Interview with Jean-Pierre Thébault, Ambassador Delegated to the Environment at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Orée: Ambassador of the environment and Rio +20 since 2010, Jean-Pierre Thébault, career diplomat, has notably been posted in Asia (Japan and Hong Kong), Europe (Germany and the former Yugoslavia) and the United Nations. A member of several ministerial cabinets (Prime Minister, Justice, Public Service and State Reform), he has notably been the diplomatic advisor to the Ministry of Environment and Regional Development (1997-2000).

What are the major developments since Rio 1992?

Never before have we seen, in such a certain, irrefutable and documented way, that the planet has limits calling for emergency measures. Never has the challenge to fight poverty and to aspire to a better life been so great, requiring mobilization. Never has the need to consider sustainable development been so strong. Because this is the only solution to simultaneously reconcile and deal with these two requirements in a timely manner.

Still, to accomplish this, the world, which is not the world of Rio 1992, must agree to take on its responsibilities. In the face of financial and economic crisis, developing countries must meet their commitments. And France is committed. The principle of common but separate responsibilities, taking into account respective abilities, which is the heritage of Rio, must also lead these emerging nations to play a role that is in line with their means. It is no longer possible to ignore the role and considerable contribution of all components of civil society.

How engaged are the other Member States? Can we speak of a common European Union position?

There is a real engagement: 150 Heads of State and government have announced their intention to come. And the European Union is already a major player in negotiation. Our common positions were adopted at two Councils of Ministers devoted to Rio +20, in October 2011 and March 2012, and also by the European Council of March the 1st. We are in a position to make proposals on every subject. We have a true common ambition to make Rio a landmark summit, a real recognition of the imperative for sustainable development and its potential to most effectively, intelligently and quickly meet the economic, social and environmental challenges that our societies face.

What are the points of Draft 0 (preliminary draft of the negotiations planned by the United Nations for the Rio +20 Summit)?

This draft faithfully reflects the ambitious suggestions that resulted from the initial consultation phase, open to the States and to civil society. But it does not give the necessary recognition to the social pillar of sustainable development. We have since made additional proposals.

What is the role of the various stakeholders in preparing for the Summit? How will they be integrated in future proposals?

More than any other Summit before, Rio +20 has been designed to include civil society. This is the commitment of the United Nations and the Brazilian presidency, France totally supports this commitment. Nothing is perfect, and there are still concerns. But the organization of three days dedicated solely to the debates of civil society just before the summit, and Brazil’s commitment to bring the conclusions of these debates directly to the Heads of State and government’s attention, is an unprecedented progress. France, with the support of the European Union, nevertheless believes that we can go even further. We officially propose that Rio +20 recognizes, for the benefit of nine major groups that represent civil society, a right of full participation to new international governance institutions, the GED and the Sustainable Development Council. Accordingly, civil society will, for the first time, have full access to information and a right of intervention and amendment like national delegations. This may be a decisive step.

What are your expectations for this summit and what is the French position on the UNEP?

Responding to the initial call for NGOs, for the past ten years, France has been a patient advocate of the need to create the solid environmental pillar necessary for sustainable development governance to be complete and fully effective. This is why we suggest transforming the UNEP into a United Nations organization for the environment, located in Nairobi. This position now spans nearly 140 countries, the majority of which are developing countries. This may be one of the strong decisions of the summit.

Rio +20 aims to be the summit that defines the sustainable future of the planet, shared by everyone, at a time of extreme uncertainty and international instability that needs this message of commitment and confidence. Rio 1992 ended with the adoption of several essential texts, but without strong oversight processes. Rio +20 must also be a serious political moment, with the adoption of certain structural guidelines on a green and equitable economy and sustainable development and governance objectives, but the difference will be made by setting up a credible and demanding oversight process. After the initial impetus, it is basically the next few years that will show whether or not Rio +20 is a real success. Beyond the summit, a long term commitment is expected of the heads of state and government.

The General Assembly of Orée will be held this year on 2012 June the 27th, just after the Rio +20 United Nations World Conference on Sustainable Development. This General Assembly will be the last one for the Rio +20 United Nations World Conference on Sustainable Development. The General Assembly will be the last one for Orée, as President of Orée, I was delighted to spend these years as President and previously as Secretary of the Orée Board of Directors, composed of business, community and association leaders. All the administrators are especially invested in their work ensuring sustainable development practices, and they are strongly involved in Orée’s activities. I would like to thank them for their energy and enthusiasm that enabled us together, with the team and the members, to spread best practices based on Orée’s seven priorities.

