



Third Intersessional Meeting of the Prepcom, New York, 26-27 March 2012

Side Event Info

Title of the Side Event

Rio+20 – A Global Innovation Summit?

Side Event Organizing Partners:

- Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) www.acuns.org
- International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges (IAAI) www.glocha.info
- NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns <http://www.csvgc-ny.org/>
- Alas de Rio <http://alaserio.org/>
- Earth Charter Youth Network <http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/content/categories/Youth>

Thematic focus and potential contribution to UNCSD

“Innovation for Sustainable Development” has been introduced recently by Brazilian government as additional thematic priority of Rio +20, to be dealt with at one of the Four Days of Dialogue on Sustainable Development (so called “Thematic days”) before the official Rio+20 conference (see foot note on page 2 of [‘Rio+20 Participants info’](#)).

This newly introduced (horizontal) thematic priority “Innovation” (especially with the non-technological aspects of social innovation, governance innovation, values innovations, etc.) opens up new possibilities for creative thinking on how Rio+20 outcomes can be something new and something special, helping UN system and Rio+20 to set a milestone in global systemic change towards effective sustainable development governance, thus turning – potentially - Rio+20 into a Global Innovation Summit providing space for innovative action oriented concepts, initiatives and i.a. new partnerships of UN system with global civil society, academia, business sector etc..

As the topic “Innovation” has not been agreed upon by governments yet and as time is short, civil society can play a very constructive and positive role here by organizing an informal, open and swift collaborative effort which can enrich and inspire the official Rio+20 preparatory process on these important issues.

IAAI, ACUNS and CSVCG have taken the lead on this by organizing an Informal Strategy Development Workshop “Thematic Priority ‘Innovation and Youth’ – Key to Success at Rio+20?!” Monday 23rd of January 2012 at UN Church Center in NY (see <http://www.glocha.info/index.php/latest-news/182-innovandyouthstrategywsny> for details and <http://www.youtube.com/user/featherproject/videos> for videos of the event).

At the proposed side event to Rio+20 Third Intersessional, the relevance of the topic “Innovation” for Rio+20 preparatory process shall be presented and discussed including



- the outcomes of the above mentioned January event (highlighting also the link between 'innovation' and 'youth' issues)
- presentation of the work of a cross-Rio+20-major-groups thematic cluster on Innovation (which is currently being established under IAAI leadership)
- presentation of an (informal) "Innovation 4 Rio+20" Issues brief and
- presentation of proposals for innovative action oriented goals for Rio+20 (like e.g. the 15/15/15 UN-Civil Society Partnership formula (see [IAAI input to Rio+20 Consultation](#) for details))