

Info-News No. 2 Peer Review of Germany's Sustainability Policies March 03, 2009

## Peers committed to participate in Germany's Review

The German Council for Sustainable Development is pleased to announce that distinguished international experts have agreed to actively participate in the German Peer Review.

Björn Stigson, President of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, agreed to act as Chairperson of the Peer Group. Eight Peers will cover all important focus areas of the Review on a level of high experience and political advise, such as the administrational issues of implementation, the corporate sustainability management, civil society's input, the need of evidence-based decisions, the particular challenge of vertical integration in federalist countries, the relevance of on-the-ground-actions and communication, issues of global transition and technologies. The governance of advisory schemes will be another issue to be covered.

The Federal Minister Thomas de Maizière, Chief of staff of the Federal Chancellery appointed Björn Stigson as chairperson of the Peer Group. This appointment signals the political relevance of the Peer Review. Volker Hauff, chair of the German Council for Sustainable Development, nominated Björn Stigson for this appointment and appointed the seven Peers.

The following distinguished experts will participate as Peers in the Peer Review on Germany's sustainability policies:

**Björn Stigson** (Chair of the Peer Group) is President of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) a coalition of some 200 leading international corporations. Working in different positions for a number of Swedish and global corporations

## About this Info-News:

This newsletter informs interested parties and the public about the Peer Review of Germany's Sustainable Development Policies. The German Federal Government asked the Council for Sustainable Development to organise this review process. High-profile international experts will review and report back on Germany's sustainability policies.

To provide expertise and new thinking the German Federal Government put in place the German Council for Sustainable Development in 2001 and continued its mandat ever since. The Council is independent. As of today, the Council is formed by fifteen individuals from businesses, trade unions, churches, the media, environmental associations, and is supported by a secretariat. The Council is involved in elaborating sustainability policies in administration, the private sector and in the civil society. Its mandate includes bringing the vision of sustainability closer to the general public.

he built up extensive experience in business, and ran his own management consultancy from 1993 to 1994. In 1995 he was appointed President of the WBCSD. Björn Stigson is serving on the board of a variety of international companies, including the Board of Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), International Risk Governance Council (IRGC) and Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. He is also member of some Advisory Boards and Councils including Dean's Council of the John F. Kennedy School of Government in Harvard University, India Council for Sustainable Development, China Council, Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes (DJSI), Global Energy Assessment Council, BDI Climate Change Taskforce, and the Copenhagen Climate Council.

**Dr Suresh P Babu** is CEO of the company Technology Limited of TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute) in New Delhi, India. He holds a PhD degree in gas engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, Illinois, USA. Dr. Suresh Babu's main function at TERI is to help in catalyzing research ideas and coordinating activities that lead to the development of technologies that are pursued by TERI. He has acquired 30+ years of professional experience in managing energy and environmental technology development research. To the peer review Dr. Suresh Babu will add the perspective of technology transfer and the meaning of strategic governance approaches to developing new leading technology markets.

**Dr Jeroen Bordewijk** is a Member of the Dutch Advisory Council for Research on Spatial Planning, Nature and the Environment (**RMNO**), which was involved in the 2006 Peer Review of the Dutch SD strategy. Dr. Jereon Bordewijk has pursued a 31-year professional career with Unilever, the Dutch-British multinational in food and home & personal care products. In his previous position, he was responsible for Unilever's global foods division for supply chain excellence which included QA, safety, environment and sustainable development projects. Since July 2002, he has also been the president of the SAI-platform, the food industry initiative for sustainable agriculture. Dr Jeroen Bordewijk' expertise in dealing with objectives and indicators that are not easily achievable will be a significant input into the work of the peers. He also provides the perspective of an independent advisory body of an important EU member state with a recent well-acknowledged record in sustainability issues.

