

## ISOE-Newsletter Social Ecology, June 2007

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#### Highlights

##### **01\ New Scientific Advisory Board Named**

ISOE has named a new Scientific Advisory Board comprised of six renowned scientists from various fields and research institutes. The Scientific Advisory Board will provide support in the areas of quality control and networking with other research institutions. It consists of Prof. Dr. Bernd Hansjürgens (Board's Chairperson), Prof. Dr. Theo Geisel, Prof. Dr. ir. Nick van de Giesen, Prof. Dr. Patricia Holm, Prof. Dr. Christoph Lau, and Prof. Dr. Ines Weller. For detailed information:

<http://www.isoe.de/english/press/pradvisory.htm>

##### **02\ Broad Based Initiative for Strengthening Social-Ecological Research**

Over 220 scientists have joined together to speak out for a strengthening of social-ecological research in Germany. In a statement just published they noted the effectiveness of cross-discipline, transdisciplinary research approaches for investigating complex sustainability problems and for developing practical solutions to them. According to the researchers, Germany has established international standards with its multiform and highly productive research community. For the signatories of the initiative the paramount goals with respect to the further development of social-ecological research include improvement of cooperation between universities and non-university research facilities, quality control of research, qualification of young scientists, and a strengthening of the international presence of social-ecological research. Read the full statement at:

<http://www.isoe.de/ftp/initiativesoceco.pdf>

##### **03\ A Thirsty Blue Planet. Water Poverty – Climate Change – Time for a Blue Revolution / Panel Discussion featuring Fred Pearce, Mary Seely and Thomas Kluge**

Although two thirds of the earth is covered with water about a half a billion people have no access to clean drinking water. According to United Nations estimates this figure will increase dramatically by the year 2050. Today the poorest areas of the world are already suffering from a lack of water. Both the unequal division of water, and the crisis-prone development of world-wide water reserves, have been intensified by climate change. Its consequences affect people in the northern latitudes, as well as those in the southern hemisphere. Fred Pearce calls in his latest book, *When the river runs dry*, for a "Blue Revolution" in order to guarantee that the indispensable resource water is available for future generations. However, there can be no general solution to water problems world wide. Within a panel discussion on 20th of June in Frankfurt Mary Seely, founder and former director of the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN), Fred Pearce and Thomas Kluge (ISOE) will discuss what kind of water policy and research are needed to meet this challenge. Further details on our panel discussion: <http://www.isoe.de/english/press/blueplanet2007.htm>

Further information on ISOE-water research: <http://www.isoe.de/english/research/ib1.htm>

##### **04\ Demographic Change – the Challenge of Sustainable Supply**

Demographic developments and their possible consequences gain increasingly in interest to

politics, science, media and society. Though while industrial nations in the western hemisphere are discussing the problem of declining population, in developing countries the debate concentrates mainly on population growth. Changes in population size, birth rates, life expectancy, urbanisation and migration take different directions in separate regions of the world. Where, when and how many people live, are challenging questions to sustainable development. Supplying the population with the necessary goods such as food and water in a social just and ecological safe manner becomes a major task. Against this background the interdisciplinary junior research group "demographic trends, needs & supply systems (demons)" has invited well known experts in population research such as Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Lutz, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) Laxenburg, Austria, and Dr. Reiner Klingholz, Director of Berlin-Institut für Bevölkerung und Entwicklung, to examine the global population development as well as regional demographic changes in their significance to a sustainable development. The symposia to be held in German will take place on 6th July 2007 in Frankfurt/ Main.

Further information and registration: <http://www.isoe.de/english/press/demons2007.htm>

Project website: <http://www.demons-project.de>

### **05\ Rhetoric and Realities - Corporate Social Responsibility in Europe**

The international research project "Rhetoric and Realities: Analysing Corporate Social Responsibility in Europe" (RARE) will present and debate the results of its three year research study on 27 June 2007 in Brussels. The project carried out by a consortium of seven European research institutions conducted by the Öko-Institut e.V. - Institute for Applied Ecology was funded within the EU's Sixth Framework Programme. It examined the impact of CSR activities on society and the environment and how far CSR is promoting EU policy goals. For full details and registration:

[http://www.isoe.de/ftp/RARE\\_conferenceflyer0705014.pdf](http://www.isoe.de/ftp/RARE_conferenceflyer0705014.pdf)

Project website: <http://www.rare-eu.net/>

### **06\ Dealing with Change in Social-Ecological Systems**

From 5th till 8th of June the conference "Integrating Natural and Social Sciences for Sustainability" will be held in Leipzig. The conference organized by the European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE), in co-operation with the German associations for ecological economics VÖÖ and VÖW, aims at exploring contemporary scientific approaches for putting the concept of Sustainable Development into research and into practice, and will focus on bridging natural and social sciences. The keynote lecture by Carl Folke, Stockholm University, "Dealing with change in integrated social-ecological systems" will be followed up by a session organized by ISOE "Analysing Social-Ecological Systems for Sustainability: Theoretical and Conceptual Challenges" which aims at discussing the bridging concepts of adaptive governance and social-ecological resilience. Further information on the conference: <http://www.esee-leipzig2007.org/>

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## **New Publications and Downloads**

### **07\ Innovative Science for Sustainability**

More than 700 experts from science and politics met in Leipzig for the conference „Sustainable Neighbourhood - from Lisbon to Leipzig with Research (L2L)" from 8th till 10th of May to develop a common vision on positioning research for sustainability as the engine for innovation in Europe. In view of the complex problems of global change in environment, society and economy one central theme of the conference was the requirement of changes within sciences such as overcoming the structural obstacles to interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research and fostering the interfaces between science, politics and society. Thomas Jahn introduced social-ecological research as an integrative approach in science for sustainability within the session "Innovative Science for Sustainability" and commented on "Experiences from the Interfaces of Science and Policy" by Bert de Wit within the session "The Relevance of Research for Sustainability - Experiences from the Interface of Policy & Science". Immanuel Stiess presented "Life Cycle Management of Urban Neighbourhoods – a Demand-Oriented Approach to Urban Renewal" within the session "Strategies for the City of Tomorrow".

Downloads of the presentations are available: <http://www.isoe.de/english/l2l.htm>

As one result of the L2L-Conference the Declaration "Promoting a sustainable and competitive Europe" was presented and handed over to policy-makers. The Declaration is also available for download: [http://www.fona.de/de/3\\_akteure/forum\\_2007/documents/070510\\_L2L\\_Declaration.pdf](http://www.fona.de/de/3_akteure/forum_2007/documents/070510_L2L_Declaration.pdf)

**08\ Leisure-Mobility in Switzerland**

In Switzerland leisure mobility seems to be more important than other traffic purposes. Over the last 20 years leisure traffic has increased by nearly 40% in regard to the covered distances and even around 100% regarding the travel times with a significant high portion of motorized individual traffic. Therefore target-group specific measures have to be developed for influencing leisure mobility towards sustainability. Find out more about the research project:

<http://www.isoe.de/english/projects/swissmob.htm>

**09\ Water 2050 – Seeking for International Network Partners**

The project “Water 2050” which analyses the needs and options for developing integrated and sustainable system solutions in water supply and sanitation by the year 2050 invites interested parties from governments, municipal administrations, water management agencies and NGOs of countries outside Germany to bring in their perspectives regarding their problems and possible solutions. Read more: <http://www.isoe.de/ftp/water2050.pdf>

**10\ New Strategies for Analysing a New Form of Risks**

Since 2005 the Federal Ministry of Research and Education (BMBF) is funding research on strategies for coping with systemic risks within the social-ecological research programme. Developing new management strategies requires an analytical understanding of systemic risks which has to address questions on what is new on systemic risks and what can be revealed about their conditions of emergence and their dynamics. In order to discuss the current state of understanding of systemic risks the two projects “Overweight and Obesity in Childhood, Youth and Young Adulthood as a Systemic Risk” and “Management Strategies for Pharmaceuticals in Drinking Water” held a theory workshop on 14 May in Frankfurt. The presentations (in German) are available for download: [http://www.start-project.de/news\\_en.htm](http://www.start-project.de/news_en.htm)

**11\ Virtual Water Trade – Documentation Available in Print Version**

For a better understanding and evaluation of the potentials of the concept of Virtual Water Trade ISOE held an international workshop in July 2006. The documentation of the workshop which provides a detailed summary of the contributions and was made available for download can now be obtained in a print version.

For orders of the print version please use our order-form:

<http://www.isoe.de/english/service/bestform.htm>

The documentation for download: [http://www.isoe.de/ftp/vwt\\_documentation.pdf](http://www.isoe.de/ftp/vwt_documentation.pdf)

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