

# HIGHLIGHTS

Atlas Economic  
Research Foundation



Winter 1998

## Building a Free-Market Network in Asia: Atlas Hosts Workshop and Economic Freedom Program in Manila

In November, Atlas co-hosted two events in Manila, Philippines: its 31st International Workshop, "Free-Market Think Tanks: Perspectives for Asia," and the Economic Freedom Network conference. With a boost from Philippine contacts made during prior Atlas workshops, the programs attracted representatives from over 40 organizations and 26 countries. "It is our hope that the experience, contacts and friendships developed with these efforts will help us fundraise to support many more market-oriented products in the Philippines and in many other Asian countries," said Atlas president Alejandro Chafuen.

The Center for Research and Communication Foundation (Manila), the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (Konigswinter, Germany), and The Fraser Institute (Vancouver, Canada), joined forces to attract leading Asian policy makers to the meeting. Their efforts reaped handsome rewards: more than seventy percent of the participants were new to the Atlas family, offering new contacts for future efforts in Asia.

Ronald Bailey (editor of the Fisher award winner, *The True State of the Planet*, and author of *Eco-Scam: The False Prophets of Ecological Apocalypse*) delivered the opening speech about myths and potential dangers behind the Kyoto global warming treaty. (As he spoke, representatives of some 160 nations were meeting in Buenos Aires, deliberating an international treaty designed to reduce world greenhouse gas emissions.) Bailey also discussed eco-label regulations, another environmental program with tremendous



(left to right): Rainer Adam (Friedrich Naumann Foundation) and Subhash Sengupta (Making Our Economy Right, Bangladesh)



(left to right): Temba Nolutshungo (Free Market Foundation, South Africa), Rigoberto Stewart (Institute for Liberty and Public Policy Analysis, Costa Rica), Roberto Blum (Center for Development Research, Mexico), Enrico L. Basilio (Center for Research and Communication, Manila) and Wang Xiaolu (NERI, Beijing)

economic impacts.

The first session highlighted the work of public policy think tanks in the Philippines. Moderator Emilio T. Antonio, Jr. (Center for Research and Communication Foundation [CRC] and former president of the Philippine Economic Society) introduced presentations by Enrique Esteban (CRC president) and Cayetano Paderanga (Foundation for Economic Freedom and current president of the Philippine Economic Society).

During the luncheon session, representatives from more than a dozen Asian organizations made short presentations introducing their policy work and interests.

The afternoon session, entitled "Think Tanks, Policy and Society: Success Stories," was moderated by Ian Vasquez, director of the Global Economic Liberty project at the Cato Institute (Washington, DC). Speakers



Mao Yushi (Unirule Institute, Beijing)

included Fraser Institute's Michael Walker, who spoke about the programs and management of his organization; Sung-No Choi (Korea Center for Free Enterprise, Seoul, South Korea); and Atlas president, Alejandro Chafuen, who presented a survey of successful North American institutes.

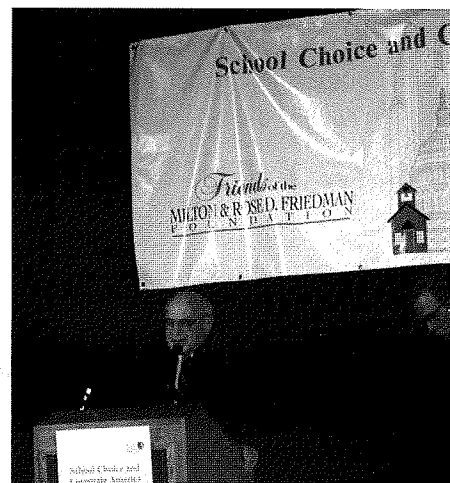
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## Enhancing Educational Choice: A Better Life for American Children

In October, legislators, corporate executives, and community leaders convened in San Francisco to energize corporate America to promote parental choice in education. The program, sponsored by the **Milton & Rose D. Friedman Foundation** (Chicago, IL), with assistance from the **Pacific Research Institute** (San Francisco, CA), focused on providing strategies to boost future victories for school choice.

