

# **Blueprint for a Knowledge and Philanthropy Driven Global Civil Society Reform**

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## **Objectives**

The aim of the present paper is to provide an introduction into a cluster of project ideas/project initiatives in the field of knowledge based global governance and civil society participation innovations that have been developed and partially already implemented by Centre for Social Innovation, Vienna [www.zsi.at](http://www.zsi.at) and International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges (IAAI) Vienna – Ljubljana [www.glocha.info](http://www.glocha.info) .

On the one hand the paper aims at raising public awareness of the great potentials that exist for utilization of resources of global civil society in global governance in order to harness the full potentials of “wo&menkind”<sup>1</sup> (especially in terms of knowledge and financial means for collaborative action but also in terms of coherence of individual choices and actions of global citizens that summed up constitute significant drivers of global challenges) for safeguarding our common future and on the other hand it shall present a very concrete blueprint for an implementable, truly global, bottom-up Web 2.0 initiative, that enables co-creation and co-production of knowledge that is needed for an effective response to present day global challenges.

As the concept has a strong knowledge focus, it implies a huge variety of cooperation possibilities for civil society and higher education institutions and through presentation of the blueprint at WCF 2009 it is hoped that links with interested research and higher education institutions for accompanying research and for maintaining quality assurance can be established.

With these action oriented objectives the author of the present paper hopes to contribute to the aim of World Civic Forum 2009 and its partner to produce an “action agenda” that will provide a real added value to the Global Agenda.

## **Brief Statement of Methods**

As explained above, the present paper is of an operational nature, therefore its focus is on explanation on the structure, function and operation of the system rather than on discussion of theoretical basics of participation of global civil society in global governance.

Nevertheless some recommended background reading on global civil society and collaborative/open innovation is presented here to satisfy also the more theory oriented reader:

Anheier, Helmut, Marlies Glasius and Mary Kaldor (eds.). Global Civil Society 2004/5, Sage, London

De Backer, K., V. López-Bassols and C. Martinez, Open Innovation in a Global Perspective: What Do Existing Data Tell Us?, 2008, OECD Science, Technology and Industry Working Papers, 2008/4, OECD publishing, Paris

Hippel, Eric von, Democratizing Innovation, 2005, The MIT Press, Cambridge

Osimo, David, Web 2.0 in Government: Why and How?, European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Institute for Prospective Technological Studies 2008, Seville

Surowiecki, James, The Wisdom of Crowds: Why the Many Are Smarter Than the Few and How Collective Wisdom Shapes Business, Economies, Societies and Nations, 2004

### **Introduction – Why calling for „Global Civil Society Reform“?**

What do following (global) challenges have in common?:

- responding effectively (mitigation and adaptation) to the climate change challenge,
- achieving the Millennium Development Goals,
- striving for universal human rights,
- the quest for a culture of peace

The answer is: all these global challenges can be addressed effectively only if the responses are based on cooperation of a wide range of stakeholders on a global level. But who are the stakeholders?

Among international relations experts it is commonplace that the key stakeholders to steer responses to global challenges are national governments and the United Nations system as their coordination platform. This attitude has been justifiably undisputed in 20th century.

But does this hold true in 21st century? As the dimensions/importance of Global Challenges is rising, is so also the global problem solving capability of national governments and the UN system in its present architecture? Our (i.e. International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges IAAI Vienna ) answer is: No!

Global governance solely based on national governments and their coordination mechanisms are not sufficient anymore to cope with the global challenges of our time; resources of global civil society have to be integrated into global governance in order to harness the full potentials of wo&menkind (especially in terms of knowledge and financial means for collaborative action but also in terms of coherence of individual choices and actions of global citizens that summed up constitute significant drivers of global challenges) for safeguarding our common future.

People around the world are concerned about the global problems, they know that their wellbeing will strongly be influenced by these global dimensions and they are willing to contribute their fair share to efficient responses to these challenges.

Unfortunately appropriate instruments for such involvement of civil society in global responses to global challenges are underdeveloped yet. One of the reasons for this shortcoming is the above mentioned conception that global challenges are a matter to be dealt with by national governments and international organizations only and civil society playing just a minor role in assisting these international structures and processes.

