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About Us

Highlights

01\ ISOE Report 2007

As every year in autumn we have published our Institute's annual report. It informs about our current research work and its perspectives as well as about our publications, cooperations, staff members and more. In-depth information on research projects and their results and moreover the overall institute's activities on our website are directly linked to the report. Complementing our report in German the electronic version in English is available on our website.

<http://www.isoe.de/english/index.htm>

02\ Breakthrough for Sustainability Research

The memorandum "Global Sustainability: A Nobel Cause" agreed on by 15 Nobel Laureates at the beginning of October and the award of the Nobel Peace Prize 2007 to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Albert A. Gore have helped sustainability research to achieve a breakthrough in public perception. This goes hand in hand with the awakening of a new interest for the results and concepts of sustainability research - an essential for an understanding and a responsible and sustainable developing of the upcoming fundamental transformations and transitions in many spheres.

Memorandum "Global Sustainability: A Nobel Cause" and scientific background: <http://www.nobel-cause.de>

Find further information on research for sustainability by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research: <http://www.fona.de/eng/>

03\ International Perspectives on Transdisciplinary Research Approaches in Environmental and Sustainability Sciences

The international conference "Long-Term Policies: Governing Social-Ecological Change" aims at bringing together transdisciplinary research on long-term policies from various fields. Within the semi-plenary session "Transdisciplinarity Research Approaches to Social-Ecological Change - an International Perspective" organized by ISOE, chair Thomas Jahn, Joske F.G. Bunders, Director of the Athena Institute for Research on Innovation and Communication, and Bill Turner, Director of School of Geography, Clark University, USA are invited as keynote speakers. The conference will take place on 22-23 February 2008 within the "Berlin Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change". It will be the first international conference of the "Social-Ecological Research Programme".

Further information on the conference: <http://web.fu-berlin.de/ffu/akumwelt/bc2008/>

04\ Transformation-Management for a Sustainable Water Infrastructure

The established rules for planning which have so far been used within the water management are now being put to question by demographic and climate change. Already pipes, sewers and plants are not used to their dimensioned capacity which means that their economic and operational capability is being constricted. This set of problems is especially true for Central European municipalities responsible for the provision of water and disposal of wastewater. They have to deal with the complexity and incertitude of this situation and are therefore now faced with the necessity to make some radical decisions which also affect the extent to which investments will have to be made. The follow-up research project to the project "Transformations in Network Related Infrastructure Sectors" is thus aiming to support those municipalities with the help of participative scenarios and newly developed methods for transformation management.

Read more about the project: <http://www.isoe.de/english/projects/watertrans.htm>

05\ International Conference "Strategies and Perspectives for Development, Use and Emission Management of Pharmaceuticals"

Pharmaceuticals are indispensable for a high quality of life. Their use however also has a downside. In recent years a huge amount of data has been collected demonstrating the widespread occurrence of a variety of active drug ingredients in the aquatic environment and sporadically even in drinking water. Given the demonstrated environmental relevance of pharmaceuticals the question arises: What are sustainable strategies to adequately address it? The research project "Management Strategies for Pharmaceuticals in Drinking Water (start)" aims at integrating different sectoral measures for the reduction of emissions of pharmaceuticals into a systemic management strategy. On 24-25 April 2008 the research project, the "Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt DBU" and the University Hospital, Freiburg will jointly organise the 1st International Conference on Sustainable Pharmacy. Within keynote lectures, thematic sessions and panel discussions renowned experts are going to share their knowledge for the identification of key strategic elements of Sustainable Pharmacy.

Detailed information on the conference will be available soon on the project-website: <http://start-project.de/conference2008>

06\ Groundwater Desalination for an Improvement of the Global Water Crisis

In Cooperation with the German Desalination Society (DME) the international research and development project "CuveWaters" invited experts on decentral small-scale solar and wind coupled groundwater desalination to discuss existing innovative technology options, designed to contribute to an improvement of the global water crisis. This technology was also emphasized at the first stakeholder workshop of CuveWaters, held in Oshakati, Namibia in October. Users, practitioners, scientists, members of administration and politicians met to discuss the suitability of presented innovative water supply (rainwater harvesting, groundwater desalination and artificial groundwater recharge) and waste water treatment (recycling of water) technology options.

Information about the project and its ongoing activities can be found on the newly launched webpage <http://www.cuvewaters.net>

New Publications and Downloads

07\ Sustainable Nutrition Styles - Managing Nutrition in Everyday Life

The guest lecture of Immanuel Stiess at the University of Hohenheim on 23 November 2007 presented the comprehensive understanding of sustainable nutrition as developed within the

research project "Food Change". Within the English lecture Immanuel Stiess introduced the conceptual framework and research design, the empirical study on nutrition styles in Germany and the developed acting principles for a food change in practice. The guest lecture was part of the master programme "Organic Food Chain Management".

