LOCATION
European Support Centre of the Club of Rome
Tuchlauben 8/15, 1010 Vienna

REGISTRATION
Space is restricted, therefore registration by September 3rd is mandatory for participation.
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The FUTURE of the WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Seminar with Anitra Thorhaug and Andrew Oerke
Vienna, Sept. 9th, 2010, 18.00 - 20.00
Outline of the Theme

The Western Hemisphere, presently divided into 38 nations, has an abundance of natural resources, as well as vibrant groups of peoples and diverse individual cultures, speaking nearly 1000 languages.

The hemispheric resources have always been shared among many nations, an example being the large schools of migratory oceanic fish which proceed without boundaries between the nations. Other shared resources are flows of air, river water, ocean currents, and animals. It is also important to observe that the indigenous trading nations shared resources throughout the Hemisphere for millennia.

Most of the Hemisphere’s 38 nations are governed by constitutional democratic governments. The intra-Hemispheric peace over the last 100 years has led to a stability which has enhanced hemispheric trade, increased sharing of resources, and strengthened relations between nations, while relieving the nations of the suffering and costs of war. Relative balances of human populations with food, water, and other natural materials have been our good fortune to enjoy for centuries, indeed twenty or more millennia.

The critical question is: Will the Western Hemisphere’s citizens modify their lives and governments to continue to enjoy these resources or will an imbalance with the hemispheric resources continue over the next fifty years?

Clearly a roadmap to create such a sustainable future with continuing resources is necessary. The study is thus a beginning, not the ultimate answer.

To quantify the analysis, the International Futures model by Barry Hughes was used for each nation, then aggregated for the whole Hemisphere.

The Speakers

Prof. Anitra Thorhaug has influenced protection of marine and coastal shallow-water habitats. She is a scientist and advocate for restoring the earth, who has elucidated toxic levels of pollutants and helped nations around the world set scientific standards to eliminate a series of pollutants. She invented the first large-scale seagrass restoration in the early 1970’s to combat habitat pollution effects. She taught science, policy, long-term planning and advocacy of coastal protection of living resources. Her academic career includes faculty positions in leading Universities in the USA (Berkeley, Yale, University Miami, Florida International University). Currently, she is researching remote sensing of coastal tropical pollution at Yale, and serves as Chair of Physiology of the American Botanical Society, President of the USA Club of Rome, and is a member of the International Club of Rome.

Andrew Oerke has lived many lives. After suggesting the idea of the Peace Corps to Jerry Clark, Kennedy’s campaign manager in Wisconsin, he went on to become a Peace Corps Director in Africa and the Caribbean, and for many years president of a private and voluntary organization working in developing countries. Oerke worked and visited in more than 160 countries, is a Golden Gloves champ, football player, university professor and Poet-in-Residence, U.S. Korean War veteran, World Bank consultant, and consultant to the United Nations on the Gulf War, and on the environment.