

**International Small Island Studies Association (ISISA)**

***Islands of the World IX***

**ISISA Islands of the World General Meeting – August 2, 2006**

**The Maui Declaration**

***Po`okela (Economy) – Mālama`āina (Ecology) – Ho`ohanohano (Equity)***

**Background**

Building upon *The Mauritius Declaration* issued in 1998 and *The Kinmen Declaration* of Islands of the World VIII conference in 2004, the General Meeting on August 3, 2006, adopted *The Maui Declaration*. Previous calls for elevating the responses to challenges faced by small islands around the world continue to resonate. To advance and expand global initiatives, the research and presentations at the 2006 ISISA Conference offer a wide range of supporting data, analyses, and insights into small islands sustainability. The Maui Declaration expresses the latest incarnation of the leadership potential for the microcosms that are small islands. Additionally, this declaration seeks to add to a growing pattern of processes, research and networks that support the development of sustainable solutions and approaches to challenges and issues faced by all small islands. The Maui Declaration connects directly with University of Hawai`i-Maui Community College having incorporated many of the Kinmen recommendations adopted two years ago:

**1. Support new and innovative educational systems on small islands designed to promote sustainable living. For example:**

- Applying sustainable communications and functions through selection of recyclable conference materials such as distributing the 643 page conference proceedings on a CD instead of the traditional paper form
- Digitally capturing and “streaming” the content of many of the presentations in order to make those unable to attend the conference aware of new strategies and initiatives
- Embraced the interconnectivity of what is referred to as the triple bottom line – *Po`okela* (economy) *Mālama`āina* (ecology) and *Ho`ohanohano* (social and cultural equity)



**2. Maximize new information and communication technology (ICT) to promote island ecological, economical and cultural sustainability by understanding shared and varied island experiences. For example:**

- Conference planning implementation and decision making facilitated via the world wide web
- Conference presentations available online in text form and through streaming video of key presentation
- University of Hawai`i-Maui Community College adopted institutional and island-based sustainability as part of its vision which complements its role as a host site
- Strategically plan, manage and implement sustainable tourism in concert with island peoples to protect unique natural and cultural environments on small islands
- Develop appropriate initiatives so small islands can participate confidently and effectively in global economy while the international community recognizes that small islands interests must be accommodated via suitable transitions to more open terms of international trade
- Ensure the right to equity of educational and human services
  - UH-MCC distribution of access points of educational outreach centers to other islands of Moloka`i and Lana`i and other Maui communities of Kihei and West Maui
  - Distribution of bandwidth and telecommunications technologies throughout Maui Nui (including Moloka`i, Lana`i, and Kaho`olawe).

**3. Promote renewable energy initiatives; prioritize sustainable waste management, while being mindful of possible cross-boundary impacts of waste management practices.**

- UH-MCC development of a Sustainable Technologies program.

**4. National governments encourage specialized small island-based research in suitable locations to foster the exchange of ideas and to accomplish the above goals.**



## **The Maui Declaration**

The following recommendations resulting from the Maui ISISA Conference reinforce the strategic initiatives developed on Kinmen Island in 2004 and on Mauritius in 1998. While recognizing that all previously-identified sectors by past ISISA Conferences contribute to the sustainability of small islands, educational institutions play an especially important role in advancing the concept of public, private, and corporate co-responsibility. Based on global, as well as Maui's emergent interest in sustainability, the delegates of the ISISA Islands of the World IX Conference recommend the following:

- Implement the Kinmen and Mauritius recommendations wherever applicable and appropriate (See Attachments 1 and 2)
- Support the concept of Maui Nui (Maui, Moloka`i, Lana`i, and Kaho`olawe) as a Living Laboratory including the public, private and corporately supported Sustainable Living Institute of Maui (SLIM) to develop benchmarks and applications to enhance small island sustainability
- Promote and support the traditional Hawaiian ahupua`a concept (the interconnectivity of the land and sea – mauka [mountain] to makai [ocean]) when planning parameters for comprehensive watershed management and use
- Endorse the unique and potent roles that schools, colleges and universities can play in advancing sustainability through education and demonstrating the efficacy of threshold research with island-based co-responsible partners
- Support, proliferate and apply the findings from such initiatives as the Island Systems Management strategy, Global Islands Network, and other island-based consortia
- Demonstrate the values identified and adopted by small island communities in the ecological, economic, and socially equitable choices made
- Integrate education into public-private leadership and co-responsibility initiatives when shaping a sustainability agenda for all small islands

