

# The AGS NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of The Alliance for Global Sustainability

2009: 1

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### AGS Annual Meeting 2009 Urban Futures: the Challenge of Sustainability

26-29 January 2009, Zurich

The AGS Annual Meeting 2009 was held at the ETH in Zurich, Switzerland, in January, focused on Urban Futures. In keynote talks, panel discussions, workshops and poster sessions the dimensions of the challenge were explored. We thank all of you who came to Zurich and participated so actively in the conference. Those who were not there: you can watch the webcasts!

Read more at [theags.org](http://theags.org)>>

**Welcome** to the first newsletter of the Alliance for Global Sustainability, in which we will periodically inform you about the activities of the AGS and its associated partners.

One of the AGS focal areas is **Urban Futures** - the dramatic increase in urban populations around the world and its implications for global sustainability. The AGS is currently convening seminars and workshops on this theme and publishing the conclusions.

The AGS believes that one of the most effective ways of making progress towards sustainability is through training and providing opportunities for the next generation of leaders, and therefore strongly supports **student initiatives in sustainability**.

We thank you all for your support of the AGS, and look forward to your reactions to this newsletter.

**Peter Edwards**, AGS Faculty Coordinator at the ETH

**David Marks**, AGS Faculty Coordinator at MIT

**Greg Morrison**, AGS Faculty Coordinator at Chalmers

**Akimasa Sumi**, AGS Faculty Coordinator at The University of Tokyo

## AGS NEWS

### AGS Urban Futures seminar series International Workshop on sustainable City Regions

23-24 February, Bali

An international workshop convened by the AGS at The University of Tokyo, with the Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science (IR3S) and Udayana University, concluded the AGS series of seminars on Urban Futures.

The meeting brought together for the first time researchers in Asia interested in the interaction between **urban and rural areas**.

Webcasts, presentations, reports of the AGS Urban Futures seminars at [theags.org/urbanfutures/seminars](http://theags.org/urbanfutures/seminars)>>



**NEWS FROM AN  
AGS PARTNER**

## Chalmers Students for Sustainability

Chalmers Students for Sustainability (CSS) is the dynamic, multicultural organization for all students at Chalmers committed to sustainability. CSS is one of the leading members of the World Student Community for Sustainable Development (WSC-SD).

In March CSS organised [A Day for a Sustainable Future](#) at Chalmers. Right now, CSS is preparing a conference for October, focusing on education for sustainable development.

More about AGS student groups at [>>](http://theags.org/education/students)

**AGS RESEARCH**

## Future Vehicles and Fuels report

### On the Road in 2035

The AGS Energy Flagship team at MIT released a report synthesizing research on future vehicles and fuels.

[On the Road in 2035: Reducing Transportation's Petroleum Consumption and GHG Emissions](#) first assesses the performance, cost, and life-cycle GHG emissions of individual new vehicle and fuel technologies. The authors then evaluate the total impact of on-the-road fleets, and compare the potential of these technologies.

More about the AGS Energy Flagship at [>>](http://theags.org/energy/transportation)



**PERSPECTIVE**

## UT sustainability students meet Hillary Clinton

When US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited the University of Tokyo she wanted to meet students who could tell her about sustainability and about the challenges of becoming a woman leader in male-dominated Japan. A student from the AGS UT Student Community relates her experience:

Read more at [>>](http://theags.org/education/students)



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## STUDENT ACTIVITIES **WSC-SD Student Summit for Sustainability 2009**

The WSC-SD is an international network of student communities and individuals closely connected to the AGS. Motivated students passionate about sustainability are developing opportunities to learn from each other, collaborate, and take action. The WSC-SD held its third Student Summit for Sustainability (S3) at the ETH in January 2009, jointly with the AGS Annual Meeting, titled **The Realistic Side of the World - Sustainable Development and the Role of Economic and Political Institutions**.

The S3 asked fascinating and timely questions that are not yet part of the mainstream debate on sustainable development.

More about the Student Summit for Sustainability 2009 at [>>](http://wscsd.org/s3zurich/)

Watch videos of the keynote talks at [>>](http://www.sss2009.blip.tv/#1910009)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

- The next AGS Annual Meeting will be held in Tokyo 16-19 March 2010  
“Global Change and Sustainability: information exchange and communication between academia and society”
- International Program on Sustainability (IPoS) 2009 will be held in Rayong Province, Thailand, in August 2009
- Events at the AGS at ETH AFC  
[>>](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)