The Orée Association has been invested in preparation for Rio +20 from the start by participating in three committees and collectives, the Rio +20 Committee of the Ministries of Ecology and Sustainable Development and Foreign and European Affairs, the Rio +20 Collective led by the 4D Association and Club Rio +20 France initiated by Committee 21. The two topics emphasized by the Rio Summit, institutional framework for sustainable development and green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication are essential questions for Orée. Through its actions and reflections, Orée hopes to contribute to the implementation of responsible and equitable prosperity that relies on new industrial and territorial ecosystem. The industrial ecology and territorial synergies that Orée is devoted to developing can reduce territorial and social inequalities as President of Orée I lead the committee. In this way, Orée promotes and spreads best practices for the implementation of social and environmental responsibility via its environmental labeling and reporting working group or during the weekly and association leaders. All the Café/Oriée or BibiOrée. Moreover, the green economy underlines priorities of eco-design, as well as industrial and territorial ecology that are working to develop this new industrial and territorial industrial ecosystem.

Furthermore, Orée participates in major international biodiversity summits. Orée was present in Nagoya in October 2010 during COP 10 on biological diversity as well as in Tokyo in December 2011 during the first meeting of the Global Platform on Business and Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Orée will be in Rio next, as well as in Hyderabad for COP 11.

The first half of 2012 was a rich one for Orée: you can find the various actions we led in recent months on page 2 and 3 (ConfOrée, BibliOrée, publication of the “Observatoire de l’industrie territoriale et sociale” mission with the General Directorate for Competitiveness, Industry and Services (DGCI) led to the publication of a brochure reprising the feedback from pilot areas and an interactive guide on environmental risks intended for SMEs / SMIs, which was supplemented by a session on local authorities that has internalized the health and environment frame. Finally, the biodiversity and economy working group will publish its work in a guide coming out in the fall for COP 11 in Hyderabad.

There will be a lot of news for the second half of 2012, and Orée will celebrate 20 years in November 2012. I will have the pleasure of continuing to be active at Orée. I hope to find you at the General Assembly on the 27th, where we will have a chance after Rio to debate “Do the results of the Rio +20 conference answer the objectives of a responsible and equitable prosperity and a better governance?”

Sincerely,

Ghislaine Hierso
President
Orée’s actions

The speech of Nathalie Boyer, General Delegate

Next June the 27th, our General Assembly will be held at the Fédération Française des Sociétés d’Assurances. This year will be somewhat special because the chair of Orée will be replaced. I am taking advantage of this letter to thank the outgoing Orée President, Ghislaine Hierso, who so energetically dedicated herself to the association for the past few years. Like every year, the General Assembly will be a chance to review the notable facts of the past year and to present our future projects and events. Orée will be following Rio +20 very closely; this will also allow us to take stock of the conference.

Feedback on the highlights of the first half of 2012: events, new tools and publications

• November 2011 and January 2012: Special issue «Occupation and Land Use Symposium: from Competition to Conciliation”

A special issue presents the proceedings of the Orée 2011 symposium held on 16 November on the theme “Occupation and Land Use: from Competition to Conciliation”. We had the special pleasure of being involved in this symposium: Laurent Klein, president of the SAF; Daniel Nahon, professor at Université Paul Cézanne and IUF; Gilles Bœuf, president of the Muséum d’Histoire Naturelle; Luc Guyau, independent chairman of the board of FAO and Guillaume Sainteny, chairman for the CAS report “Public Subsidies Harmful to Biodiversity”.

Find the special issue online on www.oree.org and all the symposium’s videos on http://www.oree.org/docs/video/colloque2011/

• February 2012: Feedback on the EMAS conference

On February the 9th, Orée held a conference on Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) under the auspices of the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing.

The EMAS conference: a tool for environmental reporting as part of the process of social responsibility of organizations brought together 120 participants, experts in the matter and practitioners representing companies from various sectors and of various sizes.

Last March the 29th, the interactive guide for environmental risk management for local authorities was presented at a launch event. This new tool supplements the first part of the environmental risk management guide for SMEs/SMIs published in 2010. Its purpose is to support local authorities in their process of environmental risk management, by approaching the issues related to major risks of natural or technological origin, as well as risks related to the Health-Environment theme and connections with adaptation to address climate change.

