



Building the Future We Want

The Report of the Pyramid 2012 Campaign

Submitted to the Rio+20 Secretariat

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Executive Summary

What will it take to “build the future we want”? For the dream of sustainable development to become reality, people have to make it happen. They also have to...

- Work together across boundaries of discipline, culture, and interest;
- Think systemically and explore the real root causes of problems;
- Participate in generating ideas and making recommendations to decision-makers;
- Come to a consensus on priorities so that they can take action together;

...and much more besides. Pyramid 2012 — the volunteer-driven “global workshop” campaign described in this report — was designed to demonstrate that all of these tasks can be accomplished, at the same time, through a relatively simple group process.

At the heart of the campaign is a physical model of a Pyramid, which groups build during a workshop. This model is a reflection of the group’s learning, thinking, and planning process around a sustainability topic. The Pyramid supports and documents a collaborative effort to build understanding, and to generate ideas for systemic change.

During the period February-April, 2012, dozens of diverse groups around the world built Pyramids and did Pyramid workshops to generate input to the Rio+20 global summit on sustainable development ... or to create local sustainability action projects... or both.

This report tells their story, and conveys a collective message to the world: a sustainable world is possible, thanks to the aggregate power of many small groups tackling issues locally, at a level that is manageable. Sustainability is not about a cure-all global solution, but about many small actions that, when combined, will amount to a transformation in our world. We can have “the future we want”... if we build it together.



Photo by Zaina Ahmed, a student at International School Manila, the Philippines

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Pyramid 2012 by the numbers:

65 completed & confirmed workshops around the world

With over 1,000 participants

In at least 20 countries

On 5 continents

Resulting in at least 8 direct action projects ... and dozens of policy proposals and ideas

Introduction

"Pyramid 2012" was a volunteer campaign in support of the Rio+20 global conference on sustainable development. The purpose of Pyramid 2012 was to raise awareness about the Rio+20 conference, and to create a pilot demonstration, at the global scale, of a new, self-replicating method for engaging people in sustainability learning and action.

The campaign was organized around a simplified version of the sustainability workshop known as "Pyramid" (more formally, "Building the Pyramid," a workshop developed by the AtKisson Group). Pyramid workshops have been used in official sustainability planning sessions, professional training events, and formal education programs around the world, for over a decade. Pyramid takes groups through a step-by-step process of collaborative learning and planning. It is especially well suited to groups that are very diverse, including professional groups that are inter-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder. But Pyramid is also used by educational programs in high schools, universities, and professional training programs.

The focus of a Pyramid workshop can be anything from national sustainability policy to local sustainability planning, and everything in between. The topic addressed by the process can be very specific (such as finding ways to secure sustainable water supplies for subsistence farmers), or very general (such as an exploration of climate change impacts and adaptation measures). The results of a Pyramid workshop include a deeper, shared understanding of what sustainability means in that context, as well as a consensus on prioritized sustainability actions.

Pyramid workshops also involve the building of a physical Pyramid model, which grows taller, level by level, during the workshop process. The

Pyramid model is a three-dimensional reflection of the group's learning and discussion process. Pyramid models are often kept and put on display, as a reminder of the insights, ideas, and commitments that were produced by the workshop.

Building Pyramids for "The Future we Want"

For this campaign, the AtKisson Group, created a shorter, simpler, and self-facilitated version called "Pyramid Lite." We made Pyramid Lite freely available on the Internet, and created a campaign website (www.Pyramid2012.net). The Pyramid 2012 campaign encouraged groups of all kinds, all around the world, to download the Pyramid Lite manual and supporting materials, run workshops, and report the results.

This report summarizes those results, and presents Pyramid 2012 to the United Nations community and to the world, as a supporting contribution to the dialogues at Rio+20. Pyramid 2012 is also an example of just how rapidly sustainability ideas can grow, from concept to implementation, and even to self-replication. We hope this report will inspire others to do their own Pyramid workshops using Pyramid Lite, and to take more and more action to make sustainable development an integrated part of normal life, everywhere.

