

# The World We Want to Live In

## Inventory of Urbanism

Conference

Friday, October 8 – Saturday, October 9, 2010, Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Architecture

Organized in cooperation with Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Architecture

## Juhani Pallasmaa: Twelve Themes in My Work, Thought and Form

Lecture and Discussion

Friday, October 8, 2010, 18.00–19.00, Betlehem Chapel

Organized in cooperation with Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Architecture

**Moderator:** Matúš Dulla

**Participant:** Juhani Pallasmaa

## 12 Hours of the Future: a Marathon of Ideas, Conjectures, Propositions

Marathon of Ideas

Saturday, October 9, 2010, 10.00–22.00, DOX Centre for Contemporary Art

Organized in cooperation with DOX Centre for Contemporary Art

### Topics:

Paradigm Shift

Challenges of Society in Transition

An Economic Model in Crisis

Environmental Challenges

Democracy – Exhausted or Imperiled?

Reflections of Science and Technology

The Battle for Public Space and New Media

Paths to Preserving Human Dignity

## The World We Live In

Panel

Monday, October 11, 2010, 10.15–11.45, Žofín Palace, Forum Hall

**Keynote Speech:** Roger Scruton

**Moderator:** Karel Kovanda

**Panelists:** Zygmunt Bauman, Karel Schwarzenberg, Richard Sennett

The places and spaces we exist in crucially affect how we live and who we are. The environment which the next generations will inherit is in decline. It is suffering from climate change, from the effects of globalization and overpopulation, from chaotic urbanization driven by profit motivated corporations, both public and private, from the waste of energy resources and from traffic growth. Do we need to devise a less brutal growth strategy? How can we find a new balance of spiritual and material values in human pursuits? Who and what are responsible for the state of the world today? How can we increase respect for harmony and

beauty in our environment? What is our relationship with the place where we live in today's world given the effects of globalization? Is the concept of modernity, with its openness, dynamism and mobility, compatible with the idea of a place as a home? What is the role of architecture in forming mankind's culture?

## **The Future of Freedom and Democracy**

Panel

Monday, October 11, 2010, 12.00–13.30, Žofin Palace, Forum Hall

**Keynote Speech:** Fareed Zakaria

**Moderator:** Jacques Rupnik

**Panelists:** Shirin Ebadi, Saskia Sassen, Colin Crouch, Grigory Yavlinsky, Alison Smale

The huge wave of optimism and expectation that followed the end of the Cold War did not prove justified. Liberal democracy has not spread throughout the world and the post-1989 euphoria petered out. Instead, we have witnessed the rise of economically successful authoritarian states which have evaded global attention despite their consistent abuse of human rights. According to the 2010 edition of *Freedom in the World* by Freedom House "...2009 marked the fourth consecutive year in which global freedom suffered a decline – the longest consecutive period of setbacks for freedom in the nearly 40-year history of the report." Can democracy function in societies that are deeply polarized, both socially and culturally? What is the relationship between democracy and civil society? Is representative democracy the only form of democracy? Are there any ways to reduce the continuing tension between security and civil liberties in liberal democracies? What initiatives should be taken to meet the challenge of authoritarianism? How can we renew and increase the support for dissidents in authoritarian countries and dictatorships? Is the current "fatigue with democracy" in liberal democracies a temporary phenomenon or are we facing an era of "cynical democracy"?

## **The World We Want to Live In: The Asian Perspective**

Panel

Monday, October 11, 2010, 14.30–16.00, Žofin Palace, Forum Hall

**Opening Remarks:** Yohei Sasakawa

**Keynote Speech:** Dewi Fortuna Anwar

**Moderator:** Surendra Munshi

**Panelists:** Martin Davidson, Keizo Takemi, Daud Khattak, Tain-Jy Chen

Asia is among the most dynamic economic regions in the world. Economic development brings many positive social consequences, but also countless problems. Traditional social structures crumble, urbanization accelerates and the environmental impacts are considerable. In some places, economic development and its positive impact on political freedom is in question. Development across Asia is very uneven, with parts of Central Asia and the Middle East left behind or driven by internal conflicts. What are the consequences of the rapid economic development in Asia? Where are the limits of growth? What will be the future of democracy in Asia? Where do Asians see themselves on the global stage in 10 years? In 100 years?

