



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Sustainability Science Journal

The journal Sustainability Science offers insights into interactions between nature and human society, and the complex mechanisms that sustain both. It provides a transdisciplinary platform that contributes to building sustainability science as a new academic discipline. Sustainability science investigates the root causes of problems by uncovering new knowledge from different disciplines in a holistic way, in order to enhance our understanding of sustainability.

Sustainability Science is published by the AGS-affiliated Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science (IR3S), an Asian research and education network founded by the University of Tokyo.

**Authors** are encouraged to be problem oriented, proposing visions, methods and policy recommendations for sustaining natural and human systems and their linkages.

The journal especially encourages research on the needs of developing countries for poverty reduction, education, sustainable development and human and environmental security. Open access is available through the [OARE initiative](#).

[Link to Sustainability Science Journal: Sustainability Science, Springer Japan>>](#)

## NEWS

### Sustainability Report from AGS Annual Meeting 2009

#### Implementing Sustainability at Conferences

In this report, the ETH Zurich Bachelor students Franziska Elmer and Annina Brunner have carried out a careful investigation of the sustainability impacts of the AGS Annual Meeting 2009. As well as analysing the sustainability impacts of the travel, hotel use, catering and printing, the report describes communication measures for conference participants such as how to calculate compensation measures for a printed abstracts book, and provides recommendations for what steps conference organizers can take to improve the sustainability footprint of their conference.

We recommend these guidelines for conference organizers at the ETH and other AGS universities.

[Reports are available for download here:](#)

[AGS Publication>>](#)

#### Implementing Sustainability in Conferences



**RESEARCH**

**AGS collaboration in the WBCSD Vision 2050 process by Eoin Broin, PhD student at Energy Conversion, Chalmers.**

Vision 2050 is a two year project of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) involving 29 of their member companies. The focus is on “the role of business for tomorrow’s constrained but sustainable world”. The AGS has been asked to assist via professor level reviews of drafts and research of various themes by students. The project is due to be presented to WBCSD member company executives and invited members of the Obama administration in Washington in October.

More information: [AGS News>>>](#)

**STUDENT NEWS**

**AGS student joined The Nobel Laureate Meetings at Lindau Carl Justin Kamp, PhD student at Chemistry, Chalmers**



Carl Justin Kamp, a member of the World Student Community for Sustainable Development, participated in the 59th Meeting of Nobel Laureates in Lindau, Germany. In the fascinating discussions and events, the Nobel Laureates from chemistry, physics and physiology/medicine demonstrated that multidisciplinary and international approaches are vital to solving today’s sustainability challenges.

More information: [AGS Student News>>>](#)

**EDUCATION**

**Intensive Program on Sustainability (IPoS)**

The Intensive Program on Sustainability (IPoS) provides an opportunity for international students to obtain a deeper appreciation for global sustainability through a focus on Asia’s key role in achieving global sustainability. Students from The University of Tokyo, the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), AGS and IR3S universities lodge together in short intensive courses, study through experience-based learning that includes lectures, group discussions, field works and student presentations, and cultivate friendship across different nationalities and academic backgrounds.

IPoS 2009 was held in Rayong, Thailand, in August, with focus on the topics of water, energy and food. It was attended by 23 students from 17 different countries, with students from diverse cultural backgrounds and different fields of study.

Read more at: [IPoS website>>>](#)



**PERSPECTIVES**  
from IPOS2009

**Building international friendship**  
by Marina Simakova, ETH student

The biggest challenge we faced was the group project, where we truly had to apply a multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary approach to be able to work successfully with each other. The work in groups was a kind of mirror of the real world where we increasingly need international cooperation to solve sustainability issues. Though the process in many groups was tedious, the outcome was great. IPOS was an inspiring experience that not only generated serious commitment to sustainability action but also many international friendships!

**Be open, respect other culture and have fun!**  
by Niklas Schröder, Chalmers student

The most important result from my participation in the IPOS was getting to know people from all different cultures and countries!

Every participant was smiling, joking and conversing with the others, asking questions about each their different backgrounds and majors. But even though we differed a lot, we worked very well together and had a lot of fun. On the last days, we had interesting discussions whether we actually were ambassadors for our own countries or just for different personalities. Since this was my first time outside Europe, my strongest impression of IPOS was actually how similar we actually are and how global every material item is – even the paper sizes were exactly the same as what I am used to in Sweden!



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
& EVENTS

- 4-7 October: "WSC-SD Focus Meeting on ESD" at Chalmers, Sweden  
More at [>>](http://www.wscsd.org/esd09/)
- 15-16 October: "From Outreach to Partnership - defining the role of universities in achieving sustainability" at ETHZ. More at: [>>](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](http://www.theags.org) or mail us to [ags@ethz.ch](mailto:ags@ethz.ch)