

International Symposium & Public Lecture “Science-Policy in a Global Context”

Towards Meeting the Challenges of Sustainable Development and Climate Goals

Monday, 1 June 2015

International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Laxenburg/Vienna, Austria

2015 represents a watershed year, and arguably the last chance for a generation, for world leaders and national governments to agree and commit to the necessary steps required for the transformational changes needed globally towards a sustainable future. The Financing for Development Conference (FfD) will take place in Addis Ababa in July. The Sustainable Development Goals are to be adopted at the United Nations in September 2015 and the world's governments are pledged to adopt a new climate agreement at the 21st Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris, 2015. The role of global science to be an integral partner and substantive supporter of these objectives is critical. This symposium will focus on both identifying the needs of governments and institutions for scientific support in policy development, negotiations and implementation around these global challenges and how the scientific community can respond and support these initiatives.

Program

12:30-13:00 Arrival and registration with coffee and pastries; *Conference Center Foyer Area*

13:00-13:30 **Welcome Session**

- *Pavel Kabat* (Director General and CEO, IIASA)
- *Gordon McBean* (President of the International Council for Science)
- *Heide Hackmann* (Executive Director of the International Council for Science) representing the Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability
- *Mark Stafford Smith* (Chair: Future Earth Scientific Committee)

13:30-15:00 **Panel Session 1: “Key Challenges in the Practice of Science-Policy Dialogue”**

Part 1: Current practice, key challenges and barriers for the provision of scientific advice to governments

Panel Members:

- *Marc Bichler* (Ambassador and Representative of the future Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the European Union) - as of 1 July 2015
- *Vaughan Turekian* (Director of the Center for Science Diplomacy, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and Editor-in-Chief of “Science and Diplomacy”)
- *Jairam Ramesh* (Member of the Indian Parliament and Chair of the Future Earth Engagement Committee)
- *Representative from the Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management*
- *Philippe Scholtès* (Managing Director, Programme Development and Technical Cooperation Division, UNIDO)
- *Bina Agarwal* (Professor of Development, Economics and Environment, University of Manchester)
- *Amy Luers* (Director of Climate Skoll Global Threats Fund and Former Senior Environment Program Manager at Google)
- *Markus Amann* (Program Director, Mitigation of Air Pollution and Greenhouse Gases Program, IIASA)

Followed by a moderated debate among panel members and representatives from the Future Earth Scientific and Engagement Committees and IIASA

15:00-15:30 Coffee break

15:30-17:00 **Panel Session 2: “Global Challenges for Science to Policy”**

Panel Members:

- Heads of Mission/Ambassadors to Vienna from key countries involved in the SDG and Climate negotiations including: *India, Mexico, Brazil, USA, France UK, China, Germany, Russia, South Africa, Indonesia, Australia and the European Commission*
- *Nebojsa Nakicenovic* (Deputy Director General/Deputy CEO, IIASA)
- *Mark Stafford Smith* (Chair: Future Earth Scientific Committee)
- Business Representatives *Björn Stigson* (Former President of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)) and *Masayo Hasegawa* (Project General Manager, Environmental Affairs Division, Toyota Motor Corporation)
- *Jan Koukal* (Former Mayor of Prague and former Ambassador of the Czech Republic in Austria)

The panel will debate the following questions:

- Despite a formal process, agreed upon by world governments, that is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ([UNFCCC](#)) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ([IPCC](#)), for providing scientific evidence, support and monitoring for climate negotiations, most of the countries have failed so far to reach any meaningful agreements on climate goals since the Kyoto Protocol in 1992. What has gone wrong and what have we learned?

- In contrast to climate negotiations, no such formalized or clearly articulated partnership between science and policy is in place for the negotiations and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals set to be agreed upon and adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015. What role should, and how can, the global scientific community respond to ensure that the necessary scientific knowledge is available to assist and support these negotiations and their subsequent implementation? What role can the newly developed integrated [World in 2050 Project](#) play in this regard? What sort of, if any, formalized science to policy partnership needs to be established for this process?

17:00-18:00 Public Lecture

Vaughan Turekian (Director of the Center for Science Diplomacy, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and Editor-in-Chief of "Science and Diplomacy") and **Kandeh Yumkella** (UN Under Secretary General, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Sustainable Energy for All and former Director General of UNIDO)

Followed by the awarding of the IIASA Distinguished Visiting Fellow to Kandeh Yumkella

18:00-20:00 Vernissage and Reception

Joint Opening of Exhibition by H.E. Hubert Würth, Ambassador for Luxembourg to Austria, Pavel Kabat, Director General and CEO, IIASA and Robert Dienst, Mayor of the City of Laxenburg

The exhibition "*Urge for Structure*" will show Austrian works by Hubert Würth, the diplomat as an artist.