This new tool particularly includes:

• A self-diagnostic questionnaire to identify gaps in services and better target needs,
• Risk sheets for all environmental risks,
• Feedback from best practices conducted by local authorities or their partners,
• A list of players able to support local authorities in their efforts.

It contains a comprehensive methodology regarding environmental risk management, as well as a selection of six risks for which there has been more in-depth consideration: Clay soil movements (shrinking-swelling), floods, transport of hazardous substances, industrial risks, atmospheric pollution and water pollution. Moreover, fact sheets on other hazards are available, such as the risk of avalanche, dam failures and soil pollution.

Find the interactive guides for environmental risk management for local authorities and for SMEs/SMIs on http://risques-environnementaux.oree.org/
Orée’s actions

- April 2012: DGCIS Mission “Sustainable Competitiveness of Companies” – Industrial and Territorial Ecology

The “Sustainable Competitiveness of Companies” mission entrusted to Orée by the General Directorate for Competitiveness, Industry and Services (DGCIS) of the Ministry of Finance over the 2010-2011 period consisted in its industrial and territorial ecology component, of initiating proceedings in 5 pilot areas: Urban Community of Bordeaux, the Seine Estuary, Roanne territory, Plaine du Var, and the business area of Plaine Commune. These land’s projects have mobilized a large number of local players and generated the direct participation of around a hundred companies in all. The mission also permits to build five regional eco-design skills clusters.

The results of this mission were presented on April the 4th in Plaine Commune during a conference for presenting the results of the various pilot areas in industrial and territorial ecology. The conference brought together around a hundred participants.

The completion of the mission is also reflected by the publication of the brochure The Orée-DGCIS Mission: Sustainable Competitiveness of Enterprises – 5 Pilot Areas, 2 Years of Land Use Projects, which presented feedback mainly on industrial and territorial ecology, as well as eco-design. The brochure is available online on the Orée website.

www.oree.org

- “Industrial Ecology” expert guides with Environnement magazine

This guide, designed for Orée’s members and subscribers to Environnement magazine, seeks, via a series of questions, to provide educational and methodological elements and characteristic examples in order to orient project sponsors in the implementation of an industrial ecology approach. It therefore addresses to local authorities, in particular business zone managers, as well as business managers or even professional networks.

- Expertise methodology

Resulting from the collaboration with members of the private, public and association sectors, and in consultation with various organizations specialized in expertise and cooperation, Orée’s working group has defined an innovative method for environmental expertise.

Between 2010 and 2011, the working group, co-chaired by Sylvie Bénard, Director of the Environment for the LVMH Group and Michel Becq, Administrator and Counsel to the Senate in the Central Secretariat of the Commissions Service, tested this methodology by organizing a panel discussion on the question «Faut-il tout recycler ?» [Should we recycle everything?]. Eric Flamand, independent consultant on sustainable development and CSR was designated to moderate the debate. As a result of this test debate and a new assessment on the expert debate method, [bien sur la methode du debat d’expert], Orée just published the final version of this method for setting up an environmental expert assessment in 2012.

Find online on www.oree.org and www.oree.org/en:
- the final version of our environmental expertise method
- documents and conclusions of the Forum of expertise “Should we recycle everything?”
- all the news about concerted consultation and environmental expertise

- Orée’s flyers

Orée has made flyers presentations of its actions on several priorities:
- Business & Biodiversity: Integrating biodiversity into organizations’ strategies (available in English)
- Risk management related to the environment: Developing a risk culture in France
- Industrial and Territorial Ecology, a sustainable economic development tool (available in English)
- Eco-design (available in English)

All are available on www.oree.org

Orée in press and online!

Magazine In Line of Sidel group:
«Think green!» Interviews of Ghislaine Hierso and Nathalie Boyer (p.62-64)

Actu environnement:
- «EMAS registration: towards an international recognition»
- «Industrial ecology: towards a development of this process ?»
- «An interactive guide for environmental risk management for local authorities»

Environnement magazine: «Industrial ecology, from concept to field»

L’Encyclopédie du Développement Durable of the 4D non-profit organization:
«Industrial Ecology»

All the latest posts on www.oree.org

- COMING SOON! “Biodiversity” Guide

A new Orée Guide on the theme “Biodiversity and Economy” will come out in October 2012 to be distributed during COP 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which will take place in Hyderabad (India) from the 6th to the 19th of October 2012. This guide will present the progress Biodiversity Accountability Framework process during the period of 2010 - 2012, namely the construction of a dashboard for managing interactions between economic players and ecosystems. The case studies conducted during this period will illustrate this methodology and show the progression of the reflection conducted in the working group. The last part of the guide will discuss the work started in the “accounting” section of the working group and introduce Ciprian Ionescu’s thesis on the subject “Biodiversity and economic actor’s strategy : developing tools for managing multiple and inter-temporal interactions”.

