment. The welcome speech was delivered by Mr. Larry Hiles, the President & CEO of the Regina Regional Economic Development Authority, who also brought greetings from the Mayor of Regina, Mr. Pat Fiacco. Ms. Judy Amundson, the Associate Vice-President (Student Affairs), welcomed delegates to the University of Regina on behalf of President Jim Tomkins and the University Community. Guest speaker, Mr. Philip Osano, a global youth leader & Sauv  Leadership Scholar who has been involved in a number of United Nations projects, gave an inspirational opening key note address titled “Education and Leadership for Sustainability: Unleashing the Potential of Young People”.



Mr. Osano delivering the keynote address at the Opening Ceremonies

Tuesday May 13, 2008:

Presentations, Workshop Sessions and Celebration of Cultures

On Tuesday, participants were transported to the Regina Inn Hotel and Conference Centre, venue of the day's events – presentations and workshops.

The presentations kicked off with a plenary session with the following guest speakers:

Dr. David Sauchyn, *Professor of Geography and Research Coordinator at the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative (PARC), University of Regina*. Dr. Sauchyn gave the Keynote Presentation on May 13, 2008. His presentation was titled, "Climate Change – The Challenges for Western Canada". This was a very interesting and captivating discussion that got the audience very engaged and lively, and set a great pace for the rest of the sessions.

Mr. John D. Lee, *President, Communities of Tomorrow*. He talked about "Sustainable Urban Infrastructure – Global Challenges and Opportunities". In his presentation, John discussed the effects of climate change and its potential impacts on infrastructure conditions. He however pointed out that beyond the obstacles lies a remarkable opportunity for the infrastructure sector. With the infrastructure market worth hundreds of billion dollars today and estimated at over US\$ 5 trillion in 20 years from now, the prospect for innovative applied research, profitable green businesses and enduring technologies is already here...and it belongs to the societies of tomorrow.

Mr. Terry Stott *Chief Operating Officer & Quality Manager, Solar Hydrogen Energy Corporation (SHEC)*. Terry's topic was "Solar Energy – The Solution to Global Warming". He shared SHEC's mission to provide the world with an inexhaustible source of clean, renewable energy by harvesting the energy of the sun to produce economically viable sources of energy.

Ms. Susan J. Gorges, *Chief Executive Officer, SpringBoard West Innovations Inc.* Susan talked about "Sustainability and Economic Diversification". In her presentation, she emphasized that an 'innovation culture' in corporations is now focused on solving problems in an environmentally friendly way, for the benefit of consumers, particularly youth who will reap the benefits.

Following the plenary sessions were the break-out sessions where the student participants had the opportunity to present their papers in different groups, according to the three conference focus areas – Urban Infrastructure, Energy & Environment and Economic & Social Development.

The student presentation topics are as below:

Urban Infrastructure | *Session Chair: Kim Exner – Project Manager & Operations Officer, Communities of Tomorrow*

#	Speaker
1	Xixi Wei – <i>Green Beijing, Green Olympic Games – Improvement of the Public Transport System in Beijing</i>
2	Jess Schulschenk – <i>Water and Sanitation in Urban Informal Settlements</i>
3	Willis Nyabwala Alala – <i>The Ecological City Plan – Integrated Concepts for Infrastructure Upgrading in Slum Settlements: The Case for Kibera Slums, Nairobi City, Kenya</i>
4	Nripal Adhikary – <i>Indigenous Knowledge and Rural Settlement: A Perspective from Nepal</i>
5	Wipapan Adulcharoen – <i>Informal Waste Management</i>
6	Zeeshan Shahid – <i>A Study on Risks and Opportunities Related to Sewage Irrigation</i>

Energy and Environment | *Session Chair: Hussameldin Ibrahim – Senior Project Engineer, HTC Pureenergy*

