

 Symposium on Global
 Responsibility and
 Ecological Sustainability

 *hosted under the co-patronage of*

 His All Holiness, The Ecumenical
 Patriarch Bartholomew
 *and*
 Southern New Hampshire University
 *and* The Christos and Mary Papoutsy
 Distinguished Chair in Ethics and
 Social Responsibility at Southern
 New Hampshire University

 *Island Halki / Heybeliada
 Turkey
 18-20 June 2012*

**Background**

***Annual Symposia on Religion, Science, and the Environmental Movement***

RSE symposia are organized under the auspices of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the pioneer of this movement. Patrons of past symposia have included HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, HE Jacques Santer, and HE Romano Prodi, Presidents of the European Commission, and UN Secretary General HE Kofi Annan.

The symposia have also reached out across different faiths and denominations, revealing the wisdom of diverse theological traditions, as well as a common imperative to protect the natural world. During the 2002 Adriatic Sea Symposium, Pope John Paul II and Patriarch Bartholomew signed a joint declaration underlining the spiritual duty of caring for God’s creation in the interest of future generations.

Past symposia have drawn global attention to the degradation of the Aegean Sea, the Black Sea, the Danube River, the Adriatic Sea, the Baltic Sea, and the Amazon River. RSE’s impact has left a positive environmental legacy in all these regions. For example, RSE was instrumental in establishing the Black Sea Convention and organized a series of Environmental Training Seminars for priests and journalists form the region, created a network of cooperation among churches, NGS’s, and journalists along the Danube, confronted Albanian authorities over toxic waste entering the Adriatic form abandoned chemical factories in Porto Romano, accelerating the area’s subsequent clean-up; initiated the ongoing Bread and Fish program for marine environmental protection in the Baltic Sea; and accelerated agreement on a moratorium on multinational traders buying soya from newly deforested land in the Amazon rainforest.

Travelling down rivers and around seas, sometimes literally following pollution form its source to its point of impact, these waterborne journeys have offered up a tangible sense of the interconnectedness of the world’s waters and all its ecosystems, demonstrating the destructive ripples human actions can send through space and time. By bringing participants to the places where environmental problems are most acute and focusing on practical remedies rather than theoretical discussions, RSE Symposia have inspired positive change through collective action.

No other church leader has been so recognized for his leadership and initiatives in confronting the theological, ethical and practical imperative of environmental issues in our time as the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople. He has long placed the environment at the head of his church’s agenda earning him numerous awards and the title “Green Patriarch.”

In the summer of 1992, the Duke of Edinburgh visited the Phanar for an environmental convocation at the Theological School of Halki. In November 1993, the Ecumenical Patriarch returned the visit, meeting with the Duke at Buckingham Palace, when they sealed a friendship of common purpose and active cooperation for the preservation of the environment. In April 1994, the Ecumenical Patriarch was invited to the administration offices of the European Commission.

It was the first time that someone who was not a state political leader had been invited to address the European Commission on the subject of the environment.

In October 1997, the Patriarch was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal during his visit to the United States.

In June 1994, an Ecological Seminar was convened at the historic Theological School of Halki, the first of five successive annual summer seminars on diverse aspects of the environment.

For Patriarch Bartholomew, it is a matter of truthfulness to God, humanity, and the created order. In November 1997, he declared:

“To commit a crime against the natural world is a sin. For human beings to cause
species to become extinct and to destroy the biological diversity of God’s creation;
for human beings to degrade the integrity of the earth by causing changes in its
climate, by stripping the earth of its natural forest; or by destroying its wetlands;
for human beings to injure other human beings with disease by contaminating the
earth’s waters, its lands, its air, and its life, with poisonous substance—all of these
are sins.”

This is why in his vision of the world that ultimately determines his initiatives for the protection of the environment, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Affirms that we are a part of a community; so we are less than human without each other. He also emphasizes that we are part of the cosmos; so we are less than human without creation and God.

