



# Global Greens News

July 2011

## ***Congress 2012: Call for proposals***

The Global Greens Coordination (GGC) is calling for ideas and proposals from all sections of the Global Greens family to help prepare for the third Global Greens Congress, the first in Africa.

The themes for Dakar 2012 will be:

- Tackling climate change and supporting the clean energy revolution
- Working for a Global Green New Deal and green economy
- Promoting and supporting democracy and peace in Africa and globally
- Protecting biodiversity
- Strengthening the Global Greens

The GGC is inviting all groups that are part of the Global Greens family\* to put forward ideas for speakers, workshops and side-meetings, proposals for resolutions including for possible common global projects, and other suggestions for consideration by the organising group. These should preferably fit within the agreed themes but may cover other issues as well.

This is your chance to help shape the Congress and its outcomes. Please send your ideas and proposals to [congress@globalgreens.org](mailto:congress@globalgreens.org) by Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> of August.

\* The Global Green family includes all the green parties and green political movements belonging to the Global Green Federations/Networks. Suggestions from member organizations as well as from the Young Greens, local groups, networks or green foundations are welcome.

## ***Introducing Alice Rosmi - Coordinator for Congress 2012***

The GGC have appointed Alice Rosmi to coordinate Congress 2012. She will work from the EGP office in Brussels as we prepare for this exciting event. Alice writes:

I was born and grew up in Como, in the north of Italy. My family is from Milano and I moved there to study Communications Sciences and Humanities, with one exchange year in Madrid. I have a masters in multimedia communications, publishing and journalism. During my university time, I have also lived and studied in Dublin, Ireland and Lille, France.



My work experience includes organising a fashion trade show in Milan, working for the Italian Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden, and managing a large conference on European Politics "Call to Europe". I've also worked as a journalist and press officer and speak English, French, Spanish and Italian.

I like travelling and meeting people from different countries. I like several sports particularly skiing, scuba diving, windsurfing and tennis. In my free time I also enjoy going to the theatre (ballet and drama) and reading.

## **GYG Congress - Prep-Team required**

The Global Young Greens will hold the 3rd Global Young Greens conference in cooperation with the Global Greens in Dakar, Senegal in March 2012.



The core aims of the congress are to:

- Enhance and empower the network of young green activists and organisations around the world.
- To work on one green vision and an action plan for the Global Young Greens network.
- Develop a stronger relationship with the Global Greens

You can find further information about our plans at <http://www.globalyounggreens.org>

We are looking to put together a prep to organise this event. If you are a young green activist and interested in applying, please visit the website for the role description and application form. Applications should be sent to [globalyounggreens@gmail.com](mailto:globalyounggreens@gmail.com) by August 15<sup>th</sup> 2011 12PM CET.

## **New Global Greens Website – [www.globalgreens.org](http://www.globalgreens.org)**

The Global Greens website has a fresh new look, following a much needed make over. Our thanks to New Zealand based developers Fuzion, Designer Chris Tucker and Mike Feinstein for their work. Please help us by linking to this site, sending us information about your Green Party, MPs, and any news items with global significance. Importantly you can donate towards Congress 2012 and other activities at [www.globalgreen.org/donate](http://www.globalgreen.org/donate). Amounts large and small will all help the Global Greens grow.

## **Green snippets**

### **African Greens Academy**

Over 40 delegates from 13 countries attended the African Greens Academy in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June.

As well the strategic development of the African Green Federation (AGF) and the AGF's contribution as hosts of the upcoming Global Greens Congress, delegates discussed:

- how Green parties can be effective in countries where democracy is not fully established
- how to survive when not in parliament or government
- the role of young greens in combating pollution
- combating climate change
- use of social and traditional media
- the role of Greens in diaspora populations.



The Academy was a great success and while each country and party has its own unique realities all delegates benefited from the ideas and experiences shared across the continent.

### ***Egyptian Greens demonstrate on the Nile River***

On world environment day (June 5), the Egyptian Green Party organized the first ever peaceful demonstration on the river Nile. Demonstrators of all ages from more than 20 cities took to the river in a flotilla of large and small ships, and journeyed five kilometres to the Egyptian Television Building. The nilotic demonstration expressed its opposition to local nuclear power developments, recent sectarian strife and concern about pollution on the river Nile. The demonstration was a great success for the new Green political party and achieved front page newspaper coverage in Al-Ahram, Egypt's most powerful daily newspaper as well as television coverage.



