

The Future of Knowledge: Evolutionary Challenges of the 21st Century World Academy of Art and Science, General Assembly - Zagreb, Croatia

The President of B.I.O., recently appointed Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS), will be attending the General Assembly of the WAAS taking place in Zagreb, Croatia, from the 17th to the 20th of November 2005. The World Academy is a non-official network of approximately 500 individual Fellows from diverse cultures, nationalities and intellectual disciplines, chosen for eminence in art, the natural and social sciences and the humanities.

The General Assembly will be preceded by a NATO advanced research workshop themed *Security in Knowledge-based Society: Developing Resilience in Societies at Risk and Threatened by Terrorism*. At the General Assembly, the President of B.I.O. will chair a discussion on 'Human Responsibility for Evolution: Was Huxley Right?'. The discussion will be co-chaired by Carl Goran Heden from the Biofocus Foundation, Sweden.

In addition, the World Academy will be establishing a regional division focusing on South East Europe (SEED), of which the President of B.I.O. has been appointed Deputy Coordinator. This division will be a network of individual scientists, scholars and decision-makers; a network of research institutions; a think tank; and a public-policy forum.

NATO Advanced Research Workshop

The opening session will consist of an introduction to the workshop led by Harlan Cleveland and Mladen Stancic. **Session one**, titled 'Security in a Knowledge-based Society' and chaired with introductory comments by Ivo Slaus, will be followed by discussion. The panelists will be J. Petersen, J. PopJordanov, and H. Kraljevic. **Session Two**, 'Societal Resilience against Terrorism', will be chaired by V. Cvrtila, panelists will be G. Jacobs, V. Lukov and W.T. Anderson. **Session Three** will address the importance of transatlantic cooperation and will be chaired, with introductory comments, by A. Faupin. Keynote speakers at this session will be R.W. Markus, R. Vukadonovic and L. Bloomfield. 'Unconventional Threats' is the topic of **Session Four**, chaired by S.P. Kapitzka, with I. Gyarmati, R. Benedick, G. Flego and N. Radunovic attending



as panelists. **Session Five** is titled 'Conflict prevention and post-conflict resolution - countries in transition' and will be chaired by R. Berg, with panelists: A. Goncharenko, B. Tashev, M. Elezi and S. Gligorjevic. Discussion will follow. **Session Six** will be a discussion on 'NPT, Chemical and Biological Warfare' and will be chaired with an introduction by P. Cotta Ramusino. Panelists will be J. Singh, V. Lukov, and R. Zilinskas. The **seventh** and final session is titled 'Culture of Peace and Human Rights' and will be chaired by R. Diez Hochleitner. Panelists will be Z. Puhovski, R. van Harten, B. Matic, and I. Samson and discussion will follow.

World Academy of Art and Science General Assembly

The General Assembly will be opened by President of WAAS, Walt Anderson, who will talk on 'Future of Knowledge - the Role of the WAAS, Formal establishment of SEED'. He will be followed by Janez Potocnik, EU Commissioner for R&D, with a talk on 'Knowledge Society - European Perspective'. Ivo



Slaus, Chair of the Organizing Committee will be talking on 'Knowledge Society, Globalization and the Role of SEED', and will be followed by the official opening of the General Assembly by the President of Croatia, Stjepan Mesic.

Workshops to be held will address a variety of topics, from globalization, human rights and rule of law to knowledge and certainty, to rising expectation: demography, aging and mobility. EASSG: Future of Euro-Atlantic security structure will be discussed before more workshops on the Frontiers of Genetics and Organizing knowledge for human benefit.

The **First Plenary Session** on

'The Culture of Peace and Security' will be chaired by Harlan Cleveland, Former US Ambassador to NATO (USA) and Mircea Malitza, former Ambassador to the USA U(Romania). The invited speakers are Paolo Cotta Ramusino, Pugwash Conferences (Italy), Velizar Shalamanov (G.C.Marshall Center, Bulgaria) and Jasjit Singh,



Center for Strategic Studies (India). Speakers at the public event, 'Changing Our Minds: Electronic and Chemical Modification of Cognition and Emotion', will include James Hughes (USA) World Transhumanist Association, Ivica Kostovic* (Croatia) Croatian Institute for Brain Research, Eric Racine, Stanford Center for Biomedical Ethics (Canada, USA), Anwar Waqar, Gregory Stock (Pakistan).

