The World Environment Center is a 43 year old organization that must constantly renew itself. During this past year, WEC’s Board updated our strategic plan to focus on a more defined mission of “accelerating sustainability solutions through innovation, thought leadership and public-private collaboration.” This business driven approach guides all of WEC’s activities—including roundtables, capacity building projects, the Gold Medal program, and our diverse publications—and provides a resilient platform for the future. As sustainability migrates from the periphery to the core of business strategy and operations, you will see in this Annual Review the various approaches our diverse membership applies to harmonize business value creation with civil society’s broader needs.

Terry F. Yosie, WEC President & CEO
THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

WEC provides business leaders with the opportunity to discuss current and emerging topics of high business value that are associated with environmental and other sustainability trends and governance systems. WEC's Executive Roundtables, workshops, webinars, speeches, publications and many collaboration opportunities with some of the leading global experts help decision-makers to be part of the innovations taking place.

In 2017 WEC concentrated on:

Transforming Sustainability into Business Strategy:
- **Sustainable Development as Business Strategy Roundtable** was held in San Salvador, El Salvador on November 30, 2016. This project falls within the framework of the Pathways to Cleaner Production program was funded by the US State Department. WEC stressed the need and importance of introducing sustainability in university curricula to prepare and equip students to pursue professional careers that saw the new trends of cleaner production methods embedded in company processes. (Project Summary found on page 4).
- **What Every Board Member and C-Suite Executive Should Know About Transforming Sustainability Into Business Strategy**, Article was published by the Conference Board, March 27, 2017. Link can be found here.
- **Managing a Transformed World: How Risk Assessment and Megatrends Drive New Business and Policy Frameworks**, WEC Lecture at Milken School of Public Health, George Washington University, April 6, 2017. The lecture reviews adaptation strategies by private sector organizations and the need to re-focus regulatory tools and frameworks.

Circular Economy:
- **Moving the Circular Economy From Concept to Business Strategy and Operations**, Published by the Conference Board, September 25, 2017. Link can be found here.
- **Collaboration for Achieving Circular Economy Business Solutions**, was an Executive Roundtable sponsored by The Dow Chemical Company in Zürich, Switzerland on April 26, 2017. Thirty-three thought leaders assessed how advancing the circular economy requires new business models (including service models that exist in parallel with the sale of products) and collaboration strategies that engage all major value chain participants. Download summary here.

Preparing Business Leaders for a Sustainable Future:
- **Managing for Business and Societal Impacts: An Outcome Based Approach to Corporate Strategy and Goal Setting** - this was an Erb Institute and WEC Roundtable, co-sponsored with the Dow Chemical Company, held on Nov 30 & Dec 1, 2017 in Washington D.C. The Roundtable focused on three major themes: developing business models to satisfy business and consumer needs; tightening the connection between goal setting and measuring actual impacts; and transitioning from social license to business resilience. Summary for the event is linked here.
Sustainable Development Goals:

- **Is There Business Value in the UN Sustainable Development Goals?** Published by the Conference Board, February 7, 2017. Link can be found [here](#).

- **Practical Experiences of Global Companies working with the Sustainable Development Goals**, a WEC-workshop held on Sept 22, 2017 in Munich, Germany had practitioners from the automotive, banking, chemical, industrial engineering, IT, oil & gas, and service industries, Participants discussed current business practices in reaction to the SDGs and opportunities for companies to work with them strategically. Link to Workshop Summary can be found [here](#).

**Science Based Targets**

- **Science Based Targets to Implement a Robust Climate Strategy**, was a joint workshop with start-up firm, right, based on science, held in Frankfurt, Germany on September 28, 2017. Company practitioners from the chemical, industrial engineering, service and telecommunications industries discussed the business value of this methodology and its maturity when it comes to applying SBTs in diverse countries and to every industry. Link to the Workshop Summary can be found [here](#).

**Strengthening Supplier Performance**

- **WEC-U.S. Department of State Roundtable: Innovation and Best Practices in Clean Production and Greener Value Chains** – Held on May 31, 2017 in Washington D.C., the Roundtable brought together thirty-six diverse, international experts who evaluated how companies large and small can advance innovation and resilience in the midst of megatrend-related disruption, and presented business cases for collaboration in emerging markets. A summary of the Roundtable, key topics, and results can be found [here](#).

- **Evaluating and Strengthening Supplier Performance: Goal Setting and Collaboration Initiatives**, a joint CESPEDES - WEC roundtable hosted by Coca-Cola FEMSA in Mexico City on July 17, 2017. Forty-two senior representatives focused on goal setting with suppliers, training and other collaboration initiatives—all leading to a proposed project for supplier development in Mexico for 2018 to develop a systems approach for suppliers to improve sustainability performance.