## **The Poorest Countries – Do We Care? Visegrad 4 Countries as Re-emerging Donors**

Conference

Monday, October 11, 2010, 14.30–18.00, Žofín Palace, Knight's Hall  
Organized in cooperation with People in Need

**Opening Remarks:** Šimon Pánek

**Panel 1: The Development Cooperation of V4 Countries**

Daniel Hanšpach, Beata Bublewicz, Zuzana Hlavičková, Júlia László, Janina Ochojska

**Panel 2: What Is the Added Value of the V4 Countries as Donors?**

Šimon Pánek, Briggite Luggin, Dániel Izsák, Mary Alice Onyura

Members of Parliament, representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Experts on development policies from the Visegrad countries (V4) will discuss the challenges and opportunities encountered by V4 countries in their official development assistance programs. The panelists will reflect on the role of V4 countries as re-emerging donors, their contribution to poverty reduction and their added value.

**12 Hours of the Future: Epilogue**

Discussion

Monday, October 11, 2010, 15.30–17.00, DOX Centre for Contemporary Art  
Organized in cooperation with DOX Centre for Contemporary Art

**Participant:** Zygmunt Bauman

Leading representatives in various fields will present their view of today's most pressing challenges. Their presentations will provide the basis for articulating questions which will be posed to Zygmunt Bauman in a closing debate.

**Planetary Environmental Boundaries**

Panel

Monday, October 11, 2010, 16.15–17.45, Žofín Palace, Forum Hall

**Keynote Speech:** George Monbiot

**Moderator:** Bedřich Moldan

**Panelists:** Stefan Behnisch, Ladislav Miko, Peter Thum

Despite all the talk of sustainable development, green economic growth, and decoupling of economic performance from its environmental impact, the pressure on global ecosystems continues to increase. It is suggested that "planetary boundaries" associated with the planet's biophysical subsystems or processes define the safe operating space for humanity. To cross these thresholds means a risk of abrupt changes with potentially catastrophic consequences. These boundaries include levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, resources of freshwater, land use, or biodiversity and other ecosystem services. How should these boundaries be determined? How can they be translated into concrete policies? Provided that the boundaries are set and widely accepted, what would be the consequences for traditional patterns of production and consumption, for patterns of land use and urbanization, for transport and mobility? What is the role of protecting nature and biological diversity on our human-dominated planet? Are there any relevant messages that could be derived from the experiences of the current International Year of Biodiversity? In

order to be effective environmental measures could be harsh. What could be the consequences to individual lives and freedoms, as we know them today?

## **Poverty and Social Exclusion: Challenges for Developed and Developing Countries**

Panel

Monday, October 11, 2010, 16.15–17.45, Žofín Palace, Conference Hall

**Moderator:** Jan Urban

**Panelists:** Olusegun Obasanjo, Ján Kubiš, Tain-Jy Chen, Salil Shetty, Beatrice Mtetwa

Some world regions, such as Europe, North America, or Oceania, are already highly urbanized. Others like Asia, Africa, and Latin America are in the middle of an unprecedented period of rapid and intensive urbanization. The types of poverty and social exclusion in these two world regions differ. According to some studies, the level of poverty in the world is slowly decreasing whilst at the same time the social gap between the developed and highly urbanized world and the rest of the planet is widening. Is the number of people globally who are living in absolute or relative poverty increasing or decreasing? What are the basic characteristics of poverty and exclusion in respective macro-regions of the world? Does urbanization increase or decrease the extent of poverty in the developing world? What can be considered the main causes of the new social polarization in the so-called western world? Why is the extent of social exclusion in this macro-region on the increase? How is it interconnected with migration? Can – from the long term perspective – urbanization be a remedy for the polarization of society in the developing world? There are countries in Asia, Latin America and Africa under going rapid urbanization. Over the next decades, will these countries be threatened with dangerous political destabilization, such as appeared in Europe following the urbanization of the 19th century and which led to the rise of totalitarian régimes and the worst wars in the history of mankind?

## **Lecture by Stefan Behnisch: New Aspects and Innovation in Architecture**

Lecture and Discussion

Monday, October 11, 2010, 18.30–19.30, Betlehem Chapel

Organized in cooperation with Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Architecture

**Moderator:** Zdeněk Zavřel

**Participant:** Stefan Behnisch

Today, sustainability is a somewhat undefined if generally widely agreed and acknowledged concept. It means many different things in many different fields of our societies. In architecture, we face manifold changes. Whilst most people focus on the quantitative aspects of sustainable design, the qualitative aspects are crucial for the success of future-oriented concepts. This development has generated a need for innovation, both technical and architectural. A fruitful collaboration between committed architects and engineers will help create a new understanding and perception – spatially and formally – of our built environment.

## **Saving Biodiversity – Saving the Future of the Mankind**

Workshop and Panel Discussion

Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 9.00–13.15, Academy of Sciences, Hall 2

Organized in cooperation with Academy of Sciences

**Moderator:** Jan Kirschner

**Panelists:** George Monbiot, Bedřich Moldan, Ladislav Miko

The discussion forum organized by the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic will demonstrate the nearly infinite scope of biodiversity. Research conducted in various institutes of the Academy of Sciences will be presented, with emphasis on theoretical problems (endogenous sources of biodiversity, evolution of biodiversity) as well as practical goals of biodiversity monitoring and management.

## **Aesthetics: The Search for Harmony and Beauty**

Panel

Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 11.00–12.30, Žofín Palace

**Keynote Speech:** Juhani Pallasmaa

**Moderator:** Adam Gebrian

**Panelists:** Willem Jan Neutelings, Gábor Demszky, Fumihiko Maki

Urbanism should be concerned with the character, function and form of public space. But in contemporary liberal society we often witness the process in which the ideals of freedom, individualism and free competition are becoming synonymous with predatory manners and disdain for the concerns of others and protection of personal interests. Towns are being filled with lifeless buildings and society is paying a high price. The countryside is losing its diversity and charm, the habitability and harmony of settlements is decreasing, and levels of satisfaction and happiness are on the wane. What could be the consequences of weakening our ties with the places where we live? Which values should we emphasize to renew a sense of responsibility for the state of the countryside and its settlements? Should beauty and aesthetics be the main objectives of architecture and urbanism? How can economic tools be used to support effective urbanization? Which examples of rural and urban development could serve as sources of inspiration?

## **What Are the Limits of Urbanization?**

Panel

Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 13.15–14.45, Žofín Palace

**Keynote Speech:** Richard Burdett

**Moderator:** Jiří Musil

**Panelists:** Willem Jan Neutelings, Lieven De Cauter, Deyan Sudjic, Elia Zenghelis

In the 21st century, the transformation of the world's big civilizations from rural societies to urban societies will be complete. The vast majority of populations will live in towns and townships. Their quality of life will depend on the kind of social, cultural, economic and material environments that exist there. Despite some substantial differences between western urbanization and the rapid urbanization of East Asia and Latin America and the hyper-urbanization in parts of Asia and Africa, there are universal features of the new urban environments which up to 80% of the world's population will inhabit. These include: a high concentration of people, institutions and infrastructure in towns, the growth in social and cultural differentiation of inhabitants, growing social polarization of urban areas, leading to growing numbers of people living in both slums and residential areas. It will also result in

changes in ways of life, relationships and communication. Despite all these profound changes, it is evident that the survival of mankind will depend on whether we succeed in creating habitable towns and urban regions that meet people's basic needs. How to reduce violence and prevent social and ethnic conflicts in everyday life in an urbanized world? How not to eliminate the conditions for individual creativity and freedom that are necessary for progress while at the same time maintaining the social cohesion necessary for survival? How to prevent the decay of public space in towns? How to renew the balance between the spontaneous development of towns and regions and urban planning in order to form integrated governance in towns?

## **Urban Sprawl Proliferation in the Landscape: Seeking Solutions**

Panel Discussion

Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 15.15–16.45, Academy of Sciences, Hall 2

Organized in cooperation with the Society for Sustainable Living

**Moderator:** Jiří Dlouhý

**Panelists:** Gábor Demszky, Alena Salašová, Martin Stránský

Urban sprawl is the uncontrolled spread of a city or its suburbs into the countryside. Continuous and rapid urban sprawl threatens Europe's environmental, social and economic balance. Among many others, the European Environment Agency (EEA) report, "Urban sprawl in Europe – the ignored challenge", shows that many environmental (and not only environmental) problems in Europe are caused by rapidly expanding urban areas. Sprawling cities demand more energy supply, require greater transport infrastructure and consume larger amounts of land. This damages the natural environment and increases greenhouse gas emissions. Among the consequences are climate change and increased air and noise pollution. As a result, urban sprawl has a direct impact on the quality of life of people living in and around cities. Causes of urban sprawl and opportunities for improvement will be discussed.