The opening sessions, reserved exclusively for donors, featured a special briefing on groundbreaking media and opinion research by Richard Wirthlin, Chairman and CEO of Wirthlin Worldwide. Subsequent sessions, open to all participants, included the educational impact of parental choice, developing communication strategies to promote parental choice, the cost of educational disasters, understanding and overcoming the opposition, and selling school choice.

Program speakers included business leaders John Walton (Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. and Educational Alternatives, Inc.), David L. Brennan (Brennan Industrial Group, Inc. and founder of HOPE Academics), Steve Forbes (Forbes, Inc.), and William J. Hume (Chairman of the Board, Basic American, Inc.); public policy institute representatives Clint Bolick (**Institute for Justice**, Washington, DC) and Hon. George Shultz (**Hoover Institution**, Stanford, CA); government officials MN Governor Arne H. Carlson, CA Governor Pete Wilson, Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith, Jersey City Mayor Bret Shundler, and Lisa Graham Keegan (AZ State Superintendent of Public Instruction); religious leader Floyd H. Flake (Pastor, Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church and Former U.S. Representative); and journalist John



Milton Friedman

Fund (*The Wall Street Journal*).

Commenting on the efforts of the program hosts, Atlas president Alejandro Chafuen said, "Through their efforts to enhance educational choice, more American children are empowered to choose a better life." ❖

### (Atlas Workshop, Continued from page 1)

The Atlas workshop was followed by the Economic Freedom Network, led by The Fraser Institute with support from the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Atlas, and CRC. Program speakers included Robert Lawson (**Buckeye Institute**, OH), James Gwartney (**James Madison Institute**, Tallahassee, FL), Temba Nolutshungu (**Free Market Foundation**, South Africa), Carmen Urizar (**CIEN**, Guatemala), Parth Shah (**Centre for Civil Society**, New Delhi), Mao Yushi (**Unirule Institute**, Beijing), and Mahar Mangahas (**Social Weather Stations Institute**, Manila).

Bernardo Villegas (co-founder of CRC and Dean of the School of Economics at the University of Asia and the Pacific, Manila), delivered the keynote speech comparing the work of free-market institutes to the liberating efforts of the allies as portrayed in the

movie *Saving Private Ryan*. According to Villegas, saving the private sector and liberating its creative forces is the best way to

liberate millions from economic slavery.

Atlas is grateful to the outstanding work and pioneering efforts of Uwe Johannsen and Rainer Adam (The Friedrich Naumann Foundation), for their support and discovery of market-oriented leaders in Asia. This program, like Atlas's 1995 workshop in Beijing, was a tremendous success thanks to



(left to right): Parth Shah (Centre for Civil Society, New Delhi), Andrzej Kondratowicz (Adam Smith Research Centre, Warsaw), Michael Walker (Fraser Institute, Vancouver, Canada)



Participants at the Economic Freedom Network Conference

their knowledge and efforts. Atlas is also thankful to Enrico Basilio and Carla Griño (CRC), and Dexter Samida (Fraser Institute) for their generous contributions. For further information about the event, visit the Atlas webpage at [www.atlas-fdn.org/conferences/part31.htm](http://www.atlas-fdn.org/conferences/part31.htm). ❖

## INSTITUTE NEWS

**Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty** (Grand Rapids, MI) launched a new project, "Economic Thinking for the Theologically-Minded," which centers on the production of an economics primer aimed at seminarians and theologians. It will present the foundational principles of the free economy in a "theologically-informed language."

The **Allegheny Institute for Public Policy** (Pittsburgh, PA) featured Charles Murray, author of *The Bell Curve* and *Losing Ground*, at its October luncheon program. Murray spoke on the topic "Taking the Founding Fathers Seriously."