The party will contest the upcoming parliamentary elections and hopes to get at least one seat in the new parliament. It has not yet decided whether it will contest the Presidential election due to the heavy financial cost.

### ***Green growth in Tunisia***

Following the revolution in Tunisia the Tunisian Green Party is proud to report its official recognition and growth as a party. The Party now has over 1000 members structured within 15 regional federations. It has three members representing it in the High Commission for the Protection of the Revolution and appreciates the support it received from African and European colleagues as it builds towards a democratic Tunisia.

### ***One year anniversary of the death of Rwandan Green Vice President***

July 13<sup>th</sup> 2011 marked the anniversary of the disappearance of Andre Kagwa Rwisereka, First Vice President of the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda. His decapitated body was found the next day, in Butare, Rwanda. One year later, no one has been brought to justice. The prosecution authority stated that, it had insufficient evidence to press any charges. The Global Greens support the Rwandan Greens call for the Rwandan Government to expedite the investigations and bring to justice all those responsible. Memorial services were held in the United Kingdom, Sweden, Canada and Rwanda.



### ***Rwandan Green President receives Swedish democracy prize!***

On the 28th of April Frank Habineza, President of the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda, was awarded a Democracy Prize by the Swedish Parliament. This was given in honour of the democratic struggle started in Rwanda and the resolve to continue it using peaceful and non-violent means despite all the hard challenges faced. The Prize was awarded by Hon. Bodil Ceballos, a Swedish Green MP and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee following the initiative of Ms. Inger Schörling, Manager of East African Affairs for the Swedish Green Forum. This is a great encouragement to the Rwandan Greens and its leadership.

## ***German Green Success***

The first half of 2011 has seen a string of successes for the German Greens. In a year of state and local government elections the green vote has risen and in some cases even tripled. The high point so far is the election victory in Baden-Württemberg, where the Greens in coalition with the Social Democrats have taken government from the Christian Democratic Union. Winnfried Kretschmann is the first Green prime minister (regional government leader), as the Greens are now the larger partner in the coalition.



The German Greens expect more successes in the next elections of Mecklenburg-Hither Pomerania and Berlin, and aim for Green MPs to be elected to all of the sixteen German parliaments for the first time and for Chairwoman Renate Künast to become head of the Berlin government.

## ***Finnish Greens back in government***

Following recent elections the Finnish Greens have decided to take part in the new so-called Rainbow government. It will consist of six parties: the conservatives who became the biggest party after the last elections, the social democrats, the left-wing socialist party, the Green Party, the liberal Swedish minority party, and the minor christian-democratic party.

The Greens will hold two ministries. New-elected party leader Ville Niinistö will be the Environment Minister and Member of European Parliament Heidi Hautala (pictured) will step down from her mandate to become the new Minister of Development and State Enterprises.



Ville Niinistö has an important role to fight climate change. He also aims to promote an ambitious international climate agreement, which guarantees the limitation of global warming below two degrees Celsius.

## ***European Green successes website***

The Green European Forum have launched the Green Successes website. This site will showcase successfully implemented Green policies from across Europe. You can visit this new resource at: [www.greensuccesses.eu/](http://www.greensuccesses.eu/)

## ***Anti-Nuclear Victories in Europe***

The Greens electoral success and the public response to the terrible catastrophe of Fukushima have led the German Federal Government to phase out nuclear power by 2022. This is a huge success for the German Greens who have campaigned on this issue for 30 years.

In a referendum in Italy the people have voted decisively to continue the ban on nuclear power first adopted in 1987, despite the opposition of Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian Prime Minister.

Switzerland also now plans to decommission five of its nuclear reactors.

There are currently 143 nuclear power plants operating in Europe, plus six under construction and there were 15 in the planning stages at the beginning of 2011.

