A Message from the President

Greetings.

I hope the year has been going well for you. I would like to summarize for you the major points of my vision for the World Academy, which I expressed at the Board of Trustees meeting on 29 February 2008. First, a survey of the distribution of membership by gender, nationalities, and intellectual interest demonstrates the need to work toward equality in the former and far greater representation in the latter. We are the World Academy of Art and Science and our membership should reflect our global and intellectual perspectives—which are the essence of our Academy’s uniqueness. Second, we must have an organized approach to increasing our membership and impact globally. With India the seat of our next General Assembly— the GA outside North America and Europe—it makes sense to continue this effort in Asia for the next few General Assemblies. At the same time, we should actively pursue collaborative programs with African and Latin and South American groups and institutions so that when we do hold General Assemblies there we will have a synergetic intellectual base for these events. Third, and most importantly, since the World Academy is such a unique global cross-section of ideas and experience, we must have a truly global composition in order to better address emerging challenges to the sustainability of the planet and its biota, which includes global civilization, world order, and certainly human dignity.

As you can see on our website and in this newsletter, plans for the General Assembly are well underway and a registration webpage is currently being constructed. I think you will find the plenary and other timely and exciting, being focused around the theme of the consequences and responses to human impact on planet earth, during an epoch, such as the Holocene, that is increasingly referred to as the Anthropocene. Sessions are limited to three speakers (some with moderators) and not all speaker slots in various sessions have yet been filled: Saturday 11:00-13:00 and 16:30-18:30, and Sunday 9:00-10:30 sessions 2, 3, & 4, possibly 11:00-13:00 session 2, and 14:30-16:00 sessions 1 & 2. In the spirit of moving toward an increasing involvement of membership in future WAAS planning and activities, I along with the rest of the Organizing Committee invite fellows who would like to present a paper in one of these sessions to submit to me a request with presentation title and brief abstract. Recommendations will be based on appropriateness of paper to session topic and slot availability. This will be a new experience for WAAS, but one I will institutionalize for future GAs.

Finally, among the categories listed on the left-hand side of the WAAS webpage is “forums”. I hope we can use our website for fora and blogs to exchange ideas, conduct conversations and debates, and make known to other fellows individual or group activities, projects, successes (and failures) that will lead to avenues of communication among our uniquely diverse membership and also educate each of us about the intellectual pursuits of others. Further, I would like to initiate a regular feature on our website that will focus the work of an individual fellow or a group of fellows that is extant and we should know about it or still early in planning and implementation and might benefit from input from others in the World Academy or elsewhere.

In closing, I invite you all to send me your thoughts and ambitions for the World Academy. This is particularly germane since we are approaching the 50th anniversary of our organization and I would like its celebration to be a celebration not only of its founders and founding ideals, but also of its membership and the future of the World Academy. In this regard I will be establishing a Strategic Planning Committee and invite nominations for its membership. I also invite nominations for two upcoming openings on the Board of Trustees. In your nomination, please provide a detailed but succinct statement in support of the nomination. Thanks.

All the best, Jeff

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2008 GENERAL ASSEMBLY: HYDERABAD, INDIA
The Anthropocene Crisis: Perils and Promises of the 21st Century
Preliminary Programme

THURSDAY, 16 OCTOBER
Participants arrival

FRIDAY, 17 OCTOBER
09:00 – 11:00 Participants arrival
11:30 – 13:30 Lunch and Opening Ceremony (Dining Hall)
Welcoming Remarks: Jeffrey Schwartz, President, WAAS
Pushpa Bhargava and Garry Jacobs, Conference Co-chairs

14:00 – 15:30 Plenary Sessions (Main Meeting Hall)
“Defining the Anthropocene Epoch”
Sesh Velamoor, Foundation For the Future (Moderator)
Walter Truett Anderson, President Emeritus, WAAS
Richard E. Benedick, chief U. S. Negotiator, Montreal Protocols

“Dealing with Climate Change: Progress and Stasis”
Jose Furtado, Secretary-General, WAAS (Moderator)
Rajendra Pachauri, Chair, International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), New Delhi
Mohan Munasinghe Vice-Chair, IPCC, Colombo, Sri Lanka

17:30—19:00 Plenary Lecture and discussion TBA

19:00 – 22:00 Buffet Dinner and Entertainment

SATURDAY, 18 OCTOBER
09:00 – 10:30 Concurrent Sessions

“Asia’s Role in World Leadership”
Kishore Mahbubani, National University of Singapore, (invited)
Akio Morishima, Chair, Institute for Global Environmental Studies, Japan
Susantha Goonatilake, Sociologist; author of forthcoming book on Asia
Thomas G. Rawski, Professor of Economics and History, University of Pittsburgh

