

## New Prize in Environmental Diplomacy

The Elizabeth Haub Prize for Environmental Diplomacy was inaugurated on 11 May 1999 in New York.

The inspiration for this new award came during a symposium convened in 1997 in Wiesbaden, Germany, to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Elizabeth Haub Prize in Environmental Law, which ICEL confers together with the Free University of Brussels. All those assembled at Wiesbaden for the Colloquium, including the chair of the event Helga Haub, agreed that there was more than law involved as the product of environmental diplomacy, and that there are and should be more than lawyers engaged in environmental diplomacy.

The gathering recommended that ICEL consider the establishment of a new prize, one focusing on those individuals, not necessarily lawyers, who serve in the diplomatic corps and in the international civil service of international organisations. The idea was not to recognise those who simply work in environmental negotiations because it has become a job, but rather to acknowledge those for whom the work becomes a calling. The prize is to be awarded by a jury composed of representatives from the International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL) and Pace University School of Law.

The criteria for the Prize recognise: (1) a positive contribution to the development and promotion of international environmental law and policy in a general way; or (2) a particular instance, a new idea or initiative leading to a new concept in the field of environmental law and policy of one or several countries, and particular initiatives in this field.

The Jury was convened to review nominations and it then selected the first awardees of the Prize. It was determined to recognise two diplomats from among the many contributors to environmental diplomatic accomplishments during 1998. In the words of the Jury:

*Tan Sri Razali Ismail* has advanced the fabric of multilateral environmental diplomatic negotiations through his leadership in the United Nations. Beyond his many diplomatic postings for Malaysia, Ambassador Razali was instrumen-

tal to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 and a successful chairman of the First Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. He forged effective working relationships for the involvement of Civil Society in the United Nations efforts for sustainability. While President of the 52<sup>nd</sup> UN General Assembly, Ambassador Razali continued to bridge the divides among nations. As President of the 19<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Environment and Development, he kept alive the "Spirit of Rio."

Bo *John Kjellén* brought his resourceful and wise participation into the negotiations of several important agreements, including the Climate Convention. Ambassador Kjellén chaired with passion Working Group I of the UN Conference on Environment and Development. Beyond his service at OECD and his diplomatic postings for Sweden, Ambassador Kjellén made a lasting contribution to global sustainable development through successfully chairing the Intergovernmental Committee for the Negotiations on a Convention to Combat Desertification and leading its Interim Secretariat. He ensured that the Rio recommendation to establish a global approach to desertification was realised.

### Statements

Nicholas Robinson, Professor of Environmental Law, Pace University School of Law, introduced Patricia Ewers, President of Pace University. He said that the inauguration signified the "maturation of our world-wide efforts to better manage the human systems that impact



*Dean Richard Ottinger, Judge Paul Engo and Helga Haub, Chair of the Board*

on the natural systems of the Earth. Environmental diplomacy is the art and skill, and perhaps the science, of mediating between our human needs and the demands of environmental protection. By recognising environmental diplomacy and its accomplishments, we here assembled do much to encourage this new field and foster excellence in its work.”

President Ewers noted, *inter alia*, that “Environmental diplomacy is shaping the international rules of the road so that we all take care of our common but differentiated responsibilities for Earth. Perhaps in no other area of international cooperation is our mutual dependence more evident, and at the same time more difficult to advance. Our problems are often caused by millions of small actions, which accumulate and leave us with patterns of problems. Acid rain around the world comes from many sources, not an easily identified single source. To solve these problems, in the words of the distinguished scientist and environmentalist, Dr. Rene Dublis, we must consider how to ‘act locally, and think globally.’”



*Christian Haub, CEO of A&P, Speaking with the permanent representative of Malaysia to the UN (Representing Razali Izmail) and Judge Rüdiger Wolfrum*

Richard Ottinger, Dean, Pace University School of Law spoke on the “Recognition of Environmental Diplomacy.” He said that the inaugural event marked the formal recognition that environmental diplomacy is an essential and permanent part of the world order.

“It is fashionable to rail against the lack of progress in international relations, and to see the problems as over-bearing and too complex to solve. This evening’s new award is testimony to the fact that this is not the

case,” he said. “We at Pace University School of Law, together with our colleagues in the International Council of Environmental Law, have wanted to encourage the work of the new breed of environmental diplomats for some time. The world took note of the work of environmental diplomats as this decade opened, in the lead up to the negotiations for the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development. It is entirely fitting that, as the decade comes to a close, we in the academic and professional community can acknowledge the accomplishment of those whose good practices



All of us who work in law, he said, must acknowledge the contributions to the rule of law of persons from many professions and walks of life.

“It is fitting that Erivan and Helga Haub are with us tonight, for it was their leadership and quiet philanthropy that has made possible the Elizabeth Haub Prize for Environmental Law, as well as the on-going work of the Elizabeth Haub Foundations in Europe and North America....”

Richard Ottinger continued by saying that normally, the Agreement establishing this Prize recognises that there would be only one Prize.

“Indeed, those at the symposium in Wiesbaden noted that in some years there might not be any one who would merit the award, and that the Jury should be discerning and pass over a year if candidates did not reflect great accomplishment. In this inaugural year, however, the Jury found that two individuals deserved the recognition of this prize, and the Rules for the prize allow this flexibility where merited.”

The Award ceremony then began, with Ambassador Data Rastam Mohd Isa receiving the Prize on behalf of Ambassador Razali who unfortunately could not attend.

The citations were conferred by Pace University School of Law and were read by Ambassador Bhagwat Singh, Secretary of the Jury for the Prize. Marilyn



*Patricia Ewers, Prof. Nicholas Robinson and Erivan Haub*

Jaffe-Ruiz, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Pace University, presented the citations to the Laureates.

The Gold Medals were conferred by the International Council of Environmental Law and presented by Helga Haub, Chairman of the Board of Directors, the Elizabeth Haub Foundation and Wolfgang Burhenne. Nicholas Robinson, as Governor of ICEL and Chair of the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law, congratulated the prizewinners.

The ceremony was followed by an address given by Bo John Kjellén, in which he expressed his gratitude and honour in accepting the Award. The main theme of the address is printed on pp. 171–174.