

SCHUMACHER AWARD 2000

I am Alison Pritchard and I am a Council Member of the Schumacher Society.

As many of you will know, the Schumacher Society has been presenting the Schumacher Awards at the Bristol Lectures since 1994. They were founded by our past President, Diana Schumacher to whom I would like to pay tribute. She organised them with her usual flair and dedication until last year, and it is with some trepidation that I attempt to follow her act.

The Award honours people and grassroots organisations in the UK whose work is making a significant contribution to human scale sustainable development - I like to think of them as Schumacher pioneers, offering solutions to our contemporary crisis. And it symbolises those countless other unsung heroines and heroes who are working away, often with little or no support. The citation on the Award trophy is ***"It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness"***.

All Schumacher Society members are eligible to nominate for the Award; another reason to join the Society for those who are not already members. And the Award is judged by the Schumacher Society Council. I hope you all have a copy of the shortlist. You will see that it is an excellent list. Thank you to members for your nominations.

The Council had a difficult task to choose the Award recipient for the year 2000. However, as always, a decision must be made. And it is now my pleasure and privilege to announce that we have decided in this year 2000 to give the Schumacher Award jointly to AUBREY MEYER and to PLATFORM.

AUBREY MEYER and his GLOBAL COMMONS INSTITUTE, receive the Award for his campaign to bring the threat of global warming to the attention of the public and policy-makers, and for his formulation of a pioneering solution which he calls 'Contraction and Convergence'. Sadly Aubrey is unable to be here today to collect his Award, but his absence is in a good cause. He has sent us a message which reads:

Dear Friends and colleagues in the Schumacher Society and others attending today's Lectures, I am pleased and honoured to receive this Award.

The Schumacher Award and the Society's good name can only help to develop the campaign for 'equity and survival' in the face of the awesome threat that global climate change represents.

The Award recognises the efforts I have made over the last ten years, with my small organisation, the Global Commons Institute.

I regret not being with you to show my appreciation personally. But I thank you with this message instead, and also congratulate the others whom the Society has chosen to honour.

My absence is because the effort for equity and survival continues. As you meet for today's Bristol Schumacher Lectures, I am in the Philippines advising a meeting of the Climate Action Network of South East Asia. They are joining with the broader movement of the Global Commons Network in the advocacy of a global policy framework based on the logic of 'equity and survival'.

My forthcoming Schumacher Briefing is about this logic and the campaign to establish it. It is based on the principles of "Contraction and Convergence". It aims for an agreed global contraction of greenhouse gas emissions by over 60% in less than 100 years, and convergence towards greater equality of emissions between today's rich, high pollution countries, and poor and vulnerable countries.

I realise with some concern that this is probably neither small nor beautiful. However, by helping to avert a global climate disaster, it could enable the possibility of small and beautiful things to continue to grace and enrich all our lives.

I thank you again. Aubrey Meyer.