The Pyramid 2012 campaign and report is offered to the organizers of Rio+20, to the participating delegations (both from national governments and from civil society), and to interested, engaged, and caring people everywhere, as evidence that sustainable development is continuing to spread, and that the vision of a sustainable world is continuing to inspire action to build "The Future We Want."

Background

Pyramid 2012 engaged people from every age group and every walk of life, but the official kick-off was at an international education conference in Manila, in the Philippines, on February 17, 2012. At the "Global Issues Network 2012" conference, 400 high school students from international schools throughout East Asia were divided into 20 simultaneous, parallel Pyramid workshops. The "GIN Manila" students explored a wide range of global problems and developed their own ideas for sustainable solutions and action programs.

The GIN Manila conference¹ was the official starting signal for the global Pyramid 2012 campaign, and groups around the world then began meeting and building their own Pyramids, focused on topics that ranged from city transportation planning, to climate change adaptation, to strengthening small scale rural agriculture. The campaign officially closed on March 31, 2012, to allow time to prepare and submit this report; but groups continued to plan workshops long after the official closing date.

As this report goes to press, the outcomes of *27 Pyramid workshops have been formally reported* in 20 countries. These do not include the *20 Pyramid workshops* organized at GIN Manila. In addition, there are reports of *18 other Pyramid workshops* that have been carried out across Asia, but the results are yet to come in. As Pyramid workshops are continuing to proliferate, the organizers are considering a significant expansion and extension of the program.

Results of the workshops are reported in these pages, and their variety is a wonderful example of sustainable development in practice. A sustainable city program in Germany, national water officials in Botswana, architecture students in Bangladesh, rural farmers in Colombia... these are just a small sample of the diversity of the groups who participated — and who are still participating — in Pyramid 2012.

These groups that gather to "build a Pyramid for sustainable development," and the many hundreds of individual people participating in the Pyramid workshops, generate not just new levels of understanding of sustainability issues, and not only new ideas about how to address them. They also make new commitments, on the part of many participant groups, to turn those ideas into action projects.



Alan AtKisson delivering the keynote address at the GIN Manila conference, where the Pyramid 2012 Campaign was launched

A sustainable city program in Germany, national water officials in Botswana, architecture students in Bangladesh, rural farmers in Colombia ... these are just a small sample of the diversity of the groups who participated — and who are still participating — in Pyramid 2012.

¹ "GIN Manila" was sponsored by the East Asian Regional Council of Schools. The Pyramid 2012 campaign owes a great debt of gratitude to conference coordinator Tom Mclean and the students of International School Manila, who organized and hosted GIN Manila. Their decision to adopt Pyramid as the core of the conference program was the trigger for launching Pyramid 2012 more broadly. See the Appendix for more information.

How Pyramid Works

A Pyramid Lite workshop begins with the identification of a *Central Challenge* related to sustainable development. This Central Challenge can be an issue that is local or global, while the goal of the process can range from the very specific (such as finding ways to secure water for subsistence farmers) to the more general (such as an exploration of climate change impacts and adaptation measures).

Once the workshop organizers or the workshop group have identified a Central Challenge to focus on, the Pyramid building and discussion process begins. This includes the step-by-step building of a physical Pyramid model. The Pyramid has four sides, each corresponding to a point of what is called the *Sustainability Compass*: N for Nature, S for Society, E for Economy and W for Well-being. In addition, the workshop happens in five stages, or "Levels," out of which the first four are questions.

Level 1: What is happening?

What are the trends, events, observations associated with this Central Challenge? For each of the four *Compass Points* (Nature, Society, Economy, Well-being), the participants think about and capture the most important trends and issues related to their Central Challenge. These are written down on small pieces of note paper and attached to Level 1 of the Pyramid.

Level 2: Why is it happening?

Using their collection of trends and observations as a starting point, groups begin thinking about what is *causing* that Central Challenge to be a problem. Some of the factors they have identified may be helping to cause it, or they may be effects. Groups keep asking "Why?" until they feel they have gotten closer to the root of the problem, and they have a good list of "Reasons Why" the problem is happening. The "Reasons Why" are summarized in small notes and attached to Level 2 of the Pyramid model.

Level 3: What can we do?

