

## THE CLIMATE FOR CHANGE

A SIX SENSES/WEB OF HOPE SYMPOSIUM

SONEVA FUSHI RESORT, MALDIVES JUNE 6TH TO 8TH 2008

### OBJECTIVES

The Climate of Change is a Six Senses Web of Hope (SSWOH) initiative designed to explore ways in which the Travel and Tourism industries (T&T) can respond to the challenge of climate change:

- by considering the business opportunities presented by this challenge and practical routes to their implementation;
- by bringing leaders from the world of sustainable development together with leaders from the T&T industries;
- by providing the opportunity to network and share best practice;
- by presenting innovative new models and technologies, from carbon mitigation schemes to eco-technologies;
- and for representatives of each community to learn from each other.

### SPEAKERS

The following will present keynote speeches to provide an overview of the urgency surrounding the climate change crisis and the challenges facing the T&T industries:

- Herbert Girardet, Chairman of the World Future Council (WFC), environmental author, filmmaker, Global Roll of 500 winner and UN advisor on Urban Sustainability.
- Jakob von Uexell, Founder of the World Future Council (WFC) and the Right Livelihood Award.
- Stephanie Draper, Deputy Director of the Business programme from Jonathon Porritt's Forum for the Future in the UK.

In addition, the following have been invited to provide more detailed presentations of best practice role models and their implementation by the industry:

- John Pontin, Founder of The Converging World (TCW), the revolutionary 'next generation' carbon mitigation scheme already adopted by Six Senses.
- Dale Jensen, from Makai Engineering, and Stephen Oney of OCEES Engineering, two of the pioneers in Deep Sea Water Cooling (DSWC) technologies being utilised at Soneva Fushi.
- Robert Webb, Founder of XCO2 carbon mitigation consultants and a wind power specialist.

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## TIMETABLE

Delegates are invited to arrive in Male as early as possible on 5<sup>th</sup> June to allow for the seaplane transfer to Soneva Fushi during daylight hours. The Symposium runs from June 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> inclusive. Those delegates wishing to stay on at Soneva Fushi are welcome to stay until June 12<sup>th</sup>, when the conversations started at the Symposium can be carried on in an informal context.

June 5 <sup>th</sup>	arrival day
<b>June 6th</b>	<b>Friday</b>
0830 – 1000	Breakfast sessions for sustainable development and T&T delegates
1030 – 1230	Welcome Speeches and Introductions  Rory Spowers, co-founder of The Web of Hope and environmental author, will welcome all delegates to the Symposium and outline the expectations for the event  Sonu Shivdasani, CEO of the Six Senses group, will introduce the background to the ambitious 'zero carbon' initiatives being implemented at Soneva Fushi and the overall Six Senses environmental policy
1230 – 1430	Lunch
1430 – 1630	The challenges – an industry view. Presentations from Stephanie Draper from Forum for the Future, outlining the challenges facing the T&T industries, followed by two presentations from industry delegates highlighting the specific problems that confront them
1800 – 1900	Sunset Cocktails
1930 – 2000	Opening Keynote Speech from Herbert Girardet from the World Future Council (WFC), outlining the urgency of the threats from climate change and the role the T&T industries can play in setting new standards
2000	Dinner
2130	Screening of Al Gore's An Inconvenient Truth
<b>June 7th</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
0830 – 0930	Breakfast
0930 – 1000	Housekeeping, any issues arising from previous day
1000 - 1040	Presentation by John Pontin, Founder of The Converging World (TCW), providing an overview of the TCW carbon mitigation model and specific ways it can be implemented within the T&T industries
1040 – 1100	Coffee
1100 – 1230	Presentations by DSWC experts Dale Jensen and Stephen Oney, followed by wind power specialist Robert Webb, outlining the eco-technologies and the potential ways in which they can be utilised within the T&T industries
1230 – 1430	Lunch
1430 – 1630	Panel Discussions, led by Herbie Girardet, Jakob von Uexell and Stephanie Draper, reviewing the key elements raised by the presentations

1630 – 1730	Review of Panel Discussions, allowing delegates the time to cross-fertilize ideas and make more detailed enquiries into the themes, issues and actions that have arisen so far during the event
1800 – 1900	Sunset Cocktails
1900 - 2000	Dinner
2130	Screening of Kim Kindersley's film, Whaledreamers

### **June 8th**

### **Sunday**

0930 – 1000	Housekeeping, any issues arising from previous day
1000 - 1230	Break-out groups. Delegates choose from the various topics, models and technologies covered to examine specific routes to implementation within their own contexts
1230 – 1430	Lunch
1430 – 1600	Re-convene for a discussion summary from the break-out groups
1600 – 1730	Review of Symposium, next steps, follow-up activities
1800 – 1900	Sunset Cocktails
1930 – 2000	Closing Keynote Speech by Jakob von Uexell of the World Future Council, summarising key elements from the Symposium and the possible ways forward for all those that have attended
2000	Gala Dinner
June 9 <sup>th</sup>	Departures
<i>or</i>	
June 9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	Opportunity for further conversations

#### Presentation Format:

Introduction of theme – 5 mins

Presentation to illustrate theme – 20 mins

Q&A session – 15 mins

#### Panel format:

Panel members talk for 5 minutes each followed by general discussion

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## BACKGROUND

It is now obvious that global warming and climate change has become the most urgent issue facing humanity as a whole. The impact of rising global temperatures will have systemic impacts on every area of life as we know it, shrinking biodiversity, devastating crop yields, causing droughts, catastrophic weather and the collapse of whole eco-systems.

