



**SEALOEarth**  
Serene Environment And Life On Earth

A world in which all people participate in the stewardship of planet Earth.

## Newsletter

### The World Flag Flies at the Global Development Village

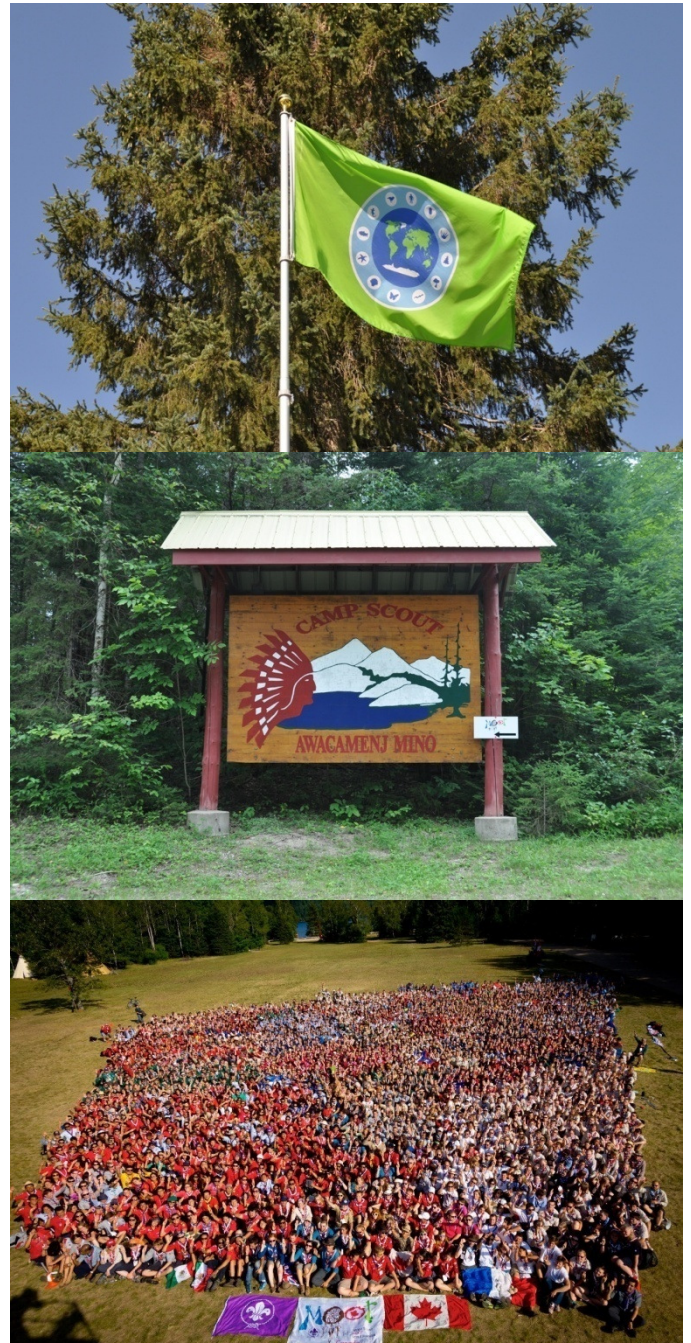
For a small organization with a grand vision, it was an honor for SEALOEarth to be invited by the World Organization of Scout Movement (WOSM), Geneva, Switzerland, for the Moot Canada 2013.

The 14th World Scout Moot Canada was an 11-day event that took place for the first time ever in North America, from August 8 to 18, 2013, and brought together 3,000 young adults, volunteers and partners from 83 countries. These young people, eager for adventure and experience, were called upon to serve as tomorrow's ambassadors in their respective communities with the leadership, resourcefulness and spirit of cooperation.

The Moot Canada 2013 base camp was located at the Awacamenj Mino outdoor center in Low, Quebec, in the Gatineau Valley, 75 km north of Ottawa. The larger gatherings, such as the opening and closing ceremonies, as well as the conferences, workshops such as the Global Development Village and outdoor activities took place in Canada's great outdoors.