Starting from their list of "Reasons Why," groups brainstorm ideas for projects, programs, policies, new technologies, and other innovations and changes that they believe could have a real, positive impact on the Central Challenge. Each person presents her/his best idea, and these ideas are posted on the Pyramid model. Then groups use a simple voting technique to choose the idea or ideas they think are the best ones – the ones most likely to make a real and effective impact. The ideas that get the most support from the group advance to the next Level.

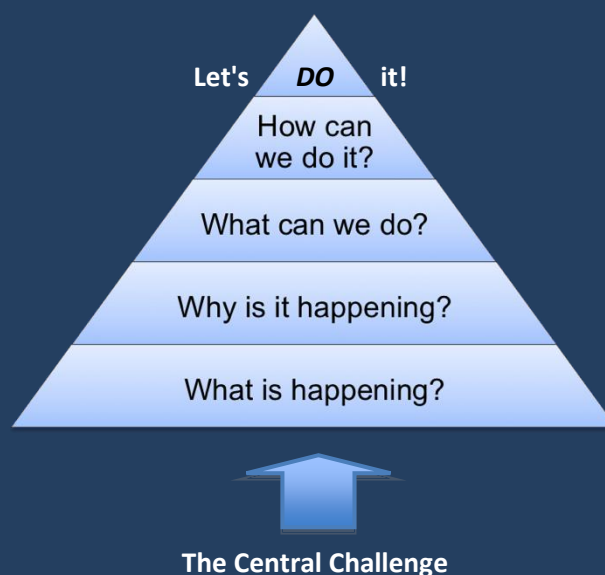
Level 4: How can we do it?

Now the group makes a plan to put the best idea, or ideas, into action. They list out the resources they would need, the people who would do the work, the necessary timeline for getting things done. For groups that are using Pyramid for *learning*, Level 4 helps them understand what it takes to implement an idea. For groups that are *planning initiatives*, this is where the workshop becomes very practical. Key elements of the action plan are recorded again on small pieces of paper, as a record of the group's strategic thinking on implementation.

Level 5: Let's do it!

The top of a pyramid is called a "capstone," and so the top of the Pyramid in a Pyramid workshop is called the *Capstone Agreement*. This is where groups come to consensus on what they actually intend to do, as a result of the workshop. They record their agreement on a notecard, and attach it to the Capstone. Then they symbolically place the Capstone, with their Capstone Agreement, on the top of the Pyramid. This step officially ends the workshop ... and starts the process of implementing their agreement to take action.

The Five Levels of the Pyramid



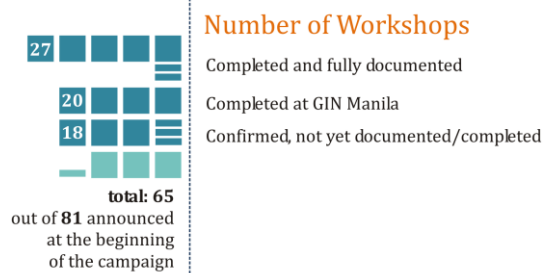
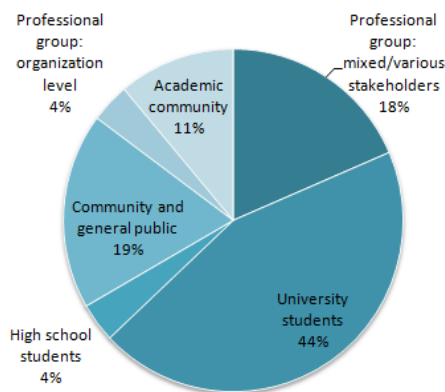
Facts & Figures

Who participated?

The invitation to participate in Pyramid 2012 was sent out through a variety of networks focused on sustainable development, including the Balaton Group, the Commission on Environmental Education of the IUCN, graduates of training programs sponsored by Swedish SIDA and the International Society of Sustainability Professionals, and participants in the workshops run by the AtKisson Group's training program, the ISIS Academy (www.ISISAcademy.com).

Many of those who volunteered to lead a Pyramid 2012 event in their area had been through a Pyramid workshop previously, but not all: quite a number of workshops were led by people who saw or heard the announcement, read the manual, and decided to try this new technique, without any previous experience.