Jersey City Mayor Bret Schundler addressed "Individual Empowerment and Responsive Government" before a full house at **Cascade Policy Institute's** (Portland, OR) October 12 Better Government Competition Awards Luncheon. Schundler informed the 200 in attendance how competition-based policies helped revitalize the once nearly-bankrupt Jersey City. Earlier that day Schundler spoke met with the editorial board of *The Oregonian*, the Northwest's largest daily newspaper.

In the Portland, tri-county area, Cascade will serve as the facilitator for the Children's Scholarship Fund – Portland. The New York based Children's Scholarship Fund, supported by investor Ted Forstmann and Wal-Mart Store's John Walton, is making one of the largest private investments ever on behalf of American school children. As facilitator, Cascade will help secure and distribute dollars for some 400 families to help their children attend private and parochial schools. One million dollars will be raised locally, to be matched by \$1 million from CSF.

The **Centers for the Study of Emerging Institutions** (CSEI) held its inaugural conference in Reykjavik, Iceland, October 15 -18, on "Lex Cybernetoria: Voluntary Rule of Law in a Transnational Medium." The conference, co-sponsored by the Federation of Young Independents, included presentations by CSEI board



Atlas's Leonard P. Liggio (left) and Charles Rowley (Locke Institute) in Iceland at the Centers for the Study of Emerging Institutions conference

members James C. Bennett, Bruce Benson, Barry Downey, John Hasnas, Douglas Jackson, Charles Rowley (**Locke Institute**, Fairfax, VA), Birgir Runólfsson (**Institute of Economic Studies**, Iceland), as well as Clint Bolick (**Institute for Justice**, Washington, DC), and Atlas's executive vice president, Leonard Liggio. Iceland's Minister of Education opened the conference and its Minister of Finance delivered the dinner keynote address.

The mission of CSEI, founded this year by Charles Evans, former director of public policy and information at Atlas, is to study rules and social mechanisms sufficient to function as a commercial code for e-commerce. In other words, "How does one enforce contracts on the Internet?"

November 11<sup>th</sup> featured a triple-header for the **Goldwater Institute** (Phoenix, AZ). The institute's *Director's Breakfast* featured Virginia Postrel, editor of *Reason* magazine and author of a new book, *The Future and Its Enemies*. Later that day, Goldwater held its groundbreaking celebration at the lot on which their new building will be constructed. Timed to coincide with its tenth anniversary, the institute also held its celebration dinner that evening, complete with a special video presentation on the life of Senator Goldwater.

The Universal Tuition Tax Credit

plan developed by the **Mackinac Center for Public Policy** (Midland, MI) offers a simple way for Michigan children to switch to the school that best meets their needs. The plan provides incentives for schools to improve by allowing any individual or business that pays K-12 student's public or nonpublic school tuition to subtract a dollar-for-dollar tax credit from their state taxes. An independent organization called School Choice YES! is working to place the plan on a statewide ballot for voter approval.

A 1995 winning proposal to **Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research's** (Boston, MA) Better Government Contest has become state law. "Using the Tort System to

Improve Government Services," by Attorney General Scott Harshbarger, won passage as part of the FY'99 state budget and was signed into law by Acting Governor Paul Cellucci. The new law will deter agency managers and employees from acting negligently by requiring that a portion of any tort judgment be paid out of the agency's budget. Agencies that successfully reduce liability will receive a budget rebate.

A celebrated Massachusetts judge has been named preliminary winner of Pioneer's 1998 Better Government Competition. First Justice of the Wrentham District Court, Daniel B. Winslow, offered proposals for improving court procedures, including the establishment of performance measures for judges, clerks, probation officers, and other court personnel; improving court facilities; and making appropriate use of technology.

The **National Wilderness Institute's** (Washington, DC) efforts to expose corruption at the Environmental Protection Agency continue to attract press coverage. Its report, *The People v. Carol Browner: EPA On Trial*, will be featured in the cover article in an upcoming issue of *Forbes* magazine. Other big media outlets will also be doing major stories based on NWI's report, including a four-part news story on one of the major networks and an exposé in *Readers Digest*. ❖

**Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty's** (Grand Rapids, MI) new directory, *Guide to Effective Compassion*, provides a resource for identifying outstanding social service organizations. The directory lists over 150 US organizations that reach out to those in need by providing for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the individual, while requiring personal accountability of every program participant.

