

ANNUAL MEETING NEWS: YOUNG GLOBAL LEADERS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING 2005

Over 100 Young Global Leaders participated in the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos and in the Special Programme for The Forum of Young Global Leaders, which started one day prior to the meeting and included private events for the community throughout their time in Davos. As part of this programme, Young Global Leaders had the opportunity to get to know other members of the community, engage in thinking about the future in the framework of the 2020 Initiative, listen to a presentation on climate change by Al Gore, meet with members of the Nomination Committee and the Foundation Board, and interact with other communities such as the Religious Leaders and the Social Entrepreneurs. We present a brief summary of each of these private events below



25 January

The World in 2020



The first session of the Special Programme for Young Global Leaders at the Annual Meeting looked at the World in 2020 and explored scenarios for the future. Albert Bressand, Vice-President of Global Business Environment at Royal Dutch/Shell Group of Companies, started the brainstorming with a presentation of the Shell Global Scenarios to 2025. The presentation covered insights from past Shell scenarios, the 2005 focus on the dual crisis of security and trust and the changing role of the state, and the "Trilemma Triangle" used as a framework for the 2005 global scenarios.

Young Global Leaders discussed the presentation and gave their feedback on some key aspects that they felt should be included in the Shell Global Scenarios to 2025:

- A timescale reflecting the fact that different nations are developing at different rhythms
- A third crisis (in addition to that of security and trust), which is the crisis of hope
- A greater focus on the role of the individual and the engagement of the population
- An analysis of disruptive events that could have multiplier effects
- A greater focus on technological change and its implications

Ged Davis, Managing Director of the World Economic Forum's Centre for Strategic Insight, then presented the 2020 Initiative and moderated the rest of the discussions. Each table of Young Global Leaders chose an issue to which they applied the Shell Global Scenarios framework and discussed possible scenarios for 2020. Chosen issues ranged from broad topics such as poverty alleviation, governance and globalization to more specific issues such as demographics and the role of the media.

Aligning Personal and Global Visions

In this session, Young Global Leaders focused on their individual visions and shared with the community personal insights about their past and their hopes for the future. The session was introduced and moderated by David Gergen, Director of the Centre for Public Leadership at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

During the first half of the session, Young Global Leaders shared inspiring stories about their greatest leadership challenges and experiences that shaped their life as well as humorous descriptions of some embarrassing moments in public.



Common themes emerged around leadership for the common good. For example, the conviction that you can do something from nothing if you have a vision; that there is power in truth and that you need to speak truth to power. Many stories illustrated the qualities needed for leadership, such as passion, imagination, courage, perseverance and sacrifice. Others shared stories about the need of leaders to know how to communicate, motivate and listen to others.

The second half of the session was dedicated to looking at personal visions for 2020 and what Young Global Leaders hope the group will achieve. Some mentioned specific issues on which they would like The Forum of Young Global Leaders to focus. These included technology (how it will shape future relationships and how to channel it in a positive way), freedom of expression, health, ending absolute poverty, ensuring all people enjoy basic human rights and non-proliferation of weapons. Others expressed their hope that The Forum would enable them to exchange knowledge and messages about specific issues, show people what works, formulate a simple unified vision for 2020 to guide the development of concrete strategies, transform the passion prevailing in the group into concrete actions that they can take back to their communities and provide inspiration and new perspectives. Finally, others expected that The Forum of Young Global Leaders would enable them to develop personal relationships, help each other avoid being corrupted by power and help each other to achieve their dreams.

26 January

Building the Community

During this private breakfast, Bret Stephens, Member of the Editorial Board of *The Wall Street Journal*, interviewed Professor Klaus Schwab about The Forum of Young Global Leaders, its purpose and his expectations of the group. The Young Global Leaders present in this session decided to launch the YGL blog to actively encourage continuous dialogue.



27 January

Making Change Happen



The Young Global Leaders met with the Schwab Foundation Social Entrepreneurs over lunch. They discussed what they would like to change about the world and what they are doing about it. A key point raised was the need to get positive success stories out, including stories about people running businesses with a social purpose. One proposal was to design a toolkit for social entrepreneurs to enable them to learn from the success of others. Participants also stressed the need for a metrics of success that captures the social impact of projects. They suggested that models that work need to be disseminated widely so that others who wish to replicate such initiatives can do so, for wider benefit.

28 January

Climate Change Presentation by Al Gore

Al Gore, Chairman of Generation Investment Management, presented his views on climate change to the Young Global Leaders at a private breakfast during the Annual Meeting in Davos. Those who attended the session found it very inspiring and felt that it focused their minds on the urgency of the issue of climate change. There was a general consensus after the session that this topic should be revisited at Zermatt.



29 January

Faith in Leadership



The Young Global Leaders met over breakfast with the Religious Leaders at the Annual Meeting to reflect on the fundamental values needed to shape a better future. At the outset of the meeting, Religious Leaders from different faiths shared messages of wisdom with the Young Global Leaders. The discussion highlighted how, while coming from different religious traditions, the messages of wisdom shared by the Religious Leaders were all very similar. Some participants felt, however, that while we all seem to share common values, it is not enough and we need connections with one another. A strong sense emerged that the alliance between

generations, as illustrated in this session, can make a great difference. Another theme that surfaced related to the potential of religions as a mediator between society and its leaders, and the need for religions to face tyranny to remove it. Finally, the space for focusing on one's own spirituality in a continuous internal dialogue was recognized as critical.

Moving Forward: Priorities for 2020

The closing session was held in an "African Tent" set up by TPG, the Dutch provider of mail, express and logistics services, to recreate the setting of food storage tents set up in humanitarian emergencies. Professor Klaus Schwab delivered closing remarks to the Young Global Leaders, followed by Peter Bakker, CEO of TPG, who briefly introduced the setting and its symbolic significance in engaging in concrete actions. The Young Global Leaders focussed on next steps for Zermatt and brainstormed on initial actions they would like to take as a community in the months leading to the Inaugural Summit on the issues voted as top priority by Annual Meeting participants.

