MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

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In the third decade of the third millennium, our world is shaken by a series of transitions and disruptions. They threaten the natural life-support systems as well as the cultural value systems of our civilization. Anthropogenic global warming is arguably the biggest of those threats, but there are several other challenges around the corner – just think of how unbridled AI may transform our societies.

This means that advanced systems analysis and its applications are needed more than ever to find sustainable pathways through the hyper-complex decisions landscape of contemporary reality. This also means that IIASA is needed more than ever – for the benefit of people, places, and the planet. By applying systems analysis to risks and opportunities at all scales, the Institute provides science-based insights to decision makers, stakeholders, communities, and individuals.

IIASA was founded in 1972 to build bridges between the West and the East through the universal power of science. IIASA will continue to build "bridges of enlightenment" in today's multipolar world. I am privileged to lead this fine institution for the next five years.

Hans Joachim (John) Schellnhuber
IIASA Director General

IIASA ACROSS THE GLOBE

National and Regional Member Organizations

AUSTRIA
The Austrian Academy of Sciences

BRAZIL
The Brazilian Federal Agency for Support and Evaluation of Graduate Education (CAPES)

CHINA
The National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)

EGYPT
Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT)

FINLAND
The Finnish Committee for IIASA

GERMANY
Association for the Advancement of IIASA

INDIA
The Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC)

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Iran National Science Foundation (INSF)

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The Israel Committee for IIASA

JAPAN
The Japan Committee for IIASA

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NORWAY
The Research Council of Norway (RCN)

RUSSIAN FEDERATION
The Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS)

SLOVAKIA
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SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REGIONAL MEMBER ORGANISATION (SSARMO)
The National Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa

SWEDEN
FORMAS – Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development

UKRAINE
The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU)

UK
United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI)

USA
The National Academy of Sciences (NAS)

VIETNAM
Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST)

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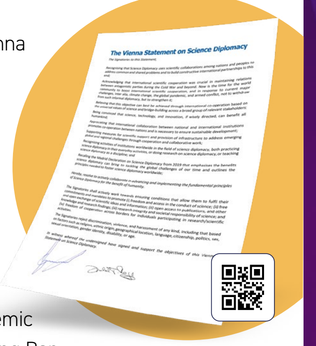
The power of systems analysis

Through its research programs and initiatives, the Institute conducts policy-oriented research into issues that are too large or complex to be solved by a single country or academic discipline. This includes pressing concerns that affect the future of all humanity, such as climate change, energy security, population aging, and sustainable development.

Systems analysis is a set of approaches for understanding complex problems that can be used to break down a particular system into its parts to examine their interactions and analyze how changes in one part of the system affects other parts individually and the system as a whole. IIASA advances systems analysis and applies its research methods to identify policy solutions to reduce human footprints, enhance the resilience of natural and socioeconomic systems, and help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Science diplomacy

IIASA is at the forefront of promoting science diplomacy and fostering debates about how science can help build trust between nations and support foreign policies.



IIASA led the development of the Vienna Statement on Science Diplomacy (VSSD), which advocates for a renewed global commitment to international scientific cooperation to help countries build stronger relations for the benefit of all of humanity. The VSSD has been endorsed by over two hundred eminent personalities from the academic and policymaking community, including Ban Ki-moon, 8th UN Secretary-General, Tarja Halonen, 11th President of the Republic of Finland, Romain Murenzi, 2nd Executive Director of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), and Jahou Samba Faal, Secretary General of the Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (ATUPA).

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IIASA is an international research institute based near Vienna, Austria, that advances systems analysis and applies its research methods to identify policy solutions to reduce human footprints, enhance the resilience of natural and socioeconomic systems, and help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The results of IIASA research and the expertise of its scientists are made available to policymakers in countries around the world to help them produce effective, science-based policies.

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"My YSSP experience reinforced my vision that climate change is not just an environmental problem, but also a social and economic one. The knowledge I acquired has been invaluable for the different roles I've filled since."

Esperanza González Mahecha
Climate Change Specialist at the Inter-American Development Bank, 2017 YSSP alumna

OUR PEOPLE

IIASA family


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Our network

IIASA Connect

The Institute's international and interdisciplinary network includes staff, alumni, member communities, collaborators, diplomatic partners, and visiting fellows. Join IIASA Connect to access our global systems analysis network: **connect.iiasa.ac.at**

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Publications and open access

IIASA research is regularly published in high-impact journals, and several IIASA researchers are continuously among the world's most highly cited. Around 500 scientific publications were made freely available in 2022 and were published in the Institute's online repository PURE. By making all IIASA-authored publications open-access, the Institute ensures the distribution of its systems analysis knowledge worldwide. Many IIASA models are also freely accessible.

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ANALYZING SYSTEMS FOR SUSTAINABLE WELLBEING