### ***A Copernican turn in the perception of the role of global civil society related to global challenges***

The central institution for global governance responses to global challenges – the United Nations - employs about 14.000 employees on places all around the world. Although the UN has huge difficulties financing these people, it should be clear that 14.000 people (this is 0,0002 % of world population which is estimated November 2008 to be about 6,7 billion people) is a very small number in light of the ever growing dimensions of global challenges.

And what about the other 99,9998 % of the world's population? What about their knowledge, their work/efforts, and their financial means?

Let us exemplify this at one of the most pressing global challenges of our time – climate change:

Climate Change does not challenge only national governments and the UN system, it is challenging the very foundations of civil society worldwide and the patterns of global civil society cooperation. Thus the present climate change crisis and the urgency to act in innovative ways offers also potentials for a “global challenges oriented Civil Society Reform”.

The question is: Could the knowledge, the work force and financial resources of global civil society be organized in a coherent way that will complement and support the work of public authorities and especially the United Nations in order to come to more effective responses to global challenges?

The answer is: Yes, we can!

The technological key to harness these potentials of civil society worldwide are modern information and communication technologies (especially so called Web 2.0 information systems) which make coordination and collaboration among huge numbers of people at costs close to zero and independent of geographical distances possible.

These recent technological advancements bring coordination transaction costs down to a very low level and thus allow for coordination efforts among global civil society which could have been afforded before only by huge apparatuses like e.g. national governments.

The social key element of such a global civil society coordination effort is obviously „knowledge“, the knowledge about appropriate action, the knowledge about preferences of members of global civil society, the knowledge about technical innovations, social innovations, the knowledge about how to mobilize and channel additional funds towards most appropriate decentralized action and respective human capacity building (learning).

In addition to these two rational and technological elements of the global civil society reform there is needed another element which is more difficult to grasp and to manage – it is the emotional side of global civil society reform. The global civil society reform has to win the hearts of the people in order to mobilize their readiness for cooperative behavior!

One aspect of this emotional side of the initiative is the building of a global community (a sense of belonging-to) in which joint efforts towards global challenges are emphasized stronger than religious/linguistic/national/ethnic cleavages. Within the proposed GloCha System of knowledge and philanthropy driven global civil society reform a “Global Challenges Song World Cup” and the multilingual design of the GloCha information system are proposed to deliver on this emotional and global community building precondition. (The proposed “Multiling Tool” shall utilize recent technological developments in statistical machine translations developed by google and combine it with wikipedia-like human editing/improving of these translations).

The other aspect of the emotional side is the mobilization of the readiness to contribute in a philanthropic (i.e. not-for profit) way money, goods, time or effort to collaborative global action. One precondition to achieve this is that the whole initiative has to be strictly not-for-profit, transparent and with clear and verifiable accountability mechanisms.

Once we make the Copernican turn <sup>2</sup> regarding the perception of the role of global civil society related to global challenges, putting global citizens and global civil society in the center of the deliberations (and not national governments and International Organizations), hundreds of new possible activities/interventions emerge that have huge potentials to make global governance more effective.
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In addressing global challenges of our time like e.g. climate change it is important to understand the need for innovative approaches. A little more of the same will not work – incremental changes of business as usual will not be sufficient.

This kind of deliberation leads us to the conclusion that global civil society should not only request UN system to reform in order to achieve better results on the global challenges front but global civil society should look rather at how to accelerate its own formation (as global civil society is still a very vague concept and the elements and relations within the system still being in a very early stage of evolution) and reform existing relations within global civil society in a way that will support the work of UN system and other stakeholders (like e.g. public authorities, business sector, etc.) in a way that will help to achieve better coherence among all relevant stakeholders. A slogan for such an approach could be „The World (Wo&Mankind) Delivering as One – An Initiative for Multistakeholder Coherence (of Climate Change Action)“.

**Proposed elements of the Knowledge and Philanthropy driven Global Civil Society Reform – “The GloCha System”**

The central element/principle of the GloCha System is the “Global Challenges World Cup” which aims at involving the huge social capital (especially the knowledge about appropriate responses to global challenges) of Civil society worldwide in (global governance) responses to global challenges.