“Earth System Engineering: The State of the Art”
Eaoul Weiler, President, EU Chapter, Club of Rome (convenor)
SATURDAY, 18 OCTOBER (Continued)

11:00—13:00 Concurrent Sessions

“Development Theory – Dynamics of Social Change”
Ashok Natrajan, Secretary, The Mother’s Service Society (Pondicherry)
Garry Jacobs, Vice-President, The Mother’s Service Society
Ivo Slaus, South Eastern Europe Division, WAAS, Zagreb

14:30 - 16:00 Plenary: “Development and Environment”
Garry Jacobs, Vice-President, The Mother’s Service Society
Tariq Banuri, Senior Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute
Arjun Sengupta, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha (Upper House)

16:30 - 18:30 Concurrent Sessions

“Ivo Slaus, WAAS South Eastern Europe Division, Zagreb (Moderator)
Krunoslav Pisk, Director, Inter-University Centre, Dubrovnik
Garry Jacobs, Vice President, The Mother’s Service Society
Jeffrey Schwartz, President, WAAS

“Governance (1): Implications of Climate Change”
Robert Berg, UN expert group on governance implications of climate change
Akio Morishima, Chair, Institute for Global Environmental Studies, Japan
Joachim von Braun, International Food Policy Research Institute

“Biotechnology in the Anthropocene”
(Convenor) Pushpa Bhargava, Anveshna Consultancy, Hyderabad
Imran Siddiqi, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad
Ramesh Sonti, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad

“Limits to Rationality”
Ivo Slaus, WAAS South Eastern Europe Division, Zagreb (Moderator)
Krunoslav Pisk, Director, Inter-University Centre, Dubrovnik
Garry Jacobs, Vice President, The Mother’s Service Society
Jeffrey Schwartz, President, WAAS

“Darwinism: Dead Wrong?”
Jeffrey H. Schwartz, President, WAAS, University of Pittsburgh
Sesh Velamoor, Foundation for the Future, Seattle

19:00 – 22:00 Banquet and Award Ceremony
HRH Princess Chulabhorn of Thailand, Founder and President, Chulabhorn Research Institute (Bangkok) will receive a Special Award in recognition of her contributions to science and be inducted into the World Academy
Chair: Jeffrey Schwartz

Plenary Lecture:
“Planetary Transitions: A New Paradigm”
Sesh Velamoor, Foundation For the Future

Chulabhorn Research Institute

HRH Princess Chulabhorn
MONDAY, 20 OCTOBER

Site visits and Tours
Board of Trustees meeting
Departures (late night)

16:30—18:00  Membership Meeting — Jeff Schwartz, Chair
18:30 – 20:00 Dinner
20:00 – 22:00 UNESCO Multimedia Presentation on the International Year of the Planet

MONDAY, 20 OCTOBER

Concurrent Sessions

11:00—13:00 Concurrent Sessions
“Global Security (2): Nuclear Disarmament”
Jasjit Singh, Centre for Strategic and International Studies
Jonathan Granoff, President, Global Security Institute

“Ethics and Policy (2): Cultural and Environmental Globalization”
M. Zakri Hamid, Director, UNU Institute for Advanced Studies, Tokyo
U. R. Rao, Indian Space Research Organization, CSIR, Bangalore
Otto Kine, Ecology Institute, Oldendorf-Luhe, Germany
Jose Furtado, Secretary-general, WAAS

“Ethics and Policy (3): Knowledge and Innovation Globalization”
Ramesh Mashelkar, President, Global Research Alliance
N’Dri Assie-Lumumba, Africana Studies, Cornell University

“Money and Global Governance: Financing Sustainable Development”
Bernard Lietaer, economist and author (convener)
Abhjit Sen Gupta, World Bank
Garry Jacobs, Vice-President, The Mother’s Service Society

14:30 – 16:00 Concurrent Sessions
“Ethics and Policy (4): Addressing Global Asymmetries”
Anthony N. Judge, formerly Union of International Associations, Brussels
Geoffrey Bush, Diageo Foundation, London
Ashok Khosla, Development Alternatives, New Delhi

“Global Security (3): The Weaponization of Space”
Jonathan Granoff, President, Global Security Institute
Jasjit Singh, Centre for Strategic and International Studies

“Asian Cities”
Tay Kheng Soon, Principal partner, Akkitek Tenggara, Singapore
Anwar Fazal, SERI, Penang, Malaysia
Rusong Wang, President, Ecological Society of China (invited)

