Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2013

Meeting the Innovation Imperative

Report

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Introduction

The Annual Meeting of the New Champions is the foremost global business gathering in Asia. Also known as the “Summer Davos”, the meeting creates a unique opportunity for exchange between leaders from top-ranked multinationals and chief executive officers of dynamic and fast-growing companies, including key decision-makers from government, media, academia and civil society.

Now in its seventh year, the meeting took place in Dalian, People’s Republic of China, in a dazzling new conference center at the edge of the Bohai Sea. The Meeting was held in close collaboration with the Government of the People’s Republic of China. The Meeting comes at a time when the world is facing an unprecedented set of interwoven global challenges – economic, political, societal and environmental. A changing world order, demographic shifts, resource shortages and widening inequalities are putting pressure on governments to create growth and employment while ensuring fiscal prudence, social equity and environmental sustainability. The challenges raised by emerging technologies and changing consumer behaviors require creative solutions. These factors point to a future where innovation – the effort to create purposeful, focused change in an organization’s or institution’s economic or social potential – is increasingly important as a driver of economic development, competitiveness and risk resilience. Under the theme Meeting the Innovation Imperative, the Meeting’s intensive three-day program explored the innovation imperative under four thematic sub-themes: Transforming Industry Ecosystems; Unleashing Innovation; Building Societal Resilience; and Connecting Markets. The program included a rich Arts and Culture track, in which participants explored how social media is transforming lives, honed their improvisation skills and discovered how architectural thinking can help to design solutions to complex systemic problems.

Over 1,600 leaders from 90 countries gathered in the state-of-the-art Dalian International Conference Center to share strategies and solutions and discuss global issues and risks. The New Champion communities – including Global Growth Companies, Young Global Leaders, Young Scientists, Technology Pioneers, Social Entrepreneurs and the World Economic Forum (WEF)’s youngest community, the Global Shapers – engaged with Forum Members and Partners during the seventh Annual Meeting of the New Champions, held from 11 to 13 September in Dalian, People’s Republic of China.
Young Scientists Activities

Our participation is sponsored in parts by IAP - the global network of science academies. The program for young scientists started one day earlier (Tuesday 10 September) than the official program of the WEF (Wednesday 11 September). The local government and WEF organized official visits to many locations in order to help gain better understanding of novel technological developments in Dalian. Those are:

1) Dalian University of Technology
2) Hi-tech Industrial Zone
3) Neusoft.
Dalian University of Technology.

Opening presentation by the Vice President of the Dalian University of Technology.

Visit to National Key Coastal and Offshore Engineering Laboratory.

From left to right: Wibool, Guru and Wilfred

Experience Center of District Heating.
Visiting Dalian Modern Media Co. Ltd. Visiting Neusoft, one of the largest tech firms in China.
Annual Meeting of the New Champions

From Wednesday 11 to Friday 13, we attended the regular WEF sessions and some events that were specifically organized for the Young Scientists:

1. Award Ceremony celebrating the Young Scientists 2013 with Professor Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the WEF
2. Breakfast with mentor, Ellen Kullman, Chair of the Board and CEO of DuPont and also Chair of the Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2013

Celebrating the 2013 Young Scientists. Prof. Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman, World Economic Forum, with the Young Scientists at the Award Ceremony on Wednesday 11 September 2013.
With Philipp Campbell we discussed the usefulness of introducing a magazine in which only negative results are reported, a so-called “Nature Negative Results”. This idea received quite some support among the Young Scientists as some results are very hard to reproduce, sometimes because of plain fraud. Publication of negative results could serve the scientific community.
With Victor Halberstadt (professor emeritus Public Finance Leiden University) we discussed the ways in which Young Scientists can actively contribute to the WEF and the AMNC. In particular we discussed the Global Agenda Councils.

**Suggestions for next year WEF**

1) As mentors of the Young Scientists Program this year, we did not receive email contacts of other young scientists well in advance. They wanted to talk to us before they arrived but they could not.

2) Our hotel was isolated from other New Champion Communities. Therefore, we had less chance to socially mingle or participate with them.

3) The visit to Dalian University of Technology and companies was nice, but it would probably be more rewarding to organize a Young Scientists event ahead of the AMNC. We propose to organise a 1.5 day ‘think & do tank’, immediately prior to the 2014 AMNC in Tianjin. Our specific aims with this event are to help (from draft by Eva Alisic):

   - Develop innovative, science-informed, concrete solutions for an urgent global problem.
   - Build effective connections between the three communities of young leaders

The event would have the following output:

**Immediate:** Statement and press release at the start of the AMNC

**Short-term:** Articles in newspapers, opinion/perspective pieces in scientific journals

**Intermediate:** Proposals for projects addressing the global problem of interest

**Long-term:** Global capacity building & collaboration among the three communities
ANNEX

IAP/GYA Young Scientists 2013

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