

Islands of the World V

“Small Islands in the Third Millennium – Problems and Prospects of Island Living”

Mauritius

1 – 5 July 1998



Description of Islands of the World V

Dr. K. Yamazato, the first director of the recently established Research Institute for the Subtropics, based in Okinawa, Japan, and a specialist in coral reefs, had been invited to organise a session on "Human and biophysical impacts on small island coral reefs".

There was also a series of workshops in which, in contrast to "sessions", the emphasis was on instruction or provision of information, more intensive discussion of specific topics. One workshop dealt with remaining problems in expanding the use of electronic networking systems. Another considered gender relations as an important aspect of developing and maintaining environmentally sustainable small scale, intensive, agro-ecosystems (tropical gardens).

Given that the conference was being held in Mauritius, famous for the extinction of the "dodo", a workshop was also proposed on the general topic of "Small islands and biodiversity – the balance sheet in the year 2000".

acc. Theo L. Hills, source: E-Mail ,19 Jun 1997
Dodo: <http://jetzt.sueddeutsche.de/> (2014)

Main Topics

- Education for Sustainable Development
- Islanders and Political Economy
- Islands on the Global Scene
- Knowledge Assessment and Telematics
- Social and Cultural Issues in Islander Living
- Islanders and the Ocean
- Remembering the Dodo: Small Islands and Biodiversity of the Balance Sheet in the Year 2000



Organiser Island V



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Source: Google Maps (2014)

Place of Conference: University of Mauritius



Photos: <http://www.uom.ac.mu/sites/umasu/>



Accommodation: El Monaco Hotel



Photos: www.el-monaco.com

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 centres of decision making, degree of exposure to forces outside of their control (such as globalisation, climate change and sea level rise), their small open economies, fragile ecosystems and vulnerability to natural disasters. These issues were discussed during the conference and the following recommendations were made:

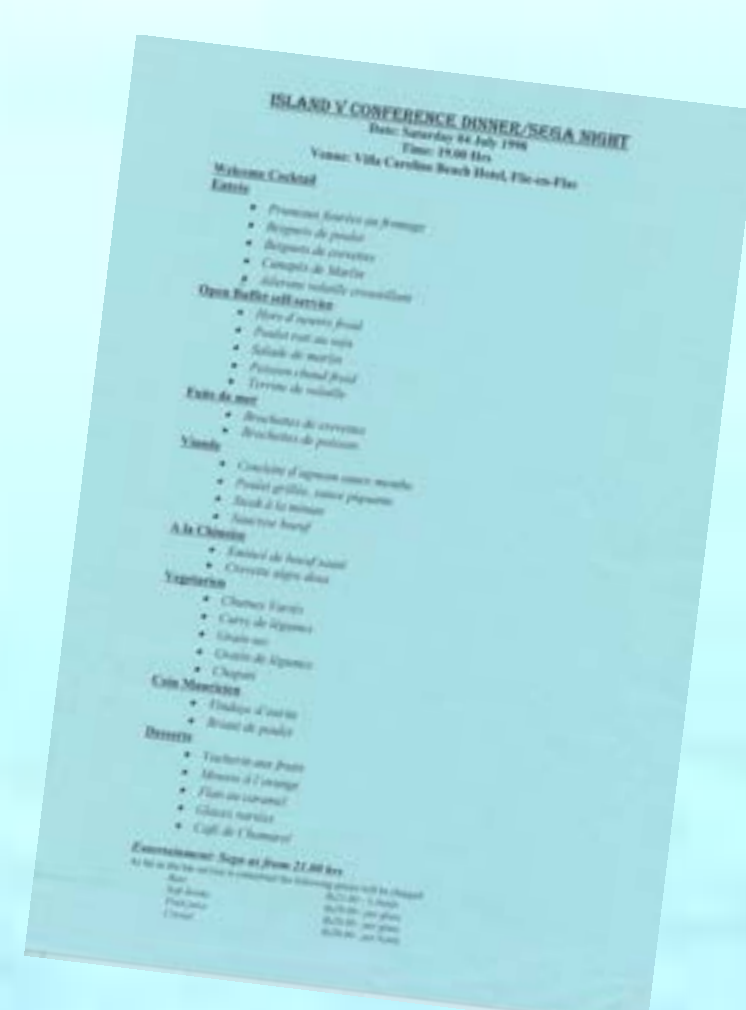
- that education systems in small islands must have social, cultural, environmental and economic sustainability and equality of opportunity as major objectives;
- that small islands adopt a strategy of Island Systems Management (ISM) to take into account the interactions of all the components such as the various ecosystems, 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 maximise islanders' real influence on their own economic development;
- that programmes aimed at both the protection and improvement of biodiversity include efforts not only to protect all existing flora, fauna and ecosystems in general but also improve 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:
[...]

ISLANDS OF THE WORLD V International Meeting
ISISA : Mauritius 4 July 1998

Sponsors

University of Mauritius
Mauritius Institute of Education
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Field Trips