On Saturday 19th November workshops will be on 'Universities of the future', 'Ownership of Knowledge', and 'Science and the Public'. The invited speakers for the **Second Plenary Session** are Danuta Huebner* (EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, Poland), Hiroyuki Yoshikawa (Japan), Herwig Schopper (Germany), Pushpa Bhargava (India). The session is titled 'Knowledge, Equity and Globalization: Are We Moving Ahead or Falling Behind?' and will be chaired by Bohdan Hawrylyshyn (Ukraine, Switzerland).

The **Third Plenary Session**, 'Human Responsibility for Evolution: Was Huxley Right?' SEE ABOVE Chairperson: Carl Goran Heden (Sweden) and Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis (Greece) Invited speakers are: Ian Pearson, Futurist BT Inc. (UK), Richard Benedick (USA), William Haseltine (USA).

The **Fourth Plenary Session**, 'Employment in the Global Society', chaired by Anamaria Sandi, World Bank (Romania) and Garry Jacobs (India/USA), will include talks from: Orio Giarini (Italy), Nadan Vidosevic (Croatia), Marc Luycck Ghisi (Belgium), and Robert Berg

(USA), M. Nandagopal (India).

The final day of the meeting will be reports from the workshops and will be chaired by W.T. Anderson (USA) and Simeon Anguelov (Bulgaria). Rapporteurs will be: Ivo Josipovic, Robert Blinc, Orio Giarini, Eliora Ron, Robert Horn, James Dator, and Stane Pejovnik.

The closing talks and closing ceremony is titled 'Europe As A Knowledge Society' and will be chaired by Jose Furtado (UK) and Wouter van Dieren (The Netherlands). Keynote speakers will be: E. U. von Weizsaecker (Germany), Maria da Graca Carvalho (Portugal), Pieter Drenth (The Netherlands). The concluding session of the ARW, chaired by M. Stancic, will feature concluding talks by L. Bloomfield, V. Shalamanov and R.W. Markus.

SEED

South East Europe has a rich historical heritage. For more than 25 centuries it has been the cradle of science and democracy. Throughout history it has been a border separating civilizations. Today some of its countries are member states of the European Union, some are candidates, and some are in transition. Although the region has made great contributions to science, the humanities, and education, none of its universities is now ranked among the top 500 in the world. The area is suffering enormous brain-drain, and research and development is not a high political priority. There is much work to be done.

In response to this need, The World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS) has established a regional division focusing on South East Europe. This South East Regional Division (SEED) is now being formed, and will be inaugurated at the next General Assembly of the World Academy to be held in Zagreb, November 17-20, 2005.

This division will strive to contribute to the development of knowledge-based societies in each country and in the region as a whole. It will be a network of individual scientists, scholars, policy- and decision-makers; a network of research institutions; a think tank and a public-policy forum.

Its mode of operation will be to work in cooperation with other international, regional and national organizations with similar interests and values.

World Referendum

How do we engage everyone in the race to save the environment?

The B.I.O. World Referendum, first launched in 1992, urges every citizen on the planet to cast a vote in defence of bios (life) and the environment.

Hunger, poverty, disease, loss of biodiversity, and global warming are all tied to the fate of the environment, yet the natural environment is gradually being destroyed. Every individual is of unique value and life in all its forms is precious and irreplaceable. The environment must be restored and the preservation of bios must become our first priority.

Access to knowledge with modern communication technology gives momentum to environmental protection and empowers sustainable development. It also provides humanity with the unprecedented opportunity to dynamically voice its concern over environmental deterioration. A World Referendum for every citizen on the planet to simultaneously cast a vote for the environment, could result in a global mobilisation for the reversal of destructive trends and guarantee a brighter future.