*"A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step."*

*- Lao Tzu*



## Opening Ceremony in Ottawa, Canada

The Moot Canada 2013 program highlighted Canada's modern and traditional aspects.

The Native American or the First Nation cultures are rich in traditions that are deeply rooted in wisdom and significance. The dream catcher is the most fascinating of them all. It is as simple as a hoop of willow which has a woven web on the inside and is decorated with simple objects such as feathers and beads on the outside. It is believed that the night air is filled with dreams that are good and bad. The dream catcher has the power to trap the bad dreams in the web and pass only the good dreams through it.

SEALOEarth strongly believes that the dream catcher will pass through the dream of uniting not only the people around the world but the entire spectrum of life for a better future of our unique and beautiful planet Earth.

The opening ceremony was in two parts. In the morning, all moot participants assembled at the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa. In the evening, there was a traditional ceremony with the parade of nation on the lake at Awacamenj Mino.



## The Global Development Village

The GDV was the central element in the Moot program. It gave participants the opportunity to meet NGOs, IGOs and different foundations and UN agencies through workshops and interactions around the issues that mean the most to them.

With partners such as SEALOEarth, the objective of the GDV was to help increase participants' awareness, equip them and fuel their commitment so that they could become agents of change in their respective communities.

The Moot GDV offered some 20 workshops around three key themes - Human Beings & their Environment, Human Beings & Themselves, and Human Beings & Other Human Beings. For example, the sub-topics included biodiversity, mental health, & human rights, respectively. The development of activities for the workshop was guided by the GDV team to ensure that they were consistent with the Scout Method.

SEALOEarth was invited by Mr. Luc Panissod, Secretary General WOSM for the kickoff meeting in New York on September 17, 2012, at the United Nations Plaza. Other organizations that were invited included United Nations agencies, NGOs, UNICEF, National Scout Organizations, United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC), among others.

Ms. Lois Brown, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Cooperation (on the left) and Ms. Corinne Woods, Director, UN Millennium Campaign were appreciative of SEALOEarth initiatives and the workshop.



## World Dignitaries

Several dignitaries from around the world visited the Global Development Village deep in the Canadian Forest. Even the crew from the NASA flew over the Awacamenj Mino to talk about the International Space Station with the participants.

Ms. Brown, member of the Canadian Parliament was impressed by the ecological address explanation.

Ms. Corrine Woods from United Nations who heads the Millennium Campaign spoke eloquently on how a few leaders (behind closed doors) in the year 2000 came up with eight goals for improving the lives around the world that needed to be achieved by 2015. Obviously, some of goals have not been reached with the deadline approaching. On the contrary, she mentioned about the MY World, the United Nations global survey for a better world, which has invited people around the globe to participate virtually on the next development agenda by voting in an option-based survey. “A good education”, “better health care”, and “an honest and responsive government” were trending at the top in people’s minds. With Ms. Woods sitting on a swing, it was an informal yet engaging discussion with Q & A. It was great to hear from her.



## SEALOEarth and International Service Team

Mr. Sascha Attia (Austria) coordinated a team from four continents. The Global Development Village was very nicely managed by him.

Mr. Paul Hughes (Sweden) was the head of the “Human Beings and their Environment”. It was a pleasure to work with him and all other International Service Team members. He was helpful right from the first skype meeting to digging a hole in the ground and the installation of the World Flag. For all his help, SEALOEarth is very thankful.

Ms. Magdalena Noszczyk (Poland) and Mr. Joachim Ostergaard Knudsen (Denmark) were part of the International Service Team. They facilitated the SEALOEarth workshops.



## United Nations

Representative of the United Nations, Mr. Ravi Karkara works as the Global Expert Advisor on Children and Youth with UN-HABITAT and the UN Millennium Campaign (UNMC) on child and youth engagement, based in New York. He was the keynote speaker at the Moot Parliament simulation event in Ottawa and came to visit the camp following the event. Mr. Karkara visited the Global Development Village and interacted with various participants and partners. He addressed a gathering of Scouts, IST and visitors on “Youth Engagement in Global Development” at the Humanity Café. He took time to visit several partners’ workshops as well.