The only way to ameliorate the impacts of global warming and avert the possibility of runaway climate change is to implement strategies that will dramatically reduce greenhouse emissions over the next twenty years. Many climatologists feel that we are entering 'the defining decade' in which we are faced with the last chance to prevent such a scenario from unfolding.

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## THE SYMPOSIUM

The aim of the Symposium is to convene a network of 20-30 people for three days at the exclusive Six Senses resort of Soneva Fushi in the Maldives, some of the most vulnerable islands in the world to be impacted by climate change.

The focus of the event will be to consider positive and realistic responses to the challenge to the travel and tourism industry posed by climate change. Travel and tourism, epitomised by air travel, is perceived by many to be the biggest culprit in greenhouse gas emissions, yet the freedoms and global citizenship engendered by travel are seen as generally benign. Indeed, the positive environmental effect of tourism in areas such as biodiversity is well recorded.

Because it is at the sharp end of the debate, it may be that travel and tourism can become pathfinder industry in its response to this challenge, turning from pariah to exemplar.

The Symposium will be attended by business leaders from the travel and tourism industry and by world-renowned experts in sustainable development.

We will use The Converging World (TCW) model, alongside eco-technologies implemented at Soneva Fushi, such as Deep Sea Water Cooling (DSWC), as examples of how enlightened thinking can provide a solution with multiple positive outcomes and new opportunities for the industry.

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## SS/WOH SYMPOSIA

This is intended to be the first in a series of 12 such symposia, conducted over the next 3-4 years, looking at the critical issues of the age from the perspective of an industry-sustainable development partnership.

These 12 events will systematically explore the 12 topics within the Web of Hope's taxonomy:

**T**ravel; **H**abitat; **E**nergy;      **W**ater; **E**conomics; **B**iodiversity;      **O**rganisation; **F**ood;  
**H**ealth; **O**ceans; **P**eace; **E**ducation.

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## SIX SENSES

The Six Senses luxury hotel group, who are hosting to the Symposium, is a resort and spa management and development company operating properties and products branded as Soneva, Evason Hideaways, Evason, Six Senses Spas and Six Senses Gallery. Six Senses resorts have won many industry awards, including Most Environmentally Friendly Travel Company of the Year in the TTG Awards 2005

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## THE WEB OF HOPE

The Web of Hope is an on-line database, educational resource and consultancy service, highlighting role models for sustainability from around the globe. Founded in 2002, projects to date have included the Dr Eco-Logic educational roadshow in UK schools, the Little Book of Hope publications, the Project Flamingo campaign providing 'toolkits for change', the Samakanda Bioversity ecological learning centre in Sri Lanka and a variety of consultancy services, ranging from the luxury hotel industry to festivals in the UK.

The Web of Hope works closely with Six Senses in their mission to become one of the top organisations in their industry in sustainable practices.

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## THE CONVERGING WORLD

The Converging World (TCW) is a revolutionary new mechanism for combating climate change, inspired by the Contraction and Convergence (C&C) model developed by Aubrey Meyer and the Global Commons Institute (GCI) and widely recognised as the most effective overall strategy available for reducing greenhouse emissions.

TCW allows donors from the developed world to offset their carbon emissions through investing in renewable energy technologies in the developing world for communities currently not connected to the fossil fuel grid. Revenue from the electricity generated is directed into community initiatives and further carbon reduction strategies. Additionally, the electricity generated qualifies as Certified Emissions Reductions under the Clean Development Mechanism. These CER's are banked and can be used to finance further carbon-reduction initiatives. TCW therefore sits at the hub of a self-perpetuating, self-replicating 'virtuous circle'.

TCW has the potential to become the most revolutionary and meaningful solution to climate change to have arisen from global civil society. Widespread replication, between the business community of the developed world and deserving communities in the developing countries, could have a significant impact on the reduction of global carbon emissions over the next twenty years and beyond.

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## WHY SONEVA FUSHI AND WHY THE MALDIVES?

The offer of using the Soneva Fushi resort has arisen due to the genuine commitment from Six Senses to address the critical issue of climate change and its support for both The Web of Hope and The Converging World as effective mechanisms for addressing the situation in a proactive and meaningful manner.

As the Symposium has an Asian focus and the Maldives is one of the areas most immediately threatened by climate change due to rising sea levels, the location is both pertinent and convenient for travel.

The overall footprint for the event will be dwarfed by the significant carbon reductions achieved through consolidating TCW in Asia and beyond. Six Senses has already committed to a turbine in south India, preventing some 70,000 tonnes of future carbon release. The Symposium will build on this to achieve much greater results.

Close proximity to the first working model of TCW at SCAD communities in southern Tamil Nadu will enable attendees to combine their visit conveniently with a visit to the SCAD/TCW turbine site.

Close proximity to the Web of Hope's Asian operational base in Sri Lanka will also allow for visits to Samakanda Bioversity, if desired.

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## ATTENDING

Confirmed are:

- Sonu Shivdasani and Eva Shivdasani from Six Senses (SS)
- Rory Spowers and Tim Willmott from Six Senses Web of Hope (SSWOH)
- John Pontin from The Converging World (TCW)
- Stephanie Draper from Forum for the Future (FFF)
- Jakob von Uxell and Herbert Girardet from the World Future Council (WFC)
- Ufi Ibrahim from the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC)

In addition we are in conversation with other high-profile names in the tourism and environmental sectors.

As the list expands we will circulate confirmed names. It has been agreed that a total number of 30 attendees will be most suitable for a conference of this nature.