

# MayEast

## UK & Brazil



**Sustainability Educator**

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**UNITAR Fellow**

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**Gaia Education CEO**

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**Spatial Planner**

- ▶ Sustainability designer and educator, leading a consortium of sustainability educators and conducting trainings in 47 countries in the most diverse stages of development, encompassing both urban and rural contexts.
- ▶ Facilitator of cross-cultural think-tanks, roundtables, design “charrettes” and training of trainers programmes on regenerative development
- ▶ Specialist in promoting vertical integration between community-led solutions to climate resilience and national & international donors, and the UN system and conventions.
- ▶ MSc on Spatial Planning with specialisation on rehabilitation of abandoned villages and towns.
- ▶ Working internationally with intergovernmental agencies, educational institutions, local and regional governments in the creation of policy guidelines for sustainability curriculum development and delivery.
- ▶ Project-Based Learning Developer supporting indigenous communities and their traditions to survive in rapidly changing environments while enhancing their skills to become the designers of their desired future.
- ▶ Internationally recognised Top 100 Global Sustainability Leader three years in a row.

## Current & Recent Positions Held

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Gaia Education Chief Executive 2005- today

UNITAR Fellow 2012 - today

SDG Academy Academic Advisory Committee Member 2016- today

UNITAR Affiliated Training Centre CIFAL Scotland Chief Executive 2006- 2016

Transition Network Trainer 2008 - today

APE UK Trustee 2008- today

Club of Budapest Facilitator of the World Wisdom Council 2004 - 2007

## Academic Institutions

As an Educator and Lecturer May East has worked with the following Academic Institutions

- METU – Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey
- Abant Izzet Baysal University, Bolu, Turkey
- Aalborg University, Aalborg, Denmark
- Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil
- International Holistic University, Brasília, Brazil
- Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Florianópolis, Brazil
- University of Dundee, UK
- University of Catania, Italy
- PUC – Pontifícia Universidade Católica, São Paulo, Brazil
- UMAPAZ – Universidade do Meio Ambiente e Cultura de Paz, São Paulo, Brazil
- Instituto de Pesquisas Jardim Botânico do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Universidade Federal do Ceará, Brazil
- Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal
- University of Glasgow, UK
- The University of Edinburgh, UK
- Open University of Catalonia, Spain

# Key Achievements

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## **CIFAL Scotland**

May East has played a prominent role in developing relationships between the United Nations and the Findhorn Ecovillage, culminating in the establishment of CIFAL Scotland in 2006. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research affiliated training centre for Northern Europe operated for 10 years as a hub for capacity building, leadership and knowledge sharing between local and regional authorities, international organisations, the private sector and civil society under May's leadership.

## **Gaia Education**

May East has been leading an international consortium of sustainability designers and educators from cutting-edge research and development centers for carbon-constrained lifestyles since 2006. Over the last 11 years Gaia Education has successfully supported the delivery of over 250 programmes in 48 countries . Gaia Education programmes have been offered in settings ranging from tribal and traditional communities to intentional ecovillages, from urban slum settings to universities and R&D centers.

## **Transition Towns**

May is a Transition Trainer since 2008, conducting over 40 trainings in China, Thailand, Israel, Portugal, Brazil (19 cities), India, Senegal, Italy, Chile and UK, and facilitating participatory scenario planning, back-casting and climate change awareness raising activities with fragile and marginalised communities.

## **Club of Budapest**

May served as facilitator of the Club of Budapest, a think tank of world-renowned members including scientists, economists, politicians, artists and business leaders who met regularly to dialogue on problems and solutions that face the entire human family. Club of Budapest meetings facilitated by May East included Hanover; June 2005; Tokyo, November 2005; Arosa, January 2006; Berlin, September 2006 and Monterrey, November 2007.

