

Tällberg Forum

“How on earth can we live together?”

The Tällberg Forum is an innovative global meeting that has succeeded in creating an atmosphere of openness, honesty, warmth and creativity. Every year, leaders from all over the world and from various sectors of society gather in the small Swedish village of Tällberg to talk about and reflect upon the challenges and opportunities that stem from global interdependence.



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The Tällberg Forum 2005

Between 30 July – 3 August 2005, 450 leaders of over 70 nationalities broke out of their daily lives and came together in the village of Tällberg. For five days, they talked about and reflected on global governance and the frameworks necessary for global sustainable interdependence.

The Tällberg Forum makes no declarations and issues no recommendations. Its aim is to provide leaders from business, government and civil society as well as influential thought-leaders with a forum to discuss important issues in a calm and inspiring environment. The Forum's result lies in the many initiatives and ideas that the participants bring back home and integrate in their actions as leaders.

While working on bringing together diversity in background and in thinking, the Tällberg Forum rests firmly on a commitment to humanistic values and the adoption of a systems approach.

The Tällberg Forum 2006 is tentatively set for 28 June - 1 July 2006, in Tällberg, Sweden.

Talking about global interdependence

Thousands of conversations took place during the five days of the Tällberg Forum 2005. Some of them were parts of the program's different elements, many more were the outcome of informal meetings of participants. The overriding theme of the Forum was "How on Earth Can We Live Together? Exploring Frameworks for Sustainable Global Interdependence".

Many themes were raised in the 2005 program and many more were discussed in countless spontaneous conversations. Several common topics were raised: The specific issue of climate change was omnipresent, as was the more general question of economic, environmental and social sustainability. Here, a mood of rising frustration and anger at the slow pace of change could be felt. Also, there is a need for a continued deeper reflection on the crucial role of business, since it is both the main engine and primary beneficiary of globalization. Further, the problem posed by the wide gap in the speed of change of business and of governance needs special attention.



An innovating format in a different setting

It is the combination of place, people and process that makes the Tällberg Forum unique. The informality and beauty of the place has a decisive influence. The environment, in which people can freely, unpretentiously and creatively converse, conveys harmony and aesthetics.

The people are chosen to provide diversity of men and women, of old and young, and a true mix of nationalities from all continents: Politicians, global corporate leaders, thought leaders, artists, clerics, civic leaders and NGO leaders. Many participants bring their families and this strongly influences the atmosphere.

The process and program allow for each participant to combine sessions, talks and discussions with excursions, walks in the woods or spending time with their family. The conference program is a blend of plenary sessions and workshops with up to 30 participants. The conversations carry on in smaller settings, notably the reflection groups of ten to which participants are allocated to explore in more depth subjects of their choice. Cultural performances and nature walks are an integral part of the program, as they help open minds and stimulate ideas.

- 453 participants
- 199 accompanying spouses, partners, parents and children
- 73 nationalities from five continents
- 11 plenary sessions
- 52 workshops
- 25 activities; open space, musical, nature walks, excursions, etc.
- 15 cultural performances as part of the Forum program
- 2 large open-air concerts open to the public
- 5,000 spectators at the public concerts

The Tällberg Forum 2005 was organized by the Tällberg Foundation, a Sweden-based non-for-profit foundation. The event was funded through sponsorship from various corporations and organizations including Swedbank, Inter IKEA Systems B.V., Investor, Johnson & Johnson, Mahindra & Mahindra, Morgan Stanley, Oracle, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Saab, SAP, TeliaSonera, Unilever, Vattenfall, Volvo, Volvo Car Corporation, as well as the municipality of Leksand, the county of Dalarna and the Swedish Government.

Voices from Tällberg 2005

“It is an ideal place to bring people together that reminds us of our values, our humanity, of the very dear things we hold close to our hearts. The diversity in the discussions I took part in enlightened me.”

Baria Alamuddin, Foreign Editor, Al-Hayat

“I like the big size because you get a bigger variety and you meet a different bunch of people. This fantastic setting, fresh air, every kind of weather you could wish for, and healthy walks up the hill. I also like very much the underlying tone of idealism. In that sense, Tällberg is a post-modern forum.”

Robert Cooper, Director General, Council of the EU

“In order to make the right decisions you need to know the trends in the world. I am getting a lot of insights about these trends from this Forum. I will also be taking home that I need to work much harder. And that every individual can make a difference.”

Oyun Sanjaasuren, Member of Parliament, Mongolia

“There are interesting things happening here today, it’s excellent. And there are a lot of interesting people around here. I could stay for another week.”

Mo Ibrahim, Executive Chairman, Celtel, Sudan

“Generally conferences don’t work. But let’s be honest, understanding how to interact with people is damn difficult. This is the kind of soft technology we all have to learn. What I see Tällberg trying to do is to break out of the mold, to reach out to so many people in the world.”

Christine Loh, CEO, Civic Exchange, Hong Kong

“A wonderful explosion of ideas and concrete visions. There was both an ethical and spiritual element in what you produced in this rich presentation of very concrete and practical approaches. We all need to unite these.”

Jan Eliasson, President of the United Nations General Assembly