Ideas/Actions/projects/technologies/innovative business models/public management innovations/other social innovations etc. identified as “examples of very good practice” by the Global Challenges World Cup and then replicated hundred, thousand or hundreds of thousand times around the world can make a difference and the challenge is to identify them and to award them, make them visible and replicable.

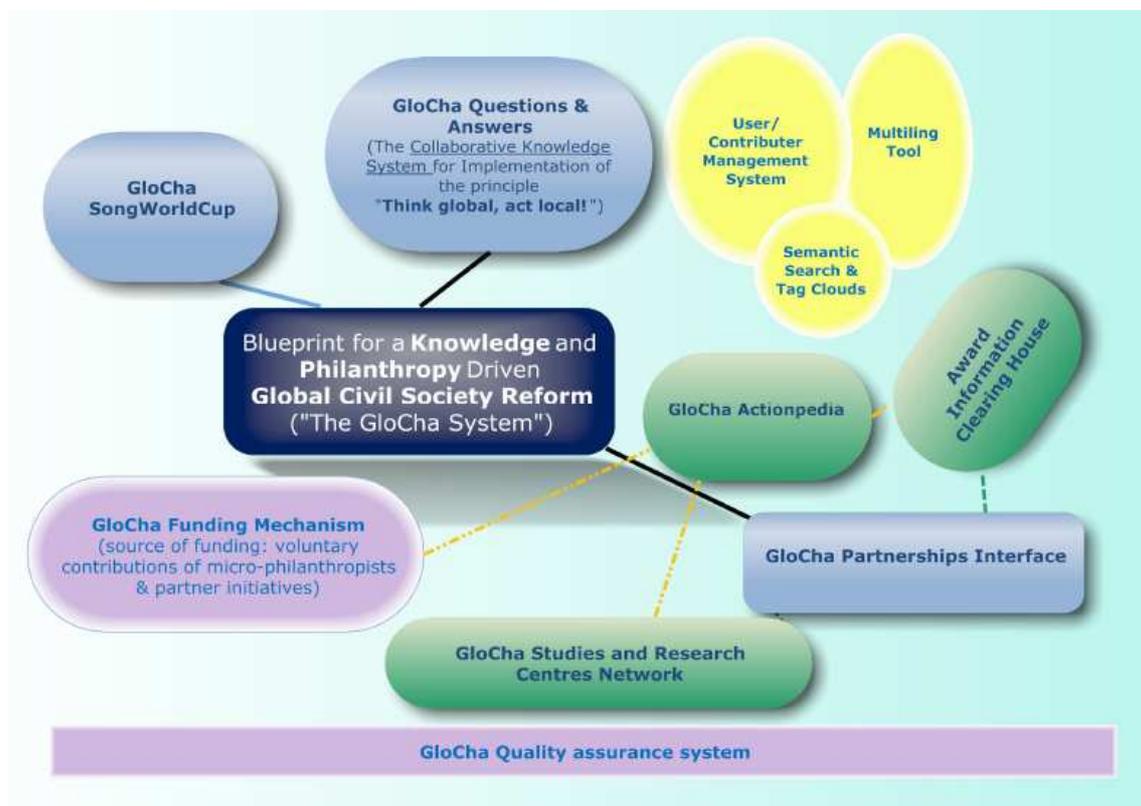


Figure-1. Blueprint for a Knowledge and Philanthropy driven Global Civil Society reform - „The GloCha system“ (Note: a more detailed graphical presentation of the GloCha System can be obtained on internet at [www.glocha.info/gloChaSystem\\_dec232008.pdf](http://www.glocha.info/gloChaSystem_dec232008.pdf))

Based on modern information and communication technologies (Web 2.0) the decentralized knowledge on how to respond to global challenges of global citizens shall be gathered and synthesized by means of participative evaluation of ideas/projects/technologies/business models/public management innovations etc. (identifying and replicating “what works”) and to foster mutual learning on individual and organizational level.

The rationale is that members of the global community will be motivated by the philanthropy encouraging design of the initiative and the spirit of competition to contribute their knowledge, work and financial resources to the development of a collaborative (GloCha) knowledge system which will help to advance change (“social innovations”), individual and organizational learning and development of appropriate socioeconomic structures and processes.

