

ICT FOR A GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

How ICT can durably contribute to the wellbeing of all citizens around the world



International Conference
European Commission – Brussels
January 22 – 23, 2009

Biography

Opening addresses

Master of Ceremony: Sally Reynolds
Day 1 - January 22, 2009

Jeremy Rifkin is president of the Foundation on Economic Trends and the author of seventeen bestselling books on the impact of scientific and technological changes on the economy, the workforce, society, and the environment. His books have been translated into more than thirty languages and are used in hundreds of universities, corporations and government agencies around the world. His most recent books include *The Hydrogen Economy*, *The European Dream*, *The End of Work*, *The Age of Access*, and *The Biotech Century*.

Mr. Rifkin recently advised the government of France during its presidency of the European Union (July 1st to December 31st, 2008). Mr. Rifkin also served as an adviser to Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, Prime Minister Jose Socrates of Portugal, and Prime Minister Janez Janša of Slovenia, during their respective European Council Presidencies, on issues related to the economy, climate change, and energy security. He currently advises the European Commission, the European Parliament, and several EU heads of state, including Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero of Spain and Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany.

Mr. Rifkin is the founder and Chairperson of the Third Industrial Revolution Global CEO Business Roundtable. The CEO Business Roundtable is composed of 100 CEOs of leading North American and European global corporations that are committed to ushering in the four pillars of the Third Industrial Revolution to address the triple challenge of global economic recovery, energy security, and climate change.

The Third Industrial Revolution Global CEO Business Roundtable recently entered into an informal collaboration with the European Commission to help facilitate a long-term economic plan to usher in a Third Industrial Revolution infrastructure and economy across the 27 member-states of the EU.

Mr. Rifkin's Sustainable Development Team advises governments and global corporations on the latest in cutting-edge technologies and best practices designed to address the twin challenges of climate change and energy security. The Sustainable Development Team recently contracted with The Conference Board, the world's preeminent association of global companies, to conduct a series of immersion learning programs on sustainability for managers. The two-day intensive executive education seminars are designed to introduce senior executives to the vast commercial opportunities in the emerging field of sustainable development.

Rifkin has been influential in shaping public policy in the United States and around the world. He has testified before numerous congressional committees and has had consistent success in litigation to ensure responsible government policies on a variety of environmental, scientific and technology related issues.

He has been a frequent guest on numerous television programs, including *Face the Nation*, *The Lehrer News Hour*, *20/20*, *Larry King Live*, *Today*, and *Good Morning America*. *The National Journal* named Rifkin as one of 150 people in the U.S. that have the most influence in shaping federal government policy.

Mr. Rifkin has been a fellow at the Wharton School's Executive Education Program since 1994, where he lectures to CEOs and senior corporate management from around the world on new trends in science and technology and their impacts on the global economy, society and the environment.

Mr. Rifkin's monthly column on global issues appears in many of the world's leading newspapers and magazines, including *The Los Angeles Times* in the United States *The Guardian* in the U.K., *Die Süddeutsche Zeitung* and *Handelsblatt* in Germany, *Le Soir* and *Knack* in Belgium, *L'Espresso* in Italy, *El Mundo* and *El País* in Spain, *Kathimerini* in Greece, *Information* in Denmark, *De Volkskrant* in the Netherlands, *Hospodárské Noviny* in the Czech Republic, *Wort* in Luxembourg, *Eesti Päevaleht* in Estonia, *Trud* in Bulgaria, *Clarín* in Argentina, and *Al-Ittihad* in the U.A.E.

Mr. Rifkin holds a degree in economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, and a degree in international affairs from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Rifkin speaks frequently before government, business, labor and civic forums. He has lectured at hundreds of the world's leading corporations as well as more than 200 universities in some 30 countries in the past 30 years.

Mr. Rifkin is the founder and president of The Foundation on Economic Trends (www.foet.org) in Bethesda, MD. The Foundation examines the economic, environmental, social and cultural impacts of new technologies introduced into the global economy.