#	Speaker
1	Danko Aleksic – <i>Wood Biomass as a Renewable Energy Source: Characteristics, Advantages and Importance in the Sustainable Development Concept</i>
2	Nina Kruglikova – <i>Environmental NGOs and Businesses: Friends or Foes</i>
3	Julio Cesar Pinos – <i>An Alternative Proposal for Sustainable Development: Ecuador's Ishpingo-Tambococha-Tiputini (ITT) Project</i>
4	Rajesh Koirala – <i>Sustainable Community Forestry for Sustainable Development: A Case Study of Forest Governance from Nepal</i>
5	Guozheng Li – <i>Refining Straw into Bio-oil: Energy Crisis and Response Measures in China</i>
6	Muhammad Mufti Azis – <i>Harnessing bioenergy from lignin</i>

Economic and Social Development | *Session Chair: Divyesh Patel – Innovation Officer, SpringBoard West Innovations Inc*

#	Speaker
1	Mimoza Telaku <i>Women Education & Economic Development in the Kosovar Society</i>
2	Gervas Andrew Kasiga <i>Tanzania’s Growing Film Industry and Job Opportunities for Youths</i>
3	Elhassan Anas Elsabry <i>“Tajareb” – An Initiative for Future Scientists</i>
4	Kudakwashe Chipendo <i>Information Communications Technology (ICT) Based Interventions: An Opportunity for Sustainable Poverty Reduction through Small Enterprise Development and Support in South Africa</i>
5	Fernanda Belizario Silva <i>Bandeira Cientifica (translated “Scientific Flag”)</i>
6	Nakarin Srilalert <i>Indigenous Knowledge and Herbal Medicine, Rights and Protection by local community: The case study in Kanjanaburi province, Thailand</i>



Future leaders taking some time to relax in between activities

Following the break-out sessions were the following three workshops:

Ms. Katharina Beck

President, oikos International, Switzerland

Topic: oikos Pathfinder Session – Unlocking student entrepreneurship for sustainable development

Ms. Genevieve Lapierre (*Head of Communications, Assemblée Communautaire Fransaskoise - ACF*) & **Ms. Francine Proulx-Kenzle** (*Manager, Community Outreach, Institut Français*)
(Bilingual Workshop in French and English)

Topic : Assurer un développement communautaire global et durable / Ensuring comprehensive and sustainable community development

Mr. Bob Bjerke (*Manager, Housing & Neighbourhood Planning, City of Regina*) & **Ms. Kim Sare** (*Sustainable Community Coordinator, City of Regina*)

Topic: City of Regina ‘Sustainable City’ workshop

After the sessions, participants returned to their residences and prepared for the ‘Celebration of Cultures’ event. At the event, **Dr. Carrie Bourrasa** from the First Nations University of Canada gave an interesting presentation on Sustainability in Health Care. Delegates dressed up in their traditional attires and performed a variety of dances and skits to showcase their cultures. Ornaments and items from different parts of the globe were also on display.



It's a beautiful world...Participants at the ‘Celebration of Cultures’ event

Wednesday May 14, 2008

“Discovery Saskatchewan” – The Craik Sustainable Living Project Field Trip

The day began with a breakfast presentation by **Dr. Koorosh Asghari**, Associate Professor, Petroleum Systems Engineering, University of Regina. His topic was “The IEA GHG Weyburn-Midale Carbon dioxide (CO₂) Monitoring and Storage Project”.

Dr. Asghari talked about the Weyburn Project, the world’s first and largest field demonstration of geological storage, one which the University of Regina played a significant role in planning, development and research. This project is managed by the Petroleum Technology Research Centre (PTRC).



Dr. Asghari captivates his audience with the mystery of carbon capture

After the presentation, delegates took a field trip to the Craik Sustainable Living Project (CSLP) in Craik, Saskatchewan.

On arrival, a plenary session was held at the centre where delegates learned about the history of the CSLP.



Glenn Hymers briefs delegates on the history of the CLSP and the agenda for the field trip

After lunch, delegates were taken around the centre, to the Craik Museum and were introduced to Kelly and Audrey Taylor-Faye, a couple who were building their home using 100 per cent sustainable and renewable material. Participants also took some time to practise their golf skills, visit the Craik Museum and explore the Centre grounds on their golf carts. The day was a most enjoyable and memorable one for everyone.



Building for the future...this couple is making a difference

Following supper at Craik, delegates headed back to Regina for some well deserved rest.

