Human resources for sustainable development
The demography of human capital formation

Thursday 29 November 2012 5 – 6.30pm

Professor Wolfgang Lutz Leader of the World Population Program, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)

Hedley Bull Lecture Theatre 1 corner Liversidge Street and Garran Road, ANU

Leading international demographer, Professor Wolfgang Lutz, will present the first results from a major new study into population and sustainability.

The study builds on new trends in demographic research that recognise the need to model a broader variety of human characteristics in order to produce more accurate projections of human capital. This is important both for mapping human needs and rights against sustainability practices, as well as for better understanding humans’ capacity as agents of change to achieve sustainability objectives.

The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) World Population Program, led by Professor Lutz, has, over the last decade, applied the methods of multi-dimensional mathematical demography to reconstruct and project the changing population distributions by age, gender, and level of highest educational attainment for all countries in the world for the period 1970-2100. The reconstructed data have already been used for new assessments of the benefits of education for issues ranging from economic growth to health, to quality of governance and reducing the vulnerability to natural disasters.

In this new study the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital aims to produce the most comprehensive and inclusive population and human capital projections for all countries ever compiled. The work is based on the input of over 600 international experts. Professor Lutz will highlight selected new and surprising insights from the study.

Professor Wolfgang Lutz is Founding Director of the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital (a collaboration between IIASA, the Vienna Institute of Demography (Austrian Academy of Sciences) and the Vienna University of Economics and Business. He is also Professorial Research Fellow at the Oxford Martin School for 21st Century Studies. He holds a PhD in Demography from the University of Pennsylvania (1983) and a second doctorate (Habilitation) in Statistics from the University of Vienna. He has worked on family demography, fertility analysis, population projection, and the interaction between population and environment. Professor Lutz is author and editor of 28 books and more than 200 refereed articles, including seven in Science and Nature. In 2008 he received an ERC Advanced Grant, in 2009 the Mattei Dogan Award of the IUSSP and in 2010 the Wittgenstein Prize, the highest Austrian science award.

Presented by

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