The **Allegheny Institute for Public Policy** (Pittsburgh, PA) adds to the electricity deregulation literature with the publication of "Problems with Installed Capacity Obligations Threaten Competition and Customer Savings: The Case of Pennsylvania." It argues that "full competition will not arrive until all stranded cost charges are removed from consumer bills and competitive transition charges are no longer added to the competitive price of electricity." It also offers policy recommendations to enhance competition.

Allegheny also reviewed economic revitalization programs with the publication of "A Primer on Enterprise Zones and Proposed Legislation in Pennsylvania." Enterprise zones are described as "public-private cooperative policy tools with an emphasis on free-market principles for targeting economic development incentives into specific geographical areas suffering from economic distress or depression." The report looks at successes and failures in other states to determine ideal zone characteristics.

The **Atlantic Institute for Market Studies** (Halifax, Nova Scotia) published several articles which continue to demonstrate how government transfers hurt its beneficiaries in Atlantic Canada, including "The Disgruntled Campus: Yet Less Government May Mean Better Universities" and "From Worse to Bad: UI or EI, These Flawed Programs Hold Atlantic Canada Back."

**Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions** (Dayton, OH) continues its educational focus with the

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

September publication of "Community Schools Begin in Ohio," "Community School Enrollment Expected to Grow by Nearly 70%," and "Who Makes Education Policy--the Legislature or the Courts?" Other publications that month focus on prison issues, including "Private Prison Firm Held Accountable by Stock Market" and "Youngstown and the Future of Private Prisons in Ohio."

*Public Choice, Private Costs: An Analysis of Spending and Achievement in Ohio Public Schools*, published by **The Buckeye Institute** (Dayton, OH), finds a wide gap between school spending and student achievement. The analysis finds that inputs such as school spending and student-teacher ratios have "no discernible effect" on student achievement in urban school districts in three Ohio cities. It concludes with a call for greater parental choice in education. *Giving Choice a Chance: Cleveland and the Future of School Reform* examines choice in action by reviewing the experience of Cleveland's voucher program.

The **Charter School Resource Center at Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research** (Boston, MA) commissioned Opinion Dynamics Corporation to conduct a poll of charter schools and district school parents in six urban areas around the Commonwealth where charter schools are available. This comparative survey of parents, the first of its kind in Massachusetts, revealed that charter school parents are far more satisfied with their children's schools than are district school parents. Additionally, the survey found that charter school parents as a whole reported lower income and education levels than district school parents did. Pioneer's *Policy Directions*, "Poll Finds Higher Satisfaction Rate Among Charter School Parents," provides a brief overview of the findings.

**Evergreen Freedom Foundation** (Olympia, WA) produced a 16-minute video on paycheck protection. The video features interviews with teachers who believe money should not be taken from their paychecks to fund union

activities. EFF is seeking volunteers to "sponsor the video at community access television stations in Washington State communities."

The 1998 **Fraser Institute** (Vancouver, BC) *Critical Issues* series recently published "Bank Mergers: The Rational Consolidation of Banking in Canada," "Canadian Government Debt: A Guide to the Indebtedness of Canada and the Provinces" and "Canadian Living Standards: 1998 Report," which provides a basis for considering the comparative increase in affluence among those at the bottom and those at the top of the income distribution. Fraser also published "The Cost of Regulation in Canada," which finds that the rise in the number of governmental regulations poses one of the "most important, but overlooked, challenges to Canada's economic competitiveness."

The **Goldwater Institute** (Phoenix, AZ) continues to address education and urban issues with the publication of "Charter School Accountability," "You Say You Want a Rail-volution," "Teachers: Does Certified Mean Qualified?" and "A Tale of Two Cities." The latter study, which compares growth controls in Phoenix and Portland, is also available as a longer *Issue Analysis* report.

The September issue of *HKCER Letters*, the newsletter of the **Hong Kong Centre for Economic Research**, features an article by Atlas colleague Kurt Schuler, which details a financial stability plan for the commonwealth. "A Contingency Plan for Dollarizing Hong Kong" examines Hong Kong's monetary problems and explores options to use a foreign currency to fulfill some or all of the functions of money as a means of payment, store of value, and unit of

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Most of the organizations mentioned in these pages are listed in the virtual phonebooks on the Atlas web page:

[www.atlas-fdn.org/fonebook](http://www.atlas-fdn.org/fonebook)

(New Publications, Continued from page 4)

account.

The **Institute of Economic Affairs** (London) recently published the Hayek classic, *The Intellectuals and Socialism*, as part of its "Rediscovered Riches" series. A foreword by **Heritage Foundation** (Washington, DC) president Edwin J. Feulner, Jr., and an introduction by IEA general director, John Blundell, testify to the impact of this essay in stimulating the backlash against socialism through the many institutes founded by supporters of classical liberal ideas.

The **Institute of Economic Affairs Health and Welfare Unit** (London) added another volume on family issues with the publication of *The Fragmenting Family: Does It Matter?* The book begins with an essay that "sets out the facts" regarding changes that are occurring in family life and structure, followed by two commentators who examine the raw data from alternative perspectives. One argues that family policies should be based on parenthood rather than marriage, the second questions whether any culture can survive the disintegration of the traditional family.

Also from the IEA Health and Welfare Unit, *Is There a Third Way?* features essays on the changing direction of socialist thought. Three commentators respond to Michael Novak's essay, "The Crisis of Social Democracy."

**Instituto Cultural Ludwig von Mises** (Mexico City) published *Problemas Económicos de México*, by Ludwig von Mises. Carolina Bolívar, the institute's president, describes it as "the only document Ludwig von Mises ever prepared for a specific country. Many of the problems that Mises saw during his 7-week visit to our country in 1942 still exist today and the ideas expressed can still enlighten not only Mexico but many other countries, especially in Latin America."

The **John Locke Foundation** (Raleigh, NC) published *Grading Our Schools*, an annual report to parents and taxpayers on school performance in the state. The report, which ranks the state's

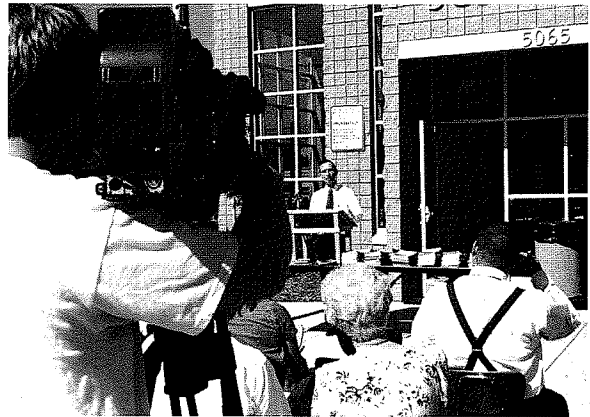
public schools on a traditional 10-point grading scale, found that only 66.3% of NC students in grades three through eight scored at or above grade level last year, and only 55% of high schoolers performed at or above grade level.

The **Josiah Bartlett Center for Public Policy** (Concord, NH), in conjunction with the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, published *State-Assisted Financing Programs: Policies and Strategies for New Hampshire*. The report, authored by professors from the Whittemore School of Business and Economics in NH, examined programs that provide financial assistance to private firms on terms that are more favorable than private lenders.

**Mackinac Center for Public Policy's** (Midland, MI) *Viewpoint on Public Issues* fall publications include "Food Irradiation: Markets or Mandates?" "Politics before Progress: How to Kill Regulatory Improvement," and "Class Size Reduction is Expensive."

Writing for the **National Center for Policy Analysis** (Dallas, TX), Gerald W. Scully authored *Measuring the Burden of High Taxes*. He finds that the tax rates in the US, as well as in nations with more aggressive welfare programs, are substantially higher than the rates that would maximize growth. "Rather than improving lives, the current burden of taxation has resulted in a lower standard of living than we could have had," writes Scully. NCPA also published *Crime and Punishment in America: 1998*, by Morgan O. Reynolds, which finds that crime decreases when the expected punishment increases.

