his community, country and the developing world with dignity, integrity and compassion. In an age marked by divisiveness, John Bene has distinguished himself by bridging the barriers separating the poor from the affluent, the developing nations from the developed, and the public institutions from private interests.

Born in Vienna, he graduated in engineering from Jozsef University in Budapest and studied Forest Operations in France, Germany and England. At twentyfive he began a career that would make him a leading authority on forestry and