## **May and the Arts**

May comes from a thriving artistic community based in São Paulo, Brazil. Over a decade May's art, be it in film, video or music, expressed a deep concern for all Brazil's environment, both in the major cities and the country's vast interior, especially the rainforests of the Amazon. Ms East's music merged high tech forms with the sounds and rhythms of the Amazon forests and its dwellers: she creates aboriginal, futuristic and oriental melodies elaborated upon primeval rhythms from Brazilian past. She has recorded five solo albums released in Brazil, Europe and Japan.

# CIFAL Learning Events

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## Developed/ Convened/ Organised/ Facilitated by May East

Renewable Energies for Developing Countries	November 2015
UN SDGs: A Creative Approach for a Sustainable City	October 2015
UN 70 Years of Service to Humanity	October 2015
UN SDGs: Ethnic Minorities Preparing for Action	August 2015
UN Sustainable Development Goals: Moray Preparing for Action	June 2015
UN Sustainable Development Goals: Scotland Preparing for Action	June 2015
Development Goals: Scotland Preparing for Action	June 2015
Joining Forces for Business Action on Sustainable Development Goals	May 2015
International Year of Soils: Scotland's Contribution - 2015	March 2015
Linked via Light - A Contribution to the International Year of Light 2015	March 2015
Climate Resilience for BAME Communities	March 2015
From Steam to Green: Glasgow Green Year 2015 Launch	November 2014
Climate Justice: Addressing the global challenge and Scotland's Contribution	November 2014
SDGs in Scotland: Reframing Sustainable Development	September 2014
Climate Change – How it Impacts us All	June 2014
United Nations International Year of Family Farming	May 2014
Scotland and the Post-2015 Development Agenda Conference	April 2014
The Age of Sustainable Development	January – April 2014
SDGs in Scotland: Reframing Sustainable Development	October 2013
International Water Cooperation and Transboundary Aquifers	October 2013
SDGs and Local Governments	October 2013
Food Security for Vulnerable Communities	October 2013
SDGs and Local Governments	September 2013
Step-by-Step Woodfuel Heating for Communities	March 2013
UN International Year of Water Cooperation: Scotland's Contribution	February 2013
Community-led Renewables in the Cairngorms National Park	December 2012
Creating Green Jobs for Youth	November 2012
Building Sustainable Communities	November 2012
Transition Towns at the World Urban Forum	September 2012

Inventors, Innovation and Sustainability	August 2012
Health, Wealth, Innovation	September 2012
Innovative Business in a Low Carbon Future	May 2012
Community Resilience	April 2012
Global Water Scarcity	May 2012
Education for a Low Carbon Future	March 2012
The Future is Low Carbon	February 2012
Sustainable Tourism: Community Involvement and Staff Development	September 2011
Forestry in the Highlands Conference and Film Festival	September 2011
Communicating Politics: UN Approaches for Expressing Complex Ideas Effectively to Different Audiences	August 2011
Sustainable Enterprising Regions: Tools for Action	March 2011
Revitalising Local Economies	8 February 2011
Biodiversity and Climate Change Conference	November 2010
Making Way for Scotland's Hydrogen Economy	September 2010
Towards a Low Carbon Economy for Scotland	June 2010
Transition Training Buckie, Moray	July 2010
Transition Training Orkney	May 2010
Transition Training Helensburgh	March 2010
Transition Training	March 2010
Scotland's Hydrogen Future Debate	February 2010
Sustainable Islands – Towards a Low Carbon Economy	September 2009
Scotland's Hydrogen Future – Building a Sustainable Economy through Hydrogen and Renewable Energy	September 2009
Local Authority Climate Change Leadership Seminar	September 2009
UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development Contributions From Scotland	January 2009
Retrofitting Your Home	Jan, Jun, Nov 2009
Food Security: A Bioregional Response	November 2008
Retrofitting Your Home	November 2008
Hydrogen – the Potential at Findhorn	November 2008
Counting Carbon	October 2008
Woodfuel Energy CNPA	September 2008
Micro-Hydro Power	August 2008
Low and Zero Carbon Housing	June 2008

