

# EDITORIAL

*We begin 2008 with, among other items of interest, a report on the final results of the 62<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the UN General Assembly and report on the awarding of the Elizabeth Haub Prizes for Environmental Law.*

\*

\*

\*

*Attention to climate change has not been entirely positive. Some countries (such as Australia, as mentioned in earlier editorials) have finally stepped up to acknowledge the need for action. Others have not. Former Vice President Gore's high-profile work in climate change, culminating in the film *An Inconvenient Truth*, has been challenged for exaggerating certain aspects of the issue potentially giving a foothold for opponents of climate-change action. One opponent, the newly elected Czech President Vaclav Klaus, did not need this foothold. In his remarks to the GA, he recently went so far as to claim that the climate-change movement was not based on science and that theories about man-made global warming could not be proven, and that pressure to reduce climate impacts is a threat to freedom.*

\*

\*

\*

*Our Haub Prize report follows closely after we featured the Gore/Pachauri Nobel Prize-giving on the cover of issue 37/6. Leading to further thoughts on environmental diplomacy and the role of awards, Paula Dobriansky, head of the US delegation in Bali agreed to the consensus outcome of that meeting, only to be overridden by later statements from Washington, breaking the consensus after the meeting had ended. We wonder if this type of diplomacy should also win a prize?*

\*

\*

\*

*We congratulate Haitian Ambassador Léo Mérorès, who has been elected by the members of ECOSOC to serve as its president for 2008. We note as well that Antigua and Barbuda (represented by Prime Minister Winston Baldwin Spencer and Ambassador John William Ashe) has assumed the chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China in international discussions.*

\*

\*

\*

*We join others in paying final tribute to Bert Bolin, co-founder of the highly effective Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), who passed away late last year.*

\*

\*

\*

*This issue also unveils our "new look" embodying a clearer representation of the difference between our publication and the other professional journals – that is, our focus on facilitating the decision-making process and enabling decision-makers to gain access to the information they need in a reliable and useful format, provided by some of the most expert and knowledgeable persons in their respected fields.*

*Finally, we note with pride that the EPL is apart of a new UN-backed online database called "Online Access to Research in the Environment", through which more than 100 developing nations are able to gain access to publications and other material worth over US\$1.5 million, for an annual contribution of just US\$1000. We proudly support this effort.*

19 February 2008

*- Wolfgang R. Steyer -*