At the World Environmental Law Congress in April 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, under the auspices of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law, judges representing six continents gathered to establish the Global Judicial Institute for the Environment (GJIE). The GJIE is an endeavor supported by a multitude of partners, including national judicial schools, institutes, and academies; international and regional judicial associations and networks, such as the International Association of Judges and the EU Forum of Judges for the Environment; multilateral organizations, including UN Environment, the Organization of American States, and the Asian Development Bank.

The GJIE Charter describes its mission: “to support the role of courts and tribunals in applying and enforcing environmental laws and in promoting the environmental rule of law and the fair distribution of benefits and burdens.” The role for the Institute encompasses engagement not only with specialized environmental courts and tribunals, but other courts as well, including, for example, constitutional courts and other adjudicatory bodies that address environmental matters. It embraces efforts to provide research and analysis on environmental adjudication, including bringing environmental sciences to the service of the courts; promote capacity building, education, and training; and provide a forum for convening judges for collaboration and exchange of information on environmental law issues.

One year after the launch, this Second International Meeting of the Global Judicial Institute for the Environment will be a decision-making meeting, with a focus on the structure and model for legal personality of the Institute; governance of the GJIE, including the formation of an Interim Governing Council and Judicial Advisory Board; plans for seeking expressions of interest from other institutions to host the GJIE Secretariat; and discussion and approval of GJIE membership, as well as upcoming activities and events that are being planned among the GJIE and partner institutions. The meeting builds on regional meetings and consultations held throughout the last year, as well as videoconferences and in-person meetings in Brazil in February 2017.

For the first day of the meeting, Friday, May 19, hosted by the National High Court of Brazil (STJ), a videoconference link will be available for participants who are not able to attend in person. Details about how to connect to this link will be provided prior to the meeting.
Thursday, May 18

ARRIVAL OF PARTICIPANTS IN BRASÍLIA (AIRPORT PICKUP WILL BE PROVIDED)

Friday, May 19

VENUE: NATIONAL HIGH COURT OF BRAZIL (STJ)

8:15  OPENING
9:00  WELCOMING REMARKS: JUSTICE ANTONIO HERMAN BENJAMIN (NATIONAL HIGH COURT OF BRAZIL – STJ)

- INTRODUCTION OF MEETING PARTICIPANTS
- REVIEW OF THE MEETING AGENDA
- PREVIEW OF ASSOCIATED GJIE EVENT—REGIONAL JUDICIAL COLLOQUIUM ON CONSTITUTIONS, ENVIRONMENT, AND HUMAN RIGHTS: PRACTICE AND IMPLEMENTATION (MAY 22-23, BRASÍLIA)

EXPECTED OUTCOME: APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA

9:30  PRESENTATION OF THE CHARTER FOR THE GLOBAL JUDICIAL INSTITUTE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

OVERVIEW OF THE CHARTER AS ADOPTED IN RIO DE JANEIRO IN 2016, INCLUDING AN OUTLINE OF THE PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIVITIES ENVISIONED FOR THE GJIE.

10:00  STRUCTURE OF THE GJIE

DISCUSSION ON VISIONS FOR THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF THE GJIE. PRESENTATION OF IDEAS FOR POTENTIAL "MODELS" FOR THE GJIE, SUCH AS:

- DEVELOPING THE GJIE THROUGH AN INTERNATIONAL, INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AMONG PARTNER INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE ADB, IAJ, OAS, UN ENVIRONMENT, AND WCEL
- INCORPORATING THE GJIE AS A SEPARATE ENTITY, AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION UNDER THE LAWS OF SWITZERLAND OR ANOTHER COUNTRY

MEETING PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO DISCUSS THE RELATIVE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF EACH OPTION, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE NEED FOR A GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE THAT ASSURES SELF-GOVERNANCE BY THE JUDICIARY AND CONTAINS THE NECESSARY SAFEGUARDS FOR RESPECTING ITS INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY: A GJIE FOR JUDGES AND BY JUDGES.

EXPECTED OUTCOME: SELECTION OF MODEL FOR LEGAL PERSONALITY AND COUNTRY WHERE GJIE WILL BE INCORPORATED

11:00  COFFEE BREAK

11:30  GJIE SECRETARIAT

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF A CALL FOR "EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST" FROM POTENTIAL HOST INSTITUTIONS OR ORGANIZATIONS.
tions that could support a Secretariat for the GJIE, on either a temporary or permanent basis. A draft of this document will be circulated to meeting participants, explaining the purpose and objectives of the GJIE, and details on the support and structure that the GJIE would seek for in a Secretariat. Once approved, it can be sent to Chief Justices, national judicial schools, universities, research institutions, international organizations, etc. to solicit expressions of interest.