**PERC's** (Bozeman, MT) publication, *Public Lands: The Price We Pay*, compares and contrasts federal and state land management. Concluding that "Our federal land agencies squander hundreds of millions of dollars



Sutherland president David F. Salisbury opens press conference announcing the release of *Utah Schools at a Glance*

in public resources every year," it recommends changing the incentives facing land managers, largely by eliminating the congressional budget dole and requiring managers to fund their operations out of revenues.

The **Sutherland Institute** (Murray, UT) honored nine schools for excellence and outstanding progress in their education programs and, at the same time, announced the release of this year's *Utah Schools at a Glance: A Consumer's Guide*. The guide displays 25 categories of data in an easy-to-read poster format for four Utah counties. Writes Sutherland president David Salisbury, "We've never seen so many TV crews at an Institute event before! The release of the study and some of the findings were covered by all three major television stations in our area. The guides are currently being distributed by real estate offices, chambers of commerce, and schools throughout the major metropolitan areas of the state."

The **Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public Policy's** (Springfield, VA) newly-released study, *Deficient Diplomas - Is It Time for a Graduate Warranty Program?* examined why 25% of students aren't prepared for college even though their high school diplomas indicate otherwise. Under the proposed "warranty" program, local school divisions would pay for remedial courses required for college study.

The effect of globalization is a major theme for **Timbro** (Stockholm, Sweden) at the moment. In its new

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## Environmental Update

Atlas continues to "fight the good fight" on the environmental front. Here is a brief report on some the latest projects.

### Global Warming Comes to Argentina

A month before the fourth international summit on global warming (COP-4) in Buenos Aires, Atlas and six Argentine think tanks sponsored a series of seminars and briefings on climate issues. The events drew hundreds of business people, journalists, politicians, students, and government officials. The October 8 programs were held in the capital city, under the auspices of **Fundación República** (Buenos Aires) and **Fundación MEL (Movimiento Ecología en Libertad)**.

Virginia state climatologist Patrick Michaels noted that weather balloon and satellite temperature measurements actually show a slight global cooling trend over the past 18 years. Most of the warming that has occurred the past 50 years has been on winter nights in Siberia and northern Canada.

James Sheehan (**Competitive Enterprise Institute**, Washington, DC) explained how extreme environmental groups and government agencies have promoted global warming catastrophe theories and proposed new international regulatory systems to solve the alleged problem.

CEI's Marlo Lewis explained how the Kyoto treaty would damage the US economy, which is the world's largest export market. These impacts would hit export-oriented industries in the developing world especially hard. Moreover, he said, it is only a matter of time before the US, EU, UN and global Greens would pressure developing nations into restricting their use of fossil fuels – and thus their future economic potential.

Ana Luisa Covarrubias (**Instituto Libertad y Desarrollo**, Chile) explained that plants actually benefit from higher levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. They photosynthesize better, grow faster and larger, and are

less affected by water shortages.

Dr. Roberto Fendt (**Instituto Liberal do Rio de Janeiro**) showed how the Kyoto Protocol is likely to



Roberto Fendt

affect global trade and the economies of developing countries. He also explained why any emissions trading regime would involve a huge bureaucracy with vast powers to monitor, analyze, certify, inspect and police businesses and industrial facilities all over the world.

Former Congressman Don Ritter (**National Environmental Policy Institute**, Washington, DC) stressed that global warming is too important to be decided in the absence of robust debates about the science, economics, choices and priorities. Since every dollar spent on global warming is a dollar that cannot be spent to bring citizens clean drinking water, remove their trash or install sewer pipes, wise decisions are vital.

Deroy Murdock (**Atlas Economic Research Foundation**) urged knowledgeable people to communicate the complexities of the global warming

debate in a manner that common citizens can understand. He offered a number of suggestions to foster improved communications.

