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### **Institute for Earth System Preservation (IESP)**

International Experts supporting a sustainable balance between Environment, Economy and Society

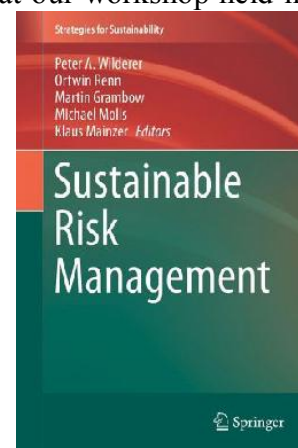
Dear members of IESP:

January of 2018 is almost over. There are eleven month left, though, which hopefully will deliver nothing but enjoyable movements for all of us.

Because of difficulties to keep our web-page up-to-date some of you may have gotten the impression that IESP went dormant. As you can learn from the information compiled below the opposite is true. We are actually in perfect shape with respect to the general recognition achieved, our financial preconditions and the projects we are about to work on.

### **The book on “Sustainable Risk Management: A Call for Action” came out.**

Springer International Publishing Company in its series „Strategies for Sustainability“ has brought on the international book market the contributions discussed at our workshop held in 2016 at the Feldafing conference center. The book is announced as: “Here, expert authors delineate approaches that can support both decision makers as well as their concerned populations in overcoming unwarranted fears and in elaborating policies based on scientific evidence. Four exemplary focus areas were chosen for in-depth review, namely: - The scientific basis of risk management - Risk management in the area of environmental and ecological policy - Risk management in radiation medicine - Risk management in context with digitalization and robotics General as well as specific recommendations are summarized in a memorandum. Fundamental thoughts on the topic are presented in the introductory part of the book. The book offers important information and advice for scientists, entrepreneurs, administrators and politicians.”



### **IESP-Symposium on Digitalization**

On July 21./22., 2017 IESP organized and conducted the third so called Pienza Symposium, originally initiated by the late Hans Huber. This time, “Digitalization – A Challenge for the Entire Societal Culture” was chosen as topic of the symposium. The Chamber of Crafts of Lower Bavaria and Upper Palatinate served as co-organizer and host. Forty participants contributed to an intense exchange of opinions, knowledge and concerns. Particular emphasis was placed on sub-topics such as



1. Digitalization of the environment:  
Auxiliary means for decision makers
2. Economic, social and environmental aspects of digitalization
3. The importance of big data
4. Digitalization to assist water quality management
5. Digitalization in small and medium enterprises
6. Communication and education in a complex world

The following statements summarize some of the lessons learnt:

- ✓ Digitalization is a transformation process. Analog values such as taste, acoustic impressions, or feelings are converted in discrete values for further computation.
- ✓ Digitalization is a means for a certain purpose, not the purpose per se.
- ✓ Digitalization serves people, but should not over rule people.
- ✓ It is important to define ethical guidelines for the digital transformation and the application of the resulting instruments.
- ✓ Digital transformation contains a high level of human capital which homo sapiens should responsibly apply.

### **Project on Agriculture – Water Quality Management – Climate Change: Perspective for Agriculture and Environment**

IESP in cooperation with the Institute for Advanced Studies of the Technical University of Munich are obliged within the time frame between September 2017 and August 2021 to organize and conduct a series of Fora, open for the professional society, followed by a series of closed door Workshops. The responsible actors in agricultural and environmental management as well as representatives of relevant scientific sectors should be given the opportunity to express their knowledge and particular interest with the aim to eventually bring about solutions which are readily applicable and sustainable in effect.

Among others the following topics are to be considered for discussion:

- general interdependencies of agriculture and water quality management,
- effects of extreme rain events and resulting erosion
- droughts and limits of water availability
- groundwater depletion and recharge
- distribution and fate of nutrients and pesticides
- socio-economic aspects
- further development of rural infrastructures and quality of life
- innovation, digitalization and robotics
- consumption behavior and nutrition preferences of the society
- fair trade of agricultural products

The program is funded by the Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection.

The first event (Forum 1 in German language) is scheduled for February 19, 2017. Program and venue are announced in the following:

11:00 Begrüßung und Einführung Ulrike Scharf MdL Staatsministerin für Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz

11:20 Grußwort Helmut Brunner MdL Staatsminister für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten

11:35 Erosion und Starkregen – was die nahe Zukunft bringt Prof. Dr. Karl Auerswald, TU München / Weihenstephan

12:00 Bühnengespräch  
„Risiken und Chancen des Klimawandels“ Stefan Köhler

13:30 Klimawandel und Landwirtschaft – Bestandsaufnahme einer weltweiten Herausforderung an den Wasserhaushalt Prof. Dr.-Ing. Martin Grambow, Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz

13:45 Klimawandel aus Sicht der Landwirtschaft – Problem oder Chance? Dr. Annette Freibauer, Bayerische Landesanstalt für Landwirtschaft

14:00 Niedrigwassermanagement Axel Bauer, Regierung von Unterfranken

14:45 Landwirtschaftliche Versicherung – Schäden, Perspektiven und Lösungen Maximilian Strobl, Munich Re

15:00 Positivbeispiele aus der landwirtschaftlichen Praxis

16:00 Abschlussdiskussion

16:30 Fazit und Ende der Veranstaltung.

### **In the Pipeline**

On October 4 to 6, 2018 IESP in cooperation with the TUM Emeriti of Excellence Project will host at the Science and Study Center of the Technical University of Munich (TUM) a workshop on “Violent Earth – Human induced Natural Disasters and the Resulting Responsibility of Humankind for Nature”. Participation is on invitation only.

The theme was brought up by Dr. Felix Unger, president of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts. It is to be understood as a response to the book written by Ernst Ulrich v. Weizsäcker, Anders Wejckman and others on “Come on! - Capitalism, Short-termism, Population and the Destruction of the Planet”. It is to be understood as an optimistic assessment of global environmental crisis and a grant report to the Club of Rome.

### **The IESP Secretariat will get upgraded**

From March 2018 on we will be assisted by two ladies, Mrs. Dr. Limmer-Kneitz and Mrs. Jessica Westermayr. The two ladies will present themselves as soon as they have taken office in the premises of the TUM Institute for Advanced Study.

### **New Books**

Sustainable Development Policy A European Perspective

Edited by Michael von Hauff, University of Kaiserslautern, Germany and Claudia Kuhnke,  
University of Kaiserlautern, Germany

Series: Routledge Studies in Sustainable Development

This book demonstrates how sustainable development can be integrated into development policy. Although sustainable development has been on the international agenda since the Rio de Janeiro conference of 1992, its integration into policy decision-making has been limited. This edited collection explores how sustainable development can play a more prominent and effective role in international development policy.

With our very best greetings,

Martin Steger and Peter Wilderer