



Fondation "Partager le Savoir"
Sharing Knowledge Foundation

Red Sea-Dead Sea Meeting

Geneva 6-7 June 2007

Presenting the new Foundation

- “Sharing Knowledge” meetings already have a history.
- Why the new Foundation?
- Goals and Statutes of the Foundation.
- Modus operandi and perspectives.



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Sharing Knowledge Meetings: a brief history

- “World Med 2002” in Marseille co-organised by the City of Marseilles and AFAS (French Association for the Advancement of Science).
- 2004: “Sharing Knowledge across the Mediterranean” organized by AFAS in Geneva for the 50th Anniversary of CERN.
- 2005: “Sharing Knowledge across the Mediterranean” was organized in Casablanca, by AFAS and Hassan II Ain Chock University.
- 2006: “Sharing Knowledge across the Mediterranean” organized by AFAS and hosted by the Abdus Salam ICTP institute in Trieste.



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Purpose of these meetings

- To initiate contacts between scientists and engineers coming from North and South shores of the Mediterranean.
- The purpose is to build-up partnerships on concrete projects for sustainable development.
- Multidisciplinary in nature: topics include fundamental science, fighting the digital divide, basic needs such as water, food, energy as well as the prevention of catastrophes.
- Already some concrete achievements...



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Diversity of topics tackled at Trieste

- Mobility of researchers (visas, brain drain or brain gain?).
- International research centers (CERN, SESAME, ICTP).
- Fighting the digital divide (Internet, satellites, grid computing).
- Impact of the new agricultural revolution.
- Emerging diseases (avian flu etc..).
- Seawater desalination.
- Energies for development.
- Man-made disasters: from climate change to coastal overpopulation.



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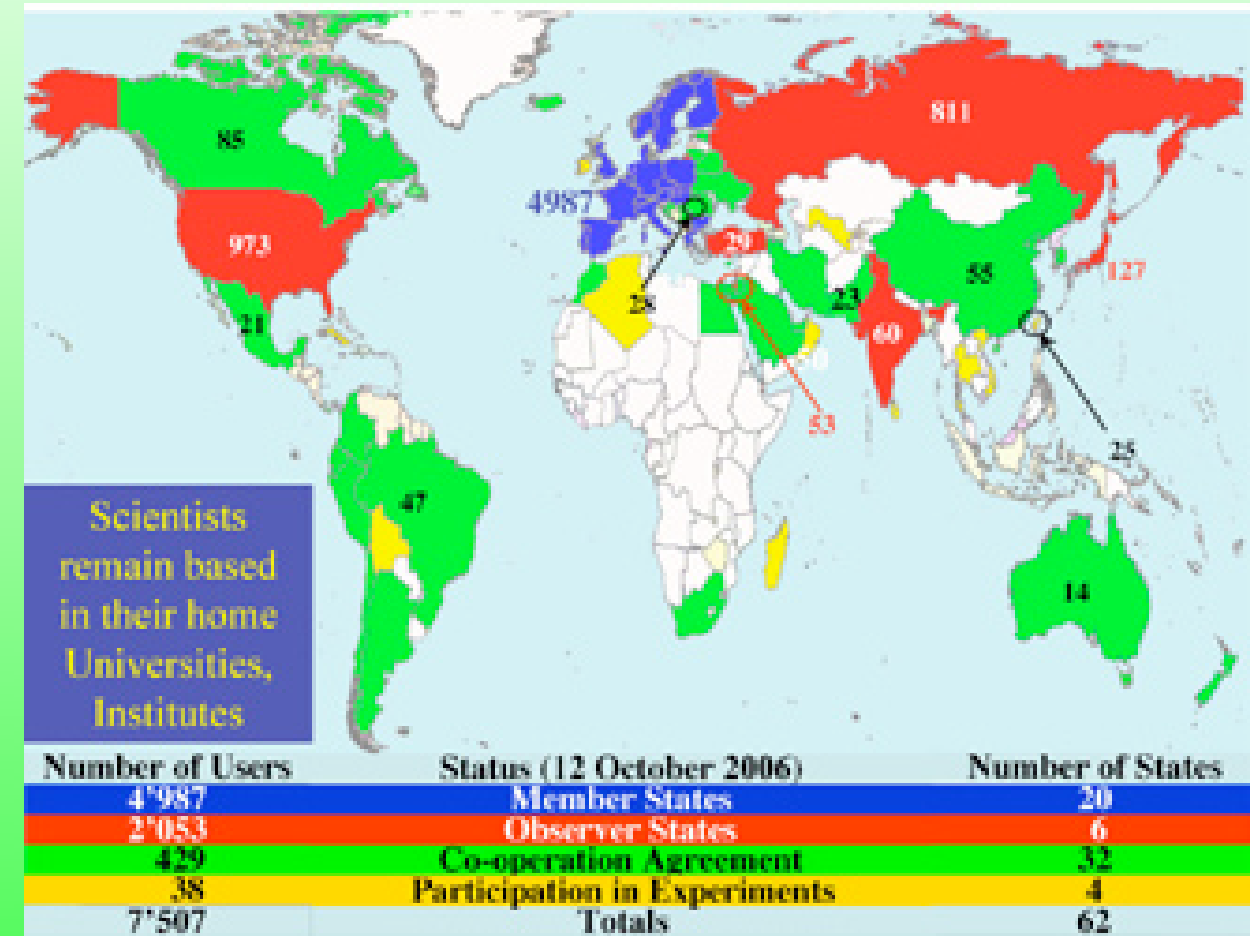
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CERN has become a world laboratory!



