

WAAS NEWSLETTER

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2008 GENERAL ASSEMBLY: HYDERABAD, INDIA

The World Academy's next General Assembly will be held in Hyderabad, India, October 17-20, 2008.

Its theme is: **The Anthropocene Crisis: Perils and Possibilities of the 21st Century.**

Its basic premise is that Earth's life systems – and the civilization they support – are entering a period of crisis unparalleled in the history of human evolution. We face not only the very real prospect of global climate change, but also water shortages, depletion of forests and fisheries, and desertification – as well as the many kinds of social upheaval that predictably result from environmental catastrophe. We cannot blame these on the cruelty of gods or the caprice of nature; they are in large part the consequences of human action.

This is what inspired Nobel Laureate Paul Crutzen to propose a new name for the present epoch: the Anthropocene.

The 2008 General Assembly is an opportunity for members and friends of the Academy to contribute to the global dialogue about this moment in human evolution, and also to advance it and reframe it in terms of ideas that are more proactive than reactive. We see this as a time of pro-



found perils that must be honestly confronted, and also a time of great possibilities for new directions in thought and action. We will consider the events of our time not only as a set of problems to be solved, but as a transition into a new stage of evolution.

This GA will be an exercise in mapping this terrain; this will necessarily involve discussions that range across several fields such as economic development; security; global and local impacts and actions, accelerating scientific/technological change; and

relevant philosophical, psychological, religious and spiritual perspectives.

The conference will be held at the **Aalankrita Resort, Convention and Cultural Center**, which is approximately 20 minutes drive from Hyderabad. It is a hospitable and comfortable arrangement of cottages, conference spaces, recreational facilities and greenery, covering ten acres of land.

Hyderabad itself, capital city of the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, is India's sixth-largest metropolitan area. Rich with history, it is today a thriving center of information technology, business outsourcing, biotechnology, and film production.

For further information, please contact any of the officers listed in the column at the left of this page.



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DISCUSSING THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN LIFE

A fascinating exploration of one of the most contentious issues in modern society – the point at which an embryo becomes a human being -- was held in Zagreb, Croatia in September 2007. The principal organizers of the symposium — titled “Facts and Doubts about the Beginning of Human Life” — were Drs. Asim Kurjak of the University of Zagreb and Frank Chervenak of Cornell University. The sponsoring organizations were the World Academy international, our South East European Division (SEED), the International Academy of Perinatal Medicine, and the Mediterranean Institute for Life Sciences. The points of view represented ranged from medicine, law and bioethics to a half-dozen different world religions including Catholicism, Islam, Buddhism, Judaism and Greek Orthodox.

Proceeds of the symposium will be published in the journal *Periodicum Biologorum*.

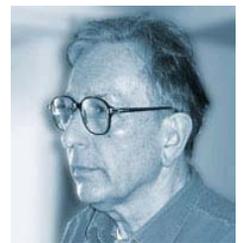
IN MEMORY:

PAZ BUTTEDAHL (1942-2007) is best remembered by many WAAS Fellows as the principal on-site organizer of the 1998 General Assembly “The Global Century,” held in Vancouver, BC. She was, at the time of her death, director of the Masters Program in Human Security and Peacebuilding at Royal Roads University in Victoria, BC. Born in Chile, she emigrated to Canada in 1975 and devoted her life to development and peacebuilding. She taught at universities in Latin America, the United States and Canada; and consulted with organizations such as: OAS, UNESCO, World Education, Meals for Millions, Save the Children Federation, Stockholm Research Institute and USAID. For nearly a decade she worked with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada.



EDGAR J. Da SILVA (1941-2007), as director of UNESCO's Division of Life Sciences, led many initiatives aimed at bringing the benefits of applied microbiology and biotechnology to bear on the problems of the world's poor countries. He served as a member of the organizing committee for the third conference on “Global Impacts of Applied Microbiology” (Bombay Dec.69), and in subsequent years gradually turned that series into a powerful science policy Instrument. Through close links to WAAS, Da Silva inspired many of the ideas that became embodied in the Academy's “Biopolicy Seminars”.

GERARD FAIRTLOUGH (1930-2007) had a remarkable career as scientist, entrepreneur, organizational theorist and publisher. Trained as a biochemist, he worked for 25 years in the Royal Dutch Shell Group, eventually becoming CEO of Shell Chemicals UK. He went on to found Celltech, one of the UK's first major biotech companies. That experience provided the insights into organizational design and management described in his first book, *Creative Compartments*. He continued to explore organizational and societal developments in *The Three Ways of Getting Things Done: Hierarchy, Heterarchy, and Responsible Autonomy in Organizations*. He also started his own venture capital fund and a publishing company.



NOMINATING NEW FELLOWS TO THE ACADEMY

All members of the Academy may nominate new Fellows, and are encouraged to do so at any time. There are no formal qualifications -- such as age or possession of advanced degrees. Criteria to be used in selecting candidates include:

- (i) Distinction or accomplishment in one's profession..
- (ii) Interdisciplinary interests or accomplishments; qualifications beyond the candidate's professional career.

- (iii) Record of public service.
- (iv) Global perspective. To be a Fellow of the Academy is to be a member of global civil society, concerned for the future welfare of an increasingly-interconnected global civilization.

Any Fellow of the Academy wishing to make a nomination should obtain a CV or resume from the candidate, and write a letter of nomination outlining the candidate's qualifications and personal character. Optionally, this

may be accompanied by one or more letters of recommendation. The candidate should be informed that nominations are ordinarily voted on four times yearly, and that nomination does not guarantee election to the Academy.