- Team

The Orée team is changing!
Orée would like to thank the following people for their commitment in the past few years: Layla Mathieu - Communication Manager, Gaili Gonzalez - Biodiversity and Expertise Officer, Paul Schalchli - Industrial and territorial Project Manager, Céline Mary - Eco-Design Officer, and Geoffrey Desmartin - Environmental Risks Officer.

New team

Administrative and financial Manager: Fabienne Davallan, davallan@oree.org ; Biodiversity / environmental expertise Manager : Hélène Leriche, leriche@oree.org ; Communication Officer : Cecile Couteau, couteau@oree.org ; Eco-design Officer: Maria Fortunato, fortunato@oree.org ; Business and biodiversity Officer - PhD student: Ciprian Ionescu, ionescu@oree.org.

In training course: Communication and organization of the “Prix Entreprises et Environnement” competition: Nicolas Madry, madry@oree.org ; Industrial and territorial ecology / Sustainable Transportation and Logistics: Astrid Barthélemy, barthelemy@oree.org.

New members: more than 150 members

They joined our members since November 2011 (companies, local authorities and managers, non-profit organizations, academics, ...):

Biotope, Clean Energy Planet, Green Cross France and Territories, Bureau Veritas CODDE, Vigeo, Eiffage, IMS Luxembourg, Les Jardins de Gally, Mayor of Benin, Région Centre

All the Orée members on www.oree.org
Orée is a member of the committees and collectives created with the goal of preparing the Summit and contributes to their various productions. Additionally, Ghislaine Hierso, President and Sylvie Bénard, Honorary President, will go to Rio to represent Orée. More information on www.oree.org Rio+20 tab.

Rio +20 – Orée +20: Speech of Alain Mamou-Mani, Founding President of the Orée Association

By creating Orée in 1992, we conceived a partnership between businesses and communities. Twenty years later, we have started to reap the results of what we sowed. At this time, I am returning to Rio with fifty heads of company. This is where we created the Orée Association, and today I want us to participate in the emergence of a management network operating in many countries, especially where business leaders are aware of the seriousness of the stakes.

Rio+20 Committee of Ministers

At the end of 2010, France created a steering committee called Rio +20 Committee in order to prepare for the United Nations Confe

Society, as themes of the conference. The Rio +20 Collective works toward a broader reflection on the contents and in the preparation of proposals in order to support venture projects being negotiated at Rio and within civil society events, parti

For more information, visit the Rio+20 Collective website: http://collectif-france.rio20.net/
The Rio+20 Collective on Facebook: «Colletif Rio+20» and Twitter: «Colletif_Rio20»

International Agenda:

June 6, 2012: Conference «Rio+20 - the Future we REALLY want» - Brussels, Belgium
13-15 June, 2012: 8th Rio +20 preparatory committee (PresCom3) - Rio, Brazil
15-22 June, 2012: People’s Summit for Social and Environmental Justice – Rio, Brazil
18-19 June, 2012: G20 summit - Mexico City, Mexico
16-19 June, 2012: Sustainable Development Dialogues - Rio, Brazil
8-15 September, 2012: IUCN World Conservation Congress - Jeju, Korea
24-28 September, 2012: GLOBAL CONFERENCE 2012 7th edition - Evian, France
26-28 September, 2012: Convergences 2015 Forum - Paris, France
26-19 October, 2012: 11th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) - Hyderabad, India
November 26 to December 7, 2012: UN Climate Change Conference (COP 19) - Doha, Qatar

France Agenda:

6 and 8 June, 2012: International launch of Rio +20 in Paris - Paris
10 and 17 June, 2012: French Elections
27 June, 2012: General Assembly and Conference «Do the results of Rio+20 answer the objectives of a responsible and accountable prosperity and a better governance?» - Paris
4-7 July, 2012: International solidarity Summer Camp 2012 - Lyon
6-8 July, 2012: Dialogues in humanity - Lyon
7-8 September, 2012: Inspirations 2012 - Porquerolles
20-22 November, 2012: 9th Congress of Mayors and Presidents of Communities in France - Paris
November 26, 2012: 20 years Orée