



Press Release

Club of Rome convenes in Amsterdam for Global Assembly 2009

Amsterdam, 26-27 October 2009

Harbour Music Hall

October 26 and 27, the Club of Rome will convene in Amsterdam for its 2009 annual Global Assembly. This year's Assembly is the last of seven international conferences of the Club of Rome in the run-up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December. Keynote speakers like NASA's James Hansen and former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev will address the interdependency of the climate, energy and economic crisis and the opportunities they offer for sustainable growth. Everyone is invited to participate and join master classes of some of the world's most influential thinkers and achievers. Together we will write the *Amsterdam Declaration*, proposing key ingredients for a Global Green New Deal, as a last message to Copenhagen.

Perfect storm of interconnected crises

The global issues that the 1972 report *Limits to Growth* sketched so imminently are even more severe and urgent today. "Our home planet is dangerously near a tipping point at which human-made greenhouse gases reach a level where major climate changes can proceed mostly under their own momentum. (...) The implications are profound, and the only resolution is for humans to move to a fundamentally different energy pathway within a decade. Otherwise, it will be too late for one-third of the world's animal and plant species and millions of the most vulnerable members of our own species. (...) Understanding the nature and causes of climate change is essential to crafting solutions to our current crisis," wrote NASA's James Hansen¹. And climate change is only one of the intensifying environmental challenges.

The world is headed into a perfect storm of interconnected environmental and other crises. It is time to hit the "tipping point" for "runaway change", away from the structures that have long functioned and brought prosperity to many, but at hidden costs that can no longer be absorbed. It is time to construct a track to inclusiveness and one-planet economic growth.

Economic crisis: the beginning of a New Path for World Development

The financial crisis and the consequent economic slowdown provide an exceptional opportunity to move towards new patterns of more sustainable and equitable growth. "This economic crisis must mark the beginning of a new sustainable development path that has been long overdue," says



keynote speaker Mikhail Gorbachevⁱⁱ. Only through new ideas, new partnerships, new mechanisms and radical institutional change the answers to the unprecedented challenges ahead can be found. In Einstein's words: "We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them."

Almost 40 years after *Limits to Growth*, once again, the Club of Rome feels the need to intervene on the global stage. At its 40th anniversary in Turin, 2008, a three year, integrated programme of international research and consultation was launched: *A New Path for World Development*. The 2009 annual Club of Rome Global Assembly unites many of the bricks of the New Path that are emerging all around the globe.

World class speakers

The programme of the open conference features many top thinkers and achievers known for their contribution to a new, sustainable order. Among them are the following:

- Mikhail Gorbachev, on the next global glasnost
- James Hansen, NASA, and the "father" of climate change
- Bill McDonough, world famous architect for a better planet
- Lee Scott, chairman of the board of Walmart
- Christine Loh, CEO of the Hong Kong based Civic Exchange
- Ian Dunlop, the global top Peak Oil expert

For the complete programme surf to the Global Assembly website:

<http://www.clubofrome.at/2009/amsterdam>.

The Club of Rome

The Club of Rome is an independent, not-for-profit organisation with an international membership. It draws on the insights and expertise of its members from all regions of the world, from different cultures and histories, from different fields of science and public policy and from academia, civil society and the corporate sector. Since its founding forty years ago, it has been promoting interdisciplinary analysis, dialogue and action on the fundamental systemic challenges which are determining the future of humanity.

The Club of Rome is recognised throughout the world for its early work on the relations between economic growth and the environment, which is identified with *Limits to Growth*, a perspective which is even more important today. Over the years, the Club has identified threats, opportunities and choices and has advanced practical solutions by provoking debate, by briefing top leaders in government, business and civil society and by disseminating publications – some of them best sellers – aimed at informed opinion and the general public. The Club of Rome is independent of any political, ideological and religious interests.

Web address: <http://www.clubofrome.org>



IMSA Amsterdam

Press Release July 2009

IMSA Amsterdam

IMSA Amsterdam is the organiser of the Club of Rome 2009 Global Assembly. IMSA Amsterdam is a think tank and consultancy specialised in solving dilemmas involving the environment and initiating societal breakthroughs toward sustainability. IMSA is chaired by Wouter van Dieren, Club of Rome member and founding father of the environmental movement in the Netherlands. In 1972, his design and executive media work made *Limits to Growth* famous.

Web address: <http://www.imsa.nl/indexeng.php?PHPSESSID=cccdc1ab21666b9e4b386d7223f4c132>

Press contact

For further information:

Mr. Piet Briët, Project Manager Club of Rome Global Assembly 2009

Piet.briet@imsa.nl, +31 20 5787 623

ⁱ Hansen, J., 2008: Tipping point: Perspective of a climatologist. In *State of the Wild 2008-2009: A Global Portrait of Wildlife, Wildlands, and Oceans*. W. Woods, Ed. Wildlife Conservation Society/Island Press, pp. 6-15.

ⁱⁱ Green Cross International, press release, 30 March 2009