



The Paolo Budinich Science Diplomacy Lecture

SCIENCE & DIPLOMACY: FROM 18TH CENTURY SCOTTISH ENLIGHTENMENT TO 21ST CENTURY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Paul van Gardingen

Director, Ecosystem Services for
Poverty Alleviation Programme, United Kingdom

Venue: Kastler Lecture Hall
ICTP Adriatico Guest House, Lower Level 1
Friday, 13 June 2014 • 14:00-15:30 hours

Science and diplomacy are intricately and essentially linked, even though this may not be recognized by many members of either profession or wider society. Both are social constructs, often funded by governments and as such there is an expectation that they should contribute to the development and improvement of society around the world. Sometimes, both are criticized for failing to deliver those improvements.

This lecture will trace examples of the links between science and diplomacy from the 18th Century Scottish Enlightenment, the time of David Hume, Adam Smith and Robert Burns, through to the 21st Century, a period of growing global challenges and responses such as the UN's proposed Sustainable Development Goals.

The lecture will use examples from the United Kingdom's Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation Programme (ESPA) to demonstrate the changing role of science in public and foreign policy drawing upon the three themes or dimensions that emerged from the meeting on "New Frontiers in Science Diplomacy" organized by the Royal Society and American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2009. The examples derived from ESPA, will also be used to illustrate the very significant challenges that exist for both scientists and diplomats when their domains come together.

Looking forward to 2015 and beyond, the lecture will consider how science must be central to diplomatic efforts to respond to a range of global challenges, including water, food and energy security, whilst also addressing the most important challenge of reducing global poverty.

Organized as part of the TWAS-AAAS International Science & Diplomacy Programme



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THE SPEAKER

PAUL VAN GARDINGEN

Paul van Gardingen is the Director of the UK's Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation programme (ESPA), a global research programme funded by the UK's Department for International Development, the Natural Environment Research Council and Economic and Social Research Council. ESPA's research is designed to provide evidence of how ecosystem services can reduce poverty and enhance well-being for the poorest people in developing countries around the world. ESPA's projects are delivered through collaborative partnerships linking the world's best researchers including specifically those in developing countries. The ESPA Directorate led by van Gardingen has the role of ensuring that the research produced by the programme is used to benefit the poor people living in low-income countries.



Paul van Gardingen holds a Personal Chair in International Development as well as the UNESCO Chair in International Development at the University of Edinburgh, one of the homes of the 18th Century Scottish Enlightenment. He currently is based in the University's wholly-owned subsidiary company Research into Results. With an extensive research profile working in developing countries covering Asia, Africa and Latin America, he provides experience of development research across a range of social, economic and cultural contexts.