

# Sustainability Summer Institute

**ETHsustainability**  
(Center for Sustainability at ETH Zurich)

A Founding Partner of the Alliance for Global  
Sustainability (AGS)

With local partners:

**INCAE** and **CATIE**

presents

## Youth Encounter on Sustainability YES Latin America

Costa Rica, Central America



**ETH** sustainability

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

**INCAE**  
BUSINESS SCHOOL

Leadership for Sustainable Development

**CATIE**

The Challenge of a Sustainable World

Living for 10 Billion People

A two week course for upper level undergraduate  
and graduate students from all disciplines

### The Sustainability Challenge

Planet Earth is facing a severe global crisis. Economic and social development is putting an unbearable strain on our natural environment and culture.

Can young people begin to move our society towards the ideals of justice, equity and sustainability?

Our goal is that after you participate in YES you will be able to say:

YES, we can, YES we will, YES, we MUST!

### The Vision for Our Future

In June 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development adopted “Agenda 21”, calling for all nations to “develop and put into effect their own national strategies, plans and policies for sustainable development, and to be prepared to deal with the common challenges facing human kind”. The tenth year anniversary of the Rio Conference was marked by the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Rio Conventions, signed by 150 countries, and other such global initiatives, were supposed to help us chart a course for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The reality is that workable solutions to the environmental, social and economic imbalances in our world are yet to be devised and global conversations about sustainable development continue to wrestle with how to put these visions into action.

YES is inspired by a set of questions arising from the gap between the principles in Agenda 21 and the potential for putting these into action in the 21<sup>st</sup> century:



- What do the individuals pursuing careers, raising families, and leading lives in the 21<sup>st</sup> century have to say about issues of sustainable development?
- What are the views, concerns and fresh approaches of tomorrow’s leaders to these problems?
- How realistic are the Agenda 21 principles and how can we reach these goals?
- What progress has been made in making sustainable development a reality and what remains to be done?

Young people of today constitute an important group, the cradle of tomorrow’s leaders and thinkers, whose decisions will have a growing influence on markets and styles of living. YES brings together such young leaders from all around the world to explore the challenges of sustainable development and the state-of-the-art research developed to address them. They explore economic, social and technical complexities in meeting the sustainability challenge and gain better understanding of the need for multi-disciplinary perspectives for problem solving.

### Origins of the Summer Institute – YES Braunwald

To develop the leadership capacity for a viable future, the *ETH*sustainability, founding partner of the Alliance for Global Sustainability (AGS), created in 2000 the course concept for the “Youth Encounter on Sustainability-YES”. The course is held bi-annually in Braunwald, Switzerland. Now in its 6<sup>th</sup> year the program has attracted a highly diverse group of students to discuss global challenges and opportunities for sustainable development. To date, more than 400 students from over 71 countries have been trained in the YES course and form the core of the strong and active network of alumni students.

Building on the resounding success of the YES courses in Switzerland, the *ETH*sustainability, along with local partners INCAE and CATIE are pleased to announce the expansion of the concept to Latin America through the **YES Latin America** program.



## Youth Encounter on Sustainability – YES Latin America

### YES Latin America

The YES Latin America course will be held in Costa Rica and, building on the framework developed for the course in Switzerland, aims to explore the challenges of sustainable development in Latin America among a multicultural, multidisciplinary group of students. The focus will be on the issues pertinent to the Latin American region, while keeping a global context.

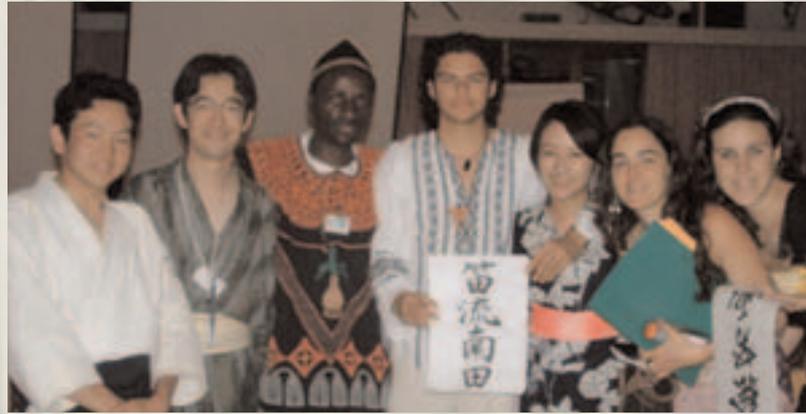
Latin America is a region rich in natural and cultural diversity, yet faces a large number of socio-economic, political, cultural and environmental challenges. How can the continent develop towards social equity and prosperity while preserving this unique natural environment and cultural heritage?

