



The CIRED, the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) and R2DS are pleased to invite you to attend the special conference:

“Designing and discussing future pathways to sustainability: what research is needed?”

With Stefan Lechtenböhmer (Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy) *

Discussants: Paul Raskin (Tellus Institute)** and Jean-Charles Hourcade (CIRED)***

Wednesday November 18th 2009, from 5.00 to 7.00 p.m.

**at Sciences Po – salle H003 – 28, rue des Saints-Pères - 75007 Paris
(M° Saint-Germain-des-Prés)**

Summary

Sustainable development policies at the global as well as more local scales are linked to the urgency to take into account long term evolutions of our environment and long term consequences of our actions and decisions. Many recent international scientific efforts managed to show that business as usual scenarios would lead to unsustainable futures, as the climate change scenarios of IPCC clearly succeeded in demonstrating. But it also appears that we still do not have the same capacity to describe and analyse really sustainable futures for our societies and their environment, and the pathways leading to such futures, with as much credibility as for the conventional and unsustainable scenarios. For instance, what would be a sustainable transformation of transports, of the mobility of goods and persons and the corresponding infrastructures, if we want to comply with a target of dividing by four the greenhouse gases emissions of our northern economies in 2050? Are we able to represent how our society would look like, what are the pathways we need to follow if we want to reach this target? How can we manage to put into discussion the underlying assumptions about the future that we inevitably have to make in such exercises?

This conference will build on the example of German research on pathways to low carbon futures, in order to discuss and understand what types of research on future scenarios are needed to support policy making for sustainability, where are the key theoretical, methodological and practical issues, and what are the most important objects and questions for such research.

Programme of the conference

1. Conference by Dr. Stefan Lechtenböhmer, co-director of Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy, co-director of the research group on Future Energy and Mobility Structures: « German research on futures pathways to low carbon societies »

2. Discussion and opening of the debate by:

- Dr. Paul Raskin, President of Tellus Institute (Boston), specialist of global scenarios for international processes like the IPCC and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, founder of the Global Scenario Group, and of the Great Transition Initiative
- Dr. Jean Charles Hourcade, Director of CIRED (Paris), specialist of prospective modelling of future pathways for economies, in the framework of international negotiation on climate policies

* **Dr. Stefan Lechtenböhmer** is co-director of Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy, where he leads the research group on Future Energy and Mobility Structures. He holds a masters in geography and economics from the University of Münster, and a PhD from the University of Flensburg, International Institute of Management. He has been working for the University and City of Münster on climate and energy, and is working on energy and transports at Wuppertal Institute since 1995. His field of expertise reaches from national climate policies to sustainable construction and planning, energy efficiency education, coal and the environment, methane reduction or systems analysis. He is a member of the UNFCCC Roster of experts for GHG inventories, policies and measures, GHG projections.

** **Dr. Paul Raskin** is President of the Tellus Institute. He founded Tellus in 1976, Stockholm Environment Institute - U.S. in 1989, the Global Scenario Group (GSG) in 1995, and the Great Transition Initiative (GTI) in 2003. The overarching theme of his work has been envisioning and analyzing alternative scenarios of development, and identifying the strategies, policies and values for a transition toward a future of environmental sustainability and human justice. Toward this larger aim, his work has ranged across themes (energy, water, climate change, ecosystems, development) and spatial scales (regional, national, river basin, global). He has pioneered integrated methods for long-range social and environmental assessment. This has led to a suite of computer-based tools that are now used in scores of countries, building the capacity of a new group of sustainability professionals. His path-breaking work with the GSG culminated in the influential essay *Great Transition: The Promise and Lure of the Times Ahead*, which offers a rigorously grounded case for an alternative paradigm for global development in the 21st century. Dr. Raskin brought these insights to his work as a lead author of the National Academy of Science's Board on Sustainability, the IPCC, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, UNEP's Global Environment Outlook, and the Earth Charter, and to numerous other projects. He taught at the university level until founding the Tellus Institute in 1976. Dr. Raskin received a Ph.D. in Theoretical Physics from Columbia University in 1970.

*** **Dr. Jean-Charles Hourcade** is senior researcher at CNRS (French national centre for scientific research). He is director of CIRED, the International Research Centre on Environment and Development, a research institute of CNRS, the EHESS (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris), Ecole des Ponts Paris Tech, and AgroParisTech. Since 1990, he has been playing a key role in coordinating French research in social sciences to contribute to the negotiation processes between governmental institutions and international agencies for climate policies. He has participated to the French delegation on climate negotiations from COP1 to COP6. He is coordinator of R2DS, the excellence research network on sustainable development in Ile de France, the Paris region. He leads various European research projects and is an expert for most international agencies for environment and energy (OECD, UNEP, WB, IEA, UNESCO). He actively participates in IPCC as author for the 2nd and 3rd report, and as leading author for the 4th report.

Conference – debate INSCRIPTION FORM

Please fill in the inscription form and return by fax 01 45 49 76 85 or email to **Julie Cohen** julie.cohen@iddri.org **before the 16th of November 2009.**

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will attend

will not be attend

to the conference of Stefan Lechtenböhmer, the 18th November 2009.

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