The basic idea of Global Challenges World Cup is that we (Civil society in cooperation with UN system, business sector and citizen participation enabling public authorities) with our knowledge and our philanthropic contribution of work and financial means can respond to global challenges effectively. We can make a difference!

### **The “Global Challenges Song World Cup” as a means for Global Community building**

Intercultural dialogue or dialogue among civilizations respectively can be used to build a favorable social environment for collaborative global action and especially the work of UN system by developing – based on a dialogue among civilizations on global challenges – a global identity/a global community in which joint efforts towards global challenges and joint commitment towards human rights are emphasized stronger than religious/linguistic/national/ethnic cleavages.

A strong global civil society, bound together by a shared vision of joint action towards global challenges will constitute problem aware constituencies in all countries of the world that will be pushing their governments towards bold future oriented global action in global governance. This will lead to more effective work in the context of United Nations and a increased questioning of current practice of uncooperativeness of governments on global level resulting from problem inadequate narrow nation state interest calculation.

In terms of knowledge management the “Global Challenges Song World Cup” can be regarded as a mechanism of collecting knowledge about what people feel, knowledge about how to communicate and promote a culture of peace, intercultural dialogue and collaboration and thus as knowledge about how to communicate hope (especially to the youth!).

There are two relatively concrete options/plans for implementation of the “Global Challenges Song World Cup”. One is in cooperation with United Nations Alliance of Civilizations [www.unaoc.org](http://www.unaoc.org) and the other one is in cooperation with the global climate action network 350.org .

In December 2008 there have been talks held by the author of “The GloCha” system, Mr. Miroslav Polzer, with representatives of United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in New York about cooperation potentials of the GloCha Song World Cup and UN AoC. The possibility might exist to present results of GloCha Song World Cup in the context of UN AoC’s planned presence at 2010 FIFA soccer World Cup in South Africa, Winter Olympic games 2010 in Vancouver and World Expo 2010 in Shanghai. If this could be implemented as discussed, this would mean extraordinary high global visibility of the initiative and as a logical consequence positive momentum for the GloCha Q&A information system (for details see next chapter below) and other GloCha initiatives.

Another avenue for implementation of the “global Challenges Song World Cup” is within a global acoustical action "The world synchronized on 350" proposed by IAAI as contribution to the global climate action network 350.org which mobilizes global civil society around the goal to stabilize atmospheric CO2 concentration at a level of 350 ppm. The rationale of the proposed action is based on

scientific research on social synchrony and cooperative behavior at Stanford university which has shown that cultural practices involving synchrony (e.g., music, dance, and marching) may enable groups to mitigate the free-rider problem and more successfully coordinate in taking potentially costly social action.<sup>3</sup> Therefore a global call for action will be made by 350.org network that on international day of climate action October 24th at 5 to 12 Copenhagen time a 350 hz Signal to be broadcasted all over the world (radio stations, TV stations, etc.). As the tone f is almost exactly 350 Hz individuals and groups of individuals could be encouraged to contribute with their musical instruments this acoustical dimension of 350 movement (this could be done at almost all 350 activities on October 24th). This acoustical presentation of the 350 initiative is supposed to add momentum to the 350 movement and through the proposed global synchrony cooperative behavior at Copenhagen negotiations could be enhanced. In order to sustain the momentum of the "The world synchronized on 350" initiative from October 24th to UN climate talks in Copenhagen it is planned to combine the call for acoustical action on October 24th with an invitation to a „350 Global Challenges Song World Cup“ (including a Web 2.0 voting/ranking mechanism) of which the winners could give a concert in Copenhagen.

### **GloCha Questions and Answers System**

The “GloCha Questions and Answers” information system is a Web 2.0 bottom-up collaborative knowledge system that shall help global citizens to find answers for implementation of the principle “Think global, act local!”.

Users of the information system will formulate questions on “What can I as a global citizen in my specific social and natural environment do to address global challenges?”

The community of users of the information system (this community can be regarded as some kind of web 2.0 social network) will then propose answers which will then be evaluated/rated by the community of users.