The two week course will incorporate one week based at INCAE, Latin America's top business school, in Alajuela, and one week at CATIE, a leading tropical agriculture research and higher education centre, based in Turrialba. The unique location of each of the institutions in Costa Rica provides the perfect setting for a unique sustainable living experience. Costa Rica is world renowned for its sustainable tourism industry, management of natural areas and long history of peace, allowing us to learn, study and interact with one another in an optimal environment.

### Elements of YES Latin America

The two-week program incorporates academic coursework with field experience and training, along with cultural and social activities in one of the world's great natural settings. Students will participate in:

- Discussions on the role of science, industry and public institutions in moving societies toward sustainable development
- A "values and responsibilities" component, which brings the global community of students together to discuss the role of individual behavior and ethics in promoting sustainable development
- Lectures and workshops on the environment and sustainable development including topics of Agenda 21
- A unique opportunity for close collaboration with an international multicultural and multidisciplinary group of peers in small working groups on specific projects
- Field experiences in the form of excursions unique to the Costa Rican location, learning from the approaches to address sustainability challenges in these locations
- Trust building activities among the participants
- Optional outdoor activities and excursions
- The opportunity to offer feedback and suggestions with regards of future YES course planning
- An in-depth investigation into key issues in the sustainability debate
- A focus on the priorities for the Latin American region within the global context of sustainability



### Outcomes for Participants

- Enhance your understanding of the principles of sustainability in a dynamic world, across geographic and disciplinary boundaries, particularly in the Latin American context
- Promote your awareness of cutting-edge research on issues global sustainability
- Provide you with methodological, system thinking, and fresh approaches to address sustainability challenges
- Develop your interdisciplinary, intercultural, and leadership competences
- Stimulate your creative thinking about local, regional, and global issues on sustainable development so that you become catalysts to overcome these problems
- Involvement in the YES alumni group and associated communication platforms, a strong international network of over 400 young scholars and professionals from more than 71 countries, committed to applying the principles they learn and share at YES to their careers.

• Unique cultural and social activities



## Youth Encounter on Sustainability – YES Latin America

### Feedback from students at YES Braunwald 2004:

“YES provides an extraordinary opportunity for young people from all over the world to come together; to learn from one another and to set the stage for a better world. It has shown us that we really are a global community and that the way to a healthier planet is to get people communicating more closely”.

“The YES experience generated a sense that I am capable of making change”

“The best educational experience I have had - the fact that there were so many different countries represented made the whole experience priceless”

“An inspiring experience that offered real tools and varying perspectives to take home”

“YES gave me direction, connections and valuable resources for my future career”

“YES is very unique...so many elements, interesting topics, surroundings, different people from all over, with different views. This makes such a strong impact, it is great while you are there, and I realize even more what an amazing trip it was after getting back home”

### The partners

YES Latin America is proudly hosted by:

**ETHsustainability**, Switzerland ([www.sustainability.ethz.ch](http://www.sustainability.ethz.ch))

**INCAE**, Costa Rica ([www.incae.ac.cr](http://www.incae.ac.cr))

**CATIE**, Costa Rica ([www.catie.ac.cr](http://www.catie.ac.cr))

**ETHsustainability** provides a platform to intensify the endeavors of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich in the field of sustainable development and focuses in the areas of dialogue, services and education on sustainability. ETHsustainability is a founding mem-

ber of the Alliance for Global Sustainability (AGS), an international partnership created in 1997 between the ETH-Zürich, MIT, the University of Tokyo and Chalmers University of Technology. The AGS brings together hundreds of university scientists, engineers, and social scientists to address the complex issues that lie at the intersection of environmental, economic and social goals.