**Pekka Haavisto** is currently a Member of Finnish Parliament, and was recently appointed by the Finnish Foreign Minister as Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa. Haavisto is former European Union Special Representative (EUSR) for Sudan (2005-2007). As former Minister for Environment and Development in the Finnish Government, he worked from 1999 to 2005 for the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), producing several postconflict environmental assessments. He has chaired UNEP's environmental assessment groups in Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro, Afghanistan, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Iraq, Liberia and Sudan. He has also chaired the depleted uranium assessments for Kosovo, Serbia-Montenegro and to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Pekka Haavisto was the spokesperson for the European Green Party from 2000 to 2006. As one of the co-founders of the Green Party of Finland and its chairman from 1993 to 1995, Pekka Haavisto was a member of the Finnish Parliament from 1987 to 1995. Afterwards, acting as a visiting researcher and professor at a number of international institutes, and advising the UN Millennium Task Force and the United Nations Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification, Pekka Haavisto also served as a member of the Heinrich Böll Foundation "Jo'burg Memo" team prior to the Johannesburg 2002 WSSD Summit. Both his global and his Finnish perspective – Finland being a European country with an explicit sustainability record – on national policies will be a valuable contribution to the Peer Review.

Jennifer Morgan is directing the Climate Change Program of E3G (Third Generation Environmentalism), an internationally working environmental NGO. Prior to this she led WWF's climate change program, which is active in over 30 countries around the world. Before joining WWF, Jennifer Morgan was with the US Climate Action Network, a worldwide network of over 200 environmental groups with eight regional offices. She has a Bachelor of Arts from Indiana University in Political Science and Germanic Studies and a Masters of Art from the School of International Service. Jennifer Morgan is contributing a NGO perspective that explicitly goes beyong national borders and seeks to identify new ways and means to meet new challenges.

Pamela O'Donnell is directing the Sustainable Development Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in Canada. Known as a first mover in national sustainability, Canada has built a considerable record in supporting sustainability policies worldwide. As for governance issues, Canada has – much in the same way as Germany has - a federal constitution and recently some controversies between the federal level and the Provinces. Pamela O'Donnell has experience working as Deputy Head of Canada's Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation Office, as Political and Public Affairs Counsellor at the Canadian Embassy in Greece and as a Trade Commissioner working on energy and environment files at the Canadian High Commission in Malaysia. Combining experiences dealing with Canada's international engagement and integrating commercial and political interests with sustainability policies, Pamela O'Donnell's input is of particular interest for German sustainability policies.

**Derek Osborn** is the President of Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future, an international NGO dedicated to facilitating stakeholder engagement with the advancement of sustainable development at the UN and other international organisations. He co-chaired the negotiations at the special session of the UN in 1997 (Rio +5) to review progress on the implementation of Agenda 21, and is a regular participant at the meetings of the UN's Commission for Sustainable Development. He is currently a member of the European Economic and Social Committee and vice chair of their Sustainable Development Observatory. Derek Osborn served 30 years in the UK Civil Service, the last 6 years as Director General for Environmental Protection with the Department of the Environment. He represented the United Kingdom and was Chair of the Management Board of the European Environment Agency (1995-1999). He was on the Board of the Environment Agency for England and Wales (1996-98), having been involved with its planning and creation. He has been a non-executive director of Severn Trent PLC, and chair of Jupiter Global Green Investment Trust. He is involved with several environmental organisations including the the Institute of European Environmental Policy (IEEP). He was a member of the UK Sustainable Development Commission from 2000 until 2006 and its UK representative on the European network of Environmental and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC). He cochaired EEAC's working group on sustainable development with Günther Bachmann, secretary general of the RNE. He has been a member of the British German Environment Forum sponsored by the Anglo-German Foundation for a number of years. He was also a member of the peer group which reviewed the French Government's SD strategy in 2005.

Andry Ralijaona is the General Secretary of the Madagascar Action Plan. He works in the President's Office of the Republic of Madagascar. Madagascar is a leading African country in terms of sustainability strategies. With its particular political history and the burden of former dependency, and given the Country's wealth of biodiversity, Madagascar faces a unique challenge which the Government faces with an ambitious concept of what is called a rapid and sustainable development. The President of Madagascar recently visited Germany and

explicitly promoted the sharing of experiences on the governance of sustainability strategies. Madagascar is a key partner country for the German official development aid.

## Contact and further information:

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