## **Lecture by Fumihiko Maki: Modernity and the Construction of Scenery**

Lecture and Discussion

Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 17.30–18.30, Nostic Palace Stables

Organized in cooperation with the Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Architecture

**Moderator:** Ladislav Lábus

**Participant:** Fumihiko Maki

# **Business and Economy**

## **Going Green? What's In It for Your Business and How Can It Be Done?**

Business and Economy Panel

Monday, October 11, 2010, 10.30–12.00, Goethe Institut

**Moderator:** Ján Kubiš

**Panelists:** Martin Bursík, Radek Špicar, Ladislav Miko, Andrzej Błach, Tomáš Vášek

“Going green” is a topic which is being discussed in boardrooms around the globe. What exactly does it mean and why is it on every company’s list of CSR initiatives? What is it that motivates companies to support “green” projects? Are these initiatives actually profitable or simply a means of ensuring positive PR? Who is ultimately responsible for guaranteeing environmentally responsible behavior? Is it a task for governments, institutions, private companies, individuals? The panel will explore the challenges for companies of “going green” whilst still making a profit. What proven models can companies follow to ensure their “green” initiatives provide a guaranteed return on investment? What are the specific roles of government, companies and individuals? What is the role of the banking sector; how much influence does it have in initiating change? How do these initiatives affect consumers? What is their main motivation? Biofuels and other “green technologies”: a fix for one environmental problem whilst creating another?

## **Green Jobs – Opportunity for Energy Security and Economic Prosperity**

Monday, October 11, 2010, 14.00–15.30, Academy of Sciences, Hall 1

Organized in cooperation with the Hnutí DUHA – Friends of the Earth, Czech Republic and the United Nations Information Centre Prague

**Moderator:** Jan Žižka

**Panelists:** Martin Bursík, Rut Bízková, Sanjeev Kumar, Vojtěch Kotecký

Cutting CO2 emissions can – by initiating investments into modern green solutions such as improved building insulation, clean energy production, comfortable public transport, local food and easier recycling – support the economy, but can also reduce domestic energy bills and ensure healthier lives for all. It can substantially reduce our contribution to climate change.

## **Healthcare: Whose Responsibility Is It Anyway?**

Business and Economy Panel

Monday, October 11, 2010, 15.00–16.30, Goethe Institut

**Keynote Speech:** James A. Rice

**Moderator:** Pavel Hroboň

**Panelists:** Rudolf Zajac, Jana M. Petrenko, Octavian Purcarea, Marek Vácha

Today’s developed countries face the issue of the financial sustainability of healthcare systems threatened by the economic slowdown and ageing populations, whilst developing countries seek to ensure access to healthcare for all their citizens. But there are common areas. Chronic diseases are responsible for the greatest proportion of diseases in most countries. The key to their effective management is greater empowerment of patients and personal responsibility for health and lifestyle. Healthcare delivery models can and will have to change profoundly to reflect patient expectations, changes in society and developments in information and communication technologies. What are the areas of responsibility for health? What should be the roles of governments, corporations, professionals and patients? How does broad universal healthcare coverage influence a responsible approach to one’s own health? Are medical innovations a threat or a hope for the financial sustainability of our healthcare systems? How can information and communication technologies engage patients in healthy behavior and help to change old models of healthcare delivery?

## **Economy As a Tool, Not an Objective**

Panel

Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 9.15–10.45, Žofín Palace, Forum Hall

**Keynote Speech:** Tomáš Sedláček

**Moderator:** Hana Lešnarová

**Panelists:** Peter Eigen, Mirek Topolánek, Peter Thum

The economy seems to behave like a fire: it is a good servant but a bad master, if not contained. Central Park in New York City could be a much more efficient place, and the city's GDP would rise, if banks and insurance companies' headquarters could be built there. But the city's inhabitants reject the idea. How do we know when the economy is a tool and when it becomes an objective? Should we grow just for growth's sake? Should the economists draw the world as "we would like it to be" or should we stick to describing the world "as it is"? Economics is supposed to be a value-free social science but the paradox is that in economics we deal with values almost constantly. Should economists advocate certain values and limitations of the market, or should other fields do this for us? If economy is not an objective but just a tool, then what is the objective?