Thursday May 15, 2008

*Presentations, Images of the Globe Photo Competition and Poster Sessions
Major Sponsors Exhibition & Interaction Session*

On Thursday morning, the conference moved to the Conexus Arts Centre. **Ms. Kathleen Livingston**, Executive Director & Chief Operating Officer, Saskatchewan Environmental Industry & Managers Association (SEIMA) talked on “*The Environmental Industry – The Saskatchewan Difference*”. Kathleen’s presentation was an exposé on what Saskatchewan’s environmental industry looks like. Participants learned about how unique conditions in Saskatchewan create unique challenges and opportunities.

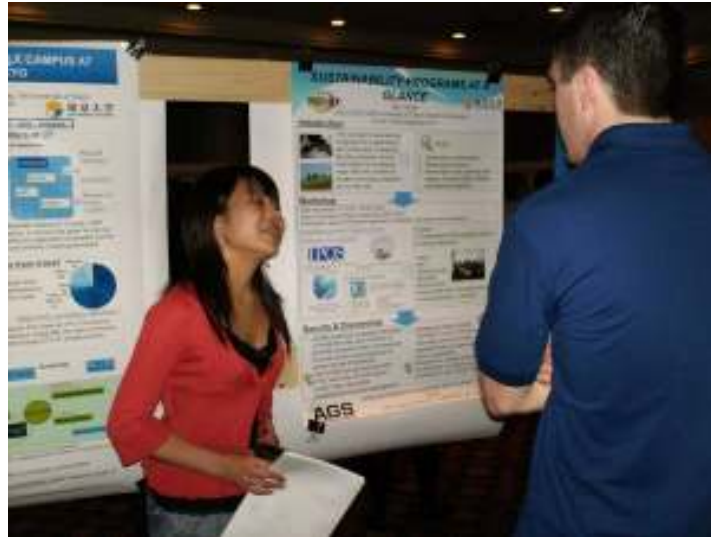
Ms. Katharina Beck, president of oikos International, discussed oikos’ journey as an international student organization focused on sustainable economics and management in her presentation titled, “*Student Entrepreneurship: An oikos Journey*”. Delegates also enjoyed a presentation by **Mr. Victor Thomas**, an Entrepreneur and Business Consultant, on “*Sustainable Business: A Paradox or a Solution*”.



Always looking good...delegates show some style at the Summit

After the presentations and a delicious lunch, the Poster Sessions and the ‘Images of the Globe’ Photo Competition and were held. For the photo competition, delegates’ submissions were rolled out in a slide show for the audience and judges to view. A Major Sponsors Exhibition and Interaction Session was also held.

The afternoon was rounded off with a video on sights of Saskatchewan and delegates were treated to a part at the Lazy Owl later that night.



The poster sessions were very interactive and lively



CIDA at the major sponsors exhibition and interaction session

Some of the posters presented at the 2008 Student Summit for Sustainability are outlined below:

#	Presenter & Title
1	Ayumi Arakawa – Japan <i>Student Activities for a Sustainable Campus at The University of Tokyo</i>
2	Carl Justin Kamp – Sweden/United States a. <i>Obstacles and Opportunities for a Sustainable Society</i> b. <i>Auxiliary Power Units as an Existing and Future Technology for a Sustainable Transport Industry</i> c. <i>Sustainable Plastic Products from Renewable Resources</i> d. <i>Disposable and Rechargeable Batteries</i> e. <i>Alternative Protein Sources</i> f. <i>A Look at the Efforts to Reduce Diesel Particulate Matter through Research and Technology</i>
3	Christopher Hedvall – Sweden <i>Sustainable Development Projects Competition (NORESO)</i>
4	CSS – Sweden <i>Chalmers Students for Sustainability (CSS)</i>
5	Fernanda Belizario Silva and Andrea Beolchi Spessoto – Brazil <i>Scientific Flag</i>
6	Jess Schulschenk – South Africa <i>Water and Sanitation in Urban Informal Settlements</i>
7	Khurram Shahzad – Pakistan <i>Issues of Solid Waste Management – A Case Study</i>
8	Kudakwashe Chipendo – Zimbabwe a. <i>ICT-Based support for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises</i> b. <i>Road Alloys</i>
9	Nakarin Srilert, Kanokphan Jongjarb and Chompunut Sartphan – Thailand <i>Indigenous Herbal Medicine</i>
10	Nripal Adhikary – Nepal <i>Indigenous Knowledge and Rural Settlement: A Perspective from Nepal</i>
11	Pornpimol Ruangprach, Supatra Marlairosiri, Wipapan Adulcharoen and Saranpat Pririyaprasit – Thailand <i>Informal Waste Management</i>