Former Argentine congressman Armando Ribas (**Fundación República**, Buenos Aires) observed that bureaucracies tend to convert private interests into the "public interest" for their own purposes. For example, leaving the global warming debate solely in the hands of government and NGO activists could result in huge mistakes that affect every country, industry and person around the world.

Maria Julia Alsogaray, Argentine Minister of Natural Resources and Sustainable Development, observed that since the fall of the Berlin Wall, most countries have turned their backs on socialism. However, the environmental sector is "the one area where you still find central planning," she commented.

Following the seminars, several of the speakers remained in Buenos Aires. Others flew to Rosario, Bahia Blanca, Mar del Plata, and Mendoza where they were hosted by **Fundaciones Libertad, Mercado, Global, and Alberdi**. They spoke to student, business, and professional groups, met with government officials, and appeared on television and radio talk shows. Overall, the program resulted in 4 seminars, 19 media interviews, 8 talk show appearances, 4 university and government briefings, and over a dozen published articles and opinion pieces. These efforts continued at the November 1-14 COP-4 summit and beyond. ❖

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## Environmental Update

(Continued from page 6)

### Paris Roundtable Analyzes Environmental Issues

Increasingly, a new kind of religion is attracting attention around the globe. "Eco-religion" represents an alternative brand of neo-paganism, combining nature worship and environmental fundamentalism. Is eco-religion simply another route for special interests to capture support for extreme environmental views? What perspectives does it offer for the relationship between man and nature? Does it reflect an understanding of both nature and human societies?

These challenges formed the basis for an October roundtable program in Paris, organized by Henry Cavanna and

the **Forum International des Sciences Humaines** (Paris), with support from Atlas. The event brought together scientists, ethicists, and public policy experts from the United States and seven European countries. They spent two days debating and critiquing the purposes of environmental rules, utopian theories about "nature," risk assessment, land use planning, and environmentalism as a social phenomenon or theology. They also examined global warming as a case study of oversimplified junk science, the legitimacy of concerns about future shortages of freshwater, and whether the

scientific method (and thus science itself) is about to yield to a modern-day version of Medieval alchemy.

Participants included Becky Norton Dunlop (**Heritage Foundation**, Washington, DC), Steve Milloy (**The Advancement of Sound Science Coalition**, Washington, DC), Julian Morris (**Institute of Economic Affairs**, London), Jeff Salmon (**George C. Marshall Institute**, Washington, DC), Father Robert Sirico (**Acton Institute** Grand Rapids, MI) and S. Fred Singer (**Science and Environmental Policy Project**, Fairfax, VA). The organizers plan to publish the proceedings next year. ♦

### Eco-Labels: Consumer Aids or Trade Barriers?

Environmental activists and ministries in European countries have been vigorously promoting package logos (eco-seals) as a convenient way to tell consumers which products are produced in the most environmentally friendly manner.

With support from Atlas, analysts at **Fundación República** (Argentina), **Instituto Liberal do Rio de Janeiro** (Brazil), and **Liberty Institute** (India), have been evaluating whether eco-seals or even detailed "eco-labels" can actually provide consumers with useful, accurate information. They are also

examining the implications of labeling criteria that typically reflect the manufacturing processes and environmental priorities of industrialized EU countries.

Such criteria can provide convenient camouflage for protecting local industries against competition from developing countries. They can also force developing nations to focus more on current EU or US priorities, and less on their own critical environmental and health problems, such as safe drinking water, improved sewage and garbage collection systems, and cleaner cars.

Eco-seals, in particular, tend to be simplistic, subjective and misleading in their claims. However, even detailed labels may end up reflecting only what the activists and ministries consider to be relevant manufacturing issues – ignoring environmental realities and priorities in developing nations.

