



# Institut Veolia Environnement

A FORESIGHT VISION AT THE HEART OF  
THE MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

TO ANALYSE, ANTICIPATE AND EXCHANGE

INSTITUT

*Veolia Environnement*



## **INSTITUT VEOLIA ENVIRONNEMENT**

A PLATFORM FOR DIALOGUE  
AND EXCHANGE

Created in September 2001, the Institut Veolia Environnement's main goal is to contribute to a fuller understanding of the transformations occurring in the field of the environment.

The actions undertaken by the Institute aim at detecting the implications of those environmental changes on public policy, private initiatives, and society in general (including the demands of sustainable development).

*Created as a not-for-profit organisation,  
the Institut Veolia Environnement defines its major lines  
of action with the help of a Foresight Committee.*

→ The Committee, which is the central body of the Institute, brings together key figures from international level academic and institutional circles. It participates in the definition of the overall direction and contributes to the debate organised by the Institut Veolia Environnement. The expertise of its members helps the Institute to broaden its field of reflexion on issues related to the environment and sustainable development.

→ A network of international experts from various academic disciplines (economics, health, sociology, demography, geography, history...) enhances the Institute's capacity for multiple approaches to all the subjects on future environmental trends. The network contributes to the Institute's thinking on a cross-disciplinary basis.

→ In its daily work, the Institute also benefits from the intellectual input of a Scientific Adviser drawn from university circles, whose task is to provide qualified academic support. He guarantees the quality and objectivity of the work entrusted to outside experts.

→ Following the guidance defined by the Foresight Committee, the permanent team identifies both themes for reflexion and the experts best qualified to implement its study programme. The team is responsible for launching projects, coordinating work in progress and promoting results. It is also in charge of developing a programme of international conferences centered on future environmental trends.

**THE FORESIGHT COMMITTEE,**

**AS THE CENTRAL BODY OF THE INSTITUTE,**

**IS INVOLVED IN DEFINING THEMES FOR REFLEXION...**



**H  L  NE AHRWEILER**

Historian, President of the University of Europe, Former Rector of the Paris Academy, UNESCO expert in Human Sciences.



**HARVEY FINEBERG**

President of the United States Institute of Medicine, Former Dean of the Harvard School of Public Health, World Health Organization (WHO) Adviser.



**PIERRE MARC JOHNSON**

Lawyer and Physician, Former Prime Minister of Quebec, Adviser to the major international organisations on environmental challenges.



**PHILIPPE KOURILSKY**

Biologist, Professor, Coll  ge de France, Honorary Director-General of the Institut Pasteur, Member of the French Acad  mie des Sciences.



**MAMPHELA RAMPHELE**

Physician and Anthropologist, Former Managing-Director, World Bank, Former Vice-Chancellor of Cape Town University.



**AMARTYA SEN**

Economist, Nobel Prize (1998), Former Master of Trinity College, Cambridge (UK), Lamont University Professor, Professor of Economics and Philosophy at Harvard University (USA).

## FIVE MAJOR THEMES TO IDENTIFY THE VITAL CHALLENGES OF THE COMING DECADES

### → The economic dimensions of the environment

Economic and environmental changes are closely interrelated. Industrial development, while contributing to improved well-being, has led to the deterioration of ecosystems. Natural resources are being depleted or damaged, and multiple sources of pollution restrict people's access to essential services, particularly in the most deprived countries.

New systems of economic organisation are now required so as to place greater emphasis on environmental problems and ensure more sustainable development. The Institut Veolia Environnement applies itself to gaining insight into management systems that include environmental parameters in their approach, with a special focus on essential services.

### → The links between health and the environment

There is a close correlation between people's health and the quality of their environment. Environmental health is turning into a major global concern. Public policies are now incorporating those environmental parameters that have a strong impact on development and well-being. In that context, the Institut Veolia Environnement has initiated activities that will provide insight into the reality of the links and their medium and long term impact on the economic and social organisation of countries of the North and South.