**Next Symposium**

***Symposium on Global Responsibility and Ecological Sustainability
The School of Halki
Halki Island/Heybeliada Island
Turkey
18-20 June 2012***
**Call for Papers**

Paper topics relating to all aspects of “Global Responsibility and Ecological Sustainability” are welcome. Organizers of the symposium encourage submissions that can approach the subject theme for a variety of perspectives within and across a variety of disciplines and fields including the following:

* cultural sustainability: protecting, preserving and conserving
* economic sustainability: environmental challenges and economic growth
* economic sustainability: sustainable businesses and CSR
* energy: environmental degradation
* energy: renewable energy and environmental solutions
* energy: energy economics and ecological economics
* environmental sustainability and human consumption: food and water, hunger and thirst
* environmental sustainability and human consumption: waste
* environmental sustainability and environmental management: freshwater, oceans and seas
* environmental sustainability and environmental management: atmosphere and air
* social sustainability and social justice
* social sustainability, war and peace
* social sustainability and sustainable living

Symposium organizers will accept and solicit papers from approximately 20 internationally renowned scholars and corporate representatives, with representation from as many continents as possible.

**Paper Submissions**
Send submissions to Dr. Michelle Goldsmith, Ethics and Social Responsibility Chair, Southern New Hampshire University, via email (m.goldsmith@snhu.edu) and include the following:

1. name
2. current institutional affiliation
3. title/position
4. email address
5. postal mail address
6. telephone number
7. fax number
8. title of paper
9. abstract—200-300-word English summary of paper
10. any audio-visual equipment required for delivery of talk
11. brief biographical statement including presenter’s educational background, highest degree, year awarded, awarding institution, and field of study

**Deadline for Submission of Abstracts is November 30, 2011.**

Language of the symposium, including papers, is English. Participants will be permitted 20-30 minutes for their presentation and additional time for questions, answers and discussion. At the conclusion of the symposium, presenters’ papers will be published in a bound manuscript. For additional information or answers to questions, please contact any of the symposium organizers listed below.

**Welcoming Reception and Keynote Address**

On Monday, June 18, 2012, a welcoming reception and keynote address by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will inaugurate the symposium.

**Lodging and Meals**
The symposium organizers will provide hotel accommodations and most meals, gratis, on the island Halki, instead of travel subvention. Rooms have been reserved at the Halki Plaza Hotel, situated close to the school where many of the conference activities will take place.

For participants who will require travel visas, the symposium organizers will provide a formal letter of invitation to support the visa application.

**About the location**
Historically known as Byzantium and later, Constantinople, Istanbul is the largest city in Turkey and the third largest in the world. With a population of 13 million, it is also the largest metropolis in Europe.

Home to a plethora of historic sites, Istanbul is a richly fascinating destination spot. Not to be missed are visits to the Grand Imperial Mosque; Sultan Ahmed Mosque (Blue Mosque); Hagia Sophia Cathedral, one of Istanbul’s most iconic structures; the Roman hippodrome; the Grand Bazaar, one of the oldest and largest covered markets in the world. Istanbul is famous for its many restaurants specializing in traditional Turkish cuisine and other international dishes. Another feature of the symposium will be a guided tour of the important sites of Istanbul for presenters and their guests.

The Theological School of Halki, located on the Island of Halki, one of the Princes’ Islands, is a 45-minute ferry ride from the shores of Istanbul. The school and the hotel offer unique settings in a quaint environment without automobiles and where only horse-drawn carriages provide transportation. Travelers become immersed in a lovely, natural ambience where rosy-fingered dawns can be viewed from gentle hills and where gardens of flowers circling the school suffuse surroundings with color and warm scents. A refreshing tranquility encompasses the entire island, an appropriate venue for discussing the symposium’s theme, “Global Responsibility and Ecological Sustainability.”

**Symposium Organizers**

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