12	Takuma Iino – Japan <i>The Potential Usefulness of Transferable Development Rights for Sustainable Urban Regeneration</i>
13	Tamilla Khalilova – Uzbekistan <i>“LEAF” Us a Better World for Tomorrow</i>
14	Wessam Elbaz – Egypt <i>Quark Society</i>
15	WSC-SD <i>World Student Community for Sustainable Development (WSC-SD)</i>

Friday May 16, 2008

“Discovery Saskatchewan” – Moose Jaw Trip and Farewell Dinner & Awards Night

Friday was the last day of the Summit. Delegates took another field trip, this time to neighbouring City of Moose Jaw, and visited the **Tunnels of Moose Jaw**. After this, they had lunch in a park while those who wished, went over to the mineral spa for a dip.

Later that afternoon, the 18 delegates whose papers had been selected for presentations at the conference, from a pile of over 100 submissions, were awarded with a limousine ride around the City of Regina and some nice refreshments. They were dropped off at the Queensbury Convention Centre later that afternoon for the Closing Ceremonies.

Mr. Anthony Hancock from Engineers Without Borders, Edmonton, gave a very informative and inspiring presentation on “Cultural Considerations in Sustainable Design”. Speaking from his experience working with smallholder farmers in rural Malawi, Anthony discussed the importance of considering the beliefs, values and norms of the target user when designing a new sustainable technology.

The Closing Ceremonies was wrapped up with an awards ceremony where delegates with outstanding paper presentations, posters and photos were presented with awards. Also, Special delegates who made the conference a most memorable one were honoured.

The newly elected Executive Board of WSC-SD International was unveiled and recognized by the gathering. The Chair, **Mr. Nnaemeka Okochi**, closed the event with a vote of thanks to sponsors and partners, delegates and the members of the Organizing Committee.



Mr. Anthony Hancock delivers an inspirational presentation at the Closing Ceremonies



A cross section of participants at the Closing Ceremonies

Project Evaluation

Overall, we can confidently state that the project achieved its overall objectives and exceeded a number of the set goals. The following are important indicators that were set prior to the conference, and a measure of how well the event performed against those indicators:

Conference components

The main components of the conference were plenary sessions, workshops, paper and poster presentations, a one-day sustainability field trip, excursions and an “images of the globe” photo exhibition. All these were achieved and excellently executed as evaluated by conference attendees. Further information on the evaluation will be discussed in a subsequent paragraph.

Conference focus

The S³.2008 conference was designed to focus on Sustainable Development Awareness and encourage young people to understand their place and potential in defining the Societies of Tomorrow. This was a success. The three areas – Urban Infrastructure, Energy and Environment and Economic and Social Development – selected as core topics for the Summit were successfully addressed. Participants actively discussed environmental issues, sustainable technologies and economic and social development trends around the globe. A powerful interaction of ideas and partnerships were developed. Work has already started on different new projects to be completed in Japan, the Scandinavian regions of Europe and in Africa. For example, the conference afforded WSC-SD members drawn from the various student communities to put together a team that will be representing the organization in the global “Imaginearth Collection” episode in Tokyo this September. The team will plan and run activities at this convention. Imaginearth brings together a wide array of young people and global leaders from every walk of life to explore action-oriented innovative solutions for the future in areas such as healthcare, poverty, environment, peace, etc. The WSC-SD is also the official student partner for the upcoming 5th Humboldt African Climate Change Conference poised to take place in Cape Town, South Africa, in January 2009.

