

The AGS NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of The Alliance for Global Sustainability

#2010:1

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

AGS Urban Futures reports

Urban areas around the world are vital centers of culture, leadership, and opportunity. Although rapid urban development often leads to severe environmental and social problems, it could prove to be an outstanding opportunity to achieve greater sustainability. Accomplishing this will require breakthroughs in technology, planning and the governance of cities. The AGS engaged researchers from its partner universities in an integrative exploration of **Urban Futures**.

[Link to Urban futures reports](#)

Report of the AGS Annual Meeting 2009:

[Urban Futures: the Challenge of Sustainability>>](#)

Report of the AGS at Todai Urban Futures International Workshop, February 2009:

[1st International Workshop on Sustainable City Regions 2009>>](#)

Report of the AGS at ETH Urban Futures seminar, November 2008:

[Understanding the Dimensions of Urban Futures Research - tackling complex reality>>](#)



NEWS

AGS Outreach workshop, October 2009 at ETH Zurich From Outreach to Partnership - defining the role of universities in achieving sustainability

The AGS convened a workshop dialogue to discuss how universities and researchers can improve their partnerships with non-academic stakeholders in order to drive progress towards sustainability. 70 participants from AGS universities and invited external partners from business, industry and civil society, discussed how researchers and external partners can better initiate and maintain partnerships that really implement the results of vitally needed research on environment and sustainability.

Read more: [>>](http://www.ags.ethz.ch/partnership/index)

FROM AGS PARTNERS

Todai-AGS Sustainability Seminars Strengthen collaboration with industry

Global sustainability challenges need partnerships between academia and industry. Todai - AGS has been doing this in its monthly **Strategic Sustainability Seminars** since 2007. A number of Japanese companies active in diverse business fields have joined. They come to get comprehensive knowledge about sustainability for the future.

Read more: [The University of Tokyo Sustainability Seminars>>](#)



STUDENT INITIATIVES

AGS students joined the COP15 Climate Summit

The AGS and the World Student Community for Sustainable Development sponsored students to join the COP15 in Copenhagen. These students from diverse backgrounds and countries have shared their opinions and experiences of the Climate Summit here and the blogs of the WSC-SD and the AGS universities.



Reports from the COP15: [>>](http://agscop15.wordpress.com/)

EDUCATION

MIT's S-Lab: Sustainable Business Lab provides students with an opportunity
Sarah Slaughter, Senior Lecturer, Sloan School of Management at MIT

The S-Lab focuses teams of students on "live" projects with an organisation that has requested help in thinking through a challenge or opportunity related to sustainability. The goal of S-Lab is to provide students with an opportunity to apply the concepts, theories and tools through working with host organisations on their actual sustainability projects.

More information: [>>](http://actionlearning.mit.edu/s-lab/)

ANNUAL MEETING 2010

Global Change and Sustainability
Pathways to the sustainable society in 2050
16-19 March at the University of Tokyo

AGS AM2010
Global Change
and Sustainability

The AGS Annual Meeting 2010 will offer keynote talks by leading thinkers, in-depth workshops on energy pathways, future city regions, technology innovation and transfer for the low carbon society, and urban futures for an age of extended life. Main themes:

- Mitigation and adaptation strategy to climate change and demographic change
- Sustainable city regions
- Energy pathways to the future: smart grid and smart infrastructure
- Information exchange and communication between academia and society.

Registration and Programme: [>>](http://www.ags2010.org)

STUDENT ACTIVITIES **UT-SC workshop at the AGS Annual Meeting 2010**

Annual meeting of AGS community is held in the University of Tokyo. SUS+(AGS-UTSC) presides the student session and are planning to swap opinion with student all over the world. This discussion will help students to connect between academic fields and international issues.

More information: [>>](http://ags.utsc.org/AM2010-Tokyo/english/index.html)



OUTREACH

AGS Book Series 'Science and Technology: Tools for Sustainable Development'

The AGS book series 'Science and Technology: tools for sustainable development' published by Springer, provides timely accounts based on AGS research into emerging barriers to sustainable development, and methodologies and tools to help governments, industry and civil society overcome them.

AGS faculty are invited to publish research in the AGS book series. Discount offer is available on all Springer books for faculty at AGS Universities. More information at [>>](http://www.theags.org/publications/book-series)

New series from 2009 are available:

"Management of Health Risk from Environment and Food", editor: Hajime Sato

"Highway and Urban Environment - proceedings of the 9th Highway and Urban Environment Symposium", editors: Greg Morrison, Sebastien Rauch and Andrés Monzón

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

Check our local activities at our AGS Focus Centers:

- **Events at the AGS at ETHZ**
[>>](http://www.ags.ethz.ch)
- **Events at the AGS at UT AFC**
[>>](http://en.ags.dir.u-tokyo.ac.jp)
- **Events at the AGS at Chalmers AFC**
[>>](http://www.agschalmers.se)

The Alliance for Global Sustainability is an international multi-disciplinary collaboration of four prominent research universities - the ETH, MIT, The University of Tokyo and Chalmers University of Technology - and their associated partners. We share the vision to help develop the global research agenda and provide the scientific knowledge that will enable society to address our urgent need for global sustainability

AGS NEWSLETTER

Please forward this newsletter to anyone you think might be interested to hear about the AGS - you can subscribe to the quarterly pdf newsletter here: www.theags.org or mail us to ags@ethz.ch