



ACADEMIA ENGELBERG

Engelberg, 25 October 2002

1st Dialogue on Science at Engelberg

A successful start for Academia Engelberg

Voices of commitment and a bouquet of ideas brought the 1st Dialogue on Science in Engelberg to a close on 25 October 2002. The 120 or so representatives from business, science and society gave their clear commitment to a continuation of the Science Dialogue in Engelberg.

The 1st Dialogue on Science was conceived as a preliminary conference. For this reason, a deliberately broad framework was chosen for the event and the topics were kept very open in their wording. This facilitated an open debate for everyone involved and gave all participants the opportunity to bring in their own wishes, ideas and needs. This open debate was positively received by most of the participants. The 1st Dialogue on Science was the first step on the road to fulfilling the dream of Engelberg.

Building a bridge

What clearly came out of all the discussion was that trust in the results of science is on the wane. It became equally clear that the public at large should be increasingly involved in the debate about scientific content. To this end, it was proposed that the conference be continued in the future under the theme of "Dialogue on Science and Society". Carried along by the idea that the concepts of "trust, knowledge and values" be the subject of intense discussion, it was suggested that projects such as a year of study in the inspiring surroundings of Engelberg be made possible for a number of students. Projects of this kind would have the function of taking up the ideas, feelings and concerns of the population, presenting results from research at the next conference and thus contributing to a better understanding between science and the public.

Summary of the dialogue on science

In his concluding words, Klaus Hug, President of the Academia Engelberg Foundation, likened the results of the conference to a bouquet of flowers. Every participant and also the 13 members of the International Advisory Board, he said, had picked a whole bunch of different flowers in a magnificent Alpine meadow. And now it was up to the Board of Trustees of Academia Engelberg to put these flowers together to form a bouquet and thus continue work on realizing the dream of Engelberg. Klaus Hug thanked all participants, facilitators, the International Advisory Board, the Monastery of Engelberg, in particular the abbot Dr. Berchtold Müller, for their commitment. He expressed the hope that the 1st Dialogue on Science had proved a great experience and an enormous personal enrichment for everyone.

What next?

The Board of Trustees will reflect intensively on the ideas of congress participants and the International Advisory Board over the coming weeks and decide on the next steps to be taken. The representatives from business, science and society who were present, as well as the public at large, will be informed of these decisions in the near future.

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Further information for the media may be obtained from: Academia Engelberg, Beatrice Suter, KommunikationsWerkstatt GmbH, Tel. 041-660 96 19, Fax 041-660 96 28, E-Mail: kommwerk@tic.ch

<Info-Box> Academia Engelberg – A portrait

The aim of Academia Engelberg is, through transdisciplinary discourse, to bring some positive movement into prevailing global inequities in order to bring about a humane world. In the process, a better understanding should be achieved between the different parties concerned regarding highly complex problem areas, to bring about a sustainable improvement in the relations between society, science and business. In the structured framework of a discourse, possible solutions and projects are gradually developed each year, which fall under the overall heading of the main theme "From Global Inequity to a Humane Welt".

The Academia Engelberg Foundation, established on 16 November 2001, is domiciled in the Monastery of Engelberg/CH. The founding members are the Central Swiss cantons of Lucerne, Uri, Schwyz, Obwalden, Nidwalden and Zug, the commune of Engelberg and the Swiss reinsurance company Swiss Re of Zürich, with official support from the Swiss Federation (Science and research Group).