Types of Groups²



² The percentages shown in this graph are calculated based on the number of fully documented workshops

What was discussed?



While many of the groups who ran Pyramid 2012 workshops were using the experience primarily as a learning tool, a number of groups used the opportunity to create action plans, and commitments to implement them.

The results of Pyramid 2012 included:

- *In Washington DC:* writing a proposal for a thesis competition for optimizing DC public transit
- *In Zimbabwe:* cleaning up the college and implementing a “clean plate” campaign aiming at improved food preparation and sustainable consumption
- *In Gdansk, Poland:* creating a bicycle parking on campus
- *In Jakarta, Indonesia:* developing a web-based community where citizens can learn and exchange information about sustainability issues in their country
- *In Cracow, Poland:* submitting ideas for improving the campus to the University Rector
- *In Hofheim, Germany:* make a proposal to adopt such workshops as part of an integrated process for advancing solutions to sustainability problems with the Local Agenda 21
- *In Colombia:* taking actions to develop an Integrated peasant water management scheme
- *In Bangkok, Thailand:* setting up monthly meetings to design and execute a hands-on project that will have a material impact and increase awareness of the importance of water resource management locally, regionally, and globally
- *In New Delhi:* building an online community group to create awareness and collectively look for solutions to the hunger problem (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wehungry/>)
- *In Charlotteville, Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago:* attempting to set in place a Turtle festival and to look for opportunities for making a documentary about endangered sea turtles
- *In Zittau, Germany:* improving the sustainability performance of an industrial plant of washing and cleaning detergents by implementing ... a brilliant sustainability idea combining production of the detergent, packing, transport and recycling issues
- *In Philippines:* implementing the draft framework for effective Coordination and Action on sustainable development for northern Mindanao between NorthMin RCE-ESD and its community and governmental stakeholder partners

The Workshops

Here we present a photo collage that shows the extraordinary diversity of the Pyramid 2012 campaign workshops. In the appendix to this report, we also present short summaries of those workshops that were formally reported to us in detail. For more information about all the workshops we know about, more photographs, and even some short videos, please visit the official Pyramid 2012 campaign website: <http://Pyramid2012.net>



