

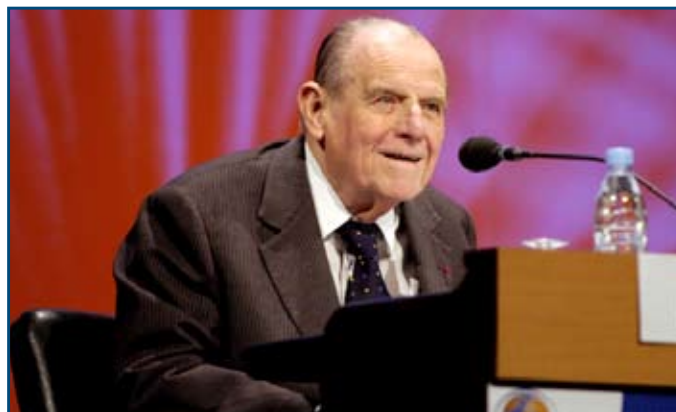
BioVision 2007 Sixth World Life Sciences Forum

Lyon, France - March 8-11, 2009

“Continuing Raymond Barre’s Action”

“I would like to pay tribute to Raymond Barre, who died on 25 August 2007. He was a former French Prime Minister, former Vice-President of the European Commission, and a co-founder and co-Chair of BioVision. He strongly believed in the dialogue between science and society. We hope to be worthy of his action in the future by continuing to facilitate this. BioVision 2009 will actually put a special emphasis on such a dialogue.”

Philippe Desmarescaux, Founder and Chairman of BioVision



► New Challenge for BioVision

In the twentieth century, modern societies have been facing an unprecedented era of fundamental changes: the world population grew from 2.5 billions in 1950 to 6.1 billions in 2000. During the same time, impacts of human beings on the earth have become excessive. We are asking to the earth more than it can give.

By using fossil energy (coal, crude oil, gas), humanity release carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere faster than nature can absorb it, creating a greenhouse effect and a rise in the earth’s temperature with negative effects on food production, erosion of biodiversity in terrestrial and marine ecosystems, etc.

Demand for water has also tripled as agricultural, industrial, or residential uses increased. In China, India, United States of America, which are the three largest grain-producing countries (altogether

these countries produce near half of the world’s grain production), the overpumping of water has largely depleted the ground aquifers. As many of the world largest cities are located in closed basins in developed or emerging nations, the only way to increase their water consumption (mainly due to their population growth) will be done by importing water from other basins or taking it from agriculture. The trend is clear: slowly but surely megacities, particularly in the South, are diverting water from agriculture whereas the world’s farmers try to feed 70 million more people each year.

Major evolutions in our societies such as urban concentration, migrations, climate change and trades have induced the development of three kinds of diseases: persistent diseases (AIDS, malaria...), reemerging diseases (tuberculosis...) and “invading diseases” (SRAS, Nile virus, avian flu...).

► Main Themes

BioVision 2009 will deal with cutting edge advances in life sciences, megacities related issues in relation with life sciences and ecology-driven economic development. The themes that we currently plan to address may include the following:

- Impacts of Climate Change
- New Developments in Bio-energy
- Sustainable Agriculture, Reducing the Farming Footprint
- Pollen Dissemination
- Potential of Biodiversity
- Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights
- Food Supply for Megacities in the South

- Waste Management
- Responses to Healthcare Emergencies in Cities
- Infectious Diseases in a Changing Environment
- Transformation of Diets in a Changing Society
- Sustainable Health Systems
- RNA Biology
- Bio-robotics
- Aging & Mental Diseases

We would be pleased to have your comments on this. To send your comments, please click here [program@biovision.org]



► Pre-Conferences

To address these questions, BioVision will organise a series of pre-conferences in order to prepare the BioVision Forum in 2009. These pre-conferences and the Forum will bring together high-level representatives from **social and life sciences, economists, public decision-makers, industry and non governmental organisations (NGOs)**.

For a better cross-fertilisation between these communities, each subject will be addressed crosswise from different points of view, different angles or different perspectives.

We want to make these conferences more interactive, more open and more efficient with the aim of producing strong recommendations for actions. Some of the pre-conferences are detailed below:

1. Food Supply for Megacities in the South

In 25 years, three quarters of humanity will live in cities, compared to half of it now. This massive urbanization will concern mainly developing countries.

The goal of this session is to examine consequences on this phenomenon on sustainable development.

How to supply food for such urban communities? How to minimize the pollution and the energy waste from long transportation and distribution? What innovations in food conservation and food packaging does the size of megacities markets call for? How should the composition of food itself be modified to match the habits typical of the urban way of life? What food related pathologies (obesity, diabetes, cardio-vascular diseases...) are likely to expand and how to prevent and treat them? All these questions will be examined with an eye to determine the contribution that life sciences can make to their resolution in synergy with social, ecological and economic points of view.

Pre-conference host partner: The Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS) - Mexico City, Mexico, November 14, 2008.

2. Infectious Diseases in a Changing Environment

Beyond the difficulties specific to the three categories of diseases (persistent, reemerging and invading diseases), two more general issues are of particular significance: the increasing resistance to antibiotic or antivirals in the treatment of infectious agents and the extension of hospital acquired infections linked to further development of health infrastructures in the world. The aim of that session will be to analyze the emerging trends in the area of micro-organism and virus based pathologies and to propose the most appropriate tools in terms of scientific and therapeutic research as well as public health policy for fighting them.

Pre-conference host partner: The Science Network - Salk Institute, La Jolla, CA, USA, April 4, 2008

More pre-conferences will be presented in the next newsletter.



► Forthcoming Events

■ BioSquare 2008

Basel, Switzerland, March 12-14, 2008

BioSquare is one of the world major life sciences and biotech partnering events. <http://www.biosquare.com>

■ BioVision Alexandria 2008

Alexandria, Egypt, April 12-16, 2008

The theme of the BioVision Alexandria 2008 will be "From Promises to Practice" and will focus on translating the best existing knowledge into new approaches. Leading experts from the four corners of the globe are invited to address new approaches, explaining why the immense advances that are taking place in science do not adequately translate into noticeable improvements in the lives of

the poorest 20% of the human race.

As a valued participant and contributor in BioVision 2007 conference, the BioVision Alexandria 2008 organizers are offering you a 50% reduction on the registration fees (international participants only). To benefit from this very special offer, please contact Ms. Asmaa Soliman at asmaa.soliman@bibalex.org <http://www.bibalex.org/biovisionalexandria/>

■ BioMarine 2008

Toulon and Marseille, France, October 20-24, 2008

The first edition of the European Maritime Initiative in the World, "Towards an International Sea Policy: Inspiration from the European Model", will be 2008 official event of the French Presidency of the European Council. <http://www.biomarine.org/>