



Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany
London



Press Release: German Order of Merit for Jakob von Uexküll

On 4 June 2009, Jakob von Uexküll will receive the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. The insignia of the award will be presented to the German-Swedish humanitarian in London, where he lives, by the German Ambassador Georg Boomgaarden. The honour is in recognition of Jakob von Uexküll's outstanding dedication in creating two charitable foundations which are successfully pioneering new paths towards solving urgent global problems.

In 1980 Jakob von Uexküll founded with his own resources the Right Livelihood Award, also known as the Alternative Nobel Prize, which is awarded each year in the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm. Since 1980, 133 people and organisations from 57 countries have been recognised in this way for their great commitment and selfless service amid great public interest. Prizewinners such as Wangari Maathai, Vandana Shiva, Michael Succow and Hans-Peter Dürr have devoted themselves to the causes of human rights, peaceful conflict resolution, the rights of minorities and protection of the environment.

In 2007, after many years' preliminary work, Jakob von Uexküll also founded the World Future Council. The Council comprises 50 internationally known figures, including several winners of the Alternative Nobel Prize. They work as the "voice of future generations" to ensure that we pass on a healthy world worth living in to our descendants. To this end, Council Members, with the help of a network of academics, parliamentarians and environmental organisations, identify forward-looking policy approaches worldwide and promote their adoption at the international, national and regional level. The World Future Council, which today has 17 staff in three continents, is located in Hamburg.

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