



## Pioneer Environmentalist and a Critical Thinker

### Prof. Dr. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker



On June 25, 2014 is a remarkable day for Future of Food Journal. We celebrate 75th birth day of our senior editorial member Prof. Dr Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker. As a distinguished senior scholar in environmental science, his philosophical, theoretical and practical contributions are significance into the academia and society to reconfigure conventional and mainstream thinking.

Prof. Dr Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker was born on 25 June, 1939 in Zürich, Switzerland. He studied Chemistry and Physics in his Diploma at Hamburg University. He pursued his doctoral degree in Biology at Freiburg University in 1969. In 1972, Prof Dr. Weizsäcker was appointed as the Professor for Interdisciplinary Biology, University of Essen. As the founding president of the University of Kassel, he played a momentous role to give birth a modern and a critical thinking university.

He was officiated as the director at the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development. The Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, and Energy, was initiated in 1991 by Prof Dr. Weizsäcker, has been considered as one of main research centre in sustainable development and environmental studies. Furthermore,



he was appointed as the Dean of Bren School in Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, University of California, United States in 2006. Among his academic contribution, *New Frontiers in Technology Application: Integration of Emerging and Traditional Technologies* (1983), *Ecological Tax Reform: Policy Proposal for Sustainable Development* (1992), *Earth Politics* (1994), *Factor Four. Doubling Wealth — Halving Resource Use* (1997), *Limits to Privatization – How to avoid too much of a good thing* (2005) and *Factor Five* (2009) can be listed as most influential books. The book, “Factor Four. Doubling Wealth — Halving Resource Use (1997)” has been translated into 11 languages such as Chinese, Czech, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Russian, Spanish and Hungarian. He is the lead author of “Decoupling: Technological Opportunities and Policy Options” which is compiled by UNEP International Resource Panel in 2014.

In honour of his international engagement in critical thinking on development and the improvement of society, he was elected as the Co-President of the Club of Rome in 2012. Prof. Dr. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker was elected as a Member of the Bundestag (MdB), the Federal Parliament of Germany, in 1998 and held his seat until 2005. He was appointed chairman of the Environmental Committee in the Federal Parliament of Germany.

In admiration of his international contributions, Prof. Dr. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker was awarded from Duke of Edinburgh the Gold Medal by World Wild Fund For Nature (WWF) International in 1996 and the German Environment Prize in 2008. He was a former president (1988-1991) and he serves as an advisor of the Federation of German Scientist (VDW).

Celebrating valued milestone of his life, a book titled *Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker – A Pioneer on Environmental, Climate and Energy Policies*<sup>1</sup> will present his passionate and courageous scholarly contributions. The members of the Editorial Board of *Future of Food: Journal on Food, Agriculture & Society* wish Prof. Dr. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker a great and happy birthday!

Source:

<http://www.springer.com/environment/environmental+management/book/978-3-319-03661-8>



## International Green Week Berlin 2014

Reported by Ana Stoddart

It is the first snowy white winter morning and the International Green Week seems to lighten up Berlin and give a warm welcome to the locals at the Messe (Showroom). The Green Week and its Agricultural Policy meetings (Global Forum for Food and Agriculture) dates back to 1926; nowadays this modern international Fair is becoming one of the world’s largest fair for food, agriculture and gardening. The Trade show is highly oriented to consumers with over 20 exhibiting halls displaying live animals, flowers and natural farm products as well as offering visitors with a wide range of food, products and entertaining activities.

A walk through the fair allows you to enrich your knowledge on different Agricultural and Rural topics and at the same time gain a better palate on ethnic and National (German) food and beverages. One of my first stops was at a small Rise-producing establishment “ETAGUI” from Republic of Guinea that came to Berlin to seek for a trade partner and start exporting into the EU. In a following hall, I came across the Moroccan Pavilion and learned about “Aknari JAbal Ait Baarmrane” innovations on packaging and marketing ancient traditional products such as cactus pickle and powder as well as its anti-age Prickly Pear oil. Further on, I visited a Dutch Flower Stand that has been coming to the Green Week for the past 10 years and they considered the fair to be a good promotional outlet and market place for Horticulture. Every hall has something exciting and diverse to amuse you; you feel like touring all Germany through its regional cuisine while enjoying a live performance, connecting with nature and colorful flowered gardens or letting you imagination travel abroad to exotic destinations.



A definite highlight in the Green Week was to learn about “The German Federation of Private Plant Breeders (GFT)” interesting projects on agricultural and horticultural crop breeding for food, feed and in some cases even Bioenergy. These non-profit associations, which several of its members are small and medium scale German farmers, carries out research programs by highly qualified professionals and scientific institutions to provide competitive and suitable answers to breeders needs.



All in all, the International Green Week Berlin is most definitely a place to awake your senses and explore worldwide gastronomy, gain insides into the field of agriculture and become dazzled by the impressive beauty of its horticulture section.

For further information please visit:

International Green Week Berlin <http://www.gruenewoche.de/en/>

German Federation of Private Plant Breeders (GFP) <http://www.bdp-online.de/de/GFP/>



## Water –Food-Energy Nexus

Prof. Dr. Uschi Eid is a pioneer practitioner and scholar in water resource management and sanitary services. She has been engaging and contributing in several international and national projects which focus on enhancing the human basic services in water access and sanitary services. In admiration to her excellent contribution to the understanding, development, management and protection of groundwater resources internationally, she has been awarded Distinguished Associate Award the International Association of

Hydrogeologists (IAH). From 2009, Prof. Dr. Uschi Eid is serving as an Emeritus – Honorary Professor in the University of Osnabruck, Germany. Her research specialty in the university is sustainable water supply and waste water treatment. Currently, she serves as the Vice-Chair of the United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB). She has given an interview on titled “water has never been recognised in its importance for economical development and poverty reduction to the Water-Energy-Food Nexus in 2011. In this video, Prof. Dr. Uschi Eid emphasizes the necessity to have “nexus understating, and implementation” of water, food and energy.

Our special thanks to Water-Energy-Food Nexus

### Reference

International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH/AIH). Retrieved from <http://iah.org/about/awards/distinguished-associate> on 10 June 2014

The Federal Government Official Web page, Retrieved from [http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/DE/StatischeSeiten/Breg/Nachhaltigkeit/\\_SubsiteInhalte/StatischeSeiten/lebenslauf-eid.html](http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/DE/StatischeSeiten/Breg/Nachhaltigkeit/_SubsiteInhalte/StatischeSeiten/lebenslauf-eid.html) on 10 June 2014.



## Summer Camp: July 26<sup>th</sup> – August 2<sup>nd</sup> Agroecology, Small-Scale Farming and Regional Development

The Department of Organic Food Quality and Food Culture, University of Kassel, Germany offers a summer camp in the Heide region (Natendorf, Uelzen) in Germany. This will be held from 26th of July to 2nd of August in 2014. Young scientists from any level are kindly invited to join the camp. Although international participants are highly welcomed, the camp will be held in German language, thus requiring a minimum level B1 of German language skill. The camp addresses five thematic areas in five days:

1. Sustainable cities and villages: self-sufficient neighbourhoods
2. Land grabbing at village scale: messing up village livelihood
3. Land rent issue: no room for youngers
4. Bio-diversity at small-scale farming
5. Farming ethics

For more information and registration please visit: <http://www.summercampafofj.org/>