

Plenary Speaker Prof. John Schellnhuber, Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), visiting prof. University of Oxford

“This congress is a milestone on the road to COP 15, which has to strike a “Global Deal” for climate protection policy in the 21st century. Our scientific conference will try to summarize, at the highest intellectual level, the evidence about both the challenges and options associated with global warming. In my view, climate solutions need to be perceived and implemented as consistent elements of a “Great Transformation” that will replace the current industrial metabolism by something truly sustainable in the global sense.” **Professor Hans Joachim Schellnhuber**

CV

Hans Joachim Schellnhuber is director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) since its foundation in 1992. He is vice chair of the German Advisory Council on Global Change and was appointed Chief Government Advisor on Climate and Related Issues by the German Federal Government for the G8 and EU presidencies in 2007. As a member of the High Level Expert Group he also advises the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso on energy and climate change issues. In 1993 he started teaching theoretical physics at the University of Potsdam. Since 2005 he also teaches as visiting professor at the University of Oxford.

Born 1950 in Ortenburg, Germany, Schellnhuber studied physics and mathematics at the University of Regensburg. After he had obtained his Ph.D. in theoretical physics he spent several research periods abroad at the University of California among other institutions. In 1989 he became professor at the Interdisciplinary Centre for Marine and Environmental Sciences at the University of Oldenburg and later the centre’s managing director. From 2001 to 2005 he was also engaged as Research Director of the British Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research.

Schellnhuber is member of the editorial boards of several scientific journals and of scientific associations like the German National Academy of Sciences (Leopoldina) and the US National Academy of Sciences. He authored (or co-authored) more than 200 articles and about forty books on theoretical physics, environmental analysis and sustainability science. In 2004 he was awarded the title "Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire" (CBE) by Queen Elizabeth II. In 2007 he received the German Environment Prize for his scientific work in the field of climate impact research and its dissemination to politicians and the public.