

Topics and Speakers

for specific Faculties and Interest Groups

International Conference “Freedom – Our Responsibility” 26 – 30 Sept. 2014 UFS Bloemfontein

Content	Page
1 Natural, Agricultural & Building Sciences	1
1.1 Agriculture & Food Security	1
1.2 Water Retention System & Reclamation of Land	2
1.3 Architecture & Town Planning	3

Faculties and Fields of Interest

For more detailed information about the speakers check <http://zafor.org/contributors/speakers>

1 Natural, Agricultural & Building Sciences

1.1 Agriculture & Food Security

- **Hans Rudolf Herren, Kenya, Switzerland, USA**
Sustainable Ecological Development in Agriculture
Organic pest control to improve crops, nutrition and the basis to sustain life
Winner of the Right Livelihood Award 2013 and Winner of the World Food Prize
 Founder and President of *Biovision - Foundation for Ecological Development*
President of the Millennium Institute in Washington DC (USA)
 Herren was honored with the prize due to his success in combating the cassava mealy bug, a pest rampant in all of Africa, with wasps and ladybirds – a chemical-free method which incurred no costs to farmers. **The “Push-Pull-Method”** as an integrated, sustainable way of farming that **dramatically improves maize yields and soil fertility**.
 In this way Herren prevented mass famine in Africa and South America.
 At the *Institute for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE)* in Nairobi Herren subsequently made sure that intensive research was undertaken to find **new methods to control pests** that infest plants, destroy crops, kill animals and spread hunger and disease.
 He developed the *ICIPE* into a world-leading centre of excellence - particularly in the area of **malaria mosquito control**.
 Herren co-chaired the **International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge Science and Technology (IAASTD)** with Prof. Judi Wakhungu and is currently involved in making sure that a **Change in Course of Global Agriculture** is reflected in the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** currently being defined to replace the *Millennium Development Goals* after 2015.

- **Joss Brooks, Australia & India**
Regeneration of Wasteland; Sustainable Livelihood in South India
 Livelihoods of people in rural India have been under severe stress over the last decade due to the effects of globalisation. Joss Brooks applies architecture, design, technologies and conservation practices. Each project is connected with the others in symbiotic ways.
 Joss Brooks discovered his love for protecting Nature and learned skills for wasteland



restoration. He started the long process of healing what looked like forgotten land. In the 1970s, it was a tough call. Using wooden ploughs and bullock carts they planted trees, grew bio-fences, dug wells, erected a windmill and built earthen bunds to stop erosion by rainwater. They brought back the grass cover and grew food crops, while living off the land frugally. In Adyar Poonga his team removed 60,000 tons of garbage and rubble from the site. He created waterbodies, and around them planted 90,000 seedlings of 172 indigenous species. Under his brand of restoration ecology, the city dump has had an unimaginable make-over. It has an Environmental Education Centre, and a children's interactive area. The nursery has specimens for medicinal plants, models for solid-waste management and renewable energy. Brook's goal: Chennai - a city of clean waterways and lakes

- **Judith Anger, Johann Peham, Austria**
Holzer's Permaculture for semi-arid Land

Permaculture = Permanent Agriculture

The intention of Holzer's Permaculture is the **conscious design and maintenance of agriculturally productive ecosystems** which have the diversity, stability, and resilience of natural ecosystems. It is the harmonious integration of landscape and people providing their needs in a sustainable way. The philosophy behind Permaculture is one of working with, rather than against, nature and of looking at systems in all their functions, rather than asking only one yield of them.

The team of Judith and Johann intend to provide a practical model at Platfontein as a start for **self-sustainable agriculture in a semi-arid area**. They will bring the reports of many other areas worldwide where Permaculture has been successfully applied.

- **Mudini Maivha, South Africa**
Panel: Food Security and Land

Mudini Maivha is Chairman of the Midvaal Farmers' Co-Operative, banking expert and journalist at the Zimbabwe Inter-Africa News Agency, The Star, City Press, Sunday Times. He is Regional Secretary of Media Workers Association of S.A (MWASA), Branch Chairman of Zimbabwe Union of Journalists (ZUJ.) and member of the Reference Group for Presidential Pardon (Considering and recommending pardon for political offenders by the State President). He says 'To achieve access to food by all, we must deal with land as a basic and principal resource; the role of role players in the entire value chain from Government, farmers, fresh produce markets, supermarkets and consumers. We must attend to the impact of input costs, declining incomes and or increasing unemployment.'

1.2 Water Retention System & Reclamation of Land

- **Judith Anger, Johann Peham, Austria**
Water Retention System & Reclamation of Land

Judith Anger and Johann Peham show how even semi-arid areas can be converted into fertile land. They are in close contact with Sepp Holzer, the founder of the worldwide engagement to **reverse land to its original potential of fertility**.