**Documents for Discussion:** Draft call for expressions of interest

**Expected Outcome:** Approve call for expressions of interest, to be sent as soon as possible after the meeting

**Lunch**

**GJIE Membership**

Discussion on various aspects of individual and institutional membership in the GJIE, such as:

- How to publicize, recruit, and promote membership in the GJIE
- Potential ways in which individual members and institutional members can contribute to the GJIE
- Responsibilities of members

Meeting participants will also be encouraged to identify and put forward a process for forming the initial core membership of the GJIE, including individuals and judicial institutions.

**Documents for Discussion:** List of judges participating in GJIE meetings and consultations

**Expected Outcome:** Approve initial GJIE membership list

**Open Dialogue**

Dialogue to synthesize meeting participants’ ideas as to the structure, Secretariat, and membership of the GJIE. The intent of this discussion is to review the deliberations from the day’s topics, as a framework for the rest of the meeting.

**Closing**

**Depart for Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park** (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
(3 hour drive by bus; luggage brought to STJ by participants will have been previously loaded on bus)

**Arrive at National Park** (Lodging at Pousada São Bento and Pousada Casa Rosa, Alto Paraíso de Goiás)

**Dinner**

**Saturday, May 20**

**Venue:** [Lodge] Pousada São Bento, Alto Paraíso de Goiás

**Breakfast**
Governance of the GJIE: Selection of an Interim Governing Council and Judicial Advisory Board

During this session, meeting participants will discuss and approve the formation of two bodies that can move forward the work of the GJIE. The Interim Governing Council, as envisioned in the GJIE Charter, would be the initial officers of the Institute for a period of two years, responsible for overseeing its incorporation and/or agreeing on a document for inter-organizational cooperation to set the work of the GJIE in motion. In addition, a broader Judicial Advisory Board will be established to provide input, guidance, and support for the activities of the GJIE.

Documents for Discussion: Initial mandate for work of Interim Governing Council and Judicial Advisory Board

Expected Outcome: Approve selection of Interim Governing Council and Judicial Advisory Board

Coffee Break

Governance (continued)

Lunch

Depart for Site Visit to Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park, hosted by the Director of the Park

Dinner

Sunday, May 21

Breakfast

GJIE Activities and Partnerships

This segment of the meeting is intended as time for discussing GJIE activities and how to integrate the Institute’s work with existing initiatives and efforts at engaging the judiciary on environmental issues.

Discussion will highlight recent past events and how those could be enhanced by coordination with the GJIE; upcoming activities related to judicial training, capacity building, etc., that are related to the GJIE’s work and are being planned by one or more GJIE partners; and dialogue on planning new GJIE activities, along the lines of the examples in Article IV of the GJIE Charter.

Upcoming Events for Discussion (Additional events to be added to this list):

July 3-4, 2017: International Colloquium in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (program to be distributed). This will be the first program of its kind organized with the support of the GJIE for a Francophone country, in partnership with WCEL, UN Environment, the Supreme Court of the DRC, and others.

Mar. 18-23, 2018: World Water Forum, Brasília, Brazil (http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/forum/brasilia-2018/) Opportunities for the GJIE to participate include portions of the political forum as well as a 2-day side event.
In addition, the meeting participants can focus on additional opportunities for collaboration with GJIE partners, including national judicial schools, institutes, and academies, the International Association of Judges, EU Forum on Judges for the Environment, Asian Development Bank, IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law, Organization of American States, UN Environment, academic institutions, and other relevant organizations.

For example, this could include discussion on updating the UN Environment Judges’ Handbook on Environmental Law; collaborating with the OAS on its capacity-building programs; etc.

Documents for Discussion: Programs for upcoming activities

Expected Outcome: Approve plans for upcoming events

Collect ideas/priorities for inclusion in future trainings

Proposals of activities for consideration by Interim Governing Council

GJIE Funding

Discussion on which aspects of the GJIE’s work need dedicated financial resources, and on possible models for funding, such as:

Application for grants or other resources from international institutions and organizations

Member dues

Support from national judicial institutions

Expected Outcome: Approval of directives for Interim Governing Council and partners in obtaining funding to support GJIE activities

Coffee Break

Review of Actions and Decisions Taken at the Meeting / Planning for the Next GJIE Meeting

Concluding Remarks

Lunch

Depart for Site Visit to Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park

Dinner

Return to Brasília

Meeting Participants (in alphabetical order by last name)
Justice Syed Reafat Ahmed, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Justice Rafael Asenjo, Environmental Court of Santiago, Chile
Justice Antonio Benjamin, National High Court of Brazil (STJ)
Justice Edward Sidney Blanco Reyes, Constitutional Chamber, Supreme Court of Justice of El Salvador
Monday, May 22 – Tuesday, May 23

Participants are invited to join the associated Regional Judicial Colloquium for Latin America and the Caribbean (separate program attached)

Constitutions, Environment, and Human Rights: Practice and Implementation

Regional Judicial Colloquium for Latin America and the Caribbean

Venue: Federal Senate of Brazil

Organized by: