

**Report to the Governing Council of the
International Federation of Environmental Health
On collaboration with IISD in the area of Sustainability Indicators**

On September 15, 2004 the undersigned met with representatives of the International Institute for Sustainable Development in Winnipeg Canada to explore the feasibility of our two organizations collaborating on the collection, dissemination and promotion of the use of sustainability indicators.

The opportunity to meet with IISD staff and senior officials and the frank discussion that ensued helped confirm what we already suspected, that a partnership or collaboration with IISD would be highly beneficial to the IFEH, not only in terms of further developing the Sustainability Project but also in terms of enhancing IFEH's position in the global community. For example, in the area of climate change, we believe the two organizations have common goals and objectives, even though IFEH's goals may reflect our concerns over the health impacts of climate change. It became quickly clear that our two organizations share common objectives and ideals and that any risks to IFEH from the proposed collaboration would be minimal and far outweighed by the benefits to IFEH and its members. There was an understanding that such a relationship would have to respect the internal workings of the two partner organizations and would have to be based on an open sharing of information.

A Memorandum of Understanding was drafted short after this meeting – which was approved by the IFEH board of directors. After the approval by IFEH the IISD found that minor changes were needed. On that basis Henning Hansen, coordinator of the IFEH indicator initiative, had a meeting in Budapest September 16, 2005 with László Pintér, director of IISD Measurement and Assessment Program. The meeting resulted in minor changes to the MoU which both parties could agree upon. So by now the MoU is confirmed and accepted by the IISD – only the final approval by IFEH is needed.

We, therefore, feel very comfortable in recommending that the IFEH Council enter into a memorandum of understanding with the IISD, as described in the attached MoU.

Respectfully submitted,

Henning Hansen, IFEH (Denmark), coordinator of the IFEH indicator initiative

Fred O'Brien, Hon Vice President, IFEH (Ireland)

Steen Fogde, IFEH (Denmark)

Domenic Losito, IFEH (Canada)

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
AND
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
ON
COLLABORATION TO ADVANCE THE USE OF
SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS

WHEREAS recent analyses have identified monitoring information systems as a systemic weakness in strategic and coordinated action for Sustainable Development (along with coordination among levels of government); and

WHEREAS there is much duplication of efforts in indicators, which itself is not sustainable; and

WHEREAS it is acknowledged that the IFEH declaration on the Use of Sustainability Indicators will not in-and-of-itself bring about change, but will require active follow-up;

THEREFORE

The undersigned representatives of the IFEH and the IISD hereby agree to the following:

1. Upon adoption by IFEH of its Declaration on Sustainability Indicators, a shorter and more robust policy statement will be drafted jointly, focusing on strategic issues in indicator initiatives at the community and regional level. The purpose of the statement will be to call attention to the risks and opportunities arising from the large and growing pool of sub-national level indicator initiatives and to facilitate the crystallization of a policy agenda related to them on the national and international levels. The statement may cover topics such as the need for increased efforts aimed at better coordination of sustainability indicator efforts, or the need for capacity development.
2. IFEH and IISD will work together to engage other major organizations with interest in taking the indicator agenda to the next level.
3. IFEH and IISD will collaborate on the Compendium of Sustainable Development Indicator Initiatives. Based on feedback received from IFEH, IISD will first adjust the Compendium structure if necessary. This will be followed by merger of IFEH's data into the IISD Compendium. The IFEH website would link to a sub-window showing the modified compendium housed on IISD's server and IFEH will invite its global members to submit relevant information.
4. The two organizations will jointly explore funding opportunities for further developing the Compendium.

5. The parties understand that the proposed collaboration may require the sharing of intellectual property and express their dedication to keep products and information jointly developed available at no cost to the general public. The parties also agree that their contribution to the products developed in collaboration will be explicitly recognized.

Agreed on behalf of IFEH and the Measurement and Assessment Program of IISD:

October 8 , 2005

Mr. Henning Hansen
On behalf of the
International Federation
of Environmental Health

Dr. László Pintér
Director
Measurement and Assessment Program

Coordinator of the IFEH indicator initiative