



WE ARE NOT ANTS

Fernando Casado

Javier Creus

Pablo Juncadella

Doris Obermair

DEBATE

Un agradecimiento especial a
Steffen Schwörer y Laura Galmes

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www.nosomoshormigas.org

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El papel utilizado para la impresión de este libro ha sido fabricado a partir de madera procedente de bosques y plantaciones gestionadas con los más altos estándares ambientales, garantizando una explotación de los recursos sostenible con el medio ambiente y beneficiosa para las personas.

Por este motivo, Greenpeace acredita que este libro cumple los requisitos ambientales y sociales necesarios para ser considerado un libro “amigo de los bosques”. El proyecto “Libros amigos de los bosques” promueve la conservación y el uso sostenible de los bosques, en especial de los Bosques Primarios, los últimos bosques vírgenes del planeta.

To all the pessimists
and uninformed people for making us see that this
book was really needed.

Thanks!

Fernando, Javi, Pablo, and Doris



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HUMANS ARE NOT ANTS. However, we are a community: We share a common origin and the planet Earth, and, as a species, we also share a common future. A future that depends on us.

By analyzing our beginnings and our evolution to the present-day, it is undeniable that we have made substantial progress in improving our life expectancy and our standard of living. We enjoy greater access to education, respect for human rights, as well as greater fulfillment of our basic needs and human freedoms. We have also been able to create a society that is becoming more connected and united by the ability to share knowledge globally and to use such knowledge to resolve the principal social challenges facing us today.

But not for all of us. Not even for enough of us. A large part of humanity lives on the dark side of progress without the basic advantages of the developed world that help people lead dignified lives. These people are threatened by eradicable diseases and deprived of water and food. They are also excluded from educational opportunities, participation in the economy, and their local communities' public debates. Meanwhile, the concentration of power and influence in a few (people, countries, companies) is becoming more alarming and unjustifiable by the day.

The Earth is also complaining from the effort: It can't replace what we consume; clean what we get dirty; or rebuild what we destroy in order to maintain our ways of life. We are living on the fringes of our planet's universal ethics and sustainability. Many believe we have already gone too far and there is no turning back. They believe we are doomed: We are a failed experiment.

We don't see it this way. We believe that our capacity for innovation, creativity, and solidarity has allowed us to resolve and overcome challenges that have arisen over the years. In addition, we are immersed in a new technological revolution that permits us to organize ourselves as world citizens and allows us to set more ambitious goals and achieve them without putting additional stress on other human

beings and the planet. We can lead sustainable and equitable lives and create new models that produce better opportunities for all.

And we are not alone. We have identified hundreds of initiatives already operating in every field to produce and consume, save and invest, transport, create and innovate, re-evaluate our free time or mobilize us for the causes that interest us in ways that are integrated, sustainable, and united by values and systems that are alternative and complimentary to the ones we use today.

Our main actors are, in many cases, anonymous people and, in other cases, well known, but there are also public institutions at all levels; companies and socially responsible organizations that steer their activities in other directions, in tune with human beings and in harmony with nature. This could be you.

We invite you in the next few pages to first celebrate the good that we have achieved as a species; later to identify what is not working, necessary or justifiable; finally, to find ways to fulfill your ideals.

Thank you for your trust.



I

WHAT IS GOING WELL

IF WE WERE ANTS, we would spend all day celebrating our achievements. Without a doubt, humans have been successful as a species. We have managed to reproduce, adapt to all types of habitats, and generate creative solutions that allow us to progress in practically every aspect of our environment. We have done this by eradicating some of the diseases that plagued us and substantially increasing our life expectancy and survival rate. There are more of us than ever, living in better conditions and for a longer time. We have been able to guarantee access to potable water, sanitation, and energy for a growing number of people. As individuals, we also enjoy greater opportunities: Basic education has become widespread. Women's rights continue to advance. And we have reduced the number of people living in extreme poverty.

Individual progress, combined with our growing capacity to communicate, has created a more connected society and driven the spectacular growth of volunteerism and non-profit organizations and the unstoppable production and distribution of knowledge, increasing the possibilities for us to freely express our opinions and share them on a global scale.

Reflecting on this progress makes us realize how, as a species, we are more advanced, better prepared, more aware of our rights, and more united to resolve global challenges. This helps create more opportunities for us all, regardless of race, sex, age, social status or human condition, to freely develop and enjoy the benefits of progress.

