

# GRA

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## Newsletter

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers a prosperous 2004. May the Global Research Alliance go from strength to strength.

It is very heartening to note the scope and the momentum of GRA activities during 2003. An update on the past year confirms the success of our early endeavours so far, which have laid a firm foundation for our next year of operation.



Second Annual Meeting of the Global Research Alliance in Delhi, India, January 2003

The seminal event of the year must surely be the Delhi Meeting held in January 2003 (hosted by CSIR India) at which the GRA was formally launched. Over this two-day period, representatives of the 'group of nine' reached agreement on the way forward and membership of the Alliance. Summing up the significance of this development, Dr Ramesh Mashelkar noted, "We are joined by our dedication to serving the greater good through innovation and research. Alone, we can each have tremendous impact in the countries we serve. Now, together, we can serve the greater sphere of mankind."



Water Fusion Workshop, Sydney, Australia, March-April 2003



Energy Fusion Workshop in Columbus, Ohio, USA, June 2003



Transportation Fusion Workshop in Durban, South Africa, October 2003

The activities of the GRA have focused on water, energy, transportation, the digital divide and health. The dedication and commitment of the GRA Champions in organising the necessary events and structures for outputs relating to these focus areas have been commendable. The three fusion workshops held on three different continents (Australia for water; Africa for transportation and North America for energy) have delivered valuable outcomes in terms of identified themes where each of these focus areas can make an impact, as well as through the establishment of councils to provide thought leadership and marketing for the relevant capabilities of the GRA. We look forward to workshops in the digital divide and health domains during 2004 as well as ongoing developments in all five focus areas.

Working with the Champions from each member organisation, the Nerve Centre has played a valuable role through the identification, collation and above all, the synthesis of the competencies of members in priority areas relevant to projects of global concern. The outcomes have been the securing of a project for the ASEAN region on the Development of a Strategic Plan of Action on Water Resource Management, and Expressions of Interest for two other projects. The Nerve Centre has also established the process of collating and managing relevant business intelligence, streamlined the compilation process around Expressions of Interest and maintained various communication platforms such as the website, listservers and regular newsletters.

Project opportunities have been identified by several member organisations, which have been circulated to all members. In addition, the Nerve Centre has subscribed to a Development Banks Alert Service. This is the beginning of what should become a global business intelligence network, coordinated by the Nerve Centre.

The Brussels Mini Workshop held in October 2004, which was attended by five members, provided a valuable forum for exploring further opportunities for the GRA, particularly relating to the European Commission and Boeing. Ongoing interaction regarding the role of Champions proved constructive. The Nerve Centre tabled the draft agenda and documents for the third Annual Meeting of Principals, which paved the way for mutual agreement on issues pertaining to this event.

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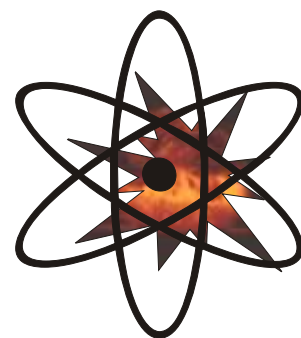
The Annual Review 2003 of the Global Research Alliance, prepared by the Nerve Centre, is a useful summary of progress and status within the Alliance. (Apart from the print version, you can also

access an electronic version from our website.) We would like to thank all of you who contributed to the document and invite you to use the document in your efforts to promote the capabilities of the Alliance.



The third Annual Meeting of Principals takes place at the end of January 2004 in Birlinghoven's historic castle of St Augustin. It is indeed an eagerly anticipated event at which participants will have the opportunity to present progress in the different focus areas and re-establish valuable contacts and networks. Our thanks to the host, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, for making this magnificent venue available.

People are what make an organisation effective and there is no doubt that the people of the GRA have really made the difference in the past year since the second Annual Meeting of Principals in Delhi in January 2003. Thank you all and we look forward to an even busier and more exciting year in 2004.



## BRIEF HIGHLIGHTS IN FOCUS AREAS

### Water

- Lead organisation: CSIRO
- Fusion Workshop, Sydney, Australia, 31 March-4 April 2003
- Water Action Council formed
- First meeting of Water Action Council, November 2004 in Melbourne
- Expression of Interest to World Bank
- First contract in ASEAN region
- Business plan under development

### Energy

- Lead organisation: Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft
- Fusion Workshop, Columbus, Ohio, 15-19 June 2003
- Energy Council formed
- Energy Council meeting, January 2004
- Business plan under development

### Transportation

- Lead organisation: TNO
- Fusion Workshop, Durban, South Africa, 15-17 October 2003
- Meeting in Washington, January 2004



### Digital Divide

- Two position papers
- Fusion Workshop in 2004



### Health

- Position paper
- Submission to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation