

Green Economics Intern's Report by Yann Raineau April 2007



Pictured above is Yann Raineau, economist and agronomist, from France and now working in Chile, our first Intern at the Institute, pictured at the exciting Oxford University Conference April 2007 on the Quad at Mansfield College, where the conference was held. Pictured as well are Dr Fateh Mari, economist, who manages Action Aid in Lahore, Pakistan. He gave a lovely speech about the Sindh region and its environmental and economics problems and Judith Felton, Alternative Health Practitioner, Occupational Therapist and Reflexologist with many years of experience, who is manager of the Green Economics Institute, its trust and of the Green Economics Institute's international network



Pictured above are our first intern Yann Raineau, on his last day as intern with the GEI, introducing our new intern John Owens from the UK, a specialist in medical ethics at our lively conference at Oxford University. We also are expecting further interns to join us this year: Marylynn Elodi from Zaire (currently living in Belgium), a young linguist and translator and Sibel Yildrum an economist from Turkey

REPORT BY YANN RAINEAU

I am a French student in AgroParisTech, specializing in sustainability economics and was a Leonardo intern in the Green Economics Institute for three months, this internship being part of my study requirements.

I applied one year before the actual beginning of the internship, I was then looking for gaining experience within both the progressive economics discipline domain and the campaigning world. I was really excited when I received a positive reply to my letter by Miriam, and grateful to the Institute to give me this chance.

The Institute gave me the opportunity to have insights and to participate in some of its different activities: research, public events organization (training courses, conferences), course giving and lobbying.

Based in Oxford, I used to work on my own and would meet Volker and Miriam a least once a week to take stock of the progress of our respective works and give ourselves new objectives – so in some way, and since the beginning, I had been given much trust and confidence.

Investigating was made easier by the fact I lived in Oxford and could go to Oxford University Libraries, to which I could have access thanks to my status of intern in the

GEI, and the close relationship they have with the University and Mansfield College in particular. Having this huge amount of knowledge, academic connections, and the wonderful facilities of the University, within my reach allowed me to first focus on microeconomic theories and to understand on which basis they were in agreement or in contradiction with green economics. Once in the GEI, I could take benefit of the huge, global contact network of the Institute and to meet really interesting people, all very actively involved in both the campaigning and academic worlds. I was also able to input to the development of the Institute by advising the directors on my weekly reading and research which they used to amend their own thoughts - in this way I was involved in making a real contribution to the development of the field and they ensured that I was fully credited and acknowledged in published work to which I contributed.

As Volker and Miriam were very happy with my work, I was then given the responsibility of organizing and leading the next training course day, on Saturday 10 March, at Oxford University and to help write and to co-present a course for it with the Institute Directors and others, about the use of the cost-benefit analysis in environmental economics. My own reading was even used to inform the others about the finer details of their suggestions for the course.

From this moment on, I was managing the Institute's e-mail box dedicated to the event, in charge of keeping in touch with both participants and trainers, and managed the organization and practical arrangements for the training day, including taking lovely photos as a record of my experience. I redirected my research on the environmental economics domain, focusing on both practical and ethical views, and spent most of my time in the libraries, improving my knowledge in that particular field. We would meet quite often with Volker and Miriam to discuss about important questions and to present our work, but they really let me free about the organization of my work, the way I was running it and the content of the course I would present. The Institute seemed to value my work as it brought another viewpoint, and the Directors went out of their way to absorb and learn from my French culture, seeing it as a real bonus to their work and a very useful further analytical standpoint.

On the Training Day, I helped Miriam and Volker with the organization and presented my course on the principles of the cost-benefit analysis as well as editing Miriam's case studies for her to improve them. I had also prepared some of my own case studies to work in groups, especially one dealing with environmental and social justice in a Malagasy village, based on my proper experience there, which people really enjoyed. On that day, I worked with the Director of the Higher Education Academy Economics Network, a government organisation to innovate and develop pedagogy and methodology in economics teaching, with a top journalist and physicist

dealing in climate change for the BBC, and also people involved in implementing the nations accounts from the National Audit Office.

I can't help mentioning that one really nice and pleasant thing in the Institute was the opportunity to meet really different and interesting people. I was really pleased for example to be invited to a meeting about lobbying actions, and the initial planning and conception of two new laws and bills to be put into the UK Parliament, led by members of the Institute, some being involved in politics and NGOs at a very influential level. And, out of the terrific list of GEI members, I could also discover many other people as the Institute gave me the opportunity to attend many lectures, in Oxford and London, thanks to my status of an intern in the GEI, and I had the great luck to go and listen and speak to Wangari Maathai, 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner and the leader of the Green Belt Movement, Sir Nicholas Stern, Camilla Toulmin, Director of the International Institute for Environment and Development, and many other experts. My internship even started with a one-day meeting of The Higher Education Academy Economics Network in Bristol, where 20 economic professors from the whole country (including the Director of the scheme) discussed about the development of new innovations in teaching economics. I can say that Volker and Miriam never missed an opportunity to invite or send me to such exciting events during my stay with them, and that was a great luck for me and really helpful for my studies.

Yann Raineau



Pictured about some of the participants at the really successful and exciting training day at Oxford University that Yann organised with the Institute in March 2007. Further report and pictures can be found on the training day tab on this web site.