

New Secretary General for the Club of Rome

The British economic and climate expert Ian Johnson has been appointed as Secretary General of the Club of Rome with effect from 1. April 2010. He will assume office from Martin Lees, who will finish his three year term as Secretary General. Mr. Lees will continue to act in an advisory capacity to the International Secretariat of the Club of Rome, Winterthur, Switzerland. With this transition the Club of Rome will continue its successful international outreach and development.

The Club of Rome is pleased to announce the appointment of Ian Johnson as its new Secretary General. Ian Johnson will assume office from the 1st April 2010 taking over from Scotsman R. Martin Lees, aged 68 years.

Ian Johnson is currently Chairman of the Commission for Land Use Change Ecosystems with GLOBE International (www.globeinternational.org) and CEO of Idea Carbon, a London based consulting firm for emissions trading. He has been a long time advisor to the UNFCCC (www.unfccc.int), a Member of the Swedish Commission on Climate Change and Development and served as Economist to the British Government. He has also acted as advisor to several governments, including Chile and the Netherlands.

Ian Johnson, a British national was educated at the University of Wales, Harvard University and the University of Sussex. Ian spent over twenty five years with the World Bank. He held the post of Vice President for Sustainable Development for eight years, responsible for policy, strategy and oversight of the World Bank's programmes in environment, social policy and agriculture and rural development.

The current Secretary General of the Club of Rome R. Martin Lees remarked 'Ian has a remarkable experience across the key areas of central concern to the Club of Rome coupled with a strong analytical capability, worldwide contact with experts and leaders, a deep knowledge of the issues of poverty and development and the proven ability to work on the interface between analysis and policy. We are delighted that Ian has agreed to take on the role of Secretary General and we are confident that he will provide strong and constructive leadership to the future work of the Club'.

R. Martin Lees in his three year term as Secretary General initiated and coordinated the Club's current programme 'A New Path for World Development'. He ensured a smooth transition from the Club's previous International headquarters in Hamburg to its new location in Winterthur, Switzerland. He built a solid organisation and strengthened the Club's networks throughout the world.

The Club of Rome is very grateful for what Martin Lees has achieved during his term of office as Secretary General and is very pleased that he is prepared to continue to work with the Club in the next important phase of 'A New Path for World Development', namely the issues of peace, justice and security.

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Further Information:

Video interview with Ian Johnson on the Club of Rome web site:
http://www.clubofrome.org/eng/meetings/winterthur_2008/interview_dr_ian_johnson.asp

The Club of Rome

The Club of Rome, a long standing nongovernmental organisation, became one of the first pioneers of economic and environmental sustainability. In 1968 a small group of concerned international professionals met to discuss the impact of limited resources in an increasingly interdependent world. The group established themselves as the Club of Rome. Since then, the Club has been building on its unique network of members and its thirty three National Associations located throughout the world.

Unlike many other nongovernmental organisations, The Club of Rome is unique in that it is driven by the ideas and decisions of its diverse and global membership. Such democratic principles and decision making initiates new ways of thinking and arouses involvement and innovation.

In today's global environment the interconnectedness of economic, environmental and development challenges requires a holistic perspective. In this respect, the Club applies a systems thinking approach to the analysis of such issues and advances lines of action through the development of Government policy recommendations which can effectively be translated into practical solutions. www.clubofrome.org