There will be also possibilities for rating of the relevance/innovativeness of the questions.

Based on these ratings there will be identified (algorithm based in order to avoid biased decisions) – on a time interval that has to be determined (e.g. on a monthly basis) winners for most relevant questions and most relevant answers.

Contributors will be requested to pay attention to intellectual property rights, thus for an excellent contributions that builds on existing external knowledge (publications, projects, etc.) both, the person who has made the knowledge available with his entry as well as the author of the initial knowledge can be awarded (“GloCha most relevant Answer x/200x Award” & “GloCha People/Idea Award”)

For organization and retrieval of information there will be developed semantic search functions and both questions as well as answers will be equipped by contributors with tags (like for instance on “delicious social bookmarking” webpage) that will allow for context specific Q&As.

## **GloCha Actionpedia**

The knowledge derived from GloCha Questions and Answers system could be analyzed and processed in a way that would lead to a wiki-technology based collaborative multilingual Global challenges and civil society action oriented knowledge system GloChaActionpedia.

The difference of GloCha Actionpedia to conventional wiki type social network based knowledge management is that it is very action and learning oriented, the way this action oriented knowledge is presented and processed by the users shall be very innovative (perhaps including video elements) and could perhaps lead to a new generation of web based social networking (Web 3.0 !?).

## **GloCha Studies and Research Centers network**

Research institutes and Institutions of Higher Education with a focus on Global challenges will be invited to analyze the GloCha (information) system and to propose further developments of the system.

GloCha Studies and Research Centers network members could play also an important role in building up the GloCha Actionpedia as well as in (e)Learning activities related to knowledge and philanthropy driven global civil society reform.

Such activities could be financially supported by GloCha system with financial resources that will be raised through GloCha funding mechanism.

Certain quality assurance standards and procedures have to be developed for this kind of external partnerships of the GloCha system.

## **GloCha Partnerships Interface**

A key challenge in organizing a system aiming at global civil society reform is the question of “coherence” (the term “coherence” means “logical and orderly and consistent relation of parts”).

<p>How can we make sure – with a minimum of administration - that individual elements of a complex global system of stakeholders will contribute with their actions to the common objectives in an orderly and consistent relation as it is needed to achieve the desired effect of collaborative action. How to provide them with the knowledge that might be necessary and how to intervene in case an element of the system does not follow the agreed path?</p>
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In the proposed “knowledge and philanthropy driven global civil society reform” the “GloCha trademark” as a quality label is the key to Coherence.

Through the “GloCha Partnerships Interface” the system allocates to global civil society stakeholders that share the GloCha system vision the right to use the GloCha trademark Quality label based on the fulfillment of following preconditions.

	GloCha Quality label <i>Category</i>	<i>Quality Criteria</i> (if not fulfilled, use of trademark not allowed → listing in “blacklist” of label )
	Gold Standard  <i>(the GloCha system itself has to follow this standard)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 100% financial transparency (accounts list published on internet)</li> <li>– Guaranteed not-for-profit</li> <li>– Remunerations to project employees limited to predefined reasonable levels</li> <li>– specified and verifiable accountability</li> <li>– Compliance with “Global Civil Society Compact”</li> <li>– Partnership approved by GloCha Programme and Funds Management board</li> </ul>
	Silver Standard	<p><i>(standard for partnerships with corporate philanthropy, e.g. music industry, etc.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– GloCha activity 100% not-for-profit</li> <li>– Donations of revenues to GloCha projects</li> <li>– Commitment to “Global Civil Society Compact” (to be agreed upon in a dialogue of Global Civil Society organizations)</li> <li>– Partnership approved by GloCha Programme and Funds Management board</li> </ul>
	Bronze Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– not-for-profit</li> <li>– Compliance with “Global Civil Society Compact”</li> <li>– Financial transparency of GloCha activities (report about use of raised funds published on GloCha homepage)</li> <li>– Fair use assumption</li> <li>– no approval procedure</li> <li>– GloCha quality assurance system (see below)</li> </ul>

### **GloCha Quality assurance system**

Principles: 100 % financial transparency; modest, merit based remuneration; guaranteed not-for profit; specified and verifiable accountability

Procedures: online complaint system --> independent "Global Civil Society Compact" compliance auditing --> GloCha Programme and Fund management Board decisions → request to change behavior → if not successful → request not to use GloCha label anymore → if still used → put on blacklist of initiatives that are not allowed to use GloCha label

### **GloCha Funding Mechanism**

Source of funding: voluntary contributions of micro-philanthropists & partner initiatives.

Support for

- 1) development of GloCha information system and quality assurance;
- 2) for awards; and
- 3) for implementation and replication of GloCha awarded project ideas

Financial flows will be controlled by GloCha Programme and Fund management board in which 1/3 of voting power would be held by representatives of UN system, 1/3 by scientists and 1/3 by representatives of civil society organisations and philanthropists.

#### **Potential extensions of the system:**

##### ***GloCha Questions and Answers – Global Ethics***

In case ratings of certain Q&As will differ substantially from average, users of the information system will have the possibility to specify their cultural background. Thus the results of this process of proposing and evaluating actions on global challenges can provide interesting input to intercultural dialogue (to be analyzed and discussed in fora like e.g. UN Alliance of Civilizations).

In case results of GloCha Q&A system will provide very useful recommendations for individual action related to global challenges, this knowledge could be used also as starting point for a discussion of a “Global Citizen Duty” catalogue (as a perhaps necessary societal complement to Human rights) as a global governance innovation which would – based on a wide social consensus and social control mechanisms – encourage individual behavior that would be coherent with endeavors of global community with regard to global challenges.

##### **GloCha Questions and Answers – Crisis/Disaster/Conflict early warning system**

A potential question to the GloCha community could be: “In the place I live in there is a crisis/conflict/disaster evolving that goes beyond the capacity of our community to cope with. What can I do?”. The information system could be designed in a way that would handle such information in the way of an early warning system.

A precondition for such a function to be feasibly applicable is a significant high number of community members so that triggering of an alert would not have to be based on individual requests but would get if possible additional input from users from the same region.

##### **GloCha Award Information Clearing House**

There are numerous awards existing already in relevant fields and many new ones are being added each year, to name just a few e.g.:

- Energy Globe Award
- Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Climate Change Initiative
- Richard Branson’s “Virgin Earth Challenge” prize
- X Price
- GDN Medical Millennium Development Goals Research Award
- Mexico Millennium prize (for pupils)
- Dubai Award for Best Practices (UN HABITAT)
- UN Public Service Awards

So there is the problem of confusion and duplication and inefficiency of the award schemes especially also with regard to the utilisation of the information/results obtained and with regard to develop a joint framework for promotional activities.

The GloCha system intends to overcome these problems by building partnerships with relevant other awards with a focus on information exchange regarding results and regarding making these information available for free (i.e. on a non-profit basis) to mankind.

**Soft Knowledge**

(scientific discipline: <i>humanities</i> )	(scientific discipline: <i>humanities</i> (e.g. psychology) & <i>social sciences</i> incl. law and economics)	(scientific discipline: <i>Humanities</i> (e.g. psychology) & <i>social sciences</i> incl. law and economics)	(scientific discipline: <i>social sciences</i> & <i>economics</i> )	<b>Hard knowledge</b>  (scientific discipline: <i>natural sciences</i> and <i>technology</i> )
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<b>Music and other forms of artistic expression</b>	<b>Social and economic innovations</b>	<b>Citizen participation enabling public administration</b>	<b>Innovative business models and economic innovations</b>	<b>Technological innovations</b>
GloCha Song World Cup	GloCha system Q&A	Partnership within Award Clearing House with initiatives like e.g. UN Public Service Award	Partnership and joint calls for contributions within Award Clearing House	Partnership and joint calls for contributions within Award Clearing House

Table 1. different types of knowledge related to global challenges relevant for Global Civil society and GloCha system’s approach to gather and organize this knowledge

With this new Cooperation and Information/Knowledge management focus and with joint calls for contributions Global Challenges World Cup is supposed to develop towards an “Award of the awards” and to an “Information Clearing House for Award schemes on global challenges”.

