

letter from the publisher

Ninety years ago in July 1926 over four hundred followers of Henry George from twenty six nations met in the Joint Assembly Chamber of the Houses of Parliament in Copenhagen, Denmark, for their Third International Conference. The conference culminated in the formation of The International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade and an Address (via a letter) to the League of Nations in Geneva. In their Address they indicated their "earnest hope that the League may be led to promote the peace and prosperity of the world by undertaking the removal of obstacles that now interfere with common understanding and progress." In forming the Union it was resolved that Land&Liberty shall be recognised as its official organ.

This edition of Land&Liberty is published in commemoration of these past events and as a spur to current and future endeavours to promote a more widespread understanding of, and commitment to, implementing key fiscal and trade policies needed to secure peace and prosperity within and between nations.

In 1992 The International Union for Land Value Taxation (the IU) was recognised as a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) by the United Nations and in 2003 received "Consultative Status" via their Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It regularly contributes towards events at the UN in New York but in October the UN will be holding its *Habitat III conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development* in Quito, Ecuador. This will be the first Global Summit and implementing conference flowing from the United Nations 2030 "Agenda for Sustainable Development" and the new "Climate Change Agreements". It represents an important opportunity for the IU and during the past few months members of the IU have been contributing towards various Habitat III lead up events in New York, Prague, Barcelona and on line.

As newly elected President of the IU, together with others, I shall seek to carry our message to Quito. It is hoped that the material assembled for this edition of Land&Liberty, together with that to emerge from our *Commons Rent for the Common Good - Implementation* conference in London on 16 & 17th September, will be useful for sharing with other delegates and officials there.

Overall the material needs to address seven key questions that any government seeking to implement Land Value Based Fiscal Reform (LVBFR) must be able to answer namely:

- i) What is the optimum form of LVBFR and what administrative mechanisms are needed for implementation?*
- ii) How would LVBFR be integrated with the regulation/planning of land use?*
- iii) How would LVBFR contribute towards good, secure, affordable housing?*
- iv) How may LVBFR be made more politically acceptable?*
- v) How, for the provision of public infrastructure and affordable housing, may private sector finance be accessed and properly rewarded whilst retaining all associated rent as public revenue?*
- vi) How should Monetary Reform and Tax Free Production & Fair Trade feature in plans for LVBFR?*
- vii) How may legal, political and economic obstacles to LVBFR be overcome and what are the lessons we need to learn from history?*

We shall also need answers to the questions that Dr. Le-Yin Zhang put to me in Prague, again in London, and again in her article here. Why, since this seems to be such a good idea and has been around for so long has it not really caught on? And, what needs to be done to change this?

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