



## **New joint leadership - PIK Alumni Newsletter, No. 1, 11/2018**

Dear PIK Alumni,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the PIK Alumni programme. I am pleased to say that our Alumni relations activities are really getting off the ground and we hope in future to be able to send you interesting insights and information from the Potsdam Institute around twice a year. Above all, we are proud to reach out to you as members of the wider PIK community wherever you are in Germany or around the world. Please get in touch with us to update your contact details if you have moved to a new job, with news you'd like to share, or with feedback to the newsletter.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter!

Alison Schlums

Alumni Officer

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### **Farewell John Schellnhuber**

The Potsdam Institute reached the end of an era with the retirement of its Founding Director John Schellnhuber. Staff and guests packed into the Trefoil building to say farewell event in October 2018.

We have made a few pictures of the farewell event for Prof. Schellnhuber available to PIK Alumni under the following link: <https://cloud.pik-potsdam.de/index.php/apps/gallery/s/7fM3VqrOxhs6BIB> (all photos © Benjamin Kriemann, PIK. Please note the folder will only be available until 20th December 2018).

While the Directorship of PIK passes into the hands of Ottmar Edenhofer and Johan Rockström as of late 2018, Hans Joachim Schellnhuber will not be vanishing from the institute. As Director Emeritus, as member of the WBGU and other bodies, and as Senior Scientific Advisor to the EPICC project he will continue to be at PIK for some time to come.

### **[Schellnhuber signs the Golden Book of the city of Potsdam](#)**

Prior to his retirement celebration, John Schellnhuber received one more important honour: he was invited to sign the Golden Book of the City of Potsdam. Members of the PIK staff were among the guests who enjoyed a podium discussion with Potsdam mayor Jann Jacobs at the event to recognise Schellnhuber's contribution to Potsdam. [Read more ....](#)

## Publication Highlights

### [Planet at risk of heading towards irreversible “Hothouse Earth” state](#)

In a publication in PNAS in August, a team of authors including Hans Joachim Schellnhuber and Johan Rockström showed that even if the carbon emission reductions called for in the Paris Agreement are met, there is a risk of the planet entering what the scientists call “Hothouse Earth” conditions. A “Hothouse Earth” climate will in the long term stabilize at a global average of 4-5°C higher than pre-industrial temperatures with sea level 10-60 m higher than today, the paper says. The authors conclude it is now urgent to greatly accelerate the transition towards an emission-free world economy.

[Read more ....](#)

### [IPCC report on 1.5°C: Unprecedented transformation needed to reach climate targets](#)

The Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was released in October 2018. In the Paris Climate Accord of 2015, the international community agreed to limit global warming to "well below two degrees", with 1.5 degrees being mentioned as an aspirational target. The report examines the feasibility and impacts of this ambitious limit. Among the authors was Elmar Kriegler from PIK, who stressed that current greenhouse gas emissions reductions planned by governments worldwide are clearly not sufficient to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. This would require a CO<sub>2</sub> neutral society by 2050 – a challenge that would demand unprecedented transformation.

[Read more ....](#)

Ahead of the IPCC Special Report, the new PIK joint leadership Ottmar Edenhofer and Johan Rockström issued a statement on its implications and the issues at stake. [Read more ...](#)

## Other News

### **New project aims at capacity building – EPICC**

A major new project funded under the International Climate Protection Initiative (IKI) of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety got underway at PIK in 2018. EPICC - East Africa Peru India Climate Capacities – aims at the co-production of user-oriented climate services to better adapt to climate change. Working with local partners in the target countries, EPICC's goals are to assess current and future climate impacts including migration patterns, provide seasonal forecasts, and support local capacities through knowledge transfer activities. [Read more ...](#)

[Link to EPICC project website](#)

### [Albatross: A film by PIK's current Artist in Residence](#)

Chris Jordan, a US based artist and filmmaker, is PIK's current Artist in Residence from September to November 2018. Jordan presented his film "Albatross" – a powerful work about the impact of plastic pollution in the oceans – to members of the PIK staff in the conference room of the Trefoil building ahead of a public screening at the Thalia Cinema in Potsdam. [Read more ...](#)

"Albatross" is freely available for viewing online at <https://www.albatrossthefilm.com/>, where more information about the Albatross project can also be found.

### [PIK's Alumni programme](#)

PIK's Alumni programme was set up with funding from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in a project lasting until December 2018. "We can now look back at several successes in our efforts to establish an PIK alumni network," says Alison Schlums, Alumni Officer. A database has been set up to store the contact data of former PIK members centrally and securely, and a web interface is currently being prepared. The institute welcomed back [four Alumni returnees](#) from Spain, Switzerland, China and the United Kingdom in the course of the year. Interesting results were obtained from a study on the career paths of a group of PIK PhD graduates; these can be seen in more detail on the PIK Alumni website: <https://www.pik-potsdam.de/contact/alumni>.

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### IMPRESSUM

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### KEEPING IN TOUCH

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## NEWSLETTER

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## KEEP US UPDATED

If your contact details have changed, please let us know by sending an email to [alumni@pik-potsdam.de](mailto:alumni@pik-potsdam.de).

## DATA PROTECTION STATEMENT

We use your data to keep in touch with you as Alumni, to provide you with occasional news about the Potsdam Institute and its activities, and to send targeted information about scientific and other events.

If you have any concerns or queries about the use of your personal data, please contact us.

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