This work builds on earlier efforts by the **Institute of Economic Affairs** (London), **Fraser Institute** (Canada) and **Reason Foundation** (Los Angeles, CA). Reports and newspaper articles will be published in 1999. ♦

## Mark These Dates!

### February 1, 1999

Deadline for entries to the tenth annual Sir Antony Fisher International Memorial Awards

### February 4-6, 1999

32nd Atlas International Workshop, Dallas, TX. Join us for a tribute to "heroes of the free-market movement" and a 15th anniversary gala for the National Center for Policy Analysis

### April 25-27, 1999

33rd Atlas International Workshop, Philadelphia, PA. Come celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Sir Antony Fisher International Awards

## A Tribute to the True Givers...Atlas Friends and Supporters

In this season of giving, Atlas extends a heartfelt thanks to the many supporters and contributors who have enabled it to pursue greater freedom and liberty around the globe. Your generosity, coupled with a driving commitment to make the world a better place, is a true gift. Each day, the Atlas staff has the opportunity to serve those who are changing the world -- all because of your contributions.

How better to thank you than to share a few instances of how your gifts have helped?

❖ Last year, the Liberty Institute's booth at the Annual Calcutta Book Fair went up in flames after a fire swept through a huge section of the fair grounds. Imagine how president Barun Mitra felt when he returned to the book fair and found all their publications in ashes. The Institute, which sought to introduce Indian book browsers to the great classical liberal thinkers, had many single copy books. Each and every book was a treasure. Browsers could not even buy them -- they had to read them there at the booth. But with your contributions, Atlas has been helping the institute rebuild its book collection.

❖ A talented, young professor at the University of Michigan decided to return to his native India to set up the Centre for Civil Society. Thanks to your support, Barun Mitra is no longer the lone free-market public policy voice in one of the most populated countries in the world. As Parth Shah's academic talents compliment Mitra's journalistic ones, more and more Indians are learning about the free society.

❖ A miner from the Labrador Peninsula of Canada contacted Atlas to challenge us on free-market ideas. To his surprise, he found we were more "hard core" than he is. We didn't disagree with the "strange" ideas he had about reducing the role of government in our everyday lives. Rather, we encouraged them. With your help, he is now in touch with a host of like-minded thinkers across Canada and is exploring the option of setting up his own institute in Newfoundland.

❖ A student from Grove City College called to inquire about setting up a regional institute to study policy issues at the county level. To introduce him to the world of institutes and their management, Atlas supporters sent him to the weekend training sessions generously sponsored by the Mackinac Institute (Midland, MI).

These gifts, some of which cost as little as \$50, show how much you have enabled us to do. We *tell* you thanks, of course, but realize that the best way we can really *show* our thanks is by continually striving to enhance a free society in the spirit of our founder, Sir Antony Fisher.

(New Publications, Continued from page 5)

series of pamphlets called "Pejling," it has published *Valser om arbetets slut* by Mauricio Rojas which challenges the assumption that globalization will lead to the end of work and an impoverishment of the industrialized nations. *Valser om arbetets slut* will soon be published in English by the Social Market Foundation under the title *Millennium Doom*. Mauricio Rojas' previous book for Timbro, *The Rise and Fall of the Swedish Model*, will also be published in English by SMF. In *Creole Love Call*, Carl Rudbeck deals with the cultural aspects of globalization.

**Toward Tradition** (Mercer Island, WA) published its first policy paper,

"Toward Tradition on Educational Vouchers/School Choice." "The paper," says executive director Yarden Weidenfeld, "offers a *Jewish* argument in favor of school choice at a time when many Jews do not feel the 'establishment' organizations adequately represent them on this issue."

**Virginia Institute for Public Policy** (Sterling, VA) published its third policy report, "Imposing Market Discipline on Public Colleges and Universities." It reviews the failed incentives of the current operating subsidies and regulatory procedures that apply to the state's public colleges and

universities and offers an alternative based on decentralized, market-oriented decision-making. ❖

Atlas Economic Research Foundation  
4084 University Drive  
Suite 103  
Fairfax, VA 22030-6812

Tel: 703/934-6969  
Fax: 703/352-7530  
e-mail: atlas@atlas-fdn.org  
<<http://www.atlas-fdn.org>>