Moray Eco-Industrial Park	May 2008
Urban Planning and Regeneration: Key to Tackling Climate Change	March 2008
Solar Energy and Heat Pumps	May 2008
Biofuels for Sustainable Transportation	November 2007
Solar Energy and Heat Pumps	October 2007
Carbon Emissions Reduction Strategies for Business	September 2007
Global Climate Change and the Sustainable Energy Revolution	September 2007
Woodfuel Energy – Responding to the Climate Change Challenge	April 2007
Sustainable Energy Solutions	November 2006

## Earlier Learning Events

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### **Ecovillages: New Approaches to Urban Regeneration**

within the framework of a pilot year of CIFAL Findhorn. The session, hosted by CIFAL Curitiba Brazil, presented an integrated model for sustainability, as a resource to inspire the imagination of urban planners and mayors from Latin America and the Caribbean, and to encourage environmentally responsible design and development of Latin. December 2005, Curriculum Developer Coordinator and Presenter

### **Ecovillages: New Frontiers for Sustainability**

An international conference, as an official contribution to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) 2005-2014, to celebrate the first 10 years of the ecovillage movement, to plan its next ten years and to showcase sustainable communities and ecovillage projects which contribute to environmental health and wellbeing, and strengthen local economies. Conference Coordinator, October 2005.

### **Our Challenge, Voices for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal**

58th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, at the United Nations Headquarters, New York. The Findhorn Foundation in partnership with The Poverty Initiative, Kiwanis International and the United States Fund for UNICEF sponsored a Midday Workshop on the theme Living in Peace, Envisioning Abundance: Youth Effecting Global Change by Strengthening Communities. The workshop featured insights from youth representatives involved in global projects to end poverty, eliminate iodine deficiency, stop the spread of HIV/AIDS and strengthen local communities. Coordinator and Presenter, September 2005.

### **Millennium Development Goals: Civil Society Takes Action**

57th Annual DPI/NGO Conference at United Nations Headquarters, New York. Presenter in two plenary panels: Innovative ways for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and Ecovillage Agriculture: Promoting Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in association with The Lifebridge Foundation/USA, Fundacion Eudes/ Mexico and the Global EcovillageNetwork, 2004.

## **Connectivity and Synchronicity**

An international conference hosted by the Findhorn Foundation, in association with the International Holistic University and Education for Peace Globalnet, as a contribution to the UN International Decade for the Culture of Peace. The event brought together scientists, artists, social activists and spiritual teachers to explore how to advance the agenda of a culture of peace through networks and connectivity. Conference Coordinator, 2004.

## **Sustainable Cities and Villages**

A networking session, during the Second World Urban Forum, Barcelona, exploring how to improve the programmes CIFAL Network is rendering to world-wide local authorities who are building sustainable cities, towns, villages and neighborhoods. Moderator and Presenter, 2004.

## **Ecovillages - Last Frontiers for Sustainability**

Training session to urban planners and mayors from 12 Latin American countries as part of the UN Local Capacity- Building and Training for Sustainable Urbanisation programme that seeks to transform cities into self- regulating, sustainable systems. Presenter, Curitiba, 2003.

## **Water of Life: Fresh Perspectives on the World's Water Crisis**

An event to emphasise the intrinsic value of water as part of the interdependent web of life and to provide examples of new approaches and solutions to the global water management crises. A contribution to the UN International Year of Freshwater. Facilitator, 2003.

## **Circles of Compassion**

An international training convened by the Women's World Summit Foundation at the John Knox International Center, Geneva, teaching circle leadership skills to local actors in the context of the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Facilitator, October 2003.

## **Local Capacity-Building and Training for Sustainable Urbanisation / Type II**

### **Initiative CIFAL Network official Launch**

United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2002. A training programme on access to essential services for local government officials. Presenter and Moderator.

