



ACADEMIA ENGELBERG

3rd Dialogue on Science – 29 September - 1 October 2004
in Engelberg, Switzerland

Farewell

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Ladies and Gentleman, dear Friends

Now at the end of the conference the time has come for me to thank you all very much for coming to the Engelberg conference, for your personal preparations, your preparatory projects, your discussion and now the conclusions, proposals and presentations.

A special word of thanks goes to the eminent speakers, to the moderators, to the monastery and, above all, to our delegate from the foundation, Dr. Dominik Galliker, and his assistants, who performed their work both during the conference and in the months of preparation leading up to these 3 days so smoothly and with such professionalism that their invaluable contribution might so easily have gone unnoticed.

We are also indebted to Prof. Heinz Wanner, chairman of the Programme Committee, and his team for putting together such a fascinating programme and attracting not just an interested public but also some prominent experts to consider the question "Will Climate Change the World?" in the context of our overriding theme of "science and public trust".

The Academia Engelberg is very gratified to note that its third conference, like its two predecessors, has been a complete success. And we are indebted to you for making it such a success.

The signs for the Earth are clear: global warming, melting of the polar ice caps, the big thaw; it is not a belief system; it is an observable scientific fact. Things that normally occur over a geological period are happening within the span of a human lifetime. More than a hundred million people worldwide live within three feet of sea level.

I not only think the signs are clear. I also believe that the remedies are known. But to implement them needs more than intellectual effort. There is a whole field of hurdles that have to be overcome.

I am confident that the three Engelberg days will be a precious contribution to promoting the common will and effort and to strengthening trust in the scientific warnings. It is almost high noon, governments must show leadership, private companies have to make changes, and technical innovation is needed. But above all, every action has to be initiated by ourselves as individuals.

With these thoughts I close the 3rd Dialogue on Science in Engelberg and wish you a happy return to your countries and your families. I look forward to seeing you again next year from 28 to 30 September.