

## **Desert Power for the People Sustainable Development by Desertec?**

International conference of the Desertec Discussion Group

May 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at NABU (Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union),  
Charitéstrasse 3, 10117 Berlin.

The Desertec discussion group was founded in 2009 on the initiative of the “Vereinigung Deutscher Wissenschaftler” (VDW, Federation of German Scientists), supported through the “International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility” (INES) and the Research Group Climate Change and Security (CLISEC) of the University of Hamburg. This discussion group is an informal and open circle of individuals from academia, environmental NGOs, scientific organizations, international trade unions and those with a particular interest in the project. The group takes on the task to accompany the Desertec Project from a critical perspective. This process is facilitated in discussion with the Desertec Foundation and the Desertec Industry Initiative (DII).

In terms of a critical project support, we consider not only the development potential, but also want to analyze and evaluate the realization and implementation of the project regarding criteria of peace, participation and sustainability, with emphasis of economic, environmental and social aspects. Also questions of technology transfer and the acceptance of the necessary infrastructure are included in the reflections of the sustainability of the project. In the light of experiences made with other projects supported by big industry it is imperative that a comprehensive sustainability philosophy is significant at an early stage of designing and implementing such a project.

We are concerned with the support of a project on renewable energy which has to serve first and foremost the local population and should foster their independent development. Shaping the future in harmony with nature is more important for us than profit.

Our goal of a „critical support of the Desertec project“ is served by:

- Regular exchange of experiences in the discussion group
- The development of sustainability criteria for the project, in which the overall project as well as the components of the projects will be measured
- Events, meetings and public discussions of the group
- Exchange with stakeholders in the MENA region. The events of the past weeks have put a new emphasis and significance on this collaboration and the self-organization in the region.

As a first major event we will hold a conference on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> May 2011 on the topic **Desert Power for the People: Sustainable Development by Desertec?** in Berlin. The aim of this conference is, under participation of experts from German non-governmental organizations, trade unions and particularly colleagues from the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa):

- a. to discuss the vision of the project
- b. to develop and discuss sustainability criteria for the project
- c. to agree on the next steps of the critical support.

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

### Monday 23.5.2011 Public Opening Discussion

#### 19.00 Reception

hosted by Hartmut Grassl, Representative Discussion Group Desertec

#### Panel discussion:

What do the upheavals in the MENA region mean for the Desertec project?

Discussion with:

- Stefan Schurig (World Future Council)
- Hani El Nokraschy (Desertec Foundation)
- Marc Jedliczka, Directeur Général (HESPUL)
- Prof. Dr. Abdelaziz Bennouna (Morocco)
- Isabelle Werenfels (German Institute for International and Security Affairs - Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, SWP) (requested)

### Tuesday, 24.5.2011

#### 9:00 – 11:00 Visions of Desertec

- Dr. Gerhard Knies (Desertec Foundation)
- Prof. Dr. Peter Höppe (Munich Re - Münchner Rück)
- Dr. Hani El Nokraschy (Egypt Network for Desertec)
- Mr./Mrs. Kholoud (Tunisia) (requested)

Facilitator: Dr. Franziska Piontek (Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, PIK)

#### 11:00-11:30 Break

#### 11.30 – 13:30 Principles, Criteria and Indicators for the Sustainability of the Project

- Prof. Dr. Jürgen Scheffran (University of Hamburg, INES)
- Jens Klawitter (Hamburg/Berlin)
- Sara El Sayed (Wadi Environmental Science Centre, WESC)
- Mark Harsdorff (International Labour Organization, ILO)

Facilitator: Jana Platau-Wagner (University of Utrecht)

Discussion

#### 13:30 – 15:00 Lunch break

#### 15:00 – 17:00: Development and Desertec: How can the Project contribute to a peaceful, sustainable and equitable development of the region?

- Andree Böhling (Greenpeace Germany)
- Marc Jedliczka (HESPUL)
- Prof. Dr. Abdelaziz Bennouna (Morocco)
- Peter Viebahn (Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy)

Facilitator: Antje Schütz (University of Hamburg)

**17:30 – 18:00 Conclusion and Outlook:** Kathrin-Susanne Richter (Director Desertec Foundation), Reiner Braun (VDW)