



Press release

Our Common Future: Interdisciplinary congress about the future with 150 international researchers

Essen/ Hanover – 20.05.2010. Can humans become immortal? What will the factory of the future look like? Which technologies will shape our everyday lives in future? Ten years after the Expo in Hanover, and as the high point of the RUHR.2010 European Capital of Culture academic programme, Deutsche Messe, the Volkswagen Foundation and Stiftung Mercator are in November hosting one of the year's biggest congresses about the future in cooperation with the state capital of Hanover and RUHR.2010:

Our Common Future

**The interdisciplinary congress for a cross-generational dialogue about issues of our common future
2 to 6 November 2010 in Hanover and Essen**

The goal is to initiate a cross-generational dialogue about key issues for the future of society and to develop concrete solution proposals. Around 200 national and international representatives of academia, politics and business are expected, as well as 200 young researchers and some 500 additional participants.

The congress will be concentrating on the following issues:

- **Climate Change and Energy**
- **Future Technologies**
- **Economic and Urban development**
- **Global Health and Molecular Medicine**
- **Human Rights and Global Values**

Speakers:

Among those speaking at the congress will be **Arjun Appadurai** (New York University), the latest Nobel Prize in Medicine winner **Elisabeth Blackburn** (University of California, San Francisco), **Paul Collier** (University of Oxford), **Baroness Susan Greenfield** (Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh), **Lord Nicholas Stern** (London School of Economics and Political Science), **Klaus Töpfer** (former executive director of the UN Environment Programme), **Andreas Voßkuhle** (president of the Federal Constitutional Court), **Otmar D. Wiestler** (president of the German Cancer Research Centre, Heidelberg) and **Cardinal Joseph Zen** (PR China, Hong Kong). Further information about the programme can be found at: www.ourcommonfuture.de/en/programme.



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Hannover · Essen
2.-6. November 2010

Accreditation

We would be delighted if you could reserve these dates in your diary. You can also already register to attend the congress. For security reasons, accreditation is necessary; please contact presse@stiftung-mercator.de. On request, you will then be sent the link to complete the online registration process. We look forward to welcoming you to Hanover and Essen.

Contact

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us:

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