The Permanent Secretariat of WEEC Network

The Permanent Secretariat of the WEEC Network gives continuity to the congresses and to a discussion about the key themes in environmental education to enable the exchange of ideas, experiences, and proposals between one congress and the other, to build an international community of research and practice in environmental education and sustainability.

The WEEC network is the most significant existing experience of connecting international level in the field of environmental education.

Since 2003 the Network has organized 6 world Congresses, which have seen the participation of thousands of people from 150 different countries: university professors, government officials and international organizations, journalists, political representatives, businesses, NGOs,…

The Network operates in accordance with the UN and its agencies in collaboration with educational, research, and cultural and scientific organizations at the international, regional, national and local levels.

The members are more than 600.
Who is who

International Secretariat of **WEEN Network** is treated by Istituto per l’Ambiente e l’Educazione Scholé Futuro, located in Turin Italy, that was born in 2003 to give continuity to WEEN Congress.

The website of Istituto per l’Ambiente e l’Educazione Scholé Futuro
www.educazionesostenibile.it

The website of the global Network www.environmental-education.org

Prof. **Mario Salomone** is the General Secretary of the WEEC. He is Assistant Professor of Environmental Sociology at Department of Human and Social Sciences University of Bergamo (Italy) and member of the Italian UNESCO Scientific Committee of United Nations Decades of Education for Sustainable Development (UN-DESD).

As member of the International Task Force on Education for Sustainable Consumption supporting the UN Marrakesh Process, in the years 2007-2008 Mario Salomone coordinated a research for the Marrakesh Process Task Force on the best practices for sustainable consumption.

Recently he was invited to present the WEEC Secretariat at the Intergovernmental conference **Tbili +35** (6-7 Semptember 2012) and **UNEP First Universal Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum** Nairobi (18-22 February 2013)
The Numbers

6 Congresses organized since 2003

1 Congress currently being organized (Morocco)

Procedures underway to assign the **EIGHTH congress** (2015)

More than **600** members of the international Network

About **10,000** Congress participants overall

**150** countries involved

**100,000** contacts
Our Congresses all over the world

- Montreal
- Espinho
- Torino
- Rio de Janeiro
- Durban
- Brisbane
The Previous Congresses

WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CONGRESS

1st WEEC
- Strategies for a sustainable future
- Espinho, Portugal
  - 20-24 May 2003

2nd WEEC
- Costruindo um futuro possível
- Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
  - 16-18 September 2004

3rd WEEC
- Educational paths towards sustainability
- Torino, Italy
  - 3-6 October 2005

4th WEEC
- Learning in a changing world
- Durban, South Africa
  - 2-6 July 2007

5th WEEC
- Earth, our common home
- Montreal, Canada
  - 10-14 May 2009

6th WEEC
- Explore, experience, educate
- Brisbane, Australia
  - 19-23 July 2011
The 1st World Environmental Education Congress was held in Espinho, Portugal (2003). It gathered together 300 participants from 40 countries, offering an international platform for educators, scientific experts, researchers, scholars, politicians, technicians, activists, the media and teachers to discuss worldwide key issues in Environmental Education (EE) in an integrated perspective.

In view of the United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) promoted by UNESCO, the first WEEC was the initial stage of a civil society movement to promote a new vision of EE in the face of scientific, socio-cultural, political, economic and technological global change.

Organizing Committe: Open University of Aveiro; ASPEA (Associação Portuguesa de Educação Ambiental); Portuguese Order of Biologists. During the four days of Congress 273 presentations were made.
The 2nd Congress was in Rio de Janeiro (Brasil) in 2004 involved more than 1500 participants, including members of environmental organizations, business representatives, university students and non-profit associations.

Along with workshops, posters, plenary sessions and roundtables, an important novelty of this edition was represented by 102 laboratories in the space "Education in Action".

There was also very close contact with the academic community and activists connected to environmental education within scientific and cultural activities realized in different points of the city.
The 3rd Congress in Torino (Italy) 2005 brings the phase of consolidating the Congresses to an end and paves the way for the series of biennial Congresses to follow. Significantly, the 3rd WEEC in Torino in 2005 occurs during the inaugural year of the Worldwide Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), proclaimed by the United Nations for the ten-year period of 2005-2014.

The first objective of the Congress was to exchange observations and best practices at a worldwide level, to develop the main themes for the agenda on environmental education and to jointly discuss the themes and proposals presented in the speeches and posters from around the world. The third edition of the WEEC had the objective of creating a world community on environmental and sustainable education research and practice.

Sponsorship of international organizations and United Nations agencies: UNEP, UNESCO, FAO e OMS. More than 3000 delegates from more than 100 countries from all continents joined the even.
The theme of the 4th Congress in Durban (Sud Africa): “Learning in a Changing World” made way for a critical reflection on the role of both practical and theoretical education. The Fourth Congress was organized by the Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa (EEASA), in collaboration with WESSA (Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa) and numerous partners.

It was divided into 13 thematic sessions, workshops, poster-corners, parallel events, visits to the territory to explore the socio-cultural richness of South Africa.

It confirmed the validity of the formula that joins world reasearch, institutions and civil society in order to strengthen the diffusion of environmental and sustainability culture.
The 5th World Environmental Education Congress in Montreal, Canada (2009), gave nearly 2,200 stakeholders from 106 different countries the opportunity to join forces in exploring new ways by which we can better live together in our schools and institutions, our neighbourhoods and businesses, our cities, towns and regions, in short, on Earth, our common home. This confirms the growing interest about environmental education and sustainability, a complex and constantly changing field.

The objectives were to promote the role environmental education plays in developing and enriching human identity and constructing healthier individuals, communities, and societies. To highlight the contribution environmental education brings to social innovation by addressing socio-ecological issues and contributing to eco-development within all societies. To emphasize the role environmental education can play in public policy development, and how public policy can strengthen environmental education.
The 6th Congress in Brisbane, Australia (2011) made it possible for greater participation by people in the Asian-Pacific context.

In spite of the distance and the international economic crises, more than 800 delegates from more than 50 countries from all continents joined the event.

Climate is one of the main issues that emerged from the conference. Other recurring subjects of the congress were young people’s participation, context variety, partnership and networks (keywords that have been mentioned in many speeches), the role of universities, the need to increase the attention of decision makers to the themes of environmental education.
7th WEEC  World Environmental Education Congress

Environmental Education in Cities and Rural Areas: Seeking Greater Harmony

www.weec2013.org
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www.environmental-education.org

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Next congress:
8th WEEC 2015
WEEC
World Environmental Education Congress

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