

PREFACE

These proceedings give an overview of the breadth of issues discussed at the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement's Eighth Conference held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 5-11 April 2008. The theme of this conference was *From Concepts to Action: Successful Strategies for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement*.

This volume contains the *Conference Statement*, the main speeches and reports from the panels and workshops, a summary of the main outcomes of the conference, the papers submitted, and a summary of the participant evaluations of the conference. This body of work helps to underscore the importance of the rule of law, good governance and sustainable development, as well as the urgent need for humankind to give the highest priority to protecting environmental resources and pursuing sustainable development.

The Eighth International Conference brought together people from national, state, and local government agencies, international and non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. Participants came from all parts of the world, from both developing and developed countries. The conference served to affirm the benefits of environmental compliance and enforcement, to highlight the progress made by the network, and to press for further actions to improve environmental compliance and enforcement everywhere.

On behalf of the Executive Planning Committee and the Secretariat staff, we look forward to your continued and productive use of INECE's conference materials. For additional information about the conference, including the agenda, the video of Professor Wangari Maathai's remarks, conference presentations, and background papers, please visit the conference home page at <http://www.INECE.org/conference/8/>.

Comments and suggestions may be sent to the INECE Secretariat by email at inece@inece.org, by fax at 1-202-338-1810, or by mail to 2300 Wisconsin Avenue N.W., Suite 300B, Washington, DC 20007.

The Editors

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INECE Secretariat
2300 Wisconsin Ave, NW Suite 300B
Washington, DC 20007
inece@inece.org
<http://www.inece.org>