

**15th Annual International Sustainable Development Research Conference  
July 5-8, 2009**

***"Taking up the Global Challenge: Analysing the implementation of  
innovations and governance for Sustainable Development"***

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**Track nr 1D:** *Analysis of Values, Religions and Spirituality in relation to  
Sustainable Development*

**Track chair:** Dr. Yamini Narayanan (Murdoch University, Australia)

*"Values, or the application of spiritual principles, have been the missing ingredient in most past approaches to sustainable development. Grand declarations and detailed action plans, even when approved by all the governments, do not go far if people are not motivated to implement them in their own lives, and if institutions are not made responsible to carry them out. The exciting thing about addressing sustainability at the level of values is the potential to create self-generating human systems building a more sustainable and thus ever-advancing civilization."* (International Environment Forum, 2001)

The Brundtland Commission created a decisive shift in viewing the notion of development as *sustainable*, i.e., a model of development that would serve the interests and welfare of both the present and the future generations of the planet's citizens, by making prudent use of the available natural resources. However, visionary while this perspective was, it retained much of the character of the earlier models of development, expressed most clearly in its largely scientific and secularist nature. However, the Brundtland call is arguably as much to human values, morality and spirit, as it is to human rationality, for it fundamentally depends on self-conscious and self-aware individuals and societies to exercise values such as restraint, sustainability, justice and cooperation.

Papers are invited for this track to assist with three main agendas – firstly, to explore and clarify the conceptual associations between the two complex notions of sustainability and spirituality/religion, and secondly, papers that are empirically grounded and illustrative of cases where such conceptual connections have been made in a pragmatic manner, where meaningful sustainable development and spirituality/faith form an inseparable grounding union. Lastly, the track also wishes to explore instances of 'dark or conflicted spirituality', or where spirituality has been perverted to cause corruption, venality, greed and other forms of vice that are major impediments to sustainability, and explore a solutions-based approach to this issue.

**References:**

International Environment Forum. (2001). Knowledge, Values and Education for Sustainable Development. *Input to the World Summit on Sustainable Development Preparatory Process From the 5th Conference of the International Environment Forum*  
Retrieved 12 August, 2006, from <http://www.bcca.org/ief/wssdpc2.htm>

Please look at the detailed instructions and deadlines for submitting your abstract and paper, using the [Submission & guidelines](#) button at the left side.