Hello,  My name is Michael Redden, a fellow student in the class. Professor Spengler mentioned in the announcements in the last class that I was trying to organize a group from Harvard to go to Cuba for the 4th International Convention on Environment and Development. Here is some information and some details on the trip.

I hope you will all seriously consider going. I have not gone myself yet, but the numerous people I have spoken to that have gone to the previous conferences have said that it is a TRIP OF A LIFETIME. No only because it is a tremendous learning experience and a beautiful island, but also because the island will change dramatically once there are changes to the political climate, for example, Castro dies or other changes take place. Therefore, now is the time to see the island. It will really be a great time and it is very affordable (see below)!!!(By the way, if you are a US citizen, this is the only way you can legally attend the conference!!!)

Other considerations:
Cuba is fast becoming an important environmental model in international development. The island has been recognized internationally in the areas of organic agriculture, renewable energy development, alternative transportation, reforestation, ozone protection, climate change research and environmental education. Inspired by receiving an A+ rating for its work at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, Cuba has organized large, and growing, international conventions on environment and development since that time.

Leading professionals from various environmental and development fields will participate in the convention through the presentation of scientific and policy papers, poster displays, active participation in specific US-Cuba sessions during the convention, and through productive networking with Cuban and international colleagues during the entire delegation tour.

Counterpart student delegations from Cuba and the US will be active participants in the convention and in special environmental youth and environmental justice meetings. Environmental education, and general awareness about Cuba will take place at all stages of the convention and trip activities.

Delegates will also visit sites of cultural and environmental interest in and around Havana, and choose one of three excursions to protected areas in western Cuba:
Planetwalk-Cuba: Interested and pre-registered participants will continue after the conference on a 4-day environmental walk to inaugurate Planetwalk-Cuba with UNEP Special Ambassador, Dr. John Francis.

While it is illegal to travel to Cuba as a tourist, the trip is legal because we would be going with Global Exchange, which is a licensed Cuba Travel Service Provider.
If you want additional information, you can email me back, I have some attachments that I can send you. I hope that you will all seriously consider taking advantage of this trip. It fits in perfectly with our studies and is two weeks after finals!!!! Perfect timing!!!
IV INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON
ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

HAVANA, CUBA

Global Exchange Delegation: May 30-June 8, 2003
Global Exchange/Planetwalk-Cuba: May 30-June 12, 2003

Themes and Highlights of the Convention include:

- Environmental Policy for Sustainable Development
- Environmental Management Tools for Sustainable Development
- Trade and Sustainable Development
- Serious Global Environmental Problems
- Sources of Financing for Sustainable Development
- The Johannesburg Summit in a National and International Context: New Challenges
- Celebration activities for UN World Environment Day
- 3rd International Fair-Exhibition
- 4th Ibero-American Environmental Education Congress
- 1st US-Cuba Environmental Initiative

BACKGROUND

Cuba is fast becoming an important environmental model in international development. The island has been recognized internationally in the areas of organic agriculture, renewable energy development, alternative transportation, reforestation, ozone protection, climate change research and environmental education. Inspired by receiving an A+ rating for its work at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, Cuba has organized large, and growing, international conventions on environment and development since that time.

In June 2001, Global Exchange began coordination with the Cuban Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment (CITMA) on a bilateral US-Cuba component to the June 2003 convention. Global Exchange is partnering with internationally recognized UNEP Grassroots Ambassador Dr. John Francis, who is extending his Planetwalk Project, which focuses attention on environmental and peace issues, in an historic walk across Cuba.

WHY ATTEND THIS CONVENTION

Leading professionals from various environmental and development fields will participate in the convention through the presentation of scientific and policy papers, poster displays, active participation in specific US-Cuba sessions during the convention, and through productive networking with Cuban and international colleagues during the entire delegation tour.

Counterpart student delegations from Cuba and the US will be active participants in the convention and in special environmental youth and environmental justice meetings. Environmental education, and general awareness about Cuba will take place at all stages of the convention and trip activities.

Delegates will also visit sites of cultural and environmental interest in and around Havana, and choose one of three excursions to protected areas in western Cuba: Ciénaga de Zapata wetlands, Sierra del Rosario Biosphere...
Reserve or the Matanzas coastal protected area. (The Zapata option will coincide with the first exchange of our sister Swamps program.)

