

## ***Blending Higher Education and Traditional Knowledge for Sustainable Development***

**IAU 2014 International Conference  
19-21 March 2014**

**Universidad Científica del Perú (UCP)  
Iquitos, Peru**

**21 March 2014 | 11:00-12:30**

### **Roundtable - Regional perspectives on Higher Education and Sustainable Development**

This session will allow the speakers to present regional specific issues relating to, higher education, traditional knowledge and sustainable development and future plans to embed ESD in HE and the participants to compare and debate the issues at stake around the globe.

#### ***Chair***

- **Manuel J. Fernós**, *President, Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico; IAU Vice President*

#### ***Speakers***

##### ***Africa***

- **Heila Lotz-Sisitka**, *Professor, Murray & Roberts Chair of Environmental Education, Environmental Learning Research Centre, Rhodes University; Mainstreaming Education for Sustainable Development in Africa (MESA), South Africa*

##### ***The Americas***

- **Marcial Rubio**, *President, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Peru, and IOHE-OUI*
- **Jocelyne Trouillot Levy**, *Former Rector, Caribbean University, Haiti*

##### ***Europe***

- **Clemens Mader**, *Visiting Professor, Leuphana University of Lüneburg; Vice-President of the Copernicus Alliance, Germany*

##### ***Asia and the Pacific***

- **Khalid Omari**, *President Jerash University, Jordan*



**Manuel , J. Fernós, President, Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico; IAU Vice President ([mfernoso@inter.edu](mailto:mfernoso@inter.edu))**

Manuel J. Fernós, Esq. has devoted a great part of his life to promote social, ethical and professional formation of youth. As an educator he has held the following educational and administrative positions at the Inter American University of Puerto Rico: Professor of the School of Law since 1979, Dean of the School of Law (1985-1992), Chancellor of the Metropolitan Campus (1992-1999) and since 1999, University President.

During his incumbency as President of the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, he has succeeded in increasing academic offerings and has achieved a 50 million dollar expansion in construction projects, among these: a new building for the School of Optometry at the Bayamón Campus, a new building of Computer Science and Telecommunications Center at the San German Campus, a Student Center at the Barranquitas Campus, the construction of dormitories at the Bayamón Campus and the expansion of facilities at the Aguadilla, Arecibo, Fajardo, Guayama and Ponce campuses, and at the School of Law.

He established the Assistant Vice Presidency for Distance Learning and Technological Development for the support of a continuous growing Distance Learning Academic Program with over 18,000 students enrollment in 18 academic programs. In addition, he achieved the expansion of the Exchange and International Cooperations Programs, which at present include more than 100 agreements with prestigious institutions located in 15 countries in North America, Europe and Latin America.

Manuel J. Fernós is also member of the boards of various associations and organisations working in the field of higher education.



**Heila Lotz-Sisitka, Professor, Murray & Roberts Chair of Environmental Education and Sustainability, Environmental Learning Research Centre, Rhodes University; Mainstreaming Education for Sustainable Development in Africa (MESA), South Africa ([h.lotz@ru.ac.za](mailto:h.lotz@ru.ac.za))**

Heila holds the Murray & Roberts Chair of Environmental Education and Sustainability at Rhodes University, in South Africa.

She has contributed actively to the inclusion of environment and human rights concerns in South Africa's National Curriculum Statement, and the SADC Regional Environmental Education Programme. She serves on UNESCO's International Reference Group of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and is editor of the Southern African Journal of Environmental Education. She co-ordinates the M.Ed (Environmental Education) programme at Rhodes University, and also supervises a number of PhD studies in Environmental Education, and served as the Scientific Chair of the World Environmental Education Congress in 2007.

**Teaching:** Environmental Education and Research Methodology.

**Research Interest:** Agency, capability, and social change; curriculum transformation; social learning; participation in education; critical research methodologies.

**Abstract – To be received**



**Marcial Rubio, President, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Peru; Outgoing President IOHE-OUI ([mrubio@pucp.edu.pe](mailto:mrubio@pucp.edu.pe))**

**Bio and Abstract – To be received**



**Jocelyne Trouillot Levy, Former Rector, Caribbean University, Haiti**  
([jotrouillot@yahoo.com](mailto:jotrouillot@yahoo.com))

**Bio and Abstract – To be received**



**Clemens Mader, Visiting Professor, Leuphana University of Lüneburg; Vice-President of the Copernicus Alliance, Germany**  
([clemens.mader@inkubator.leuphana.de](mailto:clemens.mader@inkubator.leuphana.de))

Prof. Dr. Clemens Mader is Visiting Professor for Environment and Sustainability in the Region and researcher at the UNESCO Chair on Higher Education for Sustainable Development at Leuphana University of Lüneburg, Germany. Since 2012 he is Vice-President of the COPERNICUS Alliance – the European Network on Higher Education for Sustainable Development. His research focuses on transformative sustainability transitions, their assessment and the role of

interactions at the university/society/policy interface.

Clemens grew up in Trofaiach, Austria, graduated in Environmental System Sciences and finished his PhD with an emphasis on Human Geography, Innovation- and Sustainability Sciences at University of Graz, Austria. At same university he was director of the Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development Graz-Styria. In 2012 he was delegate by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research for the UN Conference for Sustainable Development (Rio+20). He held visiting positions at Hiroshima University, Japan and University of Novi Sad, Serbia.

**Abstract - European higher education practices for transformative sustainability transitions**

Globally we face situations and developments that require immediate interventions although we recognize that the source of cause is our own behavior. We live in a world of transitions that depend on our individual and collective decision making in daily life as well through long term strategies. So to enable sustainable transitions, a range of competences (reflective, interdisciplinary understanding, creativity, empathy,...) and capabilities (educational access, social exchange, freedom to act,...) is required so each individual can take agency for sustainable development. Here is where higher education institutions at the interface of society, policy and economy play a crucial role. Through transdisciplinary research and education for sustainable development, universities exchange with society, policy and economy and enable transformation towards sustainability transitions.

In Europe, a diversity of higher education initiatives on institutional, national, regional and global scales support transformative sustainability transitions. Especially during the past 10 years of the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development, ESD is more and more given higher priority at universities. From margin activities in the beginning where activities had a short term project character, we can recognize that ESD is becoming part of the culture and policy of institutions. At the same time we cannot generalize this trend for the whole of Europe. Whereas in some European ESD activities become more and more mainstreamed, some other countries, especially in the downturn of the economic crises (which is a paradox), lack or have even reduced their relevant initiatives.

A recently launched European Union Project (University Educators for Sustainable Development, UE4SD), initiated by the COPERNICUS Alliance and the Rio+20 Higher Education Treaty circle of universities, is

gathering more than 50 universities from 33 European countries (from all regions) to map and assess activities contributing to the development of competences for ESD among university educators. The project is actually showcasing lacks of ESD competence development in the European higher education landscape and as an outcome after three years UE4SD will offer an Academy for university educators to enable agency for transformative leadership within their institutions.

Another study supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research is assessing higher education initiatives from Europe and globally that contribute to a transformation of the higher education sector towards sustainable development. Partners for this study are still welcome to join.

Throughout the presentation, some short practical examples will be given from UK, Czech Republic, Austria, Germany and Spain.

**Khalid Omari, President Jerash University, Jordan** ([president@jerashun.edu.jo](mailto:president@jerashun.edu.jo))



**Bio and Abstract** – *To be received*