



## **Environmental Management Leadership Symposium Report**

By Mark Gero, Environment Committee Chairman

The Environmental Management Leadership Symposium held in Dubrovnik took place October 3rd and 4th at the American College of Management and Technology (ACMT) and the Center for Advanced Academic Studies in the building next door. This is a vitally important topic for Croatia as Environmental Management is arguably in its infancy even though billions of euro will pour into environmental issues and projects during the EU ascension process. The ACMT is part of the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York State which was the sponsor of this symposium, which was the third in a continuing international series of similar symposia.

The sponsors asked me to invite as many attendees as I could who were active in environmental management in any and all forms. The weekend was strongly supported by the Environmental Committee. Members attending included Marija Bajica of Oikon, Ana Spehar of Agroproteinka, Damir Subasic of APO, Ana Marija Maric of the Midia Group, Zarko Horvat of Holcim and Dubravko Ciznesija of Heinekin; guest members Dr. Roko Andricevic of University of Split, Mirjana Matesic of HRPSOR, Natalija Koprivanac of the University of Zagreb and Bernarda Rozman of APO. The key to the procedure of the symposium was the design and implementation of a total of 9 'workshops' with 5 to 20 participants. The agenda listing the workshop topics will be available by a link on this page. Special thanks must go out to all of us from Croatia who volunteered to moderate three of these topics: Dubravka Turkalj of Croatia Airlines, Stasa Puskaric of ACMT, Dr. Koprivanac, Dr. Nenad Mikulic of the MZOPU, Dr. Andricevic, Srdan Selanec of Tehprojekt, and me of Eco- Logic Systems.

Dr. Nikola Ruzinski and Mr. Vinko Mladineo were featured keynote speakers and their involvement insured press coverage which was graciously provided with the support of Ms. Lidija Gasparovic of HRT, a PhD student of the Environmental Management Studies program and wife of Nedo Stoic of Gavrilovic, who was unable only at the last minute to attend the symposium.

A highlight of the weekend took place near the very close when Dr. Zihaly and Dr. Harangozo of Hungary gave a presentation useful for all of us in Croatia at this time entitled: 'Joining the EU: The Transition Years in Hungary'. The Environmental Management Leadership Symposium will return in October 2009 and it is important to note that next year's event will take place in Zagreb. The change of venue and word of mouth from this year's participants should ensure even greater attendance and a successful symposium.

Considerable information is available on the RIT website <http://www.environmentalmanager.org> including tracking of previous symposia in Rochester and Budapest, ours in Dubrovnik, and future symposia worldwide.