## **Six Regional Pre Johannesburg Summit Workshops**

In preparation for the World Summit for Sustainable Development in partnership with UNITAR, UN-Habitat, Municipalities of Durban, Shanghai, Curitiba and Lyon, Vivendi Environment 2001-2002. Global Ecovillage Network Representative, Moderator of the Curitiba Summit and International Partner.

## **The Millionth Circle Gathering and Facilitators Training for Women**

Facilitators Training on the art of leading in circle and on how to establish women's circles in preparation to the 5th UN World Conference on Women in 2005- June 2002. Coordinator and Faculty Member.

## **Winter School of Ecofeminism**

In association with the Women's World Summit Foundation, an international programme on women's empowerment, spirituality and a culture of peace. Programme Coordinator, Faculty Member, 2002.

## **NGOs Today: Diversity of the Volunteer Experience**

54th Annual DPI/NGO Conference at the United Nations, New York, 2001. The Findhorn Foundation in association with The Spiritual Caucus and The Values Caucus, presented a midday workshop on "Volunteering: The Path of Joyful Service" to explore how volunteering expands resources and increases synergy when one takes a service-oriented approach. Coordinator and Moderator.

## **Global Solidarity: The Way to Peace and International Cooperation**

53rd Annual DPI/NGO Conference at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, 2000. Midday workshop "Ecovillages Providing a Model for Sustainable Living and Global Solidarity". Presenter and Coordinator.

## **Ecovillage Training**

A capacity building programme, designed to make optimum use of the information available from the Findhorn Ecovillage and promoting the transference of tools and techniques for creating sustainable community in the fields of building green, sustainable economics, organic food production, conflict facilitation, holistic health, global communication, fundraising, eco-restoration and conservation. Curriculum Developer, Coordinator and Faculty Member, 1999-2006.

## **The Findhorn Foundation Lecture Series**

Series of lectures to stimulate broader awareness of the emerging scientific thinking. Programme Coordinator, 1993-1997.

## **Parliamentary Earth Summit Conference**

A gathering of parliamentarians, spiritual leaders, scientists, business leaders, ecologists, artists and journalists organised by the Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders to discuss values system that inform the global environmental crises. Associated Arts Coordinator, Rio de Janeiro, 1992.

## **The Omame Project**

A gathering of 110 world artists and contemporary thinkers to celebrate the ecological and cultural diversity of the Earth, as the official contribution of the artists to UNCED (Earth Summit). Project Coordinator, Brasilia and Rio de Janeiro, 1992.

## **Festival Week of the New Group of World Servers**

A festival to support the work of planetary servers, promoted by World Goodwill. London 1991. Lecturer on the theme 'The UN Earth Summit- a Focal Point in the Transformation of Human Consciousness'.



## **Survival and the Arts**

An international conference of artists organised to extensively and creatively address environmental challenges of our times. Promoted by the Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders at Robert Redford's Sundance Institute in Utah, USA, 1991. Brazilian Delegate.

## **No Boundaries on the Planet of Tupis-Toris**

London Ecology Centre, 1989. and Moscow Global Forum, 1990. A multi-media exhibition to consolidate an alliance amongst environmental artists, forest peoples, ecologists and contemporary thinkers dedicated to the restoration of Earth's natural systems. Project Coordinator.

## **Spirit of the Forest**

Record and video launched at the United Nations World Environment Day, 1989. This project united 70 singers, musicians and forest dwellers from all over the world to raise funds and awareness of rainforest destruction. Project Coordinator for Brazil.

## **Celebration of the Forest People**

Notre Dame Hall, London 1989. A multimedia concert with environmental artists and singers to coincide with the Altamira Gathering in Brazil, an unprecedented meeting of Brazilian Indian leaders, held in the Amazon. Producer and Presenter.



### **Personal Notes**

May has two daughters and lives in Edinburgh.

### **Private Contact Details**

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