## **Hard Choices: The Cost of Saying No**

Business and Economy Panel

Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 11.00–12.30, Goethe Institut

**Moderator:** Jan Macháček

**Panelists:** Peter Eigen, William Echikson, Misha Glenny, Miroslav Zámečník

When is a company willing to make less profit or an individual willing to risk their bonus or even their job for the sake of doing the "right" thing? Business ethics is a hot topic, currently discussed at every level of the corporate world but what exactly does "ethics" mean? Who is responsible for ensuring that these "codes" are met? The panel will explore a wide range of ethical decisions which companies and/or individuals had to make and the price they had to pay to do so. What factors affect companies' decisions to "do the right thing" even when they know the outcome will lower their profits? Are they the companies' core values or simply a means of securing positive PR? What motivates CEOs, government officials or individuals to make tough ethical decisions which could cost them a proportion of profit or even their jobs? Who is or who should be held accountable for upholding ethical codes within large organizations? What factors influence individuals' core values and where are they learned? What role do the media play in stopping or supporting corruption?

## **The Business World We Want to Live In**

Business and Economy Panel

Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 17.15–18.45, Academy of Sciences, Hall 1

**Moderator:** Pepper de Callier

**Panelists:** Zdeněk Bakala, James Cusumano

The recent economic crisis has uncovered numerous imperfections in the current world of business. As a consequence, governments are rushing to recreate the rules of how the economy and business function, their transparency and how they relate to other spheres of social activity. New regulations are being drafted, new institutions created. In the end, however, it will be the next generations of business leaders who will put these new rules and institutions into practice and who will define what kind of world – and not just the business world – we are going to live in. What are the pluses and minuses of today's business world? Is



there an intergenerational “values-clash”? How will success be defined by the next generations? What does the future generation of business leaders want the business world to look like?

# Interfaith Dialogue

## Between Religious Xenophobia, Tolerance and Dialogue

Interfaith Dialogue Panel

Monday, October 11, 2010, 11.30–13.00, Academy of Sciences, Hall 1

**Opening Remarks:** Michael Melchior

**Moderator:** Surendra Munshi

**Panelists:** José Casanova, Joseph Maïla, Hasan Abu Nimah, Grace Davie

The globalization of today's world brings unprecedented conditions for encounters between diverse ethnic, cultural and religious traditions. These encounters and interactions bring with them a number of problems and risks and we can observe the growth of religious intolerance in several places around the world. In some European countries, we can see the rebirth of anti-Semitism and the rise of Islamophobia whilst some Islamic countries have noticeably curtailed the religious and civil rights of Christians. In a number of African countries, there has been violence between groups from different religious traditions, and similar things have happened in certain areas of the Indian subcontinent. What are the actual origins of today's religious intolerance? To what extent are these origins genuinely religious, and what role is played by factors such as political or cultural influences and interests? What place does secularization have in this issue and in its resolution? Is it a means of preventing religious intolerance or just a temporary way of avoiding the search for a real solution? In what way is it possible to prevent religious xenophobia and to support mutual tolerance or even mutual dialogue? What part can state bodies play in this process and what is the role of religious institutions?

## Religion and Foreign Policy

Interfaith Dialogue Panel

Monday, October 11, 2010, 14.30–16.00, Institut Français

Organized in cooperation with the Embassy of France

**Moderator:** Pierre Lévy

**Panelists:** Jiří Schneider, Joseph Maïla, Michael Melchior, William Cook

Despite the secularizing tendencies of the past century, the influence and role of religion in global politics has been growing in recent decades, and religious issues have increasingly become part of the political agenda. Religion has been appearing more and more frequently in foreign policy and diplomacy, in particular. Besides this, religious representatives are now not only intervening in the political processes that have a direct bearing on religion, but are also influencing an ever-increasing number of political events that do not have a predominantly religious dimension. In some regions, religious fundamentalism has even become a major player on the political scene. What actually is the relationship between religion and politics, and between religious institutions and the state? Can religious institutions become involved in foreign policy? Within the scope of diplomacy, can faith based communities contribute in some way to resolving and preventing conflicts, and become “part of the solution”? How can foreign policy and diplomacy prevent

religious conflicts and contribute to religious reconciliation? Can religious representatives contribute in some way to reducing the influence of religious fundamentalism in international politics and political conflicts?