## **GloCha Questions and Answers – Barter economy**

In light of current global financial crisis and with regard to the fact that some GloCha system users might not have money but would be willing to contribute their products or services, it could be investigated whether the philanthropic donations to the GloCha Q&A system could be in the form of “barter”.

A user could for instance donate credits for free meals or accommodation to the system and contributors (who might have perhaps lost their jobs in recent months due to global financial and economic crisis) could consume such services; this would contribute to enhanced regional networking and cooperation and enhance economic opportunities of those involved.

A trade or barter exchange is a commercial organization that provides a trading platform and bookkeeping system for its members or clients. The member companies buy and sell products and services to each other using an internal currency known as barter or trade dollars. Modern barter and trade has evolved considerably to become an effective method of increasing sales, conserving cash, moving inventory, and making use of excess production capacity for businesses around the world. Businesses in a barter earn trade credits (instead of cash) that are deposited into their account. They then have the ability to purchase goods and services from other members utilizing their trade credits – they are not obligated to purchase from who they sold to, and vice versa.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barter>

## **Suggestions for Possible Accompanying measures within UN system**

*“UN summit on Global Philanthropy and Climate Change”*

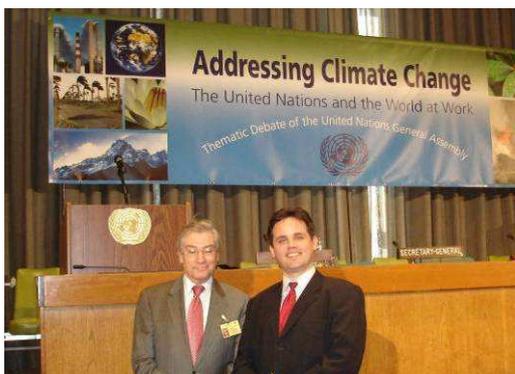
This initiative has been developed at the international conference “Global Philanthropists: Partners for a Knowledge Based Response to Climate Change” has been organised by Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office Ljubljana [www.aso.zsi.at](http://www.aso.zsi.at) and Slovenian Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology in cooperation with European Foundation Centre [www.efc.be](http://www.efc.be) and IO partners (WFUNA Millenium Project, Slovenian UNESCO commission, etc.) in Portorož/Portorose (Slovenia) in June 2008 – during EU presidency of the Republic of Slovenia. The basic idea behind this conference has been to convene representatives of philanthropic organisations/foundations, national governments, International organisations, scientists, climate change experts and civil society from all around the world to jointly explore the potentials and appropriate avenues for mobilising the philanthropic sector for a coherent global (knowledge based) response to climate change (the Final document of the conference can be found at [www.glocha.info/Final%20Document%20-%20Portoroz%20Conference.pdf](http://www.glocha.info/Final%20Document%20-%20Portoroz%20Conference.pdf) ).

*Thematic debate at UN General Assembly on “Global Community Building/Promotion of Global Identity/Citizenship As a Means to Enhanced Effectiveness of the UN System”*

(see [www.glocha.info/iaaiindex.htm](http://www.glocha.info/iaaiindex.htm) for details)

## Background of the GloCha Initiative and Reference projects:

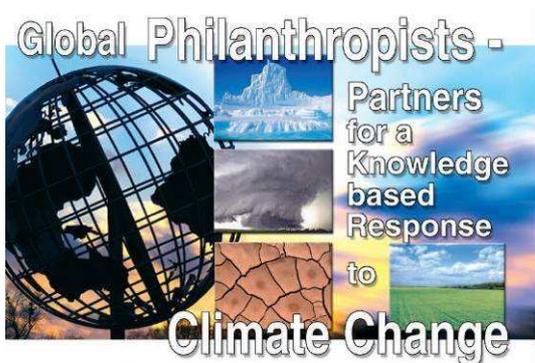
The author of “The GloCha system”, Mr. Miroslav Polzer is in his main job working in the field of promotion of international scientific cooperation as head of Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office Ljubljana [www.aso.zsi.at](http://www.aso.zsi.at) ; Mr. Polzer has developed the GloCha proposal in his capacity as secretary general of “International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges IAAI” which is a not-for profit private association based in Vienna, established in April 2007 in Bled/Slovenia at “Bled Forum on Europe Foresight conference 2007” [www.bled-forum.org](http://www.bled-forum.org); president of IAAI is Mr, Jerome C. Glenn, director of Millennium Futures Studies Project of World Federation of UN Associations WFUNA [www.millennium-project.org/](http://www.millennium-project.org/)