Conference audience

The summit aimed to actively engage international and local students, NPO, industry, government and other organizations, while providing added global exposure to the University of Regina, City of Regina and the Province of Saskatchewan as a whole. It was successful in doing all these. The event attracted students from post secondary institutions in Canada and all over the world, including high school students from the Regina region. The interaction was very rich and participants learned a lot about global sustainability issues. Also, 27 sponsors and supporting organizations were involved in shaping the conference through their contributions and active participation. For example, Communities of Tomorrow, an active participant and great supporter of the event, enlightened participants about the global infrastructure challenges and opportunities through its President, John Lee. The organization was also able to learn about a major municipal infrastructure challenge in Nairobi, Kenya where waste management constitutes a very serious problem. A number of papers received from Kenya discussed the issue of waste and CT can see a potential for innovative waste to energy technologies to thrive in Nairobi Kenya.

The University of Regina, the City of Regina and the Province of Saskatchewan were also beneficiaries of this conference. The University of Regina played host to the delegates for a week and provided a great deal of the excellent services enjoyed at the conference. This resulted not only in economic returns for the University of Regina, but also, it afforded students the opportunity to become acquainted with the wonderful learning and living environment at the University. A number of students flooded the U of R display booths at the Major Sponsors Exhibition and Interaction event and showed interest in considering the U of R as a destination for future academic studies. At present, WSC-SD Regina members are assisting a few international students from Europe, Asia and Africa who the attended the conference in their application to the University of Regina for graduate studies. We are confident that more will follow.

Prior to the summit, many had never heard of Saskatchewan, its cities or universities. This event brought Saskatchewan to those people and gave the province, its cities and universities additional global exposure. From the conference website to exciting tours that spanned across Regina, Moose Jaw and Craik, and even to cyberspace in the form of social networking tools like Facebook, thousands of people came in touch with the serene beauty of Saskatchewan and its hitherto undiscovered treasures. Being the first ever held in Canada, the conference also holds and historic significance within WSC-SD and its global partnerships and networks. Regina, Saskatchewan will always be remembered as the first Canadian home of the WSC-SD and the S3. Conference participants talked and still talk affectionately of how very warmly they were received by the people of Regina during their stay here. In terms of economic activities, all services for the conference were provided by Saskatchewan firms.

Finally, representatives of government at municipal, provincial and federal levels also participated in the conference. The list includes:

- Federal organizations: Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA); NSERC-Prairies, National Research Council (NRC).
- Provincial Government: Ministry of Enterprise & Innovation; Ministry of Environment; Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations.
- Municipal: City of Regina; Regina Regional Economic Development Authority; Rural Municipality of Craik.

Special guest speakers

The conference enjoyed a rich array of most of the guest speakers initially targeted to address the summit. The week-long event featured many special guest speakers such as David Sauchyn, Ph.D., P.Geog, Professor of Geography and Research Coordinator – Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative; Philip Osano, Global Youth Leader & Sauvé Leadership Scholar; John Lee, President of Communities of Tomorrow; Susan Gorges, CEO SpringBoard West Innovations Inc; Katharina Beck, oikos International Switzerland, Anthony Hancock, Engineers Without Borders, etc. A list of some of the guest speakers can be found at:

<http://www.s3regina.org/index.htm>.

Conference key measurable targets

Some key measurable targets for the 2008 Student Summit for Sustainability were as follows:

1. Attract ~ 200 student delegates

- a. 150 from higher institutions of learning outside Canada
 - b. 60 from developing countries and countries in transition
 - c. 50 from Canadian tertiary institutions
2. Collaborate with no less than 15 organizations/industry partners in the hosting of the event
 3. Involve additional participants from government departments, municipalities, industry, high schools and the community
 4. Draw in at least 100 submissions through the Call for Papers that discuss gaps, ideas and opportunities relating to sustainable community initiatives around the globe
 5. Provide full financial support for no lesser than 20 exceptional students from developing countries to attend the conference (\$2000/student)

Goals #2 to 5 were not only met but exceeded. The Summit attracted 27 organizations as partners and supporters of the event. These organizations included businesses, not-for-profit groups, government departments and academic institutions, amongst others. Over 100 submissions were received through the Calls for Papers and a hugely successful fundraising campaign led to the support of 70 students to attend the conference, with more than half of that number, from developing countries, receiving full financial support. A total of 150 delegates attended the conference. A higher number was anticipated but the inability of many students to obtain a Canadian visa to attend the Summit was an impediment to the attainment of goal #1.