- **Pathways to Cleaner Production Project Conclusion, May 2017.** The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) and the World Environment Center (WEC) partnered over the past decade to strengthen local economies by scaling sustainable practices in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in developing nations through the Pathways to Cleaner Production Project. Results of the project are shown [here](#).
Pathways to Cleaner Production in the Americas: Educating Future Professionals

In December 2016, WEC finalized project activities that started in 2012. Partnering with a consortium of North American universities Higher Education for Development (HED), the project worked throughout Latin America to promote the application of Cleaner Production practices in the private sector in the region. This initiative, “Pathways to Cleaner Production,” funded by the U.S. Department of State, achieved success by collaborating with local universities and the private sector in each of the seven countries (Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Peru) to both develop advanced skills in students and provide them the opportunity for practical application in situ in local Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs). This project established the first steps to align university education in these countries with those institutions and companies interested in promoting cleaner production and energy efficiency processes within their organizations.

In 2016, 15 participating companies from Guatemala and El Salvador achieved the following based on recommended action plans by students:

♦ Economic savings of more than $112,000,
♦ Investments realized for more than $91,000,
♦ 1,426,760 gallons of water saved,
♦ 221,156 kWh reduced,
♦ 4,719 gallons of fuel saved,

Other Publications, Presentations and Articles:

♦ Empresas con modelo de producción más limpia, perciben ahorro en su operación / Companies with Cleaner Production Model, Experience Great Savings, Feb 6, 2017. Link to the article can be found here.
♦ Combatting Global Pollution: Towards the UN Environment Assembly, Washington, DC, February 9, 2017
♦ How Can Organizations Deal With Systemic Risks, International Risk Governance Council Expert Workshop in Collaboration with the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Potsdam, Germany, October 26-27, 2017. Link can be found here.
♦ The Nonprofit Board Leadership Study (in support of Alice Korngold), November 2, 2017. Link can be found here.
WEC Gold Medal

WEC’s annual Gold Medal for International Corporate Achievement in Sustainable Development honors business excellence and recognizes superior performance.

The annual Gold Medal event is the longest lasting and most prestigious event in the field of sustainable development and attracts participants at the CEO and senior levels of global organizations.

Gold Medal Colloquium

WEC’s annual Gold Medal Colloquium brings together thought leaders from business, government and civil society to discuss a key sustainability topic.

GOLD MEDAL JURY

The WEC Gold Medal Award Jury is composed of sustainability leaders who come from a diverse backgrounds in governmental, corporate, global, non-profit and academic experience. Companies must apply for the award as part of a global competition, which culminates in the independent Gold Medal jury’s rigorous selection process to select a recipient.

GOLD MEDAL AWARD 2017

The 2017 Gold Medal Award for International Corporate Achievement in Sustainable Development was awarded to HP and presented to its Chief Supply Chain Officer, Mr. Stuart C. Pann on May 11, 2017 at the 33rd Annual WEC Gold Medal Gala in Washington, D.C. HP was recognized for corporate responsibility initiatives such as its strategic alignment with 16 of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals, its supply chain responsibility and circular economy efforts, and genuine commitment to advocating on behalf of migrant workers, refugees, and underserved populations.

GOLD MEDAL COLLOQUIUM 2017

The focus of this year’s Colloquium was “Maintaining Momentum for Current and Future Sustainability Commitments.” Featured speakers included former EPA Administrators William Reilly and Gina McCarthy and Environmental Defense Fund President Fred Krupp. Participating company executives included Judy Glazer (HP), Jeff Seabright (Unilever), Scott Tew (Ingersoll Rand) and Mark Weick (Dow Chemical). Special thanks goes to Ingersoll Rand for its generous sponsorship.

2018 GOLD MEDAL JURY MEMBERS

Ms. Katherine Sierra (CHAIR)  
Senior Fellow, Global Economy & Dev.  
The Brookings Institution  
Washington, DC, USA

Dick Bartelse  
Director of Procurement (Retired)  
Akzo Nobel  
Den Haag, the Netherlands

Leslie Carothers  
Scholar-in-Residence, Pace Law School  
Former President, Environmental Law Institute  
Washington, DC, USA

Linda J. Fisher  
Vice President, Safety, Health & Environment, and Chief Sustainability Officer, Dupont (retired)  
Washington, DC, USA

Alice Korngold  
President & CEO  
Korngold Consulting LLC  
New York, NY, USA

Clarissa Lins  
Founding Partner  
Catavento  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Dr. Robert W. Slater  
Professor  
Carleton University  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
WEC leads and facilitates projects on the ground to spur economic performance while reducing the environmental footprint of industrial activities. These projects are funded by companies or governments. In 2017 WEC achieved the following:

**Supporting Social Entrepreneurs**

La Red de Innovacion e Impacto ("La Red" or "The Network") was developed to accelerate business development through sustainable economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) by supporting the growth of local, innovative solutions that address the needs of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The Network, funded by the United States Department of State, is increasingly demonstrating itself to be an effective means to source and scale impactful solutions in the region. Significant results, based on the last evaluation in October 2016 include:

- 2,230 MSMEs in the region are directly benefitting from USG enterprise assistance through the funded projects of La Red de Pathways Challenge.
- 220 Individuals have gained new employment through these projects.
- 1,638 persons gained better employment.
- 1,240 farmers are now applying new technologies and/or management practices to improve their crops.
- 89 beneficiary SMES now use technologies or practices that better respond to environmental standards.
- 8 member organizations have succeeded in scaling their solutions to other locations, mainly through support provided by La Red.
- 22 members are actively working together.
- 6 members have reached concrete agreements with an external stakeholder as a result of the support and activities provided by La Red.