## ***Anti-Nuclear Protests in the Asia Pacific***



On June 11th, three months after the nuclear disaster in Fukushima, the Japanese Greens and broader anti-nuclear movement called for demonstrations against nuclear power throughout Japan and across the world. Over 150 demonstrations were organized in Japan, supported by a further 60 rallies in 11 countries worldwide. Parents and young children, musicians and artists, young and old, who had never joined such rallies before, paraded to stop nuclear power plants. In Tokyo 30,000 people joined the Action. The Japanese people have finally begun to realise they have to move themselves to change the situation. Photos here are from actions conducted by Partido Kalikasan (Philippine Green Party) as part the Asia Pacific Green Network's support for the June 11<sup>th</sup> anti-nuclear demonstrations.



## ***Japanese Greens report on Fukushima in Taiwan and Australia***

At the invitation of Green Party Taiwan prominent Japanese Green Satako Watanabe recently visited Taiwan to share a green perspective on Japan's nuclear experience. The invitation was prompted by a generous offer from the Taiwan Culture Foundation to sponsor her attendance at a forum on nuclear issues in Taipei on 26 June.

New Taipei City is home to four operating nuclear reactors with plans for two more. This will create the highest density of nuclear power in the world, all within thirty kilometres of some six million residents. There is also controversy over plans for a permanent storage site for nuclear waste in the south-eastern corner of Taiwan. Referendums on these issues will likely be held within the next six months.



During the six day visit to Taiwan Watanabe visited a number of places in Taiwan including the site of the planned waste dump. She also met with elders of the local Paiwan indigenous tribe as well as members of the Taiwan Presbyterian Church and other anti-nuclear activists. Her visit helped to obtain media coverage for the campaign and build links between greens across the region.

The Australian Greens also hosted Japanese Greens Rikiya Adachi and Namiho Matsumoto in July, giving their first hand account of what is really happening at the Fukushima Daiichi plant. Adachi and Matsumoto met with Green MPs from around Australia, appeared in local media and participated in a presentation to the Australian Resources and Energy Minister. Australia (along with Canada) is a key exporter of uranium to Japan.

## ***Australia's historic move to clean energy***

The Australian Greens, the Labor government and the Independent MPs have announced an historic climate action agreement that will put a \$23 per tonne price on carbon pollution and invest billions of dollars in clean, renewable energy. As well as supporting the switch to renewables and energy efficiency, it helps the land sector play its part including through a biodiversity fund. The Greens have played a key role in shaping this globally significant package, which is the first vital step in Australia's contribution to tackling the climate crisis.

### ***Launch of Papua New Guinea Greens***

Following their formal registration as a political party the PNG Greens held their first National Convention on 27-29 April in Port Moresby. It was attended by delegates from across the mountainous country and honoured guest Senator Bob Brown, Leader of the Australian Greens.



The Convention elected a new national executive and National President Dorothy Tekwie. The party has begun preparations to contest the 2012 elections where it hopes to win at least two seats in the 109 member parliament. Greens President Tekwie plans to stand against the current Opposition leader, a former army captain and logger.

### ***Elizabeth May Elected to the Canadian Parliament***

On May 2, Canadian Greens Leader Elizabeth May became the first Green Member of the Canadian Parliament. This is a significant breakthrough for the growing party as it overcomes the 'electability' factor in a country that still uses the first past the post electoral system. May's clean and positive campaign for the west coast seat of Saanich-Gulf Islands excited many people at the grassroots level and even attracted support from some high-profile former Conservative Party members. Since being elected May has established the Greens as principled, yet pragmatic, as the sole dissenting voice on a vote to extend Canada's mission in Libya, and to protect the rights of people facing criminal trials.



### ***Electoral Success in Peru***

In the November 2010 municipal elections, Peru's Green Alternative Party won five district municipalities in metropolitan Lima. Party President, the 'Green Peruano', Alex Gonzales led the campaign on a green platform including proposals to improve public safety through helicopter air security. Young people are taking a leading role as the Greens consolidate with Veronica Morales joining Alex and Flor de Maria Hurtado among the national leaders.



### ***Put your Green news here!***

To submit an item for the Global Green's Newsletter please send a short (100 word) report to [secretary@globalgreens.org](mailto:secretary@globalgreens.org)