Planetwalk-Cuba: Interested and pre-registered participants will continue after the conference on a 4-day environmental walk to inaugurate Planetwalk-Cuba with UNEP Special Ambassador, Dr. John Francis. A satellite hook-up will connect Cuban and American young people in an environmental dialogue (www.planetwalk.org) while visiting with Cuban communities during the walk.

Follow-up to the conference includes an environmental business, professional and activist delegation to Washington D.C. to urge an end to the US Embargo, and for an increase in environmental and other cooperation between the American and the Cuban people.

HOW TO GET THERE

The convention delegation will be 10 days. There is an additional 4-day option for those wishing to participate in the inauguration of Planetwalk-Cuba.

The cost of the 10-day trip will be $1,500 for dormitory accommodations and $1,900 for hotel accommodations. The cost of the 14-day option to participate in Planetwalk-Cuba, will be an additional $325 or $500, respectively. Note: Cost may change slightly due to any US-Cuba flight change prices. Please inquire about our 2-week option from LAX.

The dates of the trip are May 30-June 8 (or May 30-June 12 for Planetwalk-Cuba participants), 2003.

Cost includes: R/T air from Miami; visa and licensing; 2 meals per day; transportation within Cuba; accommodations in Cuba; preparatory reading materials; Global Exchange membership; program activities and attention to individual professional interests.

Convention fee of $250 is not included in the above price, and will be paid in cash, directly to conference organizers upon accreditation in Cuba. The conference fee for students is $180, and $50 for companions of delegates.

Is it Legal to Travel to Cuba?

Global Exchange is a licensed Cuba Travel Service Provider. In addition, specific educational travel licenses are obtained from the U.S. Treasury Department for each Reality Tour. For more information: http://www.globalexchange.org/tours/cubaTravelQuestion.html


Articles on Sustainable Development in Cuba: http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/cuba/sustainable/index.html

More about Planetwalk-Cuba: www.planetwalk.org

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Scientific Program of the IV International Convention on the Environment and Development

Monday June 2-Friday June 6, 2003
Havana Convention Center, Cuba
MONDAY

Morning
s Accreditation in the Convention Palace
s US-Cuba discussions. Common environmental issues

Afternoon
s Opening act for the IV Convention
s Magisterial Conference
6:00pm
s Welcoming cocktail party

TUESDAY

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Morning
s Environmental Mgmt tools for sustainable development for use in today's international context

Afternoon
s Management of the environment in the 21st century: from an ecosystems approach to local application
s Environmental policies and strategies: Agenda 21 and programs for local development
s Monitoring and evaluating the environment: Building for sustainability

WEDNESDAY

TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Morning
s The economy, trade, companies, and the environmental paradigm
s International experiences
s Trade and technology transfer
s Trade and intellectual property rights.

s ADPICs and the Biological Diversity Convention
s Interrelationships between multilateral environmental agreements and the WTO

SERIOUS WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

Afternoon
s Biodiversity, climate change, desertification
s Management and conservation of fragile ecosystems: The foundation for sustainable tourism (biodiversity, protected areas, tourism, Ibero-American Summit 2003)

s Regional cooperation on environmental issues
THURSDAY

Morning
s Activities to celebrate United Nations World Environment Day

s Discussion: The Johannesburg Summit in national and international contexts: New challenges

SOURCES OF FINANCING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Afternoon
s The Monterrey Conference-impact on developing countries

s Market forces as a solution for the problems of climate change

s Experiences gained in the implementation of the Montreal Protocol

s GEF: World environmental benefits vs. new and additional resources vs. the priorities of developing countries

FRIDAY

Morning
s Plenary session for Conclusions & Recommendations

s 1st US-Cuba Meeting on the Environment

Afternoon
s Closing session of the Convention and the IV Environmental Education Congress

s Farewell cocktail and cultural activity

Michael Redden
IBM Global Services
Enterprise Application Training Solutions
E-mail: mredden@us.ibm.com
Mon - Thurs: Current Project: (914)-765-5891
Fri: (860)-295-0430
(cell: 860-593-0818)