The WSC-SD continues to focus on realizing the medium-term opportunities arising from the conference. So far, some achievements have already been realized. The organization has developed and implemented a new concept for its website and resource database. Information from the conference has been collated, disseminated to partners and members within the WSC-SD network and placed on the organization's new website and wiki at www.wscsd.org. New ideas and projects conceived and developed during the conference are already underway in Europe, Asia and Africa. Also, the WSC-SD has seen an increase in its membership after the conference. The event provided an opportunity for non-members to know more about the organizations and many joined as individual members, with a vision to start new student chapters at their universities. Also, the WSC-SD welcomed University of Nairobi Students for Global Sustainability (UoN-SfGS, Kenya) as a full member of the WSC-SD and the Quark Society, American University Cairo (Egypt) and St. Andrews University (Scotland) were granted partner status.

Challenges and solutions

The Organizing Committee faced some significant challenges during the conference which were beyond its control. Despite these, the Committee remained very focused and moved fast to tackle them as best as possible:

- Some students selected and granted financial assistance for the conference from West and East Africa (e.g. countries like Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Kenya, etc.), as well as citizens of nations such as Pakistan and Nepal were denied Canadian visas.
- Professor Ogunlade Davidson, Co-chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) abruptly changed his plans to attend the conference as the Keynote Speaker just a day to his arrival date in Regina on May 10th. In his stead, we tried to get Professor Akpezi Ogbuigwe, the Head of Environmental Education and Training, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation – DEPI, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Kenya. Professor Ogbuigwe was in Stockholm on a program and was unable to come but graciously offered to send Mr. Philip Osano, whom she had worked with on various UN projects, in her stead. You can read more about Mr. Osano on our website at www.s3regina.org. Mr. Osano gave an inspirational speech titled “Education and Leadership for Sustainability: Unleashing the Potential of Young People” at the Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception on May 12, 2008. The Committee was able to confirm Dr. David Sauchyn, Professor of Geography and Research Coordinator at the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative (PARC) at the University of Regina as a replacement Keynote Presenter on May 12, 2008. Since 2000, Dr. Sauchyn has been responsible for facilitating and managing many research projects on climate change impacts in the Prairie Provinces, and he gave the Keynote Presentation on May 13, 2008 which was titled, “Climate Change – The Challenges for Western Canada”. This was a very interesting and captivating presentation that got the audience very engaged and lively, and set a great pace for the rest of the sessions.

Despite the above challenges, the organizing committee was able to stay focused on the end goal and worked hard and fast to readjust its strategy for success. We are pleased to report that the conference was a huge success as evaluated by participants.

Evaluation Methods

In general, the conference went very well. 98% of conference attendees who completed the post-conference evaluation forms said they were very satisfied with the registration process, conference materials, facilities and food. About 96% agreed that the length of the conference session was about just right, and the content of the sessions were appropriate and informative. Over 95% expressed satisfaction with the speakers and presenters and said they will attend future editions of the conference or recommend it to others. 99% of respondents strongly agreed that the conference was well organized and the organizing committee and hosts were helpful and courteous. An equal percentage who had attended previous conferences also rated this conference as “excellent” when compared to previous editions.

In terms of improvements, many participants enjoyed the interactive and hands-on workshops and a majority wanted to see more of those in future summits. They also wanted more forums on socio-cultural and leadership discussions. These are areas where we see the most opportunities for improvements if we were to do things differently.

The conference was evaluated from two perspectives – Against set measurable targets as discussed in earlier paragraphs, and by participants. Conference attendees were given an

evaluation form to fill and just over 70% of the evaluations were successfully recovered. A sample of the form is given below:

Please tell us how satisfied or dissatisfied you were with the following.

1. How satisfied were you with the registration process?

Very Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Satisfied Very Satisfied

2. How satisfied were you with the conference materials provided?

Very Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Satisfied Very Satisfied

3. Overall, how satisfied were you with the speakers/presenters?

Very Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Satisfied Very Satisfied

4. Overall, how satisfied were you with the conference facilities?

Very Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Satisfied Very Satisfied

Overall, how satisfied were you with the food provided?