“Visual language, Visual Thinking on Global Issues”
Bob Horn, Stanford University

“Communicating Science with Art and Media”
Panelists TBA

“The World Wheel: An Artist’s Vision”
Vijali Hamilton, Founding Director, World Wheel Project

“Ethics and Policy (1): Nuclear Disarmament”
Jonathan Granoff, Global Security Institute, New York
Jasjit Singh, Centre for Strategic and International Studies, New Delhi

“The Demographic Transition”
Asim Kurjak, Medical School, University of Zagreb,
Orio Giarini, The Risk Institute, Geneva and Trieste

“Ethics and Policy (3): Addressing Global Asymmetries”
Jonathan Granoff, President, Global Security Institute
Jasjit Singh, Centre for Strategic and International Studies

10:30—12:00 Concurrent Sessions
“Global Security (2): Nuclear Disarmament”
Jasjit Singh, Centre for Strategic and International Studies
Jonathan Granoff, President, Global Security Institute

“Ethics and Policy (2): Cultural and Environmental Globalization”
M. Zakri Hamid, Director, UNU Institute for Advanced Studies, Tokyo
U. R. Rao, Indian Space Research Organization, CSIR, Bangalore
Otto Kine, Ecology Institute, Oldendorf-Luhe, Germany
Jose Furtado, Secretary-general, WAAS

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Bob Horn, Stanford University

“Communicating Science with Art and Media”
Panelists TBA
IN MEMORY . . .

ARTHUR C. CLARKE (1917-2008)

Born in Somerset, he began to read American science fiction pulp magazines at 11. At age 19, he moved to London, joined the British Interplanetary Society, and launched his writing career. During WWII, he served as a radar specialist in the Royal Air Force and wrote an RAF memo about what we now call communications satellites, which he later submitted to *Wireless World*. Subsequently, he authored more than 100 works of fiction and non-fiction. For his contributions, the International Astronomical Union named the geostationary orbit above the equator as a “Clarke Orbit.” Sir Arthur made my native Sri Lanka his home since 1956. I first met him while I was an undergraduate student near Colombo. Afterward, I had the privilege of visiting him with Harlan Cleveland, as part of his World Academy tour in Asia. Among his many books and movies, Sir Arthur is most famous for his film “2001: A Space Odyssey.”

— Patrick Mendis

MAGDA McHALE (1922—2008)

Magda and her husband, John McHale, were among the earliest futurists. She was from Hungary and he from Scotland, and the two were like oil and water — or fire (Magda) and ice (John). They were a true couple in that one completed the other -- so much so that when John died suddenly at 56, Magda struggled to go on without him. But she did, and carried on the work that they had begun in England as founders of the kitsch and pop art movements. Indeed, John and Magda had been the originators of the term “pop art.” Brought to the US, they worked initially with Buckminster Fuller; then at the University of Houston where they established a futures center; and, after John’s death, at the School of Architecture and Planning at SUNY Buffalo. Both helped establish the World Futures Studies Federation and the World Academy; John was Secretary-General during the 1970s and Magda was active on the Board until her death. She did not suffer fools gladly -- I was her only exception -- and would invariably sit in the back of the room during conferences muttering in her gruff voice about the "shit" that the "idiot" up front was saying.

—Jim Dator

HARLAN CLEVELAND (1918-2008)

Harlan was a Rhodes scholar studying at Oxford when the outbreak of World War II made it necessary for him to return home, and embark on a remarkably diverse career in an exciting series of administrative challenges. One of the first saw him back to Europe, where he worked for the international agencies charged with the postwar rehabilitation of Italy after its surrender in 1943. He then moved on to another rehabilitation job in China, where he held a position of major responsibility unusual for someone still in his 20s.

Back in the U.S. in the 1950s he became a journalist-executive with the prestigious liberal magazine *The Reporter*, and then an educational executive as founding dean of the Maxwell Graduate School at Syracuse University. In that role he met John F. Kennedy, then Senator from Massachusetts, and later joined the Kennedy administration as assistant secretary of state, where his main assignment was liaison with UN Ambassador Adlai Stevenson. He served as ambassador to NATO in the Johnson administration, and then took on a five-year term as president of the University of Hawaii. When I first met him he was in yet another founding dean role, this time with the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Administration. He had also become president of the World Academy and hosted the 1994 General Assembly, “The Governance of Diversity,” at Minneapolis.