In September 1998, friends of B.I.O. all over the world responded to B.I.O.'s World Referendum. It was especially significant that thousands of people in the regions of South and Southeast Asia voted. The Governor of Haryana, Shri Mahavir Prasad, inaugurated the launch, which was attended by a large number of teachers, lawyers, businesspeople, doctors, police personnel, members of the armed forces, artists, musicians, scientists, NGO members, administrators, planners, politicians, etc. It is hoped that the launch of a new World Referendum, with even greater mobilisation, will lead to the necessary awareness and action to safeguard our planet for future generations.



- ▶ **Disturbed** by the present rate of environmental deterioration
- ▶ **Affirming** the interdependence of all forms of life on our planet
- ▶ **Wishing** to save the bio-environment, preserve bio-diversity, and protect bios (life) for the future generations
- ▶ **Averse** to repeating mistakes of the past
- ▶ **Declaring** the importance of a millennium approach to decision-making
- ▶ **Desiring** to bring all cultures and nations together in a common cause
- ▶ **Noting** that humanity has never before cast a vote simultaneously

Humanity has never had the opportunity to vote simultaneously on issues of global concern. With the internet linking the world together as never before, we have the technology to enlist every citizen in a common cause - that of saving the environment and bios. Every individual can actively voice their concern over the threats to the environment and bios, and affirm their desire to ensure the continuity of life on our planet.

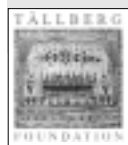
A World Referendum conducted over a 24-hour period in every corner of the world, would be a true manifestation of democracy and biopolitics, as every person will be able to express how they feel about the environment and inspire world leaders to implement new strategies for the protection of the environment. The united voice of all the people can lead to prompt action.

The current crisis in values is a real threat to life and to peace. In order to achieve the real and enduring implementation of the UN Millennium Goals and to translate concern for future generations into action, the participation of every individual is vital.

We make an urgent appeal to all World Leaders, Heads of State, Governments and every concerned citizen to join forces in a World Referendum to safeguard the environment for future generations. The time for action has come.

To vote in the Referendum click on:
www.biopolitics.gr/HTML/wref.htm

The Tallberg Forum – Sweden



The Tallberg Foundation provides an important opportunity for enlightening dialogue and conversation on global issues that urgently need to be addressed. This year, the Foundation celebrated its 25th anniversary by bringing together 500 world leaders and decision-makers at a forum that focused on ways to increase global cooperation and understanding. The participants, who brought diverse expertise and experience to the discussions, took part in workshops and conversations on matters of global significance. Poverty, globalisation, the environment, nation-building and governance, and respect for human rights are just some of the topics touched upon with many successful outcomes.

The Tallberg Foundation is a non-profit, independent organisation aimed at bringing

world representatives, decision-makers and industry leaders together in open conversation on leadership, values and institutional change. The theme of the forum engaged with the question, 'How on Earth Can We Live Together? Exploring Frameworks for Sustainable Global Interdependence'.

The event took place from the 30th of July to the 3rd of August in the Swedish village of Tallberg. In attendance were their Majesties the King and Queen of Sweden.

The B.I.O. President, Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis, participated in the forum alongside many distinguished members of the global community, including: **Marcello Palazzi**, Founder and Chairman of Progressio Foundation, the Netherlands; **Jean-Francois Richard**, Vice President for Europe, The World Bank; **Mikheil Saakashvili**, President of Geor-

gia; and **Margot Wallstrom**, Vice President of the European Commission.

Among the many events that took place, the President of B.I.O. chaired a workshop on the Club of Rome's prediction of the depletion of many life-supporting systems on our planet. Participants in the discussion included the author of Limits to Growth, Denis Meadows and Jaap Spier of the Supreme Court of the Netherlands.

Addressing a full conference audience, the B.I.O. President presented the launching of the World Referendum proposal. The Referendum, which would allow every citizen of the world the opportunity to affirm their willingness to save the environment and life on our planet, was received with warm support.

The 21st century should be the century of reverence for life

Sayuri Furukawa