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**VOICES FROM THE THIRD WORLD**

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**VOICES FROM THE THIRD WORLD**

**Eco-Crisis  
Theological Visions**

Asociacion Ecumenica de  
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## **Editorial**

**A**round fifty theologians from all parts of the world met at Belem in Brazil in January this year to ponder on the Eco-crisis and to engage on a theological search and response.

This issue of *Voices* is happy to place before you some of the papers presented by EATWOT members at this World Forum on Theology.

The rape of the earth takes various forms: pollution of water, dumping of nuclear and chemical wastes, low intensity conflicts ruthless exploitation of the earth's limited resources, destruction of flora and fauna. It also exists in the form of environmental racism and divisive power politics – Colonialism that led to the division and sharing of continents and countries among colonial powers, and transfer of peoples as labour from country of birth to other countries have led to tribal and ethnic conflicts in different parts of the developing world bringing about untold human suffering and devastation of the environment. The divisive power politics still persist in the world maintaining these conflicts at a low manageable level.

Imperialism, globalization (market) uncontrolled, haphazard industrialization and militarism are all processes that aggravate injustice, both ecological and social.

Unecological theology and mind-set need to be challenged and denounced profoundly as those concerned struggle to evolve a new eco-friendly ethos of life. Social justice calls for eco-

justice as well. Holistic diseases require holistic healing. At present the concern is more rooted in the fear of risk to human life. But the crisis challenges the human to a more radical questioning of philosophies and ways of life that alienate the human from nature.

Many committed people have sacrificed their energy and even their lives for the cause of justice peace and integrity of creation. May their lives be like the silver fish in the river of life inspiring many more to engage in dreaming dreams and announcing new visions of loving and harmonious relationships of peoples and nations with one another, mother earth, the cosmos and the living God immanent in nature.

***Sr. Marlene Perera***