We spent a lot of time together through the 1990s and on into the 21st century, and discovered we shared a conviction that one should always try to write as clearly as possible, even (or especially) on difficult subjects. Harlan wrote and published throughout his eventful career. I recall that he used to write columns — rather longish political pieces — for the *Minneapolis Star-Times*, which the newspaper for some reason discontinued. He asked me if I thought he might perhaps do some writing for the Pacific News Service, which I wrote for regularly in those days. I said I was sure they’d be interested, but only in shorter op-ed pieces of around 850 words. Harlan said decisively: “I couldn’t clear my throat in 850 words.”

—Walt Anderson

For the full text of articles on Arthur C. Clarke, Magda McHale and Harlan Cleveland, please see www.worldacademy.org.
TOWARD A NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE WORLD

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, inaugurated an international conference in New Delhi on June 9-10, 2008 to mark the 20th anniversary of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi’s historic speech to the United Nations calling for complete nuclear disarmament. The conference was organized by WAAS Fellow Jasjit Singh, head of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, and sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India. Other keynote speakers included India’s Foreign Minister, Pranab Mukherjee; the Vice President of India, Mohamad Hamid Ansari; Minister Mani Shankar Iyer; Canadian Senator Douglas Roche; Australian Ambassador Richard Butler; senior Indian diplomats and military officers; as well as Fellows Jonathan Granoff of Global Security Institute (USA) and Garry Jacobs of The Mother’s Service Society (India). The Academy was also represented by Ivo Slaus, Director, South Eastern Europe Division of WAAS.

A strong consensus emerged during the deliberations that the continued existence of nuclear weapons represents a dire threat to humanity; that the present nuclear apartheid world is illegitimate and destabilizing; and that nothing short of complete and total nuclear disarmament can provide an adequate foundation for addressing the crucial issues facing humanity today. Participants called for replacement of the exclusive competitive security framework with an inclusive cooperative security system that renounces the principle of force as a means for settlement of international disputes. Abolition of nuclear weapons and democratization of the UN systems were identified as urgent and essential steps required for management of global problems.

SCIENCE CONFERENCE TO HONOR PUSHPA BHARGAVA

India’s National Centre for Science Communicators will hold a conference in honor of Pushpa Bhargava in Hyderabad. The organization’s announcement describes the honoree as “a nationally and internationally known scientist, creative writer, rational thinker, strategic institution builder and astute science administrator,” adding that he is “widely regarded as the architect of modern biology and biotechnology in India.”

The conference, on the theme of “National Conference on National Agenda,” will be held 12-14 December 2008 in the Indian Institute for Chemical Technology. Some 250 science communications researchers, educators and students from India are expected to attend the conference. For information please contact Mr. Suhas B. Naik-Satam, Hon. Secretary, National Centre for Science Communicators, Vidyan Bhavan, V.N. Purav Marg, Sion-Chunabhatti, Mumbai 400 022. Tel: 022-2405 4714, 2405 7268. Fax: 022 2405

STEVEN WAL ThER, U.S. FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSIONER

Steven T. Walther has recently been confirmed by the U.S. Senate to a six-year term as a member of the Federal Election Commission, an independent regulatory agency whose duties include enforcing the provisions of campaign finance legislation and overseeing the public funding of presidential elections.

Walther was a founding partner of the Nevada law firm of Walther, Key, Maupin, Oats, Cox & LeGoy, and a member of the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association, where he served as Chair of both the Standing Committee on World Order Under Law and the Special Advisory Committee on International Activities; as Counselor to the Central and East European Law Initiative (CEELI), which oversees all rule of law activities of the ABA in 21 countries in Central and East Europe; as the ABA representative to the United Nations; and as Co-Chair of the ABA Task Force on War Crimes in Ethiopia. He has also been an instructor for The National Judicial College, both in the United States and in Russia.

He participated in the panel on international law at the WAAS General Assembly in Vancouver in 1998, and chaired the panel on human rights at Zagreb in 2005.
Online registration is now open. Go to www.worldacademy.org, click on “Online Registration,” and follow the instructions. They will show you where to enter the information needed to register for the conference, reserve your room, and schedule your transportation from Hyderabad airport to Aalankrita upon arrival and back to the airport for departure.

The conference will take place at the Aalankrita, (http://www.aalankrita.com), a quiet, lovely green environment on the outskirts of Hyderabad, with pleasant rooms, a full range of Ayurvedic health and recreational facilities, an excellent bar and delicious vegetarian or non-vegetarian meals.

- Room rates — 3,000 rupees per day single occupancy, 3,400 rupees per day double occupancy (US $70 single/$79 double) — include all meals.
- Registration fees are on a sliding scale (0 - $100) depending on country of residence and date of registration.
- Free transportation from Hyderabad airport to Aalankrita on arrival and return for departure.

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