## Religious Life in Contemporary Europe

Lecture and Discussion

Monday, October 11, 2010, 15.00–16.30, Hussite Theological Faculty

Organized in cooperation with the Hussite Theological Faculty of the Charles University

**Moderator:** Zdeněk Vojtíšek

**Participant:** Grace Davie

## Territory and Religion

Interfaith Dialogue Panel

Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 9.15–10.45, Žofín Palace, Conference Hall

**Keynote Speech:** David Rosen

**Moderator:** Vartan Gregorian

**Panelists:** Shirin Ebadi, Satish Kumar, Fyodor Lukyanov, Hasan Abu Nimah

The relationship between religion and territory is a subject that is becoming ever more pertinent. The issue of place and role of religion in local conflict in particular is gaining in importance. Many contemporary territorial conflicts have a religious dimension, and the media typically interprets them as primarily religious. At the same time, many experts, religious leaders and politicians point out that things are not so simple; religion has in many cases essentially become a hostage in battles for land and political power, rather than the actual cause of such conflicts. What is the real place of religion in territorial conflicts? Why are territorial conflicts that also possess a religious dimension so frequently regarded as primarily religious in nature? Is it possible to avoid such interpretations? How can faith based communities contribute to the resolution of such conflicts? What is the view of World religions on the whole relationship between state and religion and on the role of the latter?

## Religion, Globalization and Secularization

Interfaith Dialogue Panel

Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 11.00–12.30, Žofín Palace, Conference Hall

**Keynote Speech:** José Casanova

**Moderator:** Doris Donnelly

**Panelists:** Gilles Kepel, Tomáš Halík, Grace Davie

“The City of Man – a Secular City?” The ideas St. Augustine formulated in his work “The City of God” have influenced Western thought for over a thousand years. However, the modern concept of secularization has provided us with a new way of understanding the relationship between society and religion. Nevertheless with the globalization process this question has changed fundamentally. Religion plays a significant role in society again and its influence on the political processes and the shaping of the life of society is growing. In the context of secularization, hence, following question is becoming pertinent: will the West be a “Secular City”, in the words of Harvey Cox, or are there other possible scenarios? How is the secularization process changing in response to present globalization? Is secular society in Europe and its relationship to religion also changing? What influence does the process of globalization and urbanization have on changes of the

global religious scene? How is the character and role of traditional religions changing? What are the characteristics and limits of secularization in different regions and religions of the world?

## **Religion: An Element of Democratic Change?**

Interfaith Dialogue Debate

Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 13.15–14.45, Academy of Sciences, Hall 1

**Moderator:** Anna Teresa Arco

**Panelists:** Gilles Kepel, José Luis García Paneque, Shirin Ebadi, Tomáš Halík

According to many significant western thinkers, religion is an important grounding for democracy. Totalitarian régimes often tend to fight religion as an undesirable opposition element. Despite that, in many countries faith-based communities and individuals have contributed significantly to the peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy. At the same time, however, in other parts of the world, religious ideas have been used to support authoritarian régimes that violate human rights and democratic principles. Is religion generally a characteristic element of the democratization processes? Within this question, are there differences between individual religions? In what way can religions and faith-based communities contribute to democratization and adherence to human rights in countries that have a repressive and undemocratic system? What forms of help can people in free countries provide to religious groups in totalitarian states who are attempting to bring about democratization and respect for human rights? In what way is it possible to prevent the misuse of religious beliefs to shore up authoritarian regimes, or systems that violate human rights and democratic principles?

## **In Focus**

### **Climate Change and Water Resources in the Middle East: Socioeconomic Impact**

Water in the Middle East Panel

Monday, October 11, 2010, 11.00–12.30, Academy of Sciences, Hall 2

Organized in cooperation with Coca-Cola

**Moderator:** Eva van de Rakt

**Panelists:** Václav Cílek, Peter Thum, Hamed Assaf

Water in the Middle East is considered to be the most precious and scarce natural resource. Economic growth, social cohesion, political and environmental stability are all dependent on water and its availability. It is believed, that climate change will have profound effects on the Middle East. Already today, climate changes are contributing to the often underreported natural disasters occurring in the Middle East (droughts, floods and extreme weather – all have doubled since the period of 1988–1997). Together with continuing demographic growth (2 % per year) and urban densification in the Middle East, the region will reach absolute renewable water scarcity mark by 2050 = 500 m<sup>3</sup> per capita. How can this process be stopped? Which of the existing projects are feasible considering the current political situation?

### **Nuclear Arms in Today's World**

Panel

Monday, October 11, 2010, 12.00–13.30, Žofín Palace, Conference Hall

**Moderator:** Josef Jařab

**Panelists:** Dana Drábová, Masashi Nishihara, Charles D. Ferguson, Dewi Fortuna Anwar, Paul Wolfowitz

Nuclear weapons have not been deployed since the horrific consequences of the 1945 bombing of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Mutual Assured Destruction capability, that both Cold War superpowers developed by growing stockpiles of nuclear warheads in the 1950s, was arguably one of the reasons why the Cold War remained “cold”. The disintegration of the bipolar world, the spread of nuclear weapons’ ownership to other countries, the attempts by Iran and North Korea to acquire them and to be able to launch them on Western cities, and the constant danger that a terrorist group might get hold of an atomic bomb – these are some of the challenges which nuclear weapons present today. What have we learned since Hiroshima? What are the main nuclear arms-related threats today? Do nuclear weapons still serve as a deterrent against armed conflicts? Is a nuclear-free world possible? Is it desirable?

