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GLOBAL GUEST SPEAKERS



Gunter Pauli

The Huffington Post called him "The Steve Jobs of Sustainability". His Latin American friends rather call him "The Che Guevara of Sustainability". He works with what is locally available, focuses on the generation of value.

Professor Gunter Pauli is founder and Chairman of PPA Holding and of more than 10 other companies, founder and CEO of the European Service Industries Forum (ESIF), Secretary General of the European Business Press Federation (UPEFE), founder and president of the Foundation "Mozarteum Belgicum", Chairman and President of Ecover, and advisor to the Rector of the United Nations University in Tokyo (Japan). His entrepreneurial activities span business, culture, science, politics and the environment. He founded the "Zero Emissions Research and Initiatives" (ZERI) at the United Nations University in Tokyo, and subsequently established The Global ZERI Network as a foundation, redesigning production and consumption into clusters of industries inspired by natural systems. Part of his many initiatives include the design of a solution for the plastic soup floating in the oceans and the creation of a protective zone with islands to avert rising sea levels. Gunter has published 20 books (written 16 - edited 4), which have been printed in +30 languages and 365 fables bringing science and emotions to children. Over 17 million copies have been distributed worldwide. His publications include "The Blue Economy 2.0: 200 projects implemented, \$4 billion invested and 3 million jobs created", "From Deep Ecology to Blue Economy: 21 Principles of the New Business Model"

He has been visiting lecturer and professor at universities in on all continents, and has advised governments, entrepreneurs and industry leaders on how to implement breakthrough innovations that permits society to better respond to the basic needs of all, starting with water, food, housing, health and energy.

A keen educationalist, former President James Alix Michel was directly involved in the creation of the University of Seychelles. He remains as the chancellor of the university, and the patron of the James Michel Blue Economy Research Institute at the university.

James Alix Michel was, until he became President, the longest serving Cabinet minister in Seychelles. Michel propelled Seychelles on the international scene as an ardent advocate of the cause of small island developing states, the preservation of the environment and, more recently, the "Blue Economy". Under Michel's presidency, Seychelles started its journey to become the first country in the world to have a comprehensive marine spatial plan for its entire ocean territory, which continues to be developed through an ongoing full survey of the Seychelles Exclusive Economic Zone. In February 2017 he set up the James Michel Foundation in order to further promote the Blue Economy concept. He has been responsible for the promulgation of legislation transforming half of Seychelles' territory into nature reserves – the highest proportion in the world. During his Presidency, Michel co-chaired the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) to promote action to build resilient and sustainable island communities for all islands. With his leadership, GLISPA has mobilised political support for the Blue Economy and marine protected areas within island regions of the world.

Sustainable development that reduces the vulnerability of Small Island States to climate change, food and energy crises remains at the forefront of Michel's agenda. He is also one of the patrons of the World Sustainable Development Forum (WSDF).



James Alix Michel



Jean-Michel Cousteau

Explorer. Environmentalist. Educator. Film Producer. For more than four decades, Jean-Michel Cousteau has dedicated himself and his vast experience to communicate to people of all nations and generations his love and concern for our water planet.

Since first being "thrown overboard" by his father at the age of seven with newly invented SCUBA gear on his back, Jean-Michel has been exploring the ocean realm. The son of ocean explorer Jacques Cousteau, Jean-Michel has investigated the world's oceans aboard *Calypso* and *Alcyon* for much of his life. Honoring his heritage, Jean-Michel founded Ocean Futures Society in 1999 to carry on this pioneering work. Ocean Futures Society, a non-profit marine conservation and education organization, serves as a "Voice for the Ocean" by communicating in all media the critical bond between people and the sea and the importance of wise environmental policy. As Ocean Future's spokesman, Jean-Michel serves as an impassioned diplomat for the environment, reaching out to the public through a variety of media. He has produced over 80 films and received the Emmy amongst numerous other awards. Reaching millions of people globally through Ocean Futures Society, Jean-Michel continues to produce environmentally oriented adventure programs and television specials, public service announcements, multi-media programs for schools, web-based marine content, books, articles for magazines, newspaper columns, and public lectures.

As Chairman of the Board and President of Ocean Futures Society, Jean-Michel travels the world, meeting with leaders and policymakers at the grassroots level and at the highest echelons of government and business.