Jerome C. Glenn (left) & Miroslav Polzer (right) at United Nations General Assembly Thematic debate on Climate Change, New York February 11 2008



Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office ASO Ljubljana has been partner of The Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) [www.acuns.org](http://www.acuns.org) and the American Society of International Law (ASIL) [www.asil.org](http://www.asil.org), in organizing the eighteenth ACUNS-ASIL Summer Workshop on International Organization Studies; the topic has been “Building the Knowledge Base for Global Governance” <http://www.aso.zsi.at/sl/veranstaltung/2995.html> Mr. Polzer has been academic co-director of the summer workshop



In June 2008 – during EU presidency of the Republic of Slovenia – Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office Ljubljana organized in Portorož/Portorose (Slovenia) an international conference on “Global Philanthropists: Partners for a Knowledge Based Response to Climate Change” [www.glocha.info](http://www.glocha.info) (coorganizers: Slovenian Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, European Foundation Centre [www.efc.be](http://www.efc.be) and partners (WFUNA Millennium Project, Slovenian UNESCO commission, etc.).

The Final Document as well as presentations and videos of the Conference can be found at [www.glocha.info](http://www.glocha.info)

**ORGANISERS:**  
 Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS)  
 Diplomatic Academy of Vienna  
 Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office (ASO) Ljubljana  
 Central and Eastern European International Studies Association CEEISA

**IN COOPERATION WITH:**  
 United Nations Association of Austria (UNA-Austria)  
 Academic Forum on Foreign Affairs, Vienna (AFA)  
 Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations Office Vienna  
 International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis IIASA Laxenburg  
 Austrian Institute for International Affairs (OIIA)  
 Austrian National Commission for UNESCO  
 United Nations Information Service, Vienna (UNIS)  
 European Training Center for Human Rights, Graz  
 United Nations Studies Association  
 University of Graz Institute of International Law  
 University of Vienna, Institutes of Criminal Law and International Law  
 World Federation of United Nations Associations  
 Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPCR)  
 Webster University Vienna

**“CAN UNITED NATIONS BE TAUGHT?”**

*A Central, East and Southeast European Regional Colloquium on Innovative Techniques for Teaching about the United Nations System*

**22 November 2008**  
 11:00 - 17:00

**Vienna - Austria**




November 22nd 2008 Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office Ljubljana has been coorganizer of the event »Can United Nations be Taught? A Central, East and Southeast European Regional Colloquium on Innovative Techniques for Teaching about the UN System«, at Diplomatic Academy in Vienna <http://www.aso.zsi.at/sl/veranstaltung/3038.html>



UN Assistant Secretary General for Policy Coordination Mr. Thomas Stelzer (2nd from right) has been the keynote speaker



In spring 2006 dr. Polzer has been author and coordinator of the EU project proposal “Global Research Initiative for the Achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals” in cooperation with UNESCO, The Academy of Science for the Developing World, Trieste, African Academy of Sciences, etc.

## References

<sup>1</sup>The use of the term „wo&menkind“ is proposed instead of „mankind“ in order to raise public awareness of the necessity for innovative and inclusive approaches to civil society participation in global governance which utilise in a nondiscriminatory way the knowledge, work and passion of all global citizens no matter who or where they are. A google search of the term „wo&menkind“ carried out on April 9th 2009 has shown that this term doesn't exist yet on internet, so it can be regarded a „social innovation“.

<sup>2</sup>The term „Copernican turn“ (a formulation coined by Immanuel Kant in connection with Copernicus' scientifically based rejection of the geocentric model of the universe and introduction of the heliocentric one) refers to a paradigm shift, a shift in perspective that questions or even rejects a widespread assumption about reality with the new perspective opening up new avenues for analysis, comprehension and shaping of our world.

<sup>3</sup>Scott S. Wiltermuth and Chip Heath, Synchrony and Cooperation; in: Psychological science, Volume 20—Number 1, 2009, p 1 ff