

Dear GAIA Members and Friends,

As a follow up to our last announcement, we are delighted to reconfirm that our 3rd GAIA Global Meeting (GGM) will take place on September 15 to 18, 2007 in Hondarribia, in the Basque rovince of Guipuzkoa (also spelled Gipuzkoa), Spain.

We are pleased to provide you with more information on what promises to be an inspiring and reinvigorating convergence for the GAIA family from all continents. We encourage everyone to arrive in Spain by September 14 and leave on the 19th.

LOCATION

The venue for our GGM 2007 is the coastal city of Hondarribia (or Fuenterrabía in Spanish), in the Basque province of Guipuzkoa, Spain, right in the border with France. This quiet city, which combines the beautiful coastal scene with ancient buildings, hosts the San Sebastian International Airport. It is 20 kilometers away from San Sebastian/Donostia city.

HOST

Our host in Hondarribia will be the Ekologistak Martxan, a local member of the national grassroots federation Ecologists in Action. Ekologistak Martxan is an association of people whose vision is guided by social environmentalism. Our host is actively involved in the "Donostia Bizirik," a broad citizens' movement against a waste incineration in Guipuzkoa. In their words: "We see the GAIA meeting as a big opportunity because we believe it can strengthen the movement against the waste incinerator, as well as disseminate the ideas we present, consolidate the technical-scientific arguments, and therefore have influence in the public opinion." For more information in Spanish or Euskara, the language spoken by the Basque people, please go to <http://www.ekologistakmartxan.org/>

CONSULTATION PROCESSES

Regional consultations are being planned prior to the GGM to gather members' inputs into the meeting's agenda, including issues, campaigns and projects that we can collaborate around globally and regionally.

We already had consultation meetings at the Waste Not Asia conference in Kerala, India and in South Africa at a conference organized by groundwork in Johannesburg. In US, GAIA is bringing together some 50 activists for a meeting in the city of Hartford in Connecticut, Massachusetts on 11-13 June 2007 to discuss issues that groups can work together. There are plans to consult with members in other regions via conference calls or actual meetings.

Another venue for members' participation in shaping the content and direction of the GGM is through the Planning List. To date, the Planning List has 35 participants from 14 countries. To subscribe, please log on to: <http://lists.riseup.net/www/info/gaia-planning>

REGISTRATION AND VISA APPLICATION

We anticipate at least 100 participants from around the globe to gather for our GGM. Due to the limited space and funds available, we encourage you to sign up early. Obtaining a visa to the European Union will be a time-consuming and challenging for residents of many countries. We strongly urge you to register by July 1 so that the visa process can be started as soon as possible. In the meantime, please contact the Embassy of Spain in your country for the visa application requirements.

Please fill out the registration form at
<http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB226HBDP8HY8>

Kindly note that participants are expected to arrive on September 14 and depart on the 19th.

TRAVEL ASSISTANCE

We are happy to announce that GAIA has raised enough funds to pay for the participants' lodging and food for the duration of the GGM. Participants are kindly requested to take care of their travel needs to Hondarribia.

A limited number of travel scholarship is available for participants from organizations in need. The GAIA Steering Committee and the Coordination Team (the GAIA staff) will screen and approve applications for travel assistance. We have set 31 July 2007 as the first round of valuation for scholarship applications. We might consider another round of evaluation subject to the availability of funds.

We do hope to see you in Hondarribia! Eskerrik asko! Muchas gracias! Thank you very much!
Manny C. Calonzo and Monica Wilson Co-Coordinator Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives
/ Global Anti-Incinerator Alliance

Gaia-members@lists.riseup.net

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