The presentation is available for download:

http://www.isoe.de/ftp/tagungen/ims_hohenheim_23112007.pdf

Detailed information on the research project "Food Change":

<http://www.isoe.de/english/projects/ernaehrw.htm> and the follow-up project "Dissemination Strategy Food Change" <http://www.isoe.de/english/projects/ernaehrdiss.htm>

08\ Dynamic Interactions between Population and Water

In the upcoming volume of the Vienna Yearbook of Population Research 2007 Diana Hummel and Alexandra Lux discuss the relevance of demographic change for water supply using Germany as a case study. The article "Population decline and infrastructure: The case of the German water supply system" will also be available free of charge online once the Yearbook is published in December:

<http://www.oeaw.ac.at/vid/yearbook/>

09\ Corporate Social Responsibility in Europe

More than 100 policy-makers, academics, representatives of the business sector and of civil society participated in a conference on Corporate Social Responsibility in Brussels on 27 June which the European research project "Rhetoric and Realities: Analysing Corporate Social Responsibility in Europe" (RARE) had organized to present the findings of the three year research process. To date CSR research and analysis has mainly tackled company-internal implications of CSR such as the business case and issues of reporting and transparency. There is still little knowledge about the company-external impacts which CSR may have on sustainability. The RARE Project constituted a first step towards tackling this crucial question. Conference presentations given by members of the RARE project and by other experts can be downloaded on the project-website: <http://www.rare-eu.net>

Whereas Corporate Social Responsibility is rather known for promoting environmental sustainability goals it is less known for promoting social sustainability goals. So far, the potential of CSR to promote EU policy goals for gender equality is hardly recognized by the public. Within the RARE project ISOE analysed CSR activities of European banks and related the findings to EU policy goals on gender equality. The central findings which include recommendations for EU and public authorities are published in overview in a flyer available for download:

http://www.isoe.de/ftp/RARE_Flyer_Gender.pdf

Further information on ISOE's analysis within the RARE project:

<http://www.isoe.de/english/projects/rare.htm>

10\ Developing Urban Neighbourhoods

In many European cities post-war settlements of the 1950ies to the early 1970ies form a large part of urban housing stock. Therefore their development plays a key role in urban development. In a qualitative empirical study ISOE investigated housing mobility decisions and desires for living of urban dwellers who recently moved in neighbourhoods of the 1950ies to early 1970ies. The developed target group model provides a better understanding of needs, motivations and attitudes of potential customer groups in this segment of the residential market. The results of the empirical study and the target group model were presented at the workshop "Migration, Residential Mobility, and Housing Policy" at the international conference "ENHR 2007 Sustainable Urban Areas" in Rotterdam, 25-28 June 2007: <http://www.isoe.de/english/ftp/ChartsNZMe.pdf>

Further details on the research project: <http://www.isoe.de/english/projects/refina.htm>

11\ Towards Sustainable Consumption and Production

On 29 to 30 November 2007 the workshop "Framework for Action for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in the fields of Food, Mobility and Energy/Housing" is being organized by the European network "Sustainable Consumption Research Exchange (SCORE!)" in Milan. The Network project SCORE! acts as one of the EU's central support structures for the UN's 10 Year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production (SCP). Major aim of the workshop is to develop a roadmap for action for sustainable consumption and production. ISOE has been invited to participate in the workshop with a contribution on "Project 'Food Change': Lessons

Learned for Actions towards Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Field of Food". The contribution by Irmgard Schultz is available for download:

http://isoe.de/ftp/tagungen/is_score_ws_milano_29112007.pdf

The programme booklet of the workshop with in-depth information is available for download:

http://www.score-network.org/files//19127_ProgramWS3_Final271107.pdf

The workshop can be viewed via live streaming video: <http://progetti.metid.polimi.it/score/score.htm>

There will also be the possibility to view the sessions in later time.

Background information on SCORE!: <http://www.score-network.org>

12\ Further New Publications

Kluge, Thomas/Marius Mohr/Petra M. Moser/Walter Trösch/Nicole Umlauf/Wilhelm Urban, 2007. Innovative water supply and waste water treatment technologies - a practical approach to IWRM in central northern Namibia. IWRM - from Concept to Practice, Proceedings 8th WATERnet/WARFSA/GWP-SA Symposium, 31.10.-02.11.2007, Lusaka/Zambia.

Kluge, Thomas (2007): Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) as a Key for Sustainable Development. In: Mario Cogoy/Karl W. Steininger (Eds.): The Economics of Global Environmental Change. International Cooperation for Sustainability. New Horizons in Environmental Economics. Cheltenham (UK), Northampton (MA): Edward Elgar, 134-154

Schultz, Irmgard (2007): Case Study on Gender Equality through CSR in the Banking Sector. Working paper of RARE project., Frankfurt/M., <http://www.isoe.de/ftp/rare/rare16casestudy.pdf>

Schultz, Irmgard (2007): Policy Paper on Gender Equality. Background paper on EU policies on gender equality in the private sector. Frankfurt/M., <http://www.isoe.de/ftp/rare/rare17casestudy.pdf>

Schultz, Irmgard (2007): EU Goals Concerning Gender Equality: To What Extent Does CSR Contribute to Achieving Them? Frankfurt/M., http://www.isoe.de/ftp/rare/rare_benchmarking.pdf

About Us

Electronical newsletter "Social Ecology" of the Institute for Social-Ecological Research (ISOE) (twice a year). To unsubscribe please send an email to isoenews@isoe.de with the reference "unsubscribe isoenews". If you wish to receive the electronical newsletter free of charge please order at

<http://www.isoe.de/english/service/newsform.htm>

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