



Findhorn-Kitezh Link Strengthened

The Ecologia Trust, the Findhorn-based charity that links the community with the Kitezh Children's Community in Russia, has just won an award of almost €500,000 from the British Big Lottery Fund. Ecologia is one of just seven recipients in the international category.

The grant will be used to continue the work of Kitezh in providing a better life and more promising future for Russian orphans.

Some of the things the money will be used for are:

- help build a new village, Orion, for orphans, their foster families and teachers
- establish a permanent fund-raising base in Moscow
- continue professional training for families and teachers
- recruit and train new foster families
- design and build reedbed wastewater systems in both villages to demonstrate ecological living
- set up income generating activities for future sustainability



The first house in the new community currently under construction, Orion, should by now be complete and the next one underway. Some of the Kitezh young people are already preparing themselves to live and work in Orion. The vision of a series of villages where the Kitezh model of care for orphan children will be practised is becoming a reality.

Centre for Alternative Technology Celebrates Prestigious Energy Award

Welsh ecovillage, the Centre for Alternative Technology, has been awarded PRASEG's NGO Sustainable Energy Prize. The awards recognise the efforts of parliamentarians, NGOs and individuals who have made significant efforts in encouraging Westminster to adopt policies favourable to renewable energy, energy efficiency, and combined heat and power.

The award was made by Lord Whitty, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. CAT has also just launched an exciting international education project called 'One World, One

Environment'. Funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and run by iEARN UK (International Education and Research Network), the project aims to get young people thinking about sustainability both on a local and global scale, via the medium of the internet. Training materials are available on the iearn website for those joining the project.

To get involved in the project, contact: iearnuk@aol.com. A downloadable teacher's resource pack used in the project called 'Where's the Impact' is available from the Education section of the CAT website: www.cat.org.uk for £5.95.



Norwegian Social Forum

GEN-Europe member, Change the World, was among the organisations co-ordinating the fourth Norwegian Social Forum that took place in Oslo. The event was attended by over 1,000 people and was addressed by prominent speakers, including Susan George from ATTAC France, Walden Bello of Focus on the Global South, Yash Tandon from the South Centre in Geneva and Devinder Sharma, president of the Forum for Biotechnology and Food Security.

Speakers at the seminar were: Enrique Hidalgo of the Latin-American Permaculture Institute from Bolivia and representatives of the northern part of South America at ENA executive council; Chris Butter, architect from South Africa, professor at the University of Oslo and leader for the NABU Association (Norwegian Architect for Sustainable Development), Agustin Sepulveda, Mauricio Deliz and Claudio Madaune, members of Change the World.

Contact Claudio Madaune: ecoaldeasna@ecovillage.org

The Folkecentre, Denmark Wins Back State Funding



After 3 years without state funding, GEN-Europe member The Folkecentre in Thy, Denmark has been awarded €600,000 in 2005 and €335,000 for each of the following three years from the Danish parliament.

Since 1983 The Folkecentre has been the leading Danish centre for the development, testing and demonstration of renewable energy and integrated systems.

These grants will permit the Folkecentre to resume its full

programme of work both in Denmark and with its partners in Africa, India and elsewhere in the Southern hemisphere.

Below, an electric car and windows containing photovoltaic cells within the Folkecentre.



NEWS IN BRIEF

FINDHORN EXPANDS RENEWABLE ENERGY

Findhorn Wind Park Ltd received a planning permit on 18th January 2005 from Moray Council to expand the generation capacity at the Park Ecovillage, Findhorn. The existing Vestas V17, a 75kW wind turbine that has been in operation since 1989, will be joined by three new Bonus 300kW Combi wind turbines giving a total capacity of 975kW. These windmills are 31m to the hub and 46.5m to the top of the rotor.

The new turbines will increase the proportion of renewable energy being produced and used by local residents, community buildings, organisations and businesses. It is part of a community demonstration project aimed at showing the possibility of meeting almost 100% of a community's electricity needs from renewable resources. In the future they hope load management equipment and fuel cells will help to increase its demonstration potential. The generation of the expanded Wind Park will be more than 1,800,000kWh per annum, and income will come from electricity sold to the Park Ecovillage supply and to the national grid.

The estimated capital requirement for the project totals £879,000. Community investment body, Ekopia, hopes to raise this money from supporters of the community and would be delighted to hear from any interested party.

Details of how to invest are available via: The Administrator, Ekopia Ltd. The Park, Findhorn or by email: ekopia@findhorn.org

ZIMBABWEAN VOLUNTEERS

Kufunda ecovillage seeks a volunteer to help establish permaculture systems. They ask US\$50-100 per month. Contact Marianne Knuth: marianne@kufunda.org

GEN and the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

On March 1, GEN's International relations Director, May East, was one of 160 participants to take part in the launch of UNDESD at UN headquarters in New York.

This was not just a showcase event: there were lively and inspiring discussions on all the key issues to do with the implementation of the UNDESD including how to generate support and sustain commitments to the Decade; linking Education for Sustainable Development into existing

development frameworks and identifying the roles of governments, NGOs, civil society and the private sector.

It is anticipated that the DESD will be implemented in thousands of 'on the ground' local situations, including formal and informal education. In this context over the next ten years GEN expects to be working closely with UNESCO, the lead agency of DESD in the design and delivery of educational programmes.



Nigerian Ecovillage wins Training Award

Tony Okpokam, Director of the Nigerian ecovillage initiative, ECODEV, has won a bursary to be able to attend an advanced training program on wind energy in Germany.

The program is aimed at building the capacities of young engineers and environmental advocates so they can implement renewable energy projects in their home countries. Tony sees this training as a first step in the realisation of ECODEV's dream for renewable energy proliferation in the developing world.

For further information contact Tony directly via email: ecodevelopments@yahoo.com

Tamera Peace Play

Tamera, Portugal continues it's "My Steps Against War – Creating Perspectives for Peace" throughout 2005. Those who wish to support their actions or wish to take part in a proposed touring play can contact Kate Bunney: klbunney.igf@tamera.org

GEN Ecovillage Family Contributes to South Asian Post-Tsunami Reconstruction

As we reported in *Permaculture Magazine* issue 43 ecovillages around the world are participating in the clean-up in South Asia by channeling assistance through sister ecovillage communities in affected areas – Auroville in South Asia and Sarvodaya in Sri Lanka.

At the invitation of Dr Vinya Ariyaratne, the Executive Director of Sarvodaya, Lloyd Williams and Max O Lindegger of Ecological Solutions/GENOA spent time in February/March working with other volunteers including Architects Without Borders to help Sarvodaya develop an initial reconstruction strategy. This included work on a green-field development near Kalutara whose design will make use of local soils suitable for rammed earth construction and will incorporate clay tiles for roofs, rainwater collection, alternatives to common waste

treatment and kitchen gardens to encourage food self reliance.

Other members have made financial contributions. GEN-Finland has sent money to Sarvodaya and is discussing the possibility of creating a partnership between Sarvodaya and

the Association of Villages in Finland. The Gaia Trust has sent money to Sarvodaya and Auroville, while Lebensgarten, Torri Superior and Findhorn have raised money for Sarvodaya.

For further details email: lloyd@ecologicalsolutions.com.au