Very Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Satisfied Very Satisfied

5. How many sessions did you attend?

6. Did you feel the length of conference sessions were too long, just about right, or too short?

Too long Just about right Too short

Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements.

7. The content of conference sessions was appropriate and informative.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

8. The conference was well organized.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

9. Were Organizing Committee & WSC-SD Regina members helpful and courteous?

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

10. What kinds of sessions would you like to see included at future conferences?

11. What did you like most about the conference?

12. What did you like least about the conference?

13. Do you plan to attend this conference again next year?

Yes No Don't Know

14. Would you recommend this conference to others?

Yes No Don't Know

15. If you have attended previous WSC-SD conferences before, how would you rate this conference compared to those?

Very poor Poor Average Very good Excellent

16. In what ways could this conference be improved?

Please submit your completed forms to any S³.2008 Organizing Committee Member.

- Thank You -

Equal opportunity-related issues

WSC-SD and its member communities are equal opportunity organizations and take their commitment to equality very seriously. WSC-SD and its affiliates do not discriminate in any way on the basis of gender, origin, race or age. Our organization values and supports equity and diversity. In organizing this conference, the WSC-SD's selection process was based on merit and applications from all interested and qualified individuals. Equal opportunity was given to all applicants, irrespective of gender or origin, to attend the conference. An equal percentage of funding opportunities was ideally designated to both male and female participants and the selection process was led by a five-person selection committee, headed by a female chair and comprising three females and two males. Also, 60% of that committee traced their origins to developing countries and economies in transitions. Even though the Organizing Committee consisted of 75% female members, fairness was always upheld and consensus was achieved on all major decisions. Funding was allocated according to a set of criteria which was clearly understood, easily accessible on the conference website and shared well ahead of time with prospective applicants. In the end, the number of female attendees was lower than male participants due to fewer applications from that gender group and visa denials. The Committee granted full sponsorship to all female applicants who met the criteria for financial assistance and were able to obtain their visa. There was also a need to manage funding vis-à-vis gender equality issues with fair geographical representation. In terms of the selection and invitation of special guest speakers, gender equality was also observed. 50% of special guest speakers were women of notable achievement who were occupying senior leadership positions in various professional fields. In all, there was general satisfaction with respect to the handling of gender-equality issues and no complaint or comment from organizers, volunteers and participants alluded to the contrary.

Conference materials and media coverage

A number of ad materials were created for the conference. The conference program also gives a wealth of information on activities and events undertaken at the conference. In addition, a DVD was produced to capture some of the wonderful memories made at the conference. All these are available to CIDA on request for at least three (3) years. Conference presentations are currently available on the WSC-SD website at <http://www.wscsd.org/category/reports/>.

The 2008 Student Summit for Sustainability was also richly covered by a number of media and print outlets. There were various articles, news reports and releases as well as radio coverage in both English and French relating to the conference. The following are some of the media outlets and organizations that covered the event:

- i. CTV
- ii. CBC Radio Canada
- iii. Leader-Post (Wednesday May 14, 2008 publication, page A4). Also available at <http://www.canada.com/reginaleaderpost/news/story.html?id=40daa987-c92c-4023-85bd-7ab125859400&k=78332>
- iv. Global TV

- v. Communities of Tomorrow (CT) March 2008 e-newsletter (<http://www.adz2go.com/mailmgt/templates/communitiesoftomorrow/Mar08/newsletterlink.html>). CT reported that the article had the highest number of readership of all the articles published for that month's newsletter.
- vi. University of Regina May 9, 2008 news release (<http://www.uregina.ca/news/newsreleases.php?release=469>)
- vii. Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association "Urban Voice" Newsletter (Vol. 14 No.3, June 2008, page 3)
- viii. S³.2008 on the WSC-SD website: <http://www.wscsd.org/2008/04/03/2008-student-summit-for-sustainability-in-canada/>