Mr. Karkara’s ability to involve audience in his presentation was amazing. He included activities such as, forming a smallest line using own resources, forming a longest line using all possible resources, and opening a tight fist of a neighbor. It was not only inspiring but also an unforgettable experience. There were four teams of about 20 participants each and SEALOEarth was part team which won both team activities. The synergy and collaboration within the team was evident by the use of resources such as shoe laces, belts, scarves, badges, etc. People lay on the ground to form the longest possible line. In this activity, there was one person who was blind folded and another person whose hands were tied. An observer for each team made notes of the how these special people were treated by their team members. The discussion that followed based on this activity was eye-opening indeed!

Mr. Karkara of UN expressed interest in working together with SEALOEarth.



## Youth and United Nations Global Alliance

The spirit with which several organizations that offered various workshops was commendable, all with a common goal of creating a better world. There wasn't even an iota of competition or sense of professional threat. Organizations were discussing about ways of collaborating and working together in future.

United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC) based out of New York offered workshops on "My World". Mr. Juan Chebly (USA) led the effort on the UN global survey for a better world at the moot. He commented about SEALOEarth saying, "I get good vibes about SEALOEarth". Mr. Chebly presented along with Mr. Karkara at the Humanity Café.

Youth and United Nations Global Alliance (YUNGA) based out Rome offered workshops and resources on merit badges such as biodiversity, water, ecology, etc. It was presented by Ms. Isabel Sloman (UK), Ms. Emily Rodriguez (USA) and others.

UNMC, YUNGA, and SEALOEarth were part of the theme on "Human Beings and its Environment".



## Other Moot Partners

Other impressive partners included, United Nations Environmental Programme, Kandersteg International Scout Center, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Peace revolution, Landmines and Child Labor Awareness, Italian Mafia Awareness, Road Safety, etc.

The Global Development Village was headed by Mr. Sascha Attia (Austria) in blue jacket. His team included Mr. Matthias Hutter (Switzerland), Mr. Paul Hughes (Sweden), Mr. Wilfred Meyboom (Netherlands), Ms. Anni Haderer (Austria), and Dr. Katrin Ekstorm (Sweden).

Mr. Srinath Tirumale from Geneva addressed the partners and was impressed by the quality of the workshops at GDV and shared the feedback that he had received from people. SEALOEarth is grateful for his encouragement and support.





## The First Nation

Elders play an important role in passing First Nations' traditions, values and spirituality. They traditionally teach the young children. An elder isn't necessarily old, they can be young. When a person chooses to become an elder, he gives his life. They are observers and their teachings are based on what they have observed and experienced, and on their faith in their ancestors. Mr. Jacob Wawatie is an elder. He lives in nature both physically and spiritually.

Mr. Roy Barnes, one of the elders from the First Nations, was very impressed with the SEALOEarth's vision and its workshops on Human Beings and their Environment. He talked about the philosophy of his people at length, how everything revolves around the importance of understanding the connection between man and the earth.

SEALOEarth had a unique opportunity with his active participation during the workshop. He believes that, "we should think about how to 'harmonize' our lives with Mother Earth, and care for her in order to continue caring for us all".

The World Flag was presented to him and he mentioned that he would use it at the First Nations ceremonies. He also expressed that the First Nations beliefs are sometimes pooh-poohed by people; and said that it was really nice that SEALOEarth was doing good and important work.



### A Gift from the First Nation to SEALOEarth

SEALOEarth was really touched and honored by the special gift from the elder Mr. Roy Barnes of the First Nations. He said, “The paddle will help you, the founder of SEALOEarth, to sail and steer SEALOEarth in the right direction with success”. The bag with four colors on one side represents the four directions and the single color blue on the other side of the bag represents the Mother Earth. Mr. Barnes also mentioned that he had prayed and prepared the various pieces of colored cloth and tied them together with a string.



