

Global Research Forum

October 2012 Update

<http://grfscp.wordpress.com>

Dear GRF supporter,

We are writing to share some updates from the Global Research Forum, since our successful workshop at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). This is the first monthly “update” and we look forward to your continued collaboration and engagement with us as we move forward. There is information about the final workshop report and video (forthcoming) as well as upcoming workshops (Beijing 2012, New Delhi 2013, Worcester USA 2013). As you know, the 10 Year Framework of Programs was adopted at the Rio+20 conference, and this creates new opportunities for Sustainable Production and Consumption. There is more about that below as well.

Getting More Involved

At the post-workshop business meeting in Rio, we formed an Organizing Committee, which now has 23 members from around the world and has held five conference calls. Minutes are available to interested GRF members. Many of you volunteered to help develop GRF when asked during the Rio workshop, and we are looking forward to effectively mobilizing this enthusiasm and willingness to participate. We will be in touch about these specific offerings. Further, we invite interested and active members to become part of the Organizing Committee, especially if there are GRF activities you would like to promote or sponsor. We are especially interested in members who can help with fundraising. In addition, there are Task Forces that could use additional team members. There is more about GRF’s mission and strategy below.

Listserv, Website (Workshop Papers, Final Report), Video

The GRF listserv was started before the Rio+20 conference and currently has 132 subscribers.

We also have our website (<http://grfscp.wordpress.com>) which is updated by One Earth in Vancouver, Canada. On the website, you will find (almost) all of the presentations and papers from the Rio workshop, freely downloadable. A **video recording** of the workshop will be available shortly. Sylvia Lorek is the editor of a comprehensive **report of the workshop**, which is in the final stages of preparation; and which features the papers, discussants’ contributions, and summaries of discussions. Related to the website, we are exploring the possibility for an online **discussion forum** on selected topics for sub-groups or regions. Further, we will investigate the possibility of **webinars** on selected topics that will be open for all members.

Journal Publication of Selected Papers from the GRF Workshop

Of the submitted papers, 22 have been selected for publication in a Special Issue of the *Journal of Cleaner Production*. These papers are presently in an independent peer-review process. The Special Issue will appear mid-2013.

Beijing Workshop (October 21-23, 2012)

By invitation of the World Resources Forum, GRF is organizing its 1st regional workshop in Beijing under the title “Balancing poverty alleviation and sustainable consumption and production in Asia and the Pacific – challenges for research and implementation”, with 8 speakers. Please see: <http://wrf12.csp.escience.cn/dct/page/65580> and the GRF website at <http://grfscp.wordpress.com/beijing/>.

New Delhi Workshop (January 30, 2013)

In collaboration with TERI, GRF organizes its 2nd regional workshop: a 1-day workshop in New Delhi, as a Side Event of the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit <http://dsds.teriin.org/2012/>. This workshop, to be held January 30, 2013 under the title “Sustainable Production and Consumption in India: Forging a Vision and a

Strategy”, aims to bring together researchers and practitioners on SPC and related areas from across India; and to create an “Indian chapter” of GRF.

SCORAI Workshop (June 12-14, 2013, Worcester, MA, USA)

In June 2013, SCORAI will hold a major international conference on the theme *The Future of Consumerism and Well-being in a World of Ecological Constraints*. GRF members are already engaged and more are welcome. The paper deadline has been extended to 15 October. See <http://www.scorai.org> for more details.

Development of Regional Nodes for the Global Research Forum

The Global Research Forum is in the process of stimulating regional nodes. We see the workshops in Beijing and India as the first steps of developing regional nodes in South East Asia. Similar nodes could be formed in South America and Mexico, Africa, East Europe, Middle East, Central Asia, and Australia. In North America SCORAI forms the regional node, while in Europe recently SCORAI-Europa has been formed (see www.scorai.org).

UN 10 Year Framework of Programs

The UN adopted the 10YFP during the Rio+20 conference, see <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N12/378/75/PDF/N1237875.pdf?OpenElement>. This 10YFP can be considered as the follow-up of the Marrakech process of the last 8 years. GRF is involved in consultations with UNEP on which form the 10YFP should take, and especially about the research component of the 10YFP. GRF may organize a side event in the fall in New York, to promote our ideas, and to lobby for support with UN member states. A memo outlining GRF’s position will be shortly available on the GRF website.

GRF Survey on Your Expertise, Key Publications, Research Questions

Shortly, you will receive a questionnaire asking you about your activities in SPC; your assessment of the most crucial publications and activities, and related issues. The results of this survey will be the basis of a database of people and activities, to be developed in the next half year, and accessible on the GRF website. In addition, this will be the basis of a review paper for the Journal of Cleaner production, which will highlight the state of the field and the most important outstanding research questions and challenges.

GRF Mission and Strategy

We are in the process of developing a GRF mission and 5-10 year strategy. A draft document is available and will be discussed in the near future in the Organizing Committee, and then available for inputs for all GRF members.

GRF Governance

In October, a special session of the GRF Organizing Committee will be held to discuss internal governance; which includes democratic elections, openness and transparency to members; division of labor through task forces; membership management and administration; outreach and communication, coalitions with likeminded organizations; relationships with UNEP, ICSU, Earth System Governance, and other relevant organizations; institutional membership, and fundraising. We will also be investigating the possibility of institutional membership of GRF, which may open some possibilities for fundraising.

Thank you all for your engagement and interest. We are working for a more sustainable world.

Warm regards,
Philip Vergragt
Coordinator, Global Research Forum