**LA RED PARTNERS:**

**MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: Travolution’s March 2017 Latin American Community Based Tourism Festival**

Travolution, one of the eight grantees under WEC’s La Red de Innovacion e Impacto project, convened the first Latin American Meeting of Community-Based Tourism in March 2017 in the State of Boyacá, Colombia. This event featured more than 30 Latin American exhibitors in sustainable community tourism, 50 Colombian enterprises and 10 municipal and federal agencies interested in marketing these products in international markets.

In addition, several other members of La Red attended to build relationships with Travolution and other participants. Colombia was chosen because of its strategic position between Peru, Dominican Republic, and Central America, and its unique situation of post-conflict, making it a special location for dialogue and interchange of cultures, and traditions from Latin America and the Caribbean.

As a result of La Red’s participation and guidance, Travolution is currently in discussions with the Guatemalan government to convene a Central American Encuentro in Guatemala in 2018.
La Red Annual Summit

The La Red de Innovación e Impacto team convened a Summit on July 20-21 in Washington, D.C. The Summit supported the members of La Red, provided additional training, shared lessons learned and best practices, and continued cultivating their partnerships with each other as well as important stakeholders. External participants included impact investors and financiers Accion Venture Lab, Omidyar, Global Good Fund, Pro-Mujer, and OPIC; international accelerators Agora Partnerships, New Ventures, and NESsT; entrepreneur networks Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs, Georgetown Entrepreneurship Initiative; the InterAmerican Development Bank, the U.S. Department of State, and the U.S. Agency for International Development. The members cross sectors, geography, and markets, but they all have a common mission to support sustainable economic entrepreneurial growth in their region, and to do so with innovative approaches. A summary of the event can be found [here](#).

La Red Extension

La Red network provided members access to resources through members’ information sharing, facilitated connections, and identification of partnership opportunities. La Red created a strong network of members who are spread across countries, sectors, and markets and therefore were able to provide services, assistance and guidance to one another in their efforts to scale into different markets.

In September, 2017, the U.S. Department of State awarded WEC $2.56 million to continue and expand La Red throughout Central America to 2020. The expanded program will enable WEC to significantly increase the number of participating enterprises with the goal of accelerating innovation, job creation and market expansion opportunities across a number of business sectors, including agriculture, agroindustry, and textiles.
WEC CONTACT INFORMATION

WEC Europe Office
Bodenseestr. 4
81241 Munich, Germany

WEC Latin America Office
Calle Jucuarán #28A
Bosques de Santa Elena II, Antiguo Cuscatlán, La Libertad
El Salvador

WEC Asia Office
The Spaces International
Center A-25 FL
8 Dongdaqiaolu, Beijing

Frank Werner
Director, WEC Europe e.V.
Email: fwerner@wec.org

Ernesto Samaya
Director, Latin America Operations
Email: essamaya@wec.org

Christian Izquierdo
Consultant
Email: chris_0307@hotmail.com

J.P. Huang
Chief Strategic Advisor
Email: jphuang@jpi.cn

Lisa Liu
Project Manager
Email: lisaliu@jpi.cn

WEC BOARD 2017

Executive Committee: Francisco Suárez (Chair), Director, New Business Initiatives, Coca-Cola FEMSA; Linda J. Fisher, Vice President, Safety, Health & Environment, and Chief Sustainability Officer, Dupont (retired); C. Scott Fulton, President, Environmental Law Institute; Liz Maw (Treasurer), Chief Executive Officer, Net Impact; Terry F. Yosie (Ex Officio), WEC

Board Members: Wayne Balta, Vice President, Corporate Environmental Affairs and Product Safety, IBM; Mike Barry, Director of Sustainable Business, Marks & Spencer; Sergio Kato, Corporate Vice President, Sustainable Management, Ricoh; Carol Ryerkerk Powell, Global Head and Vice President, Environment, Health, Safety & Sustainability, Bristol-Myers Squibb; Kelly M. Semrau, Senior Vice President, Global Corporate Affairs, Communication & Sustainability, SC Johnson; Isabel Studer, Executive Director, Mexico and Northern Central America, The Nature Conservancy; Scott Tew, Executive Director, Center for Energy Efficiency & Sustainability, Ingersoll Rand; and Rupert Thomas, Vice President for Environment, Royal Dutch Shell

WEC EUROPE SUPERVISING BOARD
Dr. Martin Hostalek (Chair), Senior Vice President EHSQ, Merck Group; Dick Bartelse, Director of Procurement (Retired), Akzo Nobel; Dr. Dieter Hiler, Partner, ERM; Dr. Peter Schnurrenberger, Roche Group SHE Officer, F. Hoffman-La Roche; Rupert Thomas, Vice President for Environment, Royal Dutch Shell; Terry F. Yosie, Managing Director.

BUDGET
Fiscal year 2016: $2.47 million
Fiscal year 2017: $2.56 million

WEC MEMBER COMPANIES 2017

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