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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

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

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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 affect 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 exploring how scientific collaboration can build trust between nations and support foreign policies.

Building on its strong legacy, IIASA remains committed to advancing global scientific cooperation. The Institute actively engages policymakers, researchers, and institutions to tackle pressing challenges. Through initiatives like the Vienna Statement on Science Diplomacy (VSSD), developed during its 50th anniversary, and strategic partnerships with international organizations, IIASA strengthens the role of science in fostering dialogue, collaboration, and evidence-informed decision-making for a more sustainable world.











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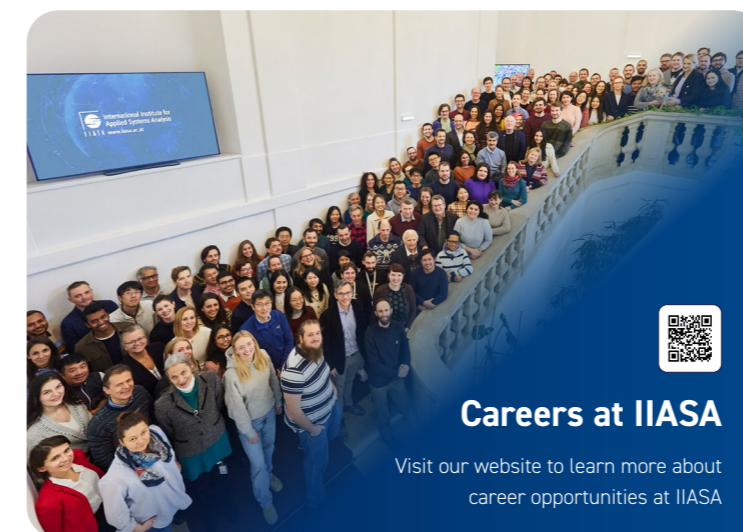
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“My YSSP experience reinforced my vision that climate change is not just an environmental problem, but also a social and economic one. The knowledge I acquired has been invaluable for the different roles I’ve filled since.”

Esperanza González Mahecha

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

IIASA family



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Our network



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.

OUR PEOPLE

ANALYZING SYSTEMS
FOR SUSTAINABLE
WELLBEING
IIASA AT A GLANCE