

# The Human Right to Food & Water Conference

February 12 & 13, 2010

Webster University

Year of International

# HUMAN RIGHTS

2009-10: The Right to Food & Water

## Márcio Dionísio de Souza

Márcio Dionísio de Souza is Webster University's organizer of The Human Right to Food & Water Conference and the current E. Desmond Lee Professor for Global Awareness. A national representative for two Swiss consulting companies in Brazil that deal with climate change and energy efficiency, Souza also has experience with water projects, including roof-catching systems, dam projects in poor countries, and water quality monitoring tests and training. He previously headed all operations for a two-year Brazilian-Swiss project that used clean technology to overcome negative environmental impact in Brazil. Souza spent five years working for Christian Children's Fund in Brazil, providing administrative, logistical, and programmatic support for national and international programs. He has work experience in 14 countries on four continents.

## Jeffrey DePew

Jeff DePew is a Webster University Adjunct Professor who teaches courses on the environment, climate change, and sustainability. He also serves as chairman of the board of The Arrowhead Foundation, which assists indigenous people and their communities through promotion of sustainability, education, and habitat preservation. In addition, DePew has taught environmental science, plant science and biology to students in first through 12th grades. He developed The Henry Shaw Academy and Curriculum at the Missouri Botanical Garden and taught in the program, which served motivated students ages 4-18. In addition, he developed other educational field experiences and their curricula, including trips to Jamaica with high school students to study marine ecology and an interdisciplinary adult field program titled "Southwest Studies Program: The History and Pueblo Culture of the Northern Rio Grande."

## Bryan Duncan

Bryan Duncan is Director Emeritus of the International Center for Aquaculture and Aquatic Environments in the College of Agriculture, Auburn University. He is also Professor Emeritus in Auburn's Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures. Duncan remains active in Auburn University's international program and works most closely with Auburn's Global Water Watch and Alabama Water Watch programs. His work focuses on community-based water monitoring, issues related to small watershed stewardship, problems of water quality and quantity for rural communities in developing countries, training, and technical aspects of water harvesting structure design. Duncan lived and worked for seven years in the Philippines and Indonesia. He has had 90 work assignments in 42 countries during his career, and has produced over 70 publications, technical reports, presentations, and book chapters. In recent years he has concentrated his efforts on Latin America, especially Brazil.

## Gil Garcetti

Although Gil Garcetti spent 32 years in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, eight of those years as the elected District Attorney, much of his life has been spent as an urban photographer. He is the author of five books of photography. The latest, *Water Is Key* (2007), is about water, health, and the empowerment of women in West Africa. Through his photographs and interviews of villagers in Niger, Mali, Ghana, and Burkina Faso, Garcetti has focused world attention on the issue of safe water. In 2003, *American Photo* magazine named him one of the country's four master photographers. Garcetti has had numerous solo exhibitions of his photographs and has been featured in *TIME Magazine* (October 2005) and *CBS Sunday Morning* (May 2006). He frequently speaks at conventions and conferences on his art and on career change.

## **Michael Hopkins**

Michael Hopkins is Chair and Partner of MHCinternational Ltd. (MHCi) and is a PhD economist with a strong focus on measurement. Since leaving the United Nations International Labour Organization, he founded MHCi, the Arabia Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Awards, and the University of Geneva's CSR Executive Training, which he also directs. He currently advises the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Corporate Citizenship Program and also spends his time spreading his particular brand of CSR around the world. Hopkins describes MHCi as "a social enterprise whose main aim is to promote social, economic, and environmental development using the services of the private sector. Its profits are aimed at furthering these goals through research and advisory services."

## **George Hutchings**

George "The Shoeman" Hutchings collects used shoes, sells them in South America, and uses the profits to provide clean water in third-world countries. He financed four water drilling rigs in Kenya in the last two years and is now setting his sights on Haiti. Hutchings's goal is to collect and sell 100,000 pairs of used shoes to finance water drilling in the earthquake-devastated nation.

## **George Kent**

George Kent is a Professor of Political Science at the University of Hawaii. Kent's approach centers on finding remedies for social problems, especially finding ways to strengthen the weak in the face of the strong. He works on human rights, international relations, peace, development, and environmental issues, with a special focus on nutrition and children. Kent is co-convenor of the Commission of International Human Rights of the International Peace Research Association, and he has worked as a consultant with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Children's Fund, and several civil society organizations. He is part of the Working Group on Nutrition, Ethics, and Human Rights of the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition. His most recent book is *Global Obligations for the Right to Food* (2008).

## **Elizabeth Kucinich**

Elizabeth Kucinich is currently Director of Public Affairs for the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine. She previously worked at the Chicago-based American Monetary Institute. Kucinich has a keen interest in monetary reform, calling it the most important issue of our time. Her volunteer work includes traveling to India at age 18 to help at one of Mother Teresa's homes for poor children and serving as an advocate for regional development while living for 16 months in a Tanzanian village. Kucinich is the wife of Ohio Congressman and former Democratic Presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich.

## **Gillian Sorenson**

As Senior Advisor at the United Nations Foundation, Gillian Sorenson is a national advocate on matters related to the UN and the UN-United States relationship. Previously, she served as the UN's Assistant Secretary-General for External Relations, an appointment by Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Prior to that, she was the UN's Special Adviser for Public Policy, an appointment by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. Her duties included directing the UN's global 50th-anniversary observance in 1995. Earlier Sorenson served, on appointment by New York City Mayor Edward Koch, as New York City Commissioner for the United Nations and Consular Corps.



*Co-sponsors of The Human Right to Food & Water Conference are the E. Desmond Lee Professorship in Global Awareness, the College of Arts & Sciences, and the United Nations Assn. of St. Louis Mary T. Hall fund.*