

10. Schweizer Biennale zu Wissenschaft, Technik + Ästhetik

Die Veränderung sein, die wir in der Welt sehen wollen – Be the change we want to see in the world

Swiss Museum of Transport, Lucerne, Switzerland –
18 and 19 January 2014

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On 18 and 19 January, the **10th Swiss Biennial on Science, Technics + Aesthetics** took place in the Swiss Museum of Transport in Lucerne. The Biennial created a platform for public discussion about climate change and environmental destruction and its consequences for humanity.

It included speakers such as **Jakob von Uexküll**, Founder of the “Right Livelihood Award” and Initiator of the “World Future Council”; **Thomas Stocker**, Climate and Environmental Physics, University of Bern; **Willie Smits**, Founder of the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOS), Kalimantan; **Angelique Timmer**, Social Entrepreneur and Associate Partner of BoerCroon, Amsterdam; **Marcel Brenninkmeijer**, Founder and Chairman, Good Energies Foundation, Zug; **Nancy Wimmer**, Director of mircoSOLAR; **Stewart Wallis**, Executive Director nef (the new economics foundation), London; **Esther Girsberger**, Author, Moderator and Lecturer; **Jeremy Jackson**, Center for Marine Biodiversity & Conservation, University of California, San Diego; **Laura Airoidi**, Associated Professor of Ecology, University of Bologna, Italy; **Rob Hopkins**, Founder of the Transition Towns Movement, Totnes, UK; **John Ashton**, Independent Commentator on Climate Politics, Former Foreign Secretary’s Special Representative for Climate Change, FCO, UK; **Anton Gunzinger**, Founder of the Supercomputing Systems AG, Zurich; **Bob Bishop**, Founder and President of the ICES Foundation - International Centre for Earth Simulation, Geneva.

The Biennial addressed the most urgent global challenges and solutions, which are usually discussed separately. It enabled a dialogue focused on developing coherent policy solutions to interlinked problems, and reshaped thinking on the central issues of development, progress and collective wellbeing at the core.

Too many of the current debates and international negotiations – even those explicitly dealing with the environment and global inequalities – are framed within constraints and are limited by assumptions that need to be questioned. Humanity will not manage to reduce climate change or environmental destruction if the incentives for citizens and business are not fundamentally changed. **What is urgently required are new, different incentives, which sustain the right solutions and make those costlier that do harm to the world of our children and grandchildren.**

Our economic systems, which are unsustainable, unfair, unstable and are making too many people unhappy, need to undergo *urgent* transformative change. **The Biennial made clear: We either change course now or watch our societies collapse under the weight of environmental disasters and the unstoppable flood of hundreds of millions of climate refugees whose home countries have become unlivable.**

For further information call +41 (0)41 370 38 18, Dr. phil. René Stettler, Founder and Executive Director, Swiss Biennial on Science, Technics + Aesthetics (since 1995)

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