Words from John Ellis, Adviser to the CERN DG for relations with non-Member States *Photo: Matteo Nucci*



'CERN has become a world research centre open to teams from non-member states'



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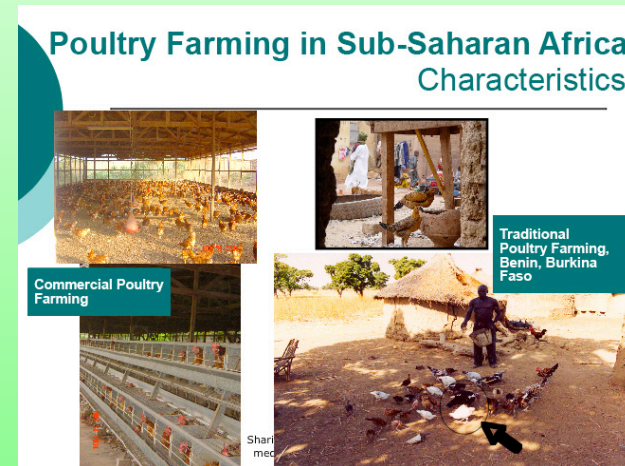
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Diversity of themes and participants

Emerging diseases from the animal kingdom

- The animal kingdom is a reservoir for viruses which can currently affect human beings. The list is already long, but the avian influenza is causing high concern because of its similarity with the H5N1 virus, that of the famous "Spanish Flu" of 1917.
- Migrant birds, together with the proliferation of trade exchanges and mass world travelling are factors behind it. We must then take protective measures against such dangers which means that we should have an easily accessible 'world information and prevention' network at our disposal.

Two young
Veterinary
Scientists



Words from Lionel Gbaguidi, veterinarian in Cotonou (Benin) Photo: ICTP

- In summary, industrial farms are regarded as safer than traditional ones, where diverse species live together. The routes of many migrant birds cross into Israel. This has triggered a West Nile Virus epidemic, as well as a type of Avian Influenza. The epidemic was eradicated thanks to a vaccination programme based on local production.



Words from Caroline Noach, Beit Dagan Institute (Israel) Photo: ICTP



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Diversity of themes and participants