Washington DC, USA



Uppsala, Sweden



Harare, Zimbabwe



Moscow, Russia



Warsaw, Poland



New Delhi, India



Cuernavaca, Colombia



Bangkok, Thailand



Reykjavik, Iceland

Overview of Documented Workshops

Country/ City	Location	Organizer	No. of part.	Profile of participants	Profile Category	Central Challenge	Theme	Outcome Cluster
Bangladesh, Dhaka	School of Architecture, American International University, Bangladesh	Anika Nasra Haque & Saimum Kabir	44	Students	Students: university	Urban Water Logging	Mobility and Urban Development	Recommendations
Botswana	Stockholm International Water Institute & Department of Water Affairs of Botswana	Alan AtKisson & Ana Cascao	18	Water officials in the country	Professional group: mixed/ various stakeholders	Water scarcity	Water	Recommendations
Colombia, Padilla, La Holanda (village)		Julia Andrea Osorio Henao	12	Farmers, NGO representatives, local community members	Community and general public	Integrated Peasant Water Management	Water	Proposal to relevant decision makers
Colombia, Tuluá, Venteade ros (village)		Julia Andrea Osorio Henao	15	Farmers ASOAGROS, other stakeholders	Community and general public	Integrated Peasant Water Management for adaptation to face climate change	Water	Proposal to relevant decision makers
Germany, Hofheim	Public event	Axel Klimek	35	Mayor of Hofheim, Local Agenda 21, general public	Professional group: mixed/ various stakeholders	Sustainable future Hofheim	Sustainable Future	Proposal to relevant decision makers
Germany, Zittau	University of Applied Sciences Zittau/Goerlitz	Markus Will	12	Bachelor students	Students: university	Enhancing the sustainability performance of an industrial plant of washing and cleaning detergents	Waste and Greening Production Chains	Proposal to relevant decision makers
Hungary, Budapest	Central European University	Laszlo Pinter	20	Master students and university staff	Students: university	Global biodiversity crisis	Biodiversity and Nature Conservation	Recommendations; Attitude
Iceland, Reykjavik	University of Iceland	Kristín Vala Ragnars- dóttir		International Masters degree program	Students: university	Global sustainability challenges	Sustainable Future	Recommendations
India, New Delhi (x2)	Gene Campaign	Anshuman Sharma and Vidya Kishna- murthi	15 + 7	College students New Delhi area	Students: university	Sustainable Solutions to the problem of Hunger	Hunger, Poverty, Human Well-being	Project
Indonesia , Jakarta		Maria Dian Nurani	7	Staff of a sustainability management consultancy firm	Professional group: organization level	The sustainability issues in national context	Sustainable Future	Project
Ireland, Limerick	Limerick Institute of Technology	Clifford Guest	24	BA and BSc students	Students: university	Human well-being	Hunger, Poverty, Human Well-being	Recommendations
Philippines, Northern Mindanao	Xavier University, Regional Center of Expertise (RCE) for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) by the United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies in 2008	Robert Steele	30	Academia, government agencies,	Professional group: mixed/ various stakeholders	Explore concept and practice of sustainability and sustainable development and the challenges, roles and responsibilities for Northern Mindanao RCE-ESD	Sustainable Future	Proposal to relevant decision makers
Poland, Cracow	AGH University of Science and Technology in Cracow	Adrian Strzalkowski	12	Students and lecturers	Academic community (mixed)	Improving the AGH University of Science and Technology and its campus in accordance with the principles of sustainable development	Sustainable Future	Proposal to relevant decision makers
Poland, Gdańsk	Department of Architecture and Urban Planning, Gdańsk University of Technology	Joanna Danilewicz	16	Master students	Students: university	Campus of Gdansk University of Technology – our backyard.	Strategy for Organizations	Project

Country/ City	Location	Organizer	No. of part.	Profile of participants	Profile Category	Central Challenge	Theme	Outcome Cluster
Poland, Łódź	Faculty of Management and Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection.	Agata Rudnicka	30	Students	Students: university	Piramida2012 – Think globally, Act locally – what we can do together for sustainable development of Lodz	Sustainable Future	Proposal to relevant decision makers
Poland, Srem	Local secondary school	Joanna Klak and Anna Gust	65	Students 17-19 years old	Students: high school	Global climate change	Energy and Climate	Recommendations
Poland, Warsaw		Joanna Krawczyk	12	Arhitects, sustainability experts, IT professionals etc.	Professional group: mixed/ various stakeholders	To develop strategy of sustainable development for small architecture studio	Strategy for Organiza-tions	Recommendations
Russia, Moscow	D. Mendeleyev University of Chemical Technology of Russia	Stanislav Vavilov	9	Students	Students: university	Exhaustion of nonrenewable resources	Energy and Climate	Proposal to relevant decision makers
Senegal, Thies		Jean-François Fillaut	20	Stakeholders: government, civil society, academia,recyclers	Professional group: mixed/ various stakeholders	Waste management in African cities	Waste and Greening Production Chains	Attitude
Sweden, Uppsala	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala	Per Berg, Alan AtKisson	40	Master students	Students: university	Advancing sustainability in Citylands, i.e. metropolitan areas and their surrounding rural zones	Mobility and Urban Development	Recommendations
Thailand, Bangkok	Private home	Dennis Walker	4	Expat professionals living in Bangkok	Community and general public	Thailand Water Resource Awareness and Management	Water	Project
Trinidad and Tobago, Tobago, Charlotteville		Adana Mahase-Gibson & Keith Gibson	7	NGO and business representatives involved in sustainable tourism	Professional group: mixed/ various stakeholders	Our central challenge for the workshop was that sea turtles are in danger in North East Tobago, on land and in the sea.	Biodiversity and Nature Conservation	Project + Attitude
United Kingdom, Cambridge	During Cambridge Climate and Sustainability Forum	Jamila Haider	12	Students, university staff, community members	Academic community (mixed)	Carbon neutral Cambridge	Energy and Climate	Proposal to relevant decision makers
United States of America, New York	Bard Center for Environmental Policy	Eban Goodstein, Roberta Fernandez	25	Master students, college staff, community members	Academic community (mixed)	Getting the NY Solar Jobs Act to pass the state legislature	Energy and Climate	Project
United States of America, Washington, DC	Public event at the library	Mark Olsthoorn	6	General public	Community and general public	Keep DC Moving! How to ensure sustainable mobility for all in the DC metropolitan area?	Mobility and Urban Development	Project
Zimbabwe, Harare	Belvedere Technical Teachers' Collegee	Tracy Madyangove, Doreen Zinhumwe, Maxwell Chigumbu	15	Students	Students: university	Hygiene and waste management	Waste and Greening Production Chains	Attitude + Project