## **Will the Elections in Burma Bring Change?**

Panel Discussion

Monday, October 11, 2010, 16.00–17.30, Academy of Sciences, Hall 1

Organized in cooperation with People in Need

**Moderator:** Marie Peřinová

**Panelists:** Jiří řitler, Marek Benda, Cheery Zahau, Sabe Soe

The plan of the Burmese ruling military junta is to hold parliamentary elections on November 7, 2010 has been condemned around the world as an attempt to entrench and legitimize military rule in the country. The elections are part of the régime’s much criticized “road-map to democracy”, which contains a number of undemocratic measures including the military having an effective veto over decisions made by the new parliament and government. What is the current situation in Burma? What does the election campaign look like? What are the expected results? What should be the reaction of the international community towards the newly-elected representatives?

## **The Way Out of Cuban Prison**

Panel Discussion

Monday, October 11, 2010, 16.00–17.30, Academy of Sciences, Hall 2

Organized in cooperation with People in Need

**Moderator:** Malvína Krausz Hladká

**Panelists:** José Luis García Paneque, Pavla Holcová

During 2010, Cuba has on several occasions caught the attention of the international community and the media. One of the last and remarkable steps of the Cuban government was the announced release of 52 political prisoners. Most of those released currently live in exile in Spain. What is their status quo in the country? What are their future chances? How do the released prisoners perceive current developments in Cuba and the attitude of the international community towards the Cuban régime? And what is the future of those who, if released, refuse to leave the island?

## **The Open Society Fellowship: Ideas to Move the World**

Presentation

Monday, October 11, 2010, 17.00–18.00, Academy of Sciences, Hall 3  
Organized in cooperation with The Open Society Institute

**Participant:** Lisena DeSantis

## **Women Creating a Secure World**

Panel Discussion

Monday, October 11, 2010, 18.00–19.30, Academy of Sciences, Hall 2

Organized in cooperation with the ProEquality Center of the Open Society, p.b.c., the UN Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and the UN Information Centre Prague

**Moderator:** Míla O'Sullivan

**Panelists:** Shirin Ebadi, Beatrice Mtetwa, Janina Hřebíčková, Michal Broža, Pavel Gruber

Women in conflict and post-conflict situations continue to be exposed to different forms of violence, including rape, and lack sufficient opportunities to become active agents of change in the process of creating a peaceful and sustainable post-conflict environment. In view of that, the UN, governments and civil societies around the globe are currently utilizing the momentum of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security to assess the effectiveness of its implementation. This panel discussion contributes to the revision process by reflecting the lessons learned so far, highlighting the challenges and suggesting steps forward.

## **The "Normalization" in Chechnya**

Panel

Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 10.00–11.30, Žofín Palace, Knight's Hall

Organized in cooperation with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and People in Need

**Moderator:** Josef Pazderka

**Panelists:** Alexander Cherkasov, Aslan Doukaev, Khassan Baiev, Gregory Feifer

Almost nine years after the then Russian president, Vladimir Putin, ordered Russian troops to recapture the separatist republic of Chechnya, the small republic in the North Caucasus has been significantly transformed. Houses which were destroyed have disappeared. There is a new airport, a rebuilt university, a modern high school and several new hospitals. The Russian government insists that the conflict in Chechnya, which claimed tens of thousands of lives, is definitively over. The central figure of its "normalization" policy is 31-year-old Chechen president Ramzan Kadyrov. His "normalization", however, has come at a price. In return for peace, Chechnya has been transformed into a totalitarian fiefdom with a flourishing personality cult, rigged elections and extra-judicial killings by the militia loyal to Ramzan Kadyrov. Some of its vocal critics – namely Natalia Estemirova and Anna Politkovskaya – have been killed in very suspicious circumstances. Chechnya's unemployment rate is 80% and the security forces are still fighting a high altitude battle with hundreds of radical militants in the mountains. What is the current reality of the Chechen Republic? Is the life of ordinary people better than 5 or 10 years ago? What are the main features of Ramzan Kadyrov's authoritarian style of governance? Is there a real alternative to it? Who is behind the extra-judicial killings of Kadyrov's critics (Estemirova, Politkovskaya etc.)? Are there any prospects of finding and punishing the real killers? Is there any prospect of genuine dialogue between the government and NGO's in Chechnya?