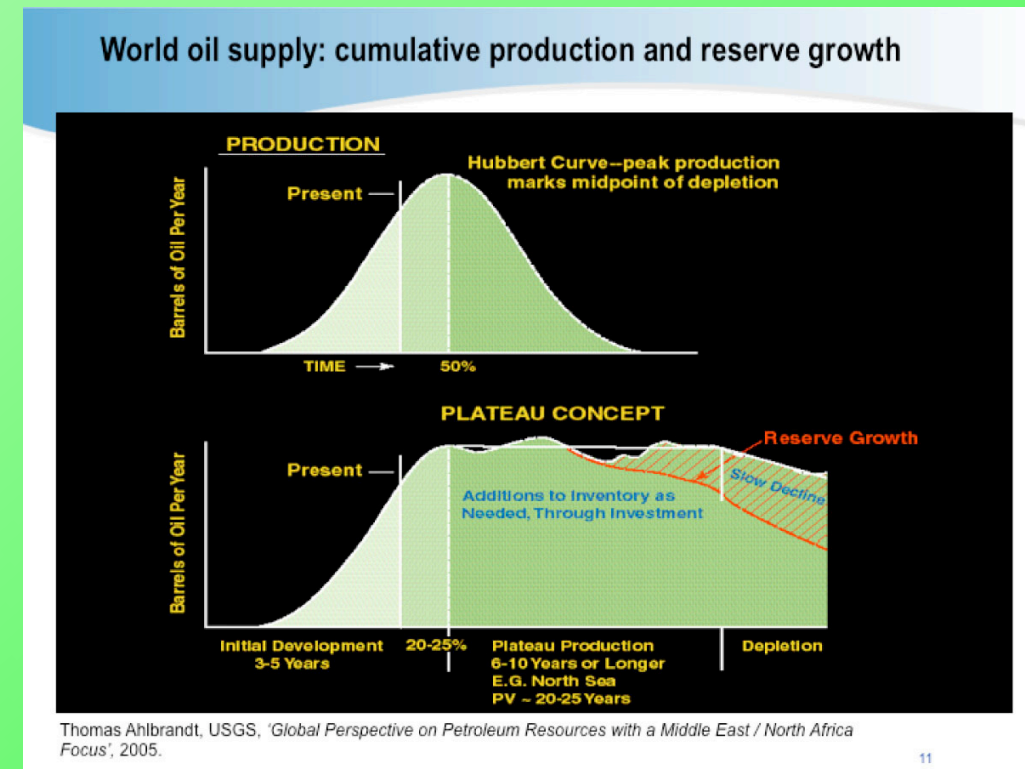
Energies for development

- Although renewable energies are rapidly developing, they start from such a low level that in reality, from now until 2030, fossil fuels will keep fulfilling most of the requirements. Will we, in the 21st century have enough resources at our disposal? Contrary to the “peak of production” theory, reservoirs increase according to requirements and investments. The result is a plateau, not a peak. **(Words from Adnan Shihab Eldin, former Secretary General of OPEC, Kuwait.)**

A very senior
decision maker



Adnan Shihab Eldin (Kuwait)
Photo: ICTP



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These meetings were a huge success, then why create a Foundation?

- As I was finishing my term as President of AFAS, it was time for an assessment and to recognize that the international character of our meetings was not well suited to the practices of a French national body such as AFAS.
- Our successes called for expanding our activities. We had a diversity of funding sources for our yearly activities but needed multi-year continuity as well as increased resources.
- With a few friends we applied for a Foundation seated in Geneva and got approval within 6 weeks.



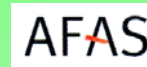
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A diversity of funding sources

Support from French, Italian,
Spanish Institutes as well as
NATO “Science for Peace
Programme”.



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Statements of the Foundation

- Considering that:
 - Science is a universal language, common to all, irrespective of their political, philosophical or religious beliefs.
 - The development of Science now mandates worldwide collaborations in order to cope with changes (climate, health hazards, etc..) which have themselves become worldwide and also with an ever more costly mobilization of resources.
 - Progress in scientific knowledge cannot sustainably be borne only by developed countries. Partnerships should be set-up in order to educate elites that will allow, in time, less advanced countries to play their roles in furthering scientific knowledge.



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Statements of the Foundation (ctd.)

- The Foundation sets itself the following goals:
 - To encourage a dialogue between scientists, coming from advanced and from emerging countries.
 - To build a network from within the Civil Society dedicated to realizing concrete projects contributing to a sustainable development and to reducing inequalities and imbalances between nations.
 - To organize for that purpose multidisciplinary conferences (following the model of the "Sharing Knowledge" meetings of which the Founder has been the initiator), in order to tackle on a recurring basis:
 - The satisfaction of basic needs (water, energy, food).
 - Access to the digital civilization and to fundamental science.
 - Timely topics such as the prevention of catastrophes whether natural or man-made.



