

3rd Nobel Laureate Symposium on Global Sustainability

Transforming the World in an Era of Global Change
Stockholm, Sweden, May 16-19 2011

**P R E S S R E L E A S E (E M B A R G O E D U N T I L
1 4 : 0 0 , 1 8 M A Y)**

Stockholm 18 May, 2011

An emergency call from the future

Nobel Laureates hand over recommendations to UN High-Level Panel on Global Sustainability

The *Stockholm Memorandum* concludes that the planet has entered a new geological age, the *Anthropocene*. It recommends a suite of urgent and far-reaching actions for decision makers and societies to become active stewards of the planet for future generations.

The verdict from the trial of humanity, which opened the 3rd Nobel Laureate Symposium, has been incorporated into the *Stockholm Memorandum: Tipping the Scales towards Sustainability*. In particular, the jury of Nobel Laureates concluded that humans are now the most significant driver of global change, and that our collective actions could have abrupt and irreversible consequences for human communities and ecological systems.

We are the first generation with the insight of the new global risks facing humanity, that people and societies are the biggest drivers of global change. The basic analysis is not in question: we cannot continue on our current path and need to take action quickly. Science can guide us in identifying the pathway to global sustainability, provided that it also engages in an open dialogue with society, said Professor Mario Molina, who acted as judge and received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1995.

Some of the other key messages of the Stockholm Memorandum are:

- Environmental sustainability is a precondition for poverty eradication, economic development, and social justice.
- With almost a third of the world living on less than \$2 per day, we must, as a priority, achieve the Millennium Development Goals.
- Develop new welfare indicators that address the shortcomings of GDP.
- Keep global warming below 2°C, implying a peak in global CO₂ emissions no later than 2015 and carrying with it a very high risk of serious impacts and the need for

major adaptation efforts.

- Foster a new agricultural revolution where more food is produced in a sustainable way on current agricultural land.
- Inspire and encourage scientific literacy especially among the young.

The *Stockholm Memorandum* will be signed by Nobel Laureates on May 18th and handed over in person to the UN High-level Panel on Global Sustainability, which is preparing the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro (Rio +20).

The Nobel Laureate Symposium has answered this emergency call from the future: environment and development must go hand in hand. Human pressures are challenging the resilience of the planet, while inequalities remain high. The only way to move towards fair and lasting prosperity for present and future generations is along a pathway of environmental sustainability. The time for procrastination is over. We cannot afford the luxury of denial, said Professor Johan Rockström, Symposium chairperson and Executive Director of the Stockholm Resilience Centre and Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI).

MEDIA ROOM: globalsymposium2011.org/news-and-media

Here you find the Stockholm Memorandum, press photos, list of delegates, scheduled web cast press conferences and sessions, and an Executive Summary of the Symposium's three scientific background reports.

For further information and interview requests please contact:

Stellan Forsberg, tel. +46 70 763 97 66, stellan.forsberg@mondayrelations.se

Robert Watt, tel. +46 73 707 85 89, robert.watt@sei.se

Ellika Hermansson Török, tel. +46 73 707 85 47, ellika@stockholmresilience.su.se

www.globalsymposium2011.org

Organisers

Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, kva.se

Stockholm Resilience Centre at Stockholm University, www.stockholmresilience.su.se

Stockholm Environment Institute, <http://www.sei-international.org>

The Beijer Institute of Ecological Economics, www.beijer.kva.se

Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, www.pik-potsdam.de

Core sponsors

The Swedish PostcodeLottery, Folksam, The City of Stockholm, The Stichting af Jochnick Foundation, Volkswagen Stiftung and Stiftung Mercator.