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A Word from the Editors

This issue of the eJournal sees a number of changes both to the content of the journal and to the team contributing to its production. Sandy Patterson, who did so much to bring the eJournal to life, decided it was time to make way for others to lead the eJournal Editorial Board. In his place, Amanda Kennedy joins Elizabeth Kirk as Co-editor. The editing team has also expanded with the addition of Micha Young (nee Lau) as Managing Editor, and Emma Lees, Kylie Lingard and Krisdakorn Wongwuthikun as Assistant Editors. David Hodas, a long standing member of the Editorial Board has also assumed responsibility as editor of the book review section.

While these changes have helped the editors enormously in the preparation of this issue, for the readers we believe the biggest change will be in the types of articles found in this issue. The issue contains the first teaching article published in the eJournal: Professor Bradford Morse reflects upon comparative teaching through videoconferencing. His insightful paper highlights a number of key concerns both with co-teaching a course and with the use of technology in teaching. It begins with a review of the developments in technology that first made distance learning a possibility, then leads us to the point where co-teaching across continents is possible. Thereafter Morse considers the challenges and benefits of teaching law through videoconferencing, highlighting as he does some of the benefits and challenges of this form of teaching.

The teaching piece is followed by another first: an opinion piece by Academy Fellow Professor Nicholas Robinson in which he argues that it is time for legal systems to embrace the Resilience Principle. Robinson outlines the Principle of Resilience as it applies in the natural world and explores the benefits of such a principle as a part of legal systems.

In this issue we have four short "Insights Papers" which cover a range of issues, from the development of environmental impact assessment in India, to agri-biodiversity in Europe and the conservation of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

The insights papers are followed by an array of Country Reports from 26 countries, including the first report from the Caribbean region. A few broad themes can be gleaned from both the Insights papers and the Country Reports.

First, energy generation remains a key issue for many countries. Thus some reports address measures that have been adopted or considered to ease the way for mining (Australia, Bahamas and Czech Republic Country Reports), or fracking (Ukraine Republic Country Report and Ceri Warnock's Insights Paper). Other Country Reports demonstrate attention being turned to renewables (Brazil, Caribbean, Denmark, Ethiopia, Turkey and the United Kingdom Country Reports) to endeavour to meet energy demands. While some of the reports which demonstrate a focus upon renewables are encouraging, in that they show countries such as Ethiopia and the Caribbean countries recognising that a reliance on renewables rather than hydrocarbons may help pave the way to a development that is sustainable, other reports suggest less concern with ensuring the necessary environmental protection for truly sustainable development to take place. The Australian report, for example demonstrates a rolling back of regulation and the Brazilian and Turkish reports indicates just how delicate the balance is between promoting economic development and protecting the environment. Turkey, for example, imports fossil fuels, but is also increasing its reliance on renewable energy sources. What is noticeable in the Turkish Country Report is that the protection afforded the environment appears quite weak, with limited requirements to carry out EIAs and the tendency to look at projects on their own, rather than looking at the cumulative impacts of projects.

Secondly the Country Reports point to what might be termed a 'cycle of environmental activity'. Thus while we see increasing environmental regulation being reported on in countries such as China and Burkina Faso, improving their environmental law and increasing its range, for example through increasing protection for wetlands in China (Lin and Chen) or improving air quality and establishing an Environmental Police team (Zhao), we see the repeal of the carbon tax in Australia and, as Riley notes, the general erosion of 'sustainability' from the concept of sustainable development. Similarly the *Wicklow v Fortune* case discussed in the Irish Country Report show planning laws being rolled back, and the Italian Country Report points to the economy being prioritised over the environment.

Some other common issues to emerge are the difficulties associated with defining and using environmental impact procedures. While Chowdhury's Insights paper shows the development of EIA procedures in India, for example, a more restrictive approach has been taken to the development of EIA in the Bahamas (see also the Country Reports from

Denmark and Germany). Public participation also remains a contentious issue (see the Country Reports on the Bahamas, Germany, Thailand and the United Kingdom, and Warnock's Insights Paper).

One other interesting topic to emerge in this year's Country Reports is the issue of the reintroduction of certain species to some countries. The Netherland's Country Report addresses the reintroduction of wolves and raises many issues that will be of interest to all States where native species have become locally (though not completely) extinct.

We trust that you find this issue stimulating, and look forward to further contributions to the next issue

Articles	Comparative Law Teaching Through Videoconferencing <i>Bradford W. Morse</i>
	The Resilience Principle <i>Nicholas A. Robinson</i>
Insights Articles	Environmental Impact Assessment in India: Reviewing Two Decades of Jurisprudence <i>Nupur Chowdhury</i>
	Preventing an Ecological “Class Struggle”: The Implications of an Ideological Reading of the Kokopelli Case <i>Donato Gualtieri</i>
	Petroleum Development: Excluding the Public <i>Ceri Warnock</i>
	Recent Debates on The Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction Including Marine Genetic Resources <i>Roser Puig-Marcó</i>
Country Reports	Australia <i>Sophie Riley</i>
	Bahamas <i>Lisa Benjamin</i>
	Brazil <i>Liana Amin Lima Da Silva and Carlos Frederico Marés de Souza Filho</i>
	Burkina Faso <i>Habib Ahmed Djiga</i>
	Barbados <i>Alana Malinde S.N. Lancaster</i>
	China: Human Rights Protection in Ecological Conservation <i>Miao He</i>
	China: Wetland Protection <i>Lin Yanmei and Chen Yue</i>

	China: Global Environmental Issues <i>Nengye Liu</i>
	China: Atmospheric Pollution <i>Jingjing Zhao</i>
	Congo <i>Dignité Bwiza</i>
	Czech <i>Milan Damohorsky and Petra Humlickova</i>
	Denmark <i>Birgitte Egelund Olsen</i> <i>Anita Rønne and</i> <i>Helle Tegner Anker</i>
	Ethiopia <i>Fikremarkos Merso Birhnu</i>
	Federated States of Micronesia <i>Justin Rose</i>
	France <i>Marion Bary</i>
	Germany <i>Eckard Rehbinder</i>
	India <i>Kavitha Chalakkal</i>
	Ireland <i>Sean Whittaker</i>
	Italy <i>Carmine Petteruti</i>
	Mexico <i>Ivett Montelongo and</i> <i>José Juan Gonzalez</i>
	Netherlands <i>Arie Trouwborst</i>
	New Zealand <i>Trevor Daya-Winterbottom</i>

	South Africa <i>Michael Kidd</i>
	Spain <i>Lucía Casado Casado</i>
	Thailand <i>Wanida Phromlah</i>
	Turkey <i>Ali Kerem Kayhan</i>
	Ukraine <i>Svitlana Romanko</i>
	United Kingdom <i>Opi Outhwaite</i>
	United States of America <i>Robert V. Percival</i>
Book Reviews	Environmental Governance of the Great Sea— Law and Effect (Joseph Dimento and Alexis Hickman) <i>Reviewed by Micha Young</i>
	Jurisprudence Based on Ecological Civilization (Cai Shouquiu) <i>Reviewed by Wen Lizhao</i>
	Environmental Law for a Sustainable Society, 2nd Edition (Klaus Bosselmann, David Grinlinton and Prue Taylor) <i>Reviewed by Grant Hewison</i>
	Environmental Protection, Security and Armed Conflict (Onita Das) <i>Reviewed by Elaine C. Hsiao</i>
	Poverty Alleviation and Environmental Law (Yves Le Bouthillier, Miriam Alfie Cohen, Jose Juan Gonzales Marquez, Albert Mumma and Susan Smith) <i>Reviewed by Judith Preston</i>