## The Canadian Hospitality

Overall the arrangements for the gathering were done well. It was nice to see a good mix of tradition as well as a modern touch.

The parliament building has glorious history and has been decorated in the tradition of the British House of Commons. It has graceful arched ceilings and rich sculpture.

The participants had an opportunity to experience a Parliament Simulation and spending time as Senators from all over the world. The free guided tour of the building was an enriching experience.

During the moot, partners got to know one another better while visiting the parliament in Ottawa.

Ms. Myriam d’Auteuil (Canada) was head of logistics. It was a pleasure meeting and interacting with her. She remembered everyone’s names and talked to everyone with warmth and care. She helped SEALOEarth with French pronunciation of names such as Ottawa, Lake De Lil, Gatineau, etc.

Ms. Anne Huestis Scott (Canada), author of “The Boy Who Was Bullied” presented at the Humanity Café. The book is based on the life of Mr. John Peters Humphrey who drafted the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by the United Nations in 1948. She involved the audience into the Human Rights Rap and reading of the first human right in many different languages –

*“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”*



## Human Beings and their Environment

The objectives of the theme “Human Beings and their Environment” at Global Development Village were to help show the relationship between human beings and their environment, discuss the dichotomy between quality of human life and the exploitation of natural resources for world growth, and identify different possible solutions to environment issues around the world. The sub-topics included water, urbanization, climate change, biodiversity, sustainable development, and green energy.

The SEALOEarth workshop was setup in a “museum” style. Participants could walk around, explore, and learn about the tree of life by themselves. The workshops were interactive and were up to two-hour long events. They included groups in multiples of eight. The group members were from different countries that had met for the first time at the moot and remained together during the entire duration of the moot. The goal was to help increase participants’ awareness, equip them and fuel their commitment so that they can become agents of change in their respective communities.

Many thanks Ms. Medha and Ms. Sadhika (USA) for helping with workshop displays, Ms. Marian Harman (USA) for suggesting interesting games and the Board of Directors – Dr. Bill Harman (USA), Ms. Maureen George (USA), Mr. Ron Gemma (USA), and Ms. Shobha Hiremath (USA) for helpful suggestions and discussions.



## The Facilitators

The SEALOEarth workshops were led by Dr. Chaitanya Hiremath, founder, president and CEO of SEALOEarth, whose vision is to unite, not only the people around the world, but the entire spectrum of life, for a better future of our beautiful and unique planet Earth, and a world in which all people participate in the stewardship of planet Earth.

SEALOEarth is a 501c3 non-profit organization and its mission is to heighten awareness of the responsibility of all people to manage global resources in a sustainable way, regardless of an individual's country of origin, cultural background, spoken language, or religion. The world's ecosystem knows no sovereignty. We share the resources of the Earth with other living things that rely on us to preserve these resources. When we care for the world's land, water and air in responsible ways, we take steps to preserving our beautiful planet.

Ms. Magdalena Noszczyk (Poland) with her interests in environment was instrumental in facilitating and fine-tuning of the SEALOEarth workshops in the beginning of the moot. Mr. Joachim Ostergaard Knudsen (Denmark) facilitated the workshops at the end of the moot. We enjoyed the interaction with each other and with the workshop participants. They pitched in several different European languages for the benefit of the international participants from 73 countries.



## The SEALOEarth Workshops

The Global Development Village offered about 20 different workshops, and SEALOEarth was one of them. The participants chose a particular workshop because the group was very passionate about it. Two two-hour workshops were offered every day, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. Several other groups or individuals stopped-by briefly in the evening.

The SEALOEarth workshops began with the information about the organization such as its vision and mission. This was followed by a discussion on the tree of the life and the interdependence of life on planet Earth. We then went into the woods to play the deer game. Everyone then shared their ecological address. There was a stimulating discussion about the global ecological problems. The workshop concluded with group discussion and presentation by the group on the direction for the SEALOEarth organization.