Full reports of all these workshops can be found online: pyramid2012.net/reports

Impact and Evaluation

Pyramid 2012 launched with the goal of engaging approximately 100 groups in building Pyramids around the world in support of Rio+20. If we reached that point, we planned, we would then see if that level of interest could translate into a “viral” (self-replicating) takeoff of the concept. Achieving a level of 40 groups — that is, a doubling of the 20 groups doing Pyramids at the GIN Manila conference — was considered the minimum criterion for success.

The campaign also had the intent of making a concrete, positive impact, by causing or facilitating sustainability actions and outcomes that otherwise would not have occurred.

How well did we succeed in achieving what we set out to do?

Considering that Pyramid 2012 was run with one part-time coordinator and a marketing budget of zero, we are very happy with the results of this campaign. About 65 Pyramids in over 20 countries appear to have been built... and we have anecdotal information that there were more, but they did not all report their activities (formally or informally) because of language or communications issues. Well over a thousand people were certainly involved and affected by the campaign. And we already see signs that some self-replicating activity has started. Some people who used Pyramid 2012 as a way of testing the Pyramid workshop process have written to say that they will continue using it, and/or have signed up for workshops to learn more about systemic approaches to sustainable development.

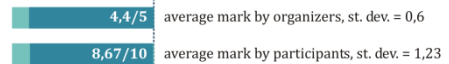
Using indicators such as the growth in our Facebook statistics, we saw signs of potential “virality” — though not enough for the campaign to reach “takeoff” by itself. Additional marketing and communication efforts, more polished promotional materials, etc. would clearly make a big difference in spreading the word.

78
62
113
348

Campaign Impact

- likes on Facebook
- followers on Twitter
- subscribers to the newsletter
- maximum reach on Facebook - March 2012

Campaign Evaluation



Learning

participants' self-evaluation (N=12)
 1=no prior knowledge; 2=little prior knowledge;
 3=somewhat familiar; 4=very familiar
 5=expert knowledge



Participant's Impressions

At least eight new projects were created as a result of Pyramid 2012 workshops, and others may result now from the recommendations and changes in attitude that some groups reported. Most important to us, it was clear that people experienced Pyramid 2012 very positively, reflected in the following sample of quotes from participants and workshop leaders:

- *"A holistic approach that can be used anywhere." (Zimbabwe)*
- *"It is an innovative approach to create new ideas to solve problems and tackle hurdles. It provides a unique approach of sustainability and makes the whole exercise fun while learning." (New Delhi, India)*
- *"For me it was very important to see how people got actively involved with their ideas, even those who could not read or write, also to see how children helped adults to express themselves and write their ideas." (Colombia)*
- *"Maybe it will be a start to some bigger action and change the mentality of young people. They will take interest in space around and realize that we can actually change something." (Gdańsk, Poland)*
- *"This workshop was very useful to me, as it opened my eyes to how similarly or differently people view global issues. The participants taught me that there are many different ways to tackle a problem, but it must be beneficial for all compass points." (Manila, Philippines)*
- *"This workshop was useful to me because I learned that sustainable approach isn't only about using less energy or water – it's also about economic policies, which can later provide the space for good societies to grow. It's also about the well being of each single person. I learned that all those factors of sustainability are strongly connected and that improvement of one part of a "pyramid's wall" cannot take place without other "walls" improving as well." (Gdańsk, Poland)*
- *"The workshop was an opportunity to reflect on "local" problems, and showed that each of us can have an influence on changes that could facilitate our students' life." (Cracow, Poland)*
- *"This was an amazing experience that I believe will lead to positive change." (Manila, Philippines)*

Keywords from Participant Evaluations



Conclusion

Over 1,000 people of all ages and from dozens of countries participated in the Pyramid 2012 campaign. They grappled with many different topics, of both global and local sustainability. They had many different opinions, ideas, and proposals. But if there is one message that emerged from all of their recommendations, insights, and project ideas, it is this:

Sustainability is the future we want.