## **The Development of ASEAN After the ASEAN Charter: Political and Security Issues**

Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 10.00–11.30, Academy of Sciences, Hall 1  
Organized in cooperation with Association for International Affairs

**Moderator:** Daniel Novotný

**Participant:** Dewi Fortuna Anwar

Since its inception, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has been an intergovernmental organization with a double life in the international system: it appears to be an international organization, but largely does not act like one. In November 2007, the Heads of State and Government of the member states signed the ASEAN Charter thereby giving the organization a more formal framework. Dr. Anwar, a leading expert on the developments in ASEAN, will discuss the ASEAN Charter's key provisions (while juxtaposing it with experience within the EU) and offer some considerations on its strategic imperatives.

## **The Potential for Environmental Peacebuilding: Water as a Bridge or Obstacle to Peace in the Middle East?**

Water in the Middle East Panel

Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 11.45–13.15, Žofín Palace, Knight's Hall

**Moderator:** Irena Kalhousová

**Panelists:** Hasan Abu Nimah, Natasha Carmi-Hanna, Oded Fixler

The Arab-Israeli conflict is not about oil. Rather than that strategic resource, water is the issue here. The growth of the population and rising living standards combined with wastefulness and climate change have created a situation in which water resources are used excessively and no longer meet demand. The water issue is ever present in discussions between antagonistic neighbors in the Levant. Former United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's often quoted assertion that water would cause the next world war has proven exaggerated. Yet, hopes that neighbors at loggerheads would start to co-operate in order to solve the problems of water shortage, which would eventually lead to a permanent peace, have proven overly optimistic. Will a growing shortage of water help both sides to reach a compromise, or will water become a hot issue which will lead to a collapse in negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians?

## **EU – Russia Relations: Is a Strategic Partnership Possible?**

Panel

Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 13.15–14.45, Žofín Palace, Conference Hall

**Keynote Speech:** Grigory Yavlinsky

**Moderator:** Misha Glenny

**Panelists:** Mirek Topolánek, Fyodor Lukyanov, Gesine Schwan, Gregory Feifer

Despite significant economic interdependency, the EU and Russia continue to champion two seemingly incompatible political systems: liberal democracy and "sovereign democracy". EU-Russia dialogue has ground to a virtual halt over the last few years and it has been almost three years since the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), governing EU-Russia relations, expired. Brussels and Moscow seem to be in agreement on the need to produce a new treaty to support a qualitatively better relationship, but little has been achieved. Different biases and misunderstandings make any attempts at a new partnership a more

daunting task than ever before. But with both growing economic interconnectedness and mere geographic proximity coupled with their interests in the common neighborhood, Europe and Russia are bound to interact with each other on an even greater scale in the years to come. The form and substance of the EU-Russia relationship in the 21st century will have monumental implications for Europe and beyond. What needs to change in Russia and Europe in order to build a genuine partnership? Is there a real desire on both sides to build one? What do Russia's leaders mean by modernization? Transfer of technology, or the introduction of the rule of law and political liberalization? Will the EU ever be able to form a common EU policy on Russia, and what is needed for that to happen? Does Russia need the European Union as a partner, or will it pursue bilateral relations with individual European countries? Can Europe and Russia find a common language to address the numerous challenges likely to arise in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus? Is the threat of Russia as an ever-increasing revisionist power exaggerated? Faced with grave long-term economic and demographic challenges, will Russia become more of a strategic nightmare sapping the EU's vital foreign policy resources rather than a reliable partner in Europe and the world?

## **Lesson Taken? The Role of Political Prisoners in Our Past, Presence and Future**

Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 17.15–18.45, Goethe Institut

Organized in cooperation with [Politicalprisoners.eu](http://Politicalprisoners.eu)

**Moderator:** Tomáš Bouška

**Panelists:** José Luis García Paneque, Trudie Bryks, Françoise Mayer, Tomáš Bursík, Miroslav Vaněk

Experts on contemporary history, eyewitnesses and former political prisoners will discuss the role of former political prisoners in democratic societies. The life stories of politically persecuted people can still inspire and educate all generations. Their memories remain an important source for further study. Who are they and what have we learned from them?