At Platfontein, near Kimberley, they will show the potential of converting the semi-arid land into a fertile place and a model for a garden.

- **Joss Brooks, Australia & India**

Regeneration of Wasteland; Sustainable Livelihood in South India

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Joss Brooks discovered his love for protecting Nature and learned skills for wasteland restoration. He started the long process of healing what looked like forgotten land. In the 1970s, it was a tough call. Using wooden ploughs and bullock carts they planted trees, grew bio-fences, dug wells, erected a windmill and built earthen bunds to stop erosion by rainwater. They brought back the grass cover and grew food crops, while living off the land frugally.

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1.3 Architecture & Town Planning

- **Gita Goven, South Africa**

How projects can be used as a catalyst for regenerative development

Eco-Architecture, Community Building, Water Resource Management

Gita Goven, one of South Africa's foremost regenerative development thinkers and leader, has pioneered a practice of socially and environmentally transformative design.

She engages the disciplines of Urban Design, Planning and Environmental Management, Architecture and Landscape Architecture, and Water and Food security systems.

Gita Goven and her company have received numerous awards and accolades for their work in sustainable built environment.

- **Antony V. Trowbridge, South Africa**

Workshop: Empowering and educating communities for rural development

Antony Trowbridge is founder of **INTER AFRIKA PLAN** and author of the 'Peace and Development' Open Distance course of self-instruction in 'Cooperative Governance', 'Ethical Leadership' and 'Community Economics'. He is currently working with rural development initiatives set up by Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini, and Korana King, Josiah. Winner of the Stockholm Challenge and a World Bank Development Marketplace Award In 1995 he won the South African INTERBOU Award for the concept of 'e-villages as economically viable and ecologically sustainable human settlements'.

- **Arun Sam Amirtham, Switzerland, India**

The Significance of Solar Photovoltaics and other Forms of Renewable Energies in the Transformation to a Sustainable Society

Arun Amirtham is solar entrepreneur and founder of swissmango, a pioneer in rural electrification. He is a staunch advocate of the UN Sustainable Energy for All initiative to ensure universal access to modern energy services. Just as mobile telephony has changed the communication landscape worldwide over the past two decades renewable energy - especially solar photovoltaics - has the potential to transform the access to energy services for the 1.4 billion people who are not connected to the grid, over the next two decades. Many of them reside in sub-Saharan Africa. Luckily, the region is blessed with abundant

sunshine, which makes the use of solar electricity extremely viable. Energy generation becomes perfectly scalable, customers are turned into entrepreneurs and the remotest regions can be reached since everyone is connected to the sun! A combination of appropriate technology, capacity building and affordable financial models are necessary to leverage the technology in the interest of local communities worldwide.

- **Acuil Malith Banggol, South Sudan**

Role and Status of Traditional Authority Leaders in 'Taking Towns to Rural Areas' in South Sudan

Acuil M. Banggol is very active and innovative in the peace building process of South Sudan. With great engagement in the fields of sports (TWIC Olympics), agriculture (SUPRAID), policy design and business he hopes to promote peace, harmony and interdependence. He is currently a Secretary in the ruling party Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM). As a business person he has a centre called Policy Advocacy and Strategic Studies (PASS). Acuil M. Banggol trains and facilitates workshops and conferences on policy advocacy and in conflict resolution. He is a Board Member of Gurtong Peace Project, Secretary General of South Sudan Basketball Federation and has been nominated to support the formation of South Sudan National Olympic Committee.

'Taking Towns to Rural Peoples' in South Sudan is a popular view that sociology-polity-economic, cultural and public administrative institutions of modernization in towns and provision of basic social services be taken from town to rural areas, the indigenous people. This with the aim to make them part of globalized and information technology world.

For other faculties and fields of interest & more information about the speakers

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1 Natural, Agricultural & Building Sciences

- 1.1 Agriculture & Food Security
- 1.2 Water Retention System & Reclamation of Land
- 1.3 Architecture & Town Planning

2 Science, Engineering & Technology

3 Economic & Management Sciences

- 3.1 Leadership & Ethics
- 3.2 Economy & Management
- 3.3 Community Building, Empowerment, Micro-Financing, ...

4 Law, Constitution & Conflict Resolution

- 4.1 Law & Conflict Resolution
- 4.2 Constitution

5 Human Sciences & Theology

- 5.1 History & Policy Studies
- 5.2 Psychology, Philosophy, Theology, Sociology

6 Education

7 Health Sciences

8 Film & Arts