



A NOBEL CAUSE

SYMPOSIUM SERIES ON GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY

Nobel Laureates Symposium Series on Global Sustainability

Background Information

The Nobel Laureates Symposia in the Series "Global Sustainability - A Nobel Cause" aim at elevating the debate on global sustainability to a new level of understanding and urgency, and supporting scientific research in finding solutions to these problems. Through its acclaimed symposia in 2007, 2009 and 2011, the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) has established a platform which has already won recognition for its significant impact and success in raising the awareness of key decision-makers around the globe.

It is all the more indispensable that the dialogue on the paths towards a sustainable future is strengthened at the highest level of scientific legitimacy and visibility. To achieve this, the most eminent figures of the scientific world need to be included: Nobel Prize-winners are icons of modern knowledge-based society and have a considerable priming effect on young scientists. At the same time, they enjoy the privilege of being absolutely free to think the unthought-of and to state the yet unstated. In this way, they can provide impetus and orientation in times when it is hard to follow a clear thread through the course of debates prone to targeted disinformation. There is thus a particular value in bringing together Nobel Laureates from different disciplines with eminent scientific experts in the field to exchange thoughts on the future key issues of sustainability – this was the starting point for establishing the Symposia series.

The first three Nobel Laureates Symposia in Potsdam 2007, London 2009 and Stockholm 2011 showed that the overall series fills an important gap and sparked strong interest among the media, the broader public and not least among the participants themselves. Each of the events taking place so far clearly advanced both the scientific and public debate on the issues under discussion. The Memoranda signed at the end of each symposium have become relevant benchmarks in environmental and research policy. In 2011, for instance, the UN General Secretary's High Level Panel on Global Sustainability came to Stockholm to receive the Memorandum. Its messages have since then been taken up in a high-level meeting at the COP 17 Climate Summit in Durban, and at the Rio+20 Earth Summit 2012, Nobel Laureates from the symposia series were invited to participate in the official negotiations.

Now **"A Nobel Cause"** heads towards Asia – and specifically to China, hosted by the Asia Society Hong Kong together with PIK. Hong Kong as a hub between East and West is the perfect place for such a venture. Across continents, the issue of urbanization is recognized as a key to our common future. Across generations, Nobel Laureates and scientists from all over the world will debate how to secure the well-being of generations to come.

Detailed information can be found at www.nobelcause.org.