## The Deer Game and the Interdependence of Species

The Deer game was interactive and insightful and it was enjoyed by all. It was a very popular game at the moot. This amazing game was originally developed by the Western Regional Environmental Education Council. It demonstrated how several factors affect the ability of wildlife to survive over time. Basically, two groups were formed named the “the deer” and “the habitat”. Habitat is an important factor for wildlife survival and population size, which consisted of components such as food, water, and shelter. During each round, both sides chose one habitat component and then formed a deer-habitat pair with same habitat component. The successful pair went on the deer-side to thrive and reproduce. The pair-less deer perished and went on the habitat side. Several rounds of this game were played and the number of deer were kept track. Later on, mortality factors such as a truck driver and a hunter were included which reduced the number of deer. During the discussion and analysis segment of the workshop, participants came up with other mortality factors such as weather calamities, disease, predators, pollution and habitat destruction.

The elder Mr. Roy Barnes was not only impressed but also volunteered to be a “crazy truck driver” walking blind folded and eliminating the deer by touching. It was very satisfying to see smiles, involvement and enthusiasm. Everyone expressed their appreciation and usefulness of SEALOEarth workshops.



## The Ecological Address

A very simple exercise of introducing yourself and where you come from in terms of natural and geographical water and land identifications can bring in a totally different perspective of things related to our environment and our planet Earth.

For Awacamenj Mino, Canada, the ecological address is:

Lake De Lil, Gatineau River-Ottawa River,  
Boreal Shield Ecozone, North America.

And for Westford, MA, USA, it is:

Forge Pond, Concord River-Merrimack River,  
Appalachian Mountains Ecozone, North America.

The format is:

*Natural land mark, Small River-Main River,*  
*Geographical region, Continent.*

**What is your ecological address?** It is an interesting exercise; please let us know via an email. We would love to hear from you.





## The Bee Problem

*“If the bee disappeared off the face of the earth, man would only have four years left to live.”*

*- Albert Einstein*

In the United States, beekeepers lost 31 percent of their colonies this winter, compared with a loss of 21 percent the previous winter. In Canada, the Canadian Honey Council reports an annual loss of 35 percent of honeybee colonies in the last three years.

The BBC documentary on “Who Killed The Honey Bee?” is very informative in understanding the bee problem worldwide. The plausible factors are: freezing temperatures, killer parasites, and toxic chemicals. The plight of honey bees is getting worse and no one seems to know the reason why. Bees are critical for the pollination of several crops. The only country that is free from this problem so far is Australia, which is exporting bees in large numbers to US and other countries.

Since the bees are used to pollinate miles and miles of a single crop, the lack of biodiversity available for the bees also seems to be relevant. We as individuals can make a difference by making sure that we spend just a couple of dollars every spring on assorted seeds of flowers which are friendly to bees and by planting them in our gardens while enjoying the flowers.

The interesting slogans that the groups came up with are:

*“Bee prepared!”*

*“Save the World! Hug a ‘bee’.”*

*“Saving a bee a day keeps Armageddon away.”*



## The Frog Problem

In the TEDx talk on “The Survival of the Earth depends on Frogs”, Jean-Marc Hero says “The first vertebrates walked on earth over 350 million years ago! Homo sapiens have been around for 200,000 years. Frogs are an integral part of the food web. They play an important role in ecosystems.”

The puzzling thing about the decline or extinctions of many amphibians is that it is happening in pristine habitats as well. So why should we worry about the decline in frog population? Just like the dark clouds in the sky are a sign of rain, and smoke is the indicator of fire, similarly the health of the amphibian species is a good environmental indicator. Amphibians are very sensitive to toxins and pollutants because they breathe and drink through their skin.

The future of our beautiful planet is certainly not negotiable.



## Other Global Ecological Problems

The participants also discussed the other global ecological problems in their parts of the world. They mentioned about:

- Fish dying in large numbers
- Trash from plastic
- Water pollution
- Habitat destruction
- Overfishing for eggs



## SEALOEarth Focus

SEALOEarth had an incredible opportunity to hear from participants from 73 countries on the future direction and focus of SEALOEarth. The feedback was all positive and valuable.

