

**Call For Papers – Forum of Young Researchers**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Austrian Conference on Development:**  
**Growth – Environment – Development**

**Call For Papers**

As the scientific co-host of the 4<sup>th</sup> Austrian Conference on Development, the *Mattersburg Circle* is calling on young scientists, as well as doctoral, post-Graduate and graduate Students to submit scientific contributions for the Young Scientists Forum.

A jury made up of three academics will choose the seven most interesting papers, which should then be presented in the form of 10-minute oral reports on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008, from 2:00 PM onwards.

The decision of the jury will be carried out using the “*double-blind-method*”, meaning that the jury does not know the names of the candidates, and vice-versa.

The travel and accommodation expenses of the selected candidates are covered, and additionally, prize money amounting to 100 Euro. There may also be the possibility to publish some of the papers.

**Content-related Guidelines**

The papers should deal with a theme relating to growth, environment and development, which is written against the backdrop of development politics, development cooperation and international development. On the backside there is more information on the content of the conference.

**Formal Guidelines**

- Languages: German or English
- Maximal Length: 25.000 characters (including spaces and bibliography)
- Deadline: June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008
- The papers should be mailed as word or txt files (no pdf), in common formatting (12-point, 1.5 line spacing), with limited use of footnotes and a complete bibliography.
- A brief biography (Name, education, residence, research interests...) of ca. 250 characters should be enclosed with the paper; this attachment will not be forwarded to the jury.
- Additionally, an abstract in German and English (each 100 Words) should be enclosed.

### **What is a Young Researcher?**

A young researcher is someone who is in the process of his/her academic education, i.e. who is working on a diploma thesis, a dissertation or has finished these no more than a year previous to the deadline – independent of age, academic career or appointments in academic institutions.

The papers should be sent per e-mail to Bettina Köhler in the Office of the *Mattersburg Circle*:  
[office@mattersburgerkreis.at](mailto:office@mattersburgerkreis.at)

Bettina Köhler is available for any questions related to the Forum of Young Researchers.

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## **Information about the Content and Background of the Development Conference**

The world is in upheaval. We have attempted to better understand these changes in 3 development conferences. The First Austrian Development Conference 2001 in Salzburg was devoted to civil society and thus an important field of action in the One World movement.

The Second Austrian Development Conference 2003 in Graz dealt with the phenomenon of globalization. Especially the understanding of global change stood in the foreground. At the same time, the desire to find alternatives was noticeable.

The role of ownership in the globalized world was the theme of the Third Development Conference in Linz 2005 during which specific models were discussed to organize and understand ownership differently than through the familiar polarity of “private” and “public”. Concepts of a “solidarity economy” were discussed just as well as approaches of “possession”, “property” and “ownership”.

Visions are essential starting points for work in development cooperation, as well as in the anti-corporate movement. Utopias are assigned an important part, giving politics in general, development politics in particular, a direction. The development conference perceives itself as a space in which to discuss and exchange such visions and utopias.

### **“Growth – Environment – Development”**

Depoliticisation conveys itself, among other things, in the fragmentation in the fields of politics. Economic policy, environment policy and development policy are seen as separate fields, although their entanglement is quite obvious. These connections have once again become very clear through the intensified debates on climate protection. At the same time, contradictions are becoming more evident.

The current international discourse on topics of environment and development reflects this fragmentation: The Brundtland-Report of 1987 was followed by the UN-Conference in Rio 1992, furthermore the Rio+5 and the Rio+10, as well as the meeting in Johannesburg.

One noticeable fact is that growth was originally challenged as a goal of development policy. Over time, various forms of growth were distinguished: “Qualitative growth” was separated from “quantitative growth”. Theories of subsistence emerged as a radical criticism of growth concepts; however, the critical impetus has largely disappeared from the debate, so that today growth is not even challenged in the alternative discourse. The renaissance of a somewhat unreflected concept of growth is ubiquitous throughout the entire ideological spectrum. Left-wing as well as right-wing governments share this approach. On the other hand, many feel that the subsistence theory’s approaches don’t provide a convincing way out of the dilemma, and have come under strong criticism, because their realization would hardly lead to an amelioration of living standards. Some of the alternative approaches are seen as myths.

Today, “sustainable development” focuses on economic development; solutions are sought after in the trade of emission certificates, instead of in the alteration of the relations of production.

It seems necessary to re-think the concept of growth. Developments in the field of intellectual property rights also need to be discussed in this context. The marketing and commodification of common land on a global scale, also in the field of water supply, raises many questions.

Following questions can be generated from the area of tension “growth vs. sustainability”: Under which circumstances is growth (not) sensible? Which actors have access to which resources? Which ecological allocation conflicts are carried out? Taking the example of climate protection: Who has caused which environmental burdens and who will pay the costs for the repair thereof? Who has which pollution rights? Who carries the ecological consequences of the production of biofuel?

Basically, it is about a consolidation of various fields of politics. An integrated concept of development would have to combine the goal of poverty reduction with climate protection and a distribution-oriented economic policy. Criticism of wealth could not be missing, nor could a reflection of growth criticism and of societal relations to nature. Finally, the possibilities of multilateral approaches (*global governance*) for the prevention and solution of conflicts arising from climate change and environmental damage should be discussed.