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Who we are: the Foundation Council

President and Founder

Robert Klapisch

Physicist, PhD in Science; former CERN director of research; founder and former chairman of the Euroscience-Léman Association

Secretary

Spyro Metaxas

PhD in Law (Geneva); LL.M. Cambridge (United Kingdom); legal adviser, active in property management, project lead, and “family office”; former chairman of the Jean-Gabriel Eynard Association

Treasurer

Constantin Lanaras

Degree in International Relations, Degrees and Masters in Business Management (Webster University of Saint-Louis); economist; former bank director (private bank HSBC); director of financial and fund management companies

Members

Pascal Colombani

PhD in Science; member of the boards of directors of industrial companies and innovation, energy, and high technology adviser; former chairman and chief executive officer of the Commissariat à l’Energie Atomique (France); former chairman of Areva; associate director of A.T. Kearney

Abdeslam Hoummada

PhD in Science (Grenoble); professor at the Hassan II University of Casablanca; spokesman for Moroccan universities at CERN; co-director (with Robert Klapisch) of the NATO Advanced Research Workshop (Casablanca 2005, Trieste 2006)

Monique Nordmann

Diploma from the British Chamber of Commerce (Geneva); master in Philosophy (University of Geneva); former chairperson of the Association of Classical Archaeology Hellas et Roma (History and Art Museum); former chairperson of the Swiss Association of Adoptive Parents; published works: “Mon Histoire” (revelation of the adoption); “Tu n’es pas moi” (twin universe), “Eros Invaincu” (Catalogue of the Gérard Nordmann Library)



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Scientific Advisory Council

Bernard BACHELIER, Agronomist, Président of FARM (Fondation pour l'Agriculture et la Ruralité dans le Monde).

Miriam BALABAN, Editor, since 40 years of "Desalination" the principal international reference in its field. Secretary General of the European Desalination Society.

Rémi BARRÉ, Economist, Professor at Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers. Director of Prospective at the French Ministry of Research.

Alain CAPILLON Professor at Ecole Nationale Supérieure Agronomique de Montpellier (ENSAM)

Moncef CHEIKH-ROUHOU, Associate Professor at Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales (HEC) of Paris

Jean-Patrick CONNERADE, Lockyer Professor of Physics, Imperial College (London). Former president Euroscience Association.

John ELLIS, Theoretical Physicist. Adviser to the DG of CERN for Non-Member States relations.

Azzedine ELMIDAOUI, Physico-Chemist, Professor at Ibn Tofai University of Kénitra (Morocco). President of "Société Marocaine des Membranes et du Dessalement".

Dominique GENTILE, Physicist, Professor at Versailles University, former Director of INSTN (Institut National des Sciences et Techniques Nucléaires).

Bertrand HERVIEU, former President of INRA (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique). Secretary General of CIEHAM (Centre International des Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes).

Abdeslam HOUMMADA, Physicist, Professor at Hassan II University of Casablanca. Spokesman of Moroccan physicists working at CERN.

Robert KLAPISCH, Physicist, president of the Foundation.

Yves LANCELOT, Oceanographer. Director of Research emeritus at CNRS.

Juan-Antonio RUBIO Physicist, Director General of CIEMAT (Centro de Investigaciones Energeticas, Medioambientales y Tecnológicas), Madrid.

Herwig SCHOPPER, former Director General of CERN. President of the SESAME Council of UNESCO.

Katepalli R. SREENIVASAN, Director of the Abdus Salam Institute of the ICTP, Trieste.

Abderrahmane TADJEDDINE Deputy Director of Chemistry at CNRS

Guy WORMSER Director of the "Laboratoire de l'Accélérateur Linéaire d'Orsay". French coordinator of the european EGEE II project.



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How we plan to operate

- The "plenary" multidisciplinary conferences are one of our originalities. The next one will take place in Chania, in the Greek island of Crete in April 2008, hosted by the Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Institute.
- During the Trieste meeting, the need appeared of additional, follow-up meetings of which the present one is the first.
- Two more of these are planned in 2007:
 - In November, a meeting in Cairo of physicists from North Africa wishing to coordinate their participation to CERN and SESAME.
 - In December, in Montpellier, about the urgent development of Internet in sub-Saharan Africa.



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Conclusion

- The success of our action proves that there is a real need for a North-South scientific dialogue along the style which we have proposed.
- We are delighted by the approval of our present sponsors for the format of a dedicated Foundation.
- We have initiated a fund-raising drive among French, Italian, Spanish and UK major Industries and Foundations and are very encouraged by the first contacts.
- Our goal, with a five year horizon, is both to expand our activities and constitute an endowment insuring our independence and perenity.



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