*“Promoting renewable living by creating conscience about interdependence among all living things and their environment.”*

*“Keep education up on the environment.”*

*“Involve people through action, clean-ups, home garden/planting. Propose small actions”*

*“Creating alliances with other youth organizations. Assessment of small projects around the world.”*

*“Empowering youth and motivating them to carry out their projects so they can change their communities.”*

*“Smaller causes that individual people can focus on. Quality before quantity.”*

*“Start including the information at elementary level schools.”*

*“Children and young people. Environmental education. Foster games and activities related with the thematic of environment protection and ecology.”*

*“Bring together people, so they can have activities that encourage the protection of our natural environment.”*

*“Making all organizations working together on the environment.”*



## SEALOEarth Volunteers around the World

It was humbling to see people from different parts of the world signing up to serve as SEALOEarth volunteers.

Pearse McKinney (Canada)

Apostina Teballo (Argentina)

Tabatha Garcia (Mexico)

Julian Davies (Australia)

Romara Midol (France)

Jonathan Joseph (Trinidad & Tobago)

Miguel Herrera (Mexico)

Suany Mesia (El Salvador)

Pamela Carrillo (Mexico)

Joseph Evans (United Kingdom)

Bessy Paz (Honduras)

Andrea Lopez (Mexico)

Celeste Winters (Australia)

Ergenious Petoumenos (Greece)

Tatjhana Whyte (United Kingdom)

Alejandro Meza (Mexico)

Armando Mendez (Mexico)

Maeta Miguel (Portugal)

Alejandro Ortiz (Mexico)

Laura Oksanen (Finland)

Sean Burke (United Kingdom)

Oskar Lichtenberg (Sweden)



## The Enthusiasm

The participants were inspired by the SEALOEarth workshops. They had a lot fun as well. One participant even posed and waved as a “queen”.

Here are some of the comments:

*“Seems like a very important organization to raise awareness about environmental issues.”*

*“I like the idea of personal eco-responsibilities.”*

*“I like the World Flag. It is good.”*

*“Interesting and thought provoking game.”*

*“Very passionate leaders and cool game.”*

*“Great vision, mission. Very interesting design.”*

*“I liked the game that showed us the interdependence of all factors in an ecosystem.”*

*“The idea of ecological addressing is very interesting. Hearing the other people tell about their (ecological) address sounds so much different this way than if you ask for cities and countries.”*

*“The activity was very interesting and I learned the importance of a good balance in all the different environments. It is very fragile, and as humans we must try to protect the environment and do not change it.”*

*“The game shows very effectively the interaction between the animals, their ecosystem and humans. It’s a topic to keep an eye on!”*

*“Good talk about the frogs and bees.”*

*“The flag is very good as it explains the world as it needs to be.”*



## The Success

Another slogan by the participants:

*“One Earth, One Flag.”*

The goal of SEALOEarth workshops at the Moot Canada 2013 was to highlight the **fragile independence of life** on our planet Earth. This was beautifully and effectively demonstrated by an interactive game. The ecological address exercise brought a unique perspective to our thinking about our world. The **focus on global ecological problems** such as the bee problem and the frog problem certainly made it a relevant and worthwhile effort.

The workshops were indeed a **great success!** 168 participants were inspired to attend the workshop, and over 100 people stopped by. 22 young people from 13 countries are now SEALOEarth volunteers who will serve as tomorrow’s ambassadors in their respective communities with the leadership, resourcefulness and spirit of cooperation.

Your well wishes are greatly appreciated. Thank you.  
Serene Earth!

*The woods are lovely, dark and deep.*

*But I have promises to keep,*

*And miles to go before I sleep,*

*And miles to go before I sleep.*

- *Robert Frost*



Please send your valuable feedback to:

**info@sealoeearth.org**

**Credits:**

World Organization of Scout Movement, Geneva;  
Moot Canada 2013

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**SEALOEarth is a 501c3 non-profit organization**  
**World Headquarters: Boston, MA, USA**  
**www.SealoEarth.org**