**Adopted by the International Small Island Studies Association Delegates to the IXth Islands of the World Conference on Maui, August 2, 2006**



(Appendix 1)

## **INTERNATIONAL SMALL ISLANDS STUDIES ASSOCIATION (ISISA)**

### **ISLANDS V INTERNATIONAL MEETING JULY 1998**

#### **THE MAURITIUS DECLARATION**

The participants at the ISLANDS V Conference held in Mauritius July 1 -5, 1998 note that small islands face special challenges in view of their relatively small size, limited natural resources, peripherality to centers of decision making, degree of exposure to forces outside of their control such as globalization, climate change and sea level rise, their small open economies, fragile ecosystems and vulnerability to natural disasters.

These issues were discussed during the conference.

In order to help small islands meet the challenges of the new millenium and achieve sustainability,

#### ***We recommend:***

- that education systems in small islands must have social, cultural, environmental and economic sustainability and equality of opportunity as major objectives.
- that small islands adopt the Island Systems Management Strategy (ISM) to take into account the interactions of all the components such as the various eco-systems, development plans and available resources to achieve sustainability.
- that ISISA and the stakeholders in small islands promote the use of the Internet and the World Wide Web as well as more traditional forms of communication to facilitate access to information to support the sustainable development of small islands.
- that as a matter of urgency, islands adopt an integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for the sustainable use of coastal zone resources because the fragile coastal zone forms such an important ecosystem in delicate equilibrium. These zones include the coral reefs which must be protected not only for the benefit of tourists but also for their inherent biological worth which includes their value as habitat for a variety of marine fauna.
- that small islands diversify their economies to reduce their high dependence on one dominant product or industry, their vulnerability to decisions made off-island and to maximize islanders' real influence on their own economic development
- that programmes aimed at both the protection and improvement of biodiversity which include efforts not only to protect all existing flora fauna and ecosystems in general but also improving public awareness of biodiversity.



- that governments make it a priority to promote gender equality in sustainable development planning to ensure the full use of the human resources of small islands.

***We further recommend:***

- that the problem of capture, distribution and conservation of fresh water resources be given far more serious attention than it has in the past.
- that the Kyoto Protocol be implemented as a matter of urgency because islands are increasingly threatened by cyclones, hurricanes and sea level rise due to climate change resulting from greenhouse gas emissions.
- that islanders speak and others hear the unique and positive cultural experiences of island living through literature and other forms of creative expression.
- that legislation to support sustainable development be enacted and enforced by the governments of small islands.
- that nation states with islands consider the special features of those jurisdictions in the formation of national and regional policies.
- that small island states complete comprehensive national Biodiversity Strategy Action Plans.
- that national Alien Species Action Plans (ASAP) to prevent the introduction, eradication and control the spread of alien plants, animals and micro-organisms in the fragile small island environments to be developed.
- that comprehensive easily accessible databases be developed and maintained to provide information to support sustainable development. Examples include:
  - o state of biodiversity identifying vulnerable and endangered ecosystems and species
  - o traditional ethnobiological knowledge
  - o land use
- that small islands promote the development of the smaller scale technologies required to increase their ability to recycle waste such as water and paper.
- that the appropriate international bodies assist the small island states in monitoring and protecting their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ)
- that the human dimension be included in the formulation of plans policies and legislation



- that study groups be established so that work can continue during the interval before the next conference
- that governments and teacher training institutions of small islands develop teacher training programmes which assist and encourage teachers in using appropriate new technologies such as the Internet for teaching and learning
- that governments encourage the use of the internet by private individuals for self-directed learning and the sharing of information.
- that small islands explore alternatives such as regional groupings to develop appropriate, island friendly economic development policies to cope with pressures to open their economies to globalization, flows of capital and liberalized free market systems
- that efforts be made to raise awareness of the impact of modernization on health in small islands and to encourage governments and communities to take an integrated approach to improving health.

### **ISLANDS OF THE WORLD V International Meeting**

**ISISA : Mauritius 4 July 1998**



(Appendix 2)

## **Guidelines for Promoting Sustainable Development on Small Islands, Taiwan**

(Approved by Council for Planning and Economic Development, Executive Yuan, Taiwan. April 2005)

### **Background**

On April 5, 2000, the government of Taiwan announced the new “Offshore Islands Development Act” to implement island construction and industrial development alongside goals of nature conservation, the preservation of local cultures, and the welfare and quality of life for islanders.

