

Trans-Atlantic Research and Development Interchange on Sustainability

Time/Venue: TARDIIS 2016 will be held from October 19th to 21st , 2016 at Schloss Seggau, close to Graz/Austria

Objective: The purpose of the TARDIS workshops is to bring together for two and half days a selected group of the best scientists and engineers across the globe to conduct a broad discussion of a specific topic relevant to sustainability.

Background: The TARDIS Workshops are a series of meetings on scientific topics related to sustainability held every other year alternating between Austria and the United States. The first workshop was held on the subject of modeling and sustainability at Schloss Seggau in Leibnitz, Austria on October 2004. Subsequent workshops were held on September of 2006 at the YMCA of the Rockies on the topic of underlying scientific principles of sustainability, and on October 2008 again at Schloss Seggau on energy and sustainability. The TARDIS 2012 workshop was held in April 2012 at Schloss Seggau in Leibnitz, Austria on the topic of time and time-frames for sustainability. The last workshop was held on June of 2014 at the YMCA of the Rockies in Colorado on the topic of social, economic, policy, and regulatory incentives to promote sustainability in society.

Participation: Participation is strictly by invitation only. Participants will include adequate representation with respect to disciplines (engineering, natural sciences, economics, policy, social sciences etc.), institutions (academic, government, private sector) and regional and national representation. TARDIS will cover lodging, subsistence and transfer from airport/rail station to Schloss Seggau. Other costs must be covered by participants.

Topic: The 2016 TARDIS workshop focusses on one of the most crucial questions in the sustainability discourse: Is sustainable development compatible with economic growth? The organizers are aware of the fact that this question is fraught with conflict within and across scientific disciplines as well as on the emotional level. Following the tradition of previous TARDIS workshops this event will provide a platform for rational discourse about this topic that is not aiming at quick solutions but providing solid planks for further discourse. The workshop will in particular address the following questions:

- (1) What are limits that cannot be “out-grown” if the concept of sustainable development shall retain its integrity?
- (2) What are the economic, ecological and social meanings of “growth” within the concept of sustainable development?
- (3) What are contradictory aspects of the concept of “growth” from the view point of the economic, ecological and social dimension of sustainable development that have to be reconciled if sustainability is seen as the predominant principle of a future global development path?

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