

Welcome—To the New Members of the Association for Progressive Communications

Back in 1987, IGC helped to develop an international cooperative effort called the Association for Progressive Communications (APC; see *NetNews* Winter 1987). At that time, the only additional member network was GreenNet based out of London. Since then, the Web in Canada has joined forces with us, and more recently we have added nodes in Sweden, Nicaragua, Brazil, and Australia, bringing total membership of the APC to seven networks. We highlight here our newest members.

Each site, independently owned and operated, maintains its own set of conferences, many of which are networked to all other sites, enabling you to participate in discussions in over 70 countries!

A more complete listing of the users of these new nodes will be available via the (u)sers command within the next month.

EarthNet at Pegasus Networks (peg:<account>)

The youngest member of the APC, EarthNet is operated by Pegasus Networks out of Byron Bay in northern New South Wales, situated on the most easterly point of Australia.

Pegasus began operations on September 1, 1989. Helped by Australia's generally high level of environmental awareness and staffed by people with extensive experience in peace and environment movements, EarthNet has over 120 users and subscription inquiries are arriving thick and fast.

Started by Ian Peter who is well known for his work in helping to stop deforestation, Pegasus Networks was able to interest an ethical investment fund in putting up the capital needed to get EarthNet off the ground. As a result, the environment community is already well represented on EarthNet. Organizations already using EarthNet include:

The Rainforest Conservation Society, Australian Conservation Foundation, World Congress of Organizations for a Peaceful Earth, Freedom from Hunger, Greenpeace Australia, International Permaculture Institute, Rain Forest Information Centre, Friends of the Earth, Sydney Peace Squadron, El Salvador Information Office, and the World Wildlife Fund.

Fredsnæflet (PeaceNet Sweden) (pns:<account>)

PeaceNet Sweden (PNS), which came online in January 1989, is a nonprofit organization founded by the Swedish Peace & Arbitration Society (SPAS) and the Swedish Fellowship of Reconciliation. Subscriptions have recently reached 100.

PNS is independent of political, religious or commercial interests. PNS conferences of global interest include:

- dc.news Disarmament Campaigns, bulletin from IKV, Netherlands
- spas.nuketest Swedish Peace & Arbitration Society's monitoring of nuclear testing, based on Swedish seismographical station
- pns.baltic For discussion of PNS networking in and around the Baltic

Alternex (ax:<account>)

Alternex was created this summer by the Instituto Brasileiro de Analises Sociais e Economicas (IBASE), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and IGC to support popular movements in Brazil. The network is housed at IBASE in Rio de Janeiro; however, it is available throughout Brazil through RENPAC, the Brazilian data network.

Alternex can be used to send electronic mail to others within Brazil, or to reach groups and individuals outside of Brazil (via the other related networks, academic networks, and so on). Likewise, any user of one of the IGC networks can freely send messages to organizations in Brazil.

At present, there are about 90 users of Alternex. Current users include: the Brazilian AIDS association, the Institute for Technology for the Citizen, and the UNDP/FAO Project Polonoeste (environmental component of an Amazon Development project located in Rondonia).

Although most Alternex conferences are not yet networked to the rest of the nodes, you may be interested in reading the Cronologia conference ax.crono. Cronologia, a service of IBASE, is a summary of the news stories in the Brazilian press related to unions, land reform, environment, political parties and campaigns. Note that the material is available only in Portuguese, and may be sporadic until mid-October. Another conference available in Brazil is ron.tropicstimer, a conference of the Rainforest Action Network.

If you are interested in helping an affiliated group establish a connection to Alternex, you can send e-mail to the support people at IBASE (ax:suporte).

Nicarao (ni:<account>)

In the summer of 1988, IGC opened electronic mail channels with Sistemas Industriales (SI), a software