All nominating materials, including the CV, must be on electronic file, preferably MS Word.

Please send nominations and supplementary materials to:

admissions@worldacademy.org

FUNDING THE ACADEMY: A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow of the World Academy:

Our organization is moving into the most active year in its history, beginning with the installation of Prof. Jeffrey Schwartz as our new president and culminating in the General Assembly at Hyderabad – the first General Assembly to be held in Asia, and the beginning of a period of more intense Academy activity in Asia and Africa.

All this will cost money, of course: money to fund basic operations, money for critically important special needs such as travel assistance to make it possible for Fellows from developing countries to attend the GA. Many of you have already received an e-mail message from me requesting your contributions for 2008. I have also sent a message to all members of our Board of Trustees, inviting them (and inviting myself) to contribute \$1,000 or more. Responses so far have been gratifying.

It has been a busy and satisfying eight years as president of this remarkable intellectual society, network of colleagues, and borderless think tank. I look forward to passing on the leadership to Jeff Schwartz; I thank all of you who have contributed your time, money, energy and good will; and I hope you will continue to do so in the challenging years ahead.

Sincerely,
Walt Anderson

Three ways to send your contribution:

Through PayPal. Connect to www.worldacademy.org, click on the "Make a Contribution" button, indicate the amount, fill in the credit card information, and click the "confirm" button.

Wire through your bank to:

Bank of America, San Francisco, California
Swift Code: BOFAUS6S

For Further Credit to First Republic Bank
Account No. 12331-22793

For the Benefit of WAAS

Mail a check or money order to:

John Cox, Treasurer, W A AS
760 Market Street, Suite 315
San Francisco, CA 94102, USA

NEW FELLOWS ELECTED DECEMBER 2007

Tariq Banuri

Director, Future Sustainability Program, Stockholm Environment Institute.

Amit Bhaduri

Distinguished professor of economics, Pavia University, Italy.

Matko Bolanca

Chairman of the Board and Director, South Eastern Europe Region, PLIVA Croatia, Ltd.

Diana Lía Bracerás

Psychoanalyst and clinical psychologist specializing in psycho-oncology (psychotherapy with cancer patients), Buenos Aires.

Francesco Calogero

Professor of theoretical physics, University of Rome; council member, Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs.

Jan Patrick Connerade

Lockyer professor of physics, Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, University of London.

Jayantha Dhanapala

Senior adviser to the President of Sri Lanka. Former ambassador to the U. S. and Mexico.

Victor Gomel

Emeritus professor and head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of British Columbia. International consultant on reproductive technology.

Tamaz Gamkrelidze

Chair, Structural and Applied Linguistics, Tbilisi State University. Director, Tsereteli Institute of Oriental Studies. President, Georgian Academy of Sciences.

Ashok Khosla

Chairman, Development Alternatives, New Delhi. Co-president, Club of Rome.

David Lordkipanidze

Georgian anthropologist and archaeologist; director general, Georgian National Museum.

Julia Marton-Lefevre

Director general, World Conservation Union (IUCN).

Russell A. Mittermeier

President, Conservation International. Regional councillor (North America and the Caribbean), IUCN.

Mark Nelson

Chairman and CEO, Institute of Ecotechnics, U.K.; vice chairman, Global Ecotechnics Corp.; head of Wastewater Gardens International.

Roberto Peccei

Vice Chancellor for Research, University of California, Los Angeles.

Rajendra Pachauri

Chair, UN International Panel on Climate Change.

Zarko Puhovski

Fellow, Institute for Advanced Study (*Wissenschaftskolleg*), Berlin.

U. R. Rao

Former chair, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and secretary, Department of Space.

Richard Register

Founding president, Urban Ecology. and Ecocity Builders.

Mustafa Sefic

Founder and president, South-East European Ophthalmological Society. Former chair of departments at Sarajevo Medical School and Banja Luka Medical School.

Arjun Sengupta

Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha (upper house), Government of India.

Rajeev Sethi

Leading South Asian artisan designer; chairman and founding trustee, Asian Heritage Foundation, New Delhi.

Zdravko Stojnov

Director, Centre for Innovations and chairman, General Assembly, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Andras Szöllösi-Nagy

Director, UNESCO Division of Water; sec'ty, International Hydrological Programme; and deputy asst. director-general, Natural Sciences Sector.

Thrity Vakil

Director, Sustainable Forestry Division and Education and Research Foundation, Tropic Ventures, Puerto Rico. Painter and digital artist.

Sesh Velamoor

Director of programs, Foundation For the Future, Bellevue, Washington. Former president, Kistler-Moore Corporation.

WORLD ACADEMY OF ART AND SCIENCE

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2008 GENERAL ASSEMBLY: HYDERABAD, INDIA

The Anthropocene Crisis: Perils and Promises of the 21st Century

Preliminary schedule:

- Thursday, 16 October – early arrivals
- Friday: Welcoming talks, major speakers and plenary sessions, buffet dinner/reception
- Saturday – Full day of plenaries, workshops, feature speakers and special events
- Sunday – Full day of conferencing and special events, ending with Awards Banquet
- Monday, 20 October – site visits, tours, departures

Please check the Academy website, www.worldacademy.org, for periodic announcements as speakers, workshops and special events are finalized.



The Charminar, Hyderabad