

News Review

World Science Forum 2013 in Brazil

The world has witnessed an extraordinary growth in science and technology in last few decades, we observe a huge disparity at the global level as far as the utilization of these advancements are concerned. Reduction of poverty, elimination of extreme misery, access to basic education, proper dissemination of information are still some of the most important issues to be solved in most of the developing and under-developed world. The scientific community and highly developed scientific resources should play a more intense and broader role to diminish these prevalent social disparities and inequalities and to introduce modern concepts of sustainability to improve the overall quality of life. In order to create social awareness at the global level, since 2003, *the Hungarian Academy of Sciences* in partnership with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Council for Science (ICS) and American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is organizing a series of biannual international events known as World Science Forum (WSF). The main objective of WSF is to create bridge between scientific community and society in general thorough discussions and debates on contemporary and challenging topics involving science education, social responsibilities and ethics, in general.

The sixth edition of *World Science Forum* (WSF) will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 24 to 27 November 2013. The Forum will be hosted by the Brazilian Academy of Sciences (ABC) in partnership with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, UNESCO, ICS, AAAS, The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC). This is for the first time WSF will be held outside Budapest, capital

of Hungary. The central theme of the WSF 2013 is "Science for Global Sustainable Development" with an objective to *"renew our commitment to global sustainable development, and to contribute towards the promotion of economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for our planet, for present and future generations"* to follow-up of the recommendations approved during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) held during June 20-22, 2012 in the same city.

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI) of Brazil and the Brazilian Society for the Promotion of Science (SBPC) are part of the steering committee for this important meeting. Since 2012, they are organizing several preparatory meetings in different cities like São Paulo, Belo Horizonte, Salvador, Recife, Manaus, Porto Alegre and Brasilia, in order to promote a broad national discussion on the theme. The central themes of the earlier editions of WSF were "Knowledge and Society" (2003), "Knowledge, Ethics and Responsibility" (2005), "Investing in Knowledge: Investing in the Future" (2007), "Knowledge and Future" (2009) and "The Changing Landscape of Science" (2011). In WSF 2011, it was decided that future venues of WSF would alternate between Hungary and other countries, beginning with Brazil in 2013. India has shown interest to host the WSF in 2017. The WSF 2013 in de Janeiro will certainly be one step forward to mobilize the international scientific community to discuss the role of science towards Global Sustainability and to increase global consciousness about the scientific and social issues of the contemporary world. All are welcome.

Further details on WSF can be found in <http://www.sciforum.hu> or, <http://fmc.cgee.org.br>.

Puspitapallab Chaudhuri
University of Amazonas, Brazil