Sustainability, for essentially all of these groups, meant solving the problems that threaten the long-term well-being of both people and planet, both where they lived, and at the global scale. But these groups also seemed to understand that sustainability does not just happen. Sustainability is the result of a lot of clear thinking, group collaboration, and hard work, over extended periods of time, through the process we call “sustainable development.”

Whether the topic was global climate change or local water security, Pyramid 2012 participants could see that in the end, *everything is connected*. Their combined message can be interpreted not just as an input to the Rio+20 summit, but as an input to a larger, and longer-term, *global dialogue*.

What does sustainability mean for us, here, now? What can we do to achieve it? How should we take action? These voices join a global *chorus of hope*, one whose sound must grow and strengthen in the coming years and decades, long after the Rio+20 summit becomes another milestone in history.

As the organizers of Pyramid 2012, we were *privileged and inspired* to see what can happen with just the *smallest amount of encouragement*, facilitation, and process support. *Groups form, ideas flow, and action follows*.

We express our *deep appreciation and thanks* for all the people who made Pyramid 2012 possible... and who are dedicated to making a sustainable future possible as well.

And we wonder: if so many groups can be inspired to convene, explore, learn, and make decisions together to advance sustainability, on a volunteer basis, facilitated by a few emails, a manual, and a website...

What would happen if we *multiplied* the Pyramid 2012 campaign — and other campaigns like it — by a factor of ten? By a hundred?

Or more?

Messages to Rio+20:

“This workshop highlighted that the students of today know that the old system is broken and in crisis. [Our students] want a sustainable world for the future and have the ideas and energy to build it!” (Ireland)

“There is a urgent need for increased social awareness and acceptance of a shift in current water use habits.” (Thailand)

“We can’t wait for some changes – they won’t occur if we don’t take some action!” (Poland)

“Who knew sea turtles were so connected [to so many other issues]? We sometimes forget that saving that nesting beach is just one part of the turtles’ story, and of ours.” (Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago)

“Love and wisdom [is the message] from Washington DC to Rio+20.” (USA)

“Sustainability is a measure of a university’s modernity.” (Poland)

Appendix: The Global Issues Network Conference 2012 (GIN Manila)

Pyramid 2012 would not have happened if the GIN Manila conference — organized by teacher Tom Mclean and a small army of students from International School Manila — had not decided to adopt the Pyramid workshop as the core of its program. Here is the information about that conference from the Pyramid 2012 website ... together with a great cheer of appreciation from all of us at Pyramid 2012.

- Location:** International School Manila, the Philippines
- Date:** February 17-19, 2012
- Photos:** <https://picasaweb.google.com/111071618932582525687/GINManila2012?authkey=Gv1sRgCMbWmv6T7aeo4gE>
- Links:** <http://earcos-global-issues-network.org/>
<http://ginmanila2012.wordpress.com>

Summary:

On the 17th of February, the global Pyramid 2012 campaign was officially launched with Alan AtKisson's keynote address at the annual conference of the Global Issues Network in Manila, the Philippines. Over 400 students worked in 20 parallel groups, using Pyramid to explore solutions to 10 global sustainability issues. GIN is a program that links together international schools and students in East Asia who are concerned with global challenges.

The workshops were facilitated by the students themselves, who had prepared intensively for the conference, including by making a set of instructional videos on the Pyramid process for participants to view in advance. The topics covered included global infectious diseases, natural disaster prevention and mitigation, biodiversity and ecosystems losses, deforestation, global warming, digital divide, education for all, fisheries depletion, international labor and migration rules, and water deficits (two workshops for each topic).



“It was a great experience that was eye-opening to other problems around the world. I believe that everybody benefited from this Global Issues Network 2012 conference.”

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