As of September 2004, responsibility for funding operations and other relevant services of the Executive Yuan Offshore Island Development Guidance Committee were transferred from the Ministry of the Interior to the Council for Planning and Economic Development (CEPD). A careful review of island development work was implemented successfully from 2001 to 2004. A gathering of scholars and professionals for a meeting on sustainable development of the islands produced an unanimous consensus that future development on islands should promote the welfare of residents and move towards promoting sustainable development. In addition, an holistic, systematic approach to planning projects should be adopted in order to avoid inappropriate development that would cause damage to natural or human environments. The “Guidelines for Promoting Sustainable Development on Offshore Islands” (herein referred to as “the Guidelines”) set by the CEPD will serve as the highest guiding principles in revising development plans for cities and counties on the islands, as well as integrating and implementing development programs and projects.

### **Goals**

These guidelines were established to state clearly the nature of all review, supervision, and coordination of offshore island development work, particularly in accordance with Article 4, Item 3 of the Offshore Islands Development Act, and Articles 2 and 4 of the Executive Yuan Offshore Island Development Guidance Committee Establishment Guidelines. These guidelines serve as the highest guiding principles for all matters pertaining to related regulations, review, implementation, and examination of island development work carried out by government agencies. These guidelines ultimately serve to carry out sustainable development in all island areas.



## **Basic Guidelines**

1. Island development should be based on principles of sustainable development. This includes concern for island ecology, and the preservation of unique island cultures alongside high quality and sustainable industrial development.
2. To bring into line the management of uninhabited islands or islands used for national defense, meteorology and navigation, and to base the management of these islands on the same principles of sustainable development. To prohibit construction on these islands except where deemed strictly necessary. For islands, which are already overdeveloped, to implement a policy of decreased development based on the carrying capacity of each island, and, in those cases, to introduce environmental preservation as a countermeasure to overdevelopment.
3. To develop management strategies based on each offshore island's established development status and growth, and to establish assessment benchmarks for sustainable development.
4. To replace mainstream tourism with eco-tourism, in order to improve the quality of leisure, reduce the environmental load and preserve the natural environment.
5. To increase preservation of unique island history and cultures, as well as the conservation and preservation of natural resources, and to encourage development of innovative and diverse local cultural industries to boost the development of island economies.
6. To ensure the integrity of coastal areas by careful management of construction in these areas. Further, to undertake necessary and appropriate examination of coastal facilities with the aim of avoiding unnecessary investment of time, and avoid the harm or destruction of coastal areas.
7. To strengthen the efficient use of energy and water resources, as well as promote recycling processing and water conservation. To raise the use-ratio of renewable energy sources, and implement waste reduction and recycling.
8. To build up high-quality communications and information infrastructure, and promote such networks in order to overcome disadvantages regarding access to information (the so-called "Digital Divide") – a situation faced by members of island communities.



9. To encourage talented local islanders to return to their home towns to work, and to increase education and training for local islanders so as to cultivate local community development.
10. To strengthen the long-term coordination, monitoring, record maintenance, and research and analysis aimed at island development, and to implement research on specific chosen topics.
11. To strengthen inter-island cooperation and exchanges, in particular, with island nations and other international non-government organizations. Such exchanges could include policy, technology, and information exchanges. These actions would aim to promote autonomous capacity among local governments and private associations.

### **Implementation Strategies**

1. This committee should use the sustainable island development criteria derived from these guidelines to evaluate future development plans on offshore islands.
2. Various agencies handle evaluations, revisions, drafting, and review of development programs, as well as the drafting and review of yearly or individual plans. Therefore, these agencies should base their evaluations, revisions, and development planning on the criteria of sustainable development on offshore islands.
3. Offshore island development programs and related development plans, after review and consultation with the Offshore Island Development Plan Office, should be reviewed and confirmed through an administrative process.
4. The process of review for on-going offshore island development plans shall be handled by small task force groups. Unsustainable development plans should be improved or halted.
5. In managing and supervising the implementation of offshore island development projects, any revisions to said projects should avoid sacrificing the quality of the plan for the sake of time-based progress.

