



**Sustainable Campus
Press Release
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Success pointing to the future: Universities found an international sustainability network

Decision-makers and experts from 25 universities on five continents gathered in Zurich from April 25 to 27, 2007. Their purpose was to found the International Sustainable Campus Network. The Network's intention is to foster the development and construction of sustainable university facilities all around the globe. The meeting was held at the Hönggerberg Campus at the Zurich Federal Technical University (ETH). This campus is currently being rebuilt, under the name "Science City", to incorporate sustainability concepts.

The establishment of the Network was initiated by "Novatlantis – Sustainability at the ETH domain". It is both rewarding and encouraging to know that Novatlantis was immediately able to convince highly placed representatives and executives from more than 20 internationally leading universities to work actively in the newly created network.

-----The International Sustainable Campus Network offers its members, at regularly scheduled meetings, a platform for reporting on their experiences. A database accessible through the Internet is planned, to make the knowledge on hand available to interested parties around the world. Conference participants further agreed to push for the development of guidelines and standards. Competitions and prize awards are to serve as incentives for the realization of "landmark" projects particularly worthy of imitation. In order to establish a basis for international comparison, a working group was charged with unifying the relevant measurement magnitudes – such as energy needs, greenhouse gas emissions and water consumption.

-----"In as little as five years the Sustainable Campus Network will be the global leader in its field", explained Gerhard Schmitt, Vice-president for Planning and Logistics at ETH Zurich. "The significance of sustainability will increase in the near future. Even today, leading universities can no longer afford to disregard

the dictates of sustainability when planning and building. The International Sustainable Campus Network will also be of significance for the International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU) – an association of the world's leading institutions – given the fact that they have also undertaken a commitment to sustainability," Schmitt continued.

-----Experts estimate that more than 500 new university campuses are now being planned around the world, with more than 300 of them in the Asian region. Many other facilities will have to expand considerably in the next few years in order to be able to accommodate increasing numbers of students and researchers. At other locations, rehabilitation and upgrading will be on the agenda in the near future. The institutions affiliated with the International Sustainable Campus Network see this as an opportunity to demonstrate how findings in sustainability research can be translated into real-world projects.



-----The exchange of experience at the conference showed that the design and management of a sustainable campus involves numerous aspects. The discussion focussed upon reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sustainable planning and construction, energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, and environment-friendly mobility. Emphasized in addition, however, were other factors such as consciousness-raising, communications, procurement, financing and in particular the ideal utilization of synergies between planning, research and teaching.

-----Roland Stulz, Novatlantis Director, emphasized the significance of university campuses as “landmarks” blazing the trail toward the “2000-watt society”. He pointed to the leadership role that universities assume. Their task is to develop the knowledge, technologies and tools needed to make a sustainable future possible. In order to make a concrete contribution to sustainability, all the emissions of greenhouse gases triggered by the conduct of the conference and participants’ travel were offset with a contribution to the “myclimate” organization. It uses the money to support climate protection projects that achieve the corresponding reductions in emission.

-----Various participants mentioned the challenges of a global network. “Transfer is necessary to make the findings in developed countries available for use at any given campus in a developing country,” emphasized Roland Brouwer of the Ministry of Education and Culture in Mozambique. “What is possible at a large campus with tens of thousands of users is not necessarily possible at a small campus used by just a few thousand people,” said Paul MacArtain of the Dundalk Institute of Technology in Ireland. Joseph Mullinix, Deputy President of the National University of Singapore, indicated that local climate is an important

factor: “In buildings, in particular, there are many technologies that work quite well in temperate climates but that cannot be used at all under tropical or arid conditions”.

-----Emphasized once again was the importance of student involvement in sustainable campus development. “Students at Berkeley are known for their commitment level and many years ago they demanded increased sustainability on campus,” explained Richard Denton, Vice Chancellor of the University of California at Berkeley. Nagai Susumu, Vice President of Hosei University in Tokyo, highlighted the students’ future role: “Those who are studying today will carry the concepts of sustainability out into the society in the future. That is why it is necessary for them to experience specific implementation of sustainability at first hand at their university. That is why we offer students the opportunity to work as auditors in our environment management systems”. Further examples of student participation include part-time jobs at the Harvard Green Campus Initiative and the involvement of students in the participatory process carried out as a flanking measure for planning at the Science City Campus at the ETH Zurich.

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Further information and press photos are available on:
www.sustainable-campus.org



Notes for the editorial staff

Sustainability / Sustainable campus

Sustainability is understood here to embrace efforts to achieve a future worth living for coming generations. In order to achieve this in regard to campus projects, the participants are attempting to consider – and harmonize – as many ecological, economic and social issues as possible when solving problems. Challenges are found today above all in the fields of energy, mobility, structures, climate protection, social functions and financing. Synergies among planning, research and teaching are essential to identifying solutions. In various projects campus users, owners of adjoining properties and other interested parties are being involved in a participatory planning process.

Novatlantis – Sustainability at the ETH domain

Novatlantis is a program launched at the ETH domain to take the latest research findings and results and implement them in practice for sustainable development of metropolitan areas. Substitution and more efficient use of materials and energies in combination with an intelligent lifestyle are key here. Drawing on trend-setting projects and a network of prominent associates in science, business and politics, Novatlantis is showing how the vision of the “2000-watt society” can gradually become reality. // www.novatlantis.ch

2000-watt society

On global average, every person consumes 17,500 kilowatt hours of energy each year. That represents continuous consumption of 2000 watts each and every hour of the day. In western Europe that value is at present almost 6000 watts per capita while people in some Asian and African countries use only a fraction of this amount. The initiative behind the “2000-watt society” is striving to implement living and business models that can make do with one-third of today’s energy requirements while, at the same time, improving the quality of life. In this way it will be possible for everyone on earth to achieve and enjoy a good living standard.

Science City

“Science City” stands for the vision of a sustainable campus for the Zurich Federal Technical University. For some years now the existing Höggerberg campus has been expanded and rebuilt and transformed into a venue offering greater living quality. Thanks to a variety of measures the emissions of greenhouse gasses associated with running the campus are to be reduced by 60 per cent in coming years. At the same time the floor space on campus is to be increased by 60 per cent. Even now 96 per cent of all users and visitors arrive with public transit and a link with the municipal tram network is planned for the future.

// www.sciencecity.ethz.ch