Read more about the AGS at:

[www.globalsustainability.org](http://www.globalsustainability.org)

**INCAE**, the leading business school in Latin America, is a private, non profit, multinational institution dedicated to education and research in the areas of management, applied economics and sustainable development. INCAE is the home of the Latin American Center for Competitiveness and Sustainable Development (CLACDS) which supports leaders in the private, public and civil sector to implement changes towards sustainable development.

The Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (**CATIE**) is a leading regional institution for academic excellence, technical cooperation and research in the field of agriculture and natural resource management. The Center has international recognition for its dedication to improve the standard of living of rural families in the American tropics through promoting competitive and sustainable agriculture and natural resource management, while embracing a holistic vision of human activity and its environment.

*Faculty for the course will be drawn from each of the partner institutions and from AGS member institutions.*

### Application Details and Further Information

Please mail, fax or email the enclosed application form and requested attachments to the address provided on the enclosed form. Alternatively, you may apply online at: [www.sustainability.ethz.ch](http://www.sustainability.ethz.ch)

**COME AND JOIN US FOR A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE IN SUSTAINABLE LEARNING AND LIVING IN BEAUTIFUL COSTA RICA!**



CATIE campus, Turrialba



INCAE campus, Alajuela

## Youth Encounter on Sustainability – YES Latin America 2005

**Course Dates:** September 17<sup>th</sup> – October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2005  
**Location:** INCAE (Alajuela) and CATIE (Turrialba), Costa Rica

### **Participation**

The YES Latin America program is aimed at upper-level undergraduate and graduate students from all areas of study. Approximately 40 places are now available to applicants, half of these places are open to students from the Latin American region and half are open to international applicants. The course will be held principally in English, with some optional activities and discussions in Spanish.

- Good English-speaking skills
- A working knowledge of Spanish and a demonstrated interest in the region will be an advantage to international applicants
- Interest in questions of sustainable development and environmental management
- Willingness to actively participate in all group work, discussions, and presentations
- Respect for fellow participants in a multi-cultural environment
- Sufficient preparation beforehand which includes reviewing pre-reading materials, completing possible web-based assignments, and sharing results in group discussions
- Participation in follow-up activities such as status reports and potential group projects

### **Costs and Services**

The partner institutions and sponsors financially support the course. To encourage solidarity, all participants are asked to pay **USD 1,000** regardless of country of origin, which covers:

- Transportation to and from your country of residence
- All local transportation to and from the airport and for excursions
- Full board, meals and accommodation for the duration of the course
- All documents and materials
- Field trips and activities

Participants are fully responsible for their own health and travel insurance and visa expenses.

**Application Deadline:** April 30<sup>th</sup> 2005

Please fax, mail or email the application form (see reverse) and requested documents to:

Mail: Attn. Michelle Grant  
ETHsustainability  
Center for Sustainability at ETH Zurich  
Bolleystrasse 9, CH-8006  
Zürich, Switzerland

Email: [michelle.grant@sl.ethz.ch](mailto:michelle.grant@sl.ethz.ch)

Fax: +41-44-632-1597 Phone: +41-44-632-5898

Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

For further information contact **Michelle Grant** at ETHsustainability on the information above.

## Youth Encounter on Sustainability – YES Latin America 2005

### Application Form:

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Given Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sex :            Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_  
Country of Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Country of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
School/University: \_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty/Department: \_\_\_\_\_  
University Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
School year (e.g. Undergrad, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, Masters, PhD., etc) \_\_\_\_\_  
Private address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax number: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Major or Discipline of study: \_\_\_\_\_  
Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Personal References:

Reference 1      Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
                     Relationship to applicant: \_\_\_\_\_  
                     Contact information: \_\_\_\_\_  
                     (Incl. email) \_\_\_\_\_  
                     \_\_\_\_\_

Reference 2      Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
                     Relationship to applicant: \_\_\_\_\_  
                     Contact information: \_\_\_\_\_  
                     (Incl. email) \_\_\_\_\_  
                     \_\_\_\_\_

### Please Enclose:

- a one page essay (not more than 400 words, in English) explaining your intentions to participate in the YES program and why would you be an ideal person to take the lead in the sustainability debate
- your CV (resume)