### → Climate change and lifestyles

Climate change is one of the major phenomena of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There is an emerging consensus as to the reality of climatic hazards and their dire consequences which places them at the heart of the foremost economic, environmental and social challenges of the coming decades. If present forecasts are confirmed, there will have to be radical changes in production and consumption patterns.

Globalisation and economic interdependence have turned mere local problems into planet-wide concerns. The Institut Veolia Environnement is undertaking studies on this subject with a focus on the consequences of climate change and how they will alter lifestyles.



### → The challenges of urban growth

*“Rapid urbanization is fast becoming one of the major challenges facing the international community\*”*

Controlling urban proliferation is essential because it governs not only quality of life but also economic development since most wealth is created in cities. The way a large city operates is only as good as the quality and organisation of its infrastructures. A hard fact, made all the more significant as new service requirements are now surfacing in the field of water and sanitation, pollution abatement, waste management, energy distribution systems, communication and transport networks, etc. In emerging countries, regulating the urban phenomenon is a major development challenge. The Institute has therefore made it one of its priorities.

\*Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, World Urban Forum, December 2004, Barcelona.

### → Society and the environment

Ensuring the sustainability of natural resources depends not only on national decisions, but also to what extent people realise how vital the challenge is. Ideological and cultural concerns will become decisive for the way society deals with environmental issues.

Education plays an essential role in helping people to tackle those challenges, particularly by defining best practices to avoid wasting natural resources, diminish health hazards, and allow more sustainable development. The work of the Institute on this theme contributes to the exploration of interactions between society and the environment.

## PROMOTION TOOLS

### CONFERENCES

*A programme of high level international conferences:*

The Institut Veolia Environnement has a programme for a series of conferences on future environmental trends in France and internationally. The events are organised jointly with qualified partners from the academic world with the aim of creating a forum for discussion and raising awareness on the major themes defined by the Institute among university circles, institutional organisations and civil society.

### PUBLICATIONS

*An ambitious and targeted publishing policy:*

The Institut Veolia Environnement is pursuing a publishing programme to promote the work undertaken by its academic partners. Each study, which is carried out fully independently, gives rise to a publication. Depending on the subject and the duration of the partnership, the publication may be in the form of a report, an article or an interview. The idea is both to bring the experts' research work to the attention of the general public and to foster a debate within scientific and academic circles.

### WEB SITE

The Institute has developed a web site which is intended as a benchmark for issues related to future environmental trends. It publishes studies in progress and final results. The web site aims at being a forum for information, reflexion and debate.

[www.institut.veolia.org](http://www.institut.veolia.org)



*A permanent team...*

Georges Valentis, Managing Director  
[georges.valentis@institut.veolia.org](mailto:georges.valentis@institut.veolia.org)

Carol-Anne de Carolis, Promotion Director  
[carol-anne.de-carolis@institut.veolia.org](mailto:carol-anne.de-carolis@institut.veolia.org)

Gaëll Mainguy, Executive Editor, Scientific Publication  
[gaell.mainguy@institut.veolia.org](mailto:gaell.mainguy@institut.veolia.org)

Ludivine Houssin, Project Manager  
[ludivine.houssin@institut.veolia.org](mailto:ludivine.houssin@institut.veolia.org)

Dany Martin, Personal Assistant  
[dany.martin@institut.veolia.org](mailto:dany.martin@institut.veolia.org)

Monique Fourdrignier, Personal Assistant  
[monique.fourdrignier@institut.veolia.org](mailto:monique.fourdrignier@institut.veolia.org)

INSTITUT

*Veolia Environnement*

Institut Veolia Environnement  
15 rue des Sablons – 75016 PARIS  
Tél. + 33 1 53 43 22 50 Fax : + 33 1 53 43 22 86  
[www.institut.veolia.org](http://www.institut.veolia.org)