

MAHB

MILLENNIUM ALLIANCE FOR HUMANITY AND THE BIOSPHERE

The Millennium Alliance for Humanity and the Biosphere is a global initiative based at Stanford University. It was created in response to the “perfect storm” of problems facing humanity and the gap between our understanding of the problems and the failure of governments, institutions, and individuals to develop patterns of behavior that will reverse the current trends. The storm includes lethal and escalating threats posed by the degradation of our life support systems, traceable to overpopulation, overconsumption by wealthy individuals and nations, and manifested by climate disruption, toxification of the planet, resource wars, widespread poverty, financial crises, and a growing gap between rich and poor (to name just some of the most prominent). Even though scholars in the natural and social sciences have extensively explained the issues and worked with civil society to produce popular books, films, blogs, and lectures, human beings continue to deplete natural capital at rates far faster than it can be replenished, degrading essential ecosystem services, and creating an increasingly unsustainable situation.

The MAHB is responding to this threat of collapse in the following ways:

1. Fostering collaborative scholarly research on the fundamental inter-connectedness of these problems;
2. Convening civil society groups to work together for greater policy impact;
3. Creating a public library of the best research on the impacts of environmental degradation, understanding behavioral change, and strategies for reversing current trends;
4. Developing web-based tools for collaboration and shared action;
5. Creating the *Institute of Foresight Intelligence* at Stanford’s Center for the Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences. The institute is tasked with understanding the gap between knowledge and action as it relates to threats to humanity. The MAHB calls the ability to behave in “future smart” ways, *foresight intelligence*.
6. Outreach on these issues to civil society, scholarly communities, and the general public through seminars, speeches, interviews, workshops, networks and next generation leaders.

A SAMPLING OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS THROUGH JANUARY 2014

1. A mailing list of almost 2000 interested groups and individuals who receive the periodic MAHB newsletter;
2. Fifty registered Nodes—groups constituting the MAHB network that support our mission and are building webpages as part of the MAHB website; Nodes are not governed by MAHB, rather they are part of the community, the force for change who align themselves with MAHB for greater impact. Nodes post blogs, commentary and participate in discussion groups.
3. 500 registered Associates, individuals who support the mission and are finding ways to engage at the front line of policy and building social awareness with the goal of realizing the desired future world. Associates post blogs, commentary and participate in discussion groups.
4. A website (mahb.stanford.edu) that is rapidly building pages of resources (books, articles, movies, blogs) for policy makers, media and civil society, ideas for engaging in action furthering the Mission, and a growing list of activities from the Nodes. More importantly, this site is the cyber hub for civil society exchange and action.

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5. Opened an Institute of Foresight Analysis at the Center for the Advanced Study of Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University;
6. Hosted a symposium *Social Movements, Competing Crises and Effective Action* on the Stanford campus.
7. Convened a working group of scholars and practitioners to discuss the development of a *Vision for a Sustainable 2050* which can be used to create a common language and shared understanding
8. Collaborated with World Business Council for Sustainability to explore proven templates and
9. Brought social scientists to address the 2010 annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America to inform ecologists on what is known about ways to change human behavior.
10. Linked with twitter @PaulREhrlich
11. Established a Coordinating Committee of scholars and practitioners representing the social sciences, natural sciences, humanities, and business;
12. Supported the development of a proto-type Dashboard for Sustainability tool for the public to explore realities and implications of current environmental stressors;
13. Established a Facebook group for discussions; initiated and facilitated by the Norway node;
14. Developed a network of young scholars particularly interested in researching and applying MAHB ideas to island communities.
15. As a member of the Center for the Advanced Studies of the Behavioral Sciences, MAHB is planning a 2012-2013 seminar series involving approximately 10 leading scholars to address issues critical to sustainability and human behavior.
16. Begun negotiations with environmental scholars in Chengdu China on the establishment of a MAHB node focused on cooperative efforts to build FI.
17. Hosted a two day workshop of scholars on Foresight Intelligence and the barriers to a *future smart* society.
18. Hosted periodic seminars at the Center for the Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences covering such topics as Climate Change and the Afterlife, (UC Berkeley and IPCC Environmental Health), Geo-engineering (Australian Public Intellectual), Sociology of Change (Harvard Sociologist), and Ocean Policy (former head of NOAA).

CURRENTLY ACTIVE NEW PROJECTS

1. *Recruiting and raising funds for MAHB Fellow for the Institute of Foresight Intelligence at the Center for the Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford;*
2. *Co-hosting with the Population Media Center a three prong workshop in Washington DC for Spring 2014 including the leaders in Population Movement, large environmental NGOs, and social movements.*
3. *Defining a strategy for confronting what appears to be the most difficult component: envisioning and describing an post-consumerism culture. How do we restructure capitalism? What legal issues are barriers to radical reformation of economics? What is the fundamental relationship between environmental degradation/ complex global problems and economic structure?*
4. *Launched a blog series on sustainability issues in partnership with the University of Technology Sydney's "Sustainability Central" initiative.*

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