Financial Report

2008 Student Summit for Sustainability

May 12 – 16, 2008 . Regina . Saskatchewan

Conference Financial Report – CIDA Project No. S64507

REVENUES (July 26, 2007 – June 26, 2008)

Registration fees & other funds	
Conference registration fees (others)	C\$ 8,210.32
Other URSS funds	C\$ 3,864.14
Sponsors & Donors	
<i>University of Regina</i>	
Office of International Cooperation and Development	C\$5,000.00
President's Conference Fund	C\$3,000.00
Institut Francais	C\$2,000.00
Student Affairs	C\$4,500.00
Faculty of Engineering	C\$2,000.00
Faculty of Science	C\$2,000.00
Kenneth Levene Graduate School of Business	C\$500.00
Centre for Sustainable Communities	C\$1,000.00
University of Regina Students Union	C\$4,000.00
Regina Public Interest Research Group	C\$1,500.00
Education Students' Society	C\$2,000.00
Regina Engineering Students Society	C\$200.00
<i>TD Friends of the Environment Foundation</i>	C\$4,000.00
<i>Communities of Tomorrow</i>	C\$5,000.00
<i>Saskatchewan Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation</i>	C\$5,000.00
<i>Canadian International Development Agency</i>	C\$70,000.00
<i>SaskTel</i>	C\$500.00
<i>SaskEnergy</i>	C\$1,000.00
<i>City of Regina</i>	C\$3,000.00
<i>NSERC-Prairies</i>	C\$9,000.00
In-kind contributions	
<i>Committee & Volunteer time</i>	C\$70,723.20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - April to October 2007 (Conference planning start-up period): 6 volunteers at 12 h/week average at SK minimum wage of \$7.95/h (total =C\$16,027.20) - November 1, 2007 to May 31, 2008 (Major conference planning period): 20 volunteers (total = C\$53,424.00) - June – August 2008 (Conference wind down and reporting period ~ 2.5 months): 4 volunteers 4 h/week average (total = C\$1,272.00) 	
<i>Others</i>	C\$30,000
Web design & maintenance (1 year free), communications consulting, office space/supplies provided by Communities of Tomorrow, Aramark (Dinner Subsidy), University of Regina (price reduction in accommodation, Speaker, Use of Institut Francais Rotunda for one week, URSU Conference Package Items, etc.), Craik Sustainable Living Project, Innovation Place Services, Regina Inn Hotel & Conference Services.	
TOTAL REVENUES	C\$237,997.70

EXPENSES (July 26, 2007 – June 26, 2008)	
CIDA Sponsorship for air travel expenses for 43 students from developing countries/economies in transition	C\$44,925.64
CIDA Sponsorship for conference registration fees and incidentals for 43 students from developing countries/economies in transition	20,597.00
Others	
Bank Fees	C\$178.79
Website (registration & domain name)	C\$169.72
Administrative expenses & conference supplies (committee meetings & operations, car rentals, gas, folders, committee, office materials, conference materials, sponsorship package folders, etc.)	C\$5,584.88
Phone lines & bills	C\$928.02
Conference services, rentals, excursions & field trips (conference halls & services, accommodations, feeding, audiovisuals, transportation, print services, etc.)	C\$52,244.37
Student awards for papers, posters and “Images of the Globe” photo competition	C\$1,304.21
Speaker expenses (flight ticket expenses, accommodation, gifts, etc.)	C\$4,748.51
Other air travel sponsorship for student participants (non-CIDA)	C\$6,248.15
Conference fee refund	C\$500.00
In-kind expenses	C\$100,723.20
TOTAL EXPENSES	C\$217,576.08
WSC-SD REGINA CLOSING ACCOUNT BALANCE AS AT JUNE 26, 2008. (INCLUDES REFUNDS & OUTSTANDING PAYMENTS*)	C\$20,421.62

***Notes:**

There are total unused CIDA funds amounting to C\$4,477.36. This will be refunded to CIDA at its request and in the mode of repayment stipulated.

There are outstanding invoices for rental and other administrative costs that were received after June 26, 2008 and will be reflected in future statements. No losses were reported in the hosting of the 2008 Student Summit for Sustainability.

University of Regina Students for Sustainability (WSC-SD Regina)

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