There are more of us than ever before

SOURCE:

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 1999:

World Urbanization Prospects: The world at six billion

<http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/sixbillion/sixbillion.htm>

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 2009:

World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision Population Database, <http://esa.un.org/unpp/>

YEAR

BILLIONS OF INHABITANTS



04

05

06

07



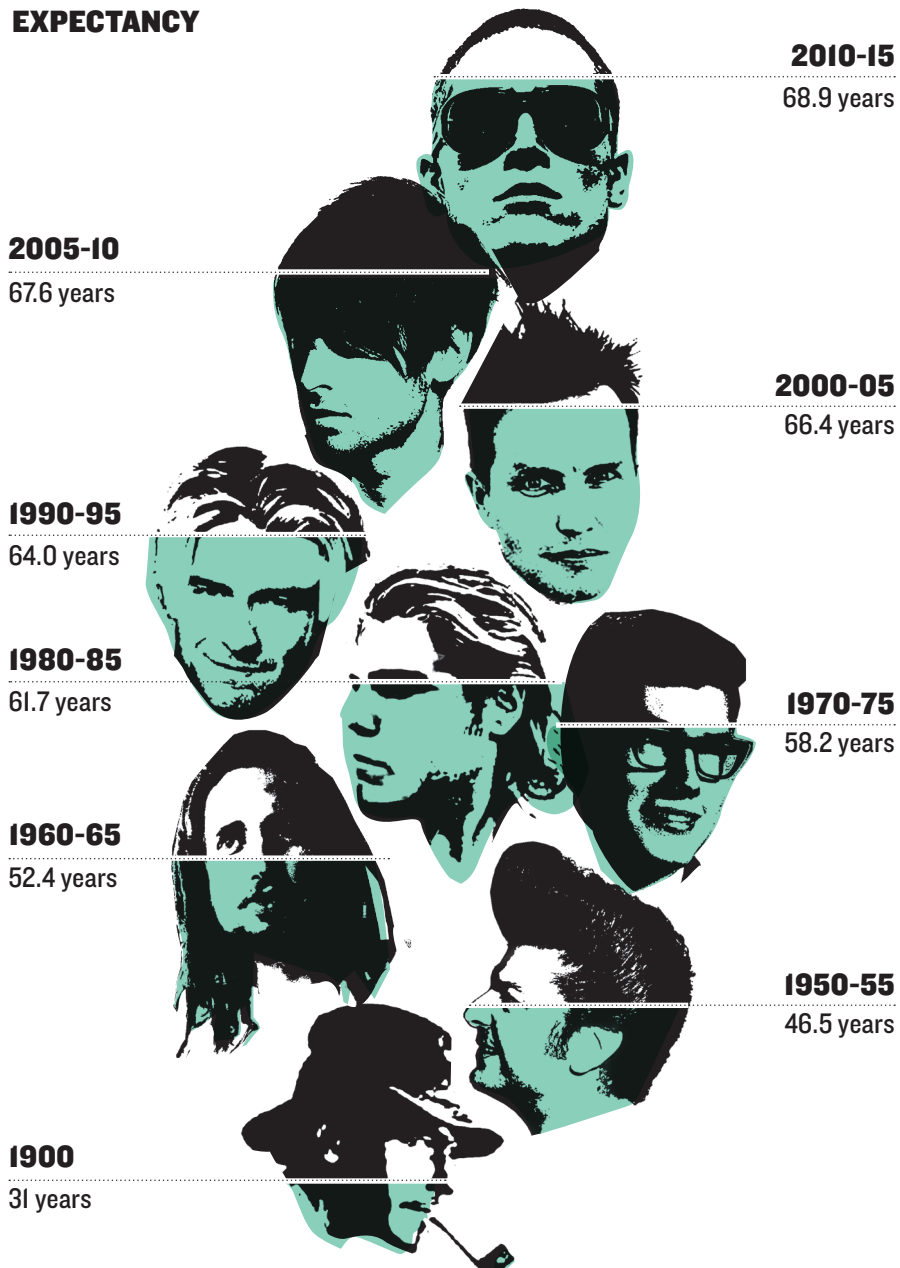
We live longer than ever before

SOURCE:

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 2009:
World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision Population Database, <http://esa.un.org/unpp/>

WHO, 2006: Health, history and hard choices: Funding dilemmas in a fast changing world
http://www.who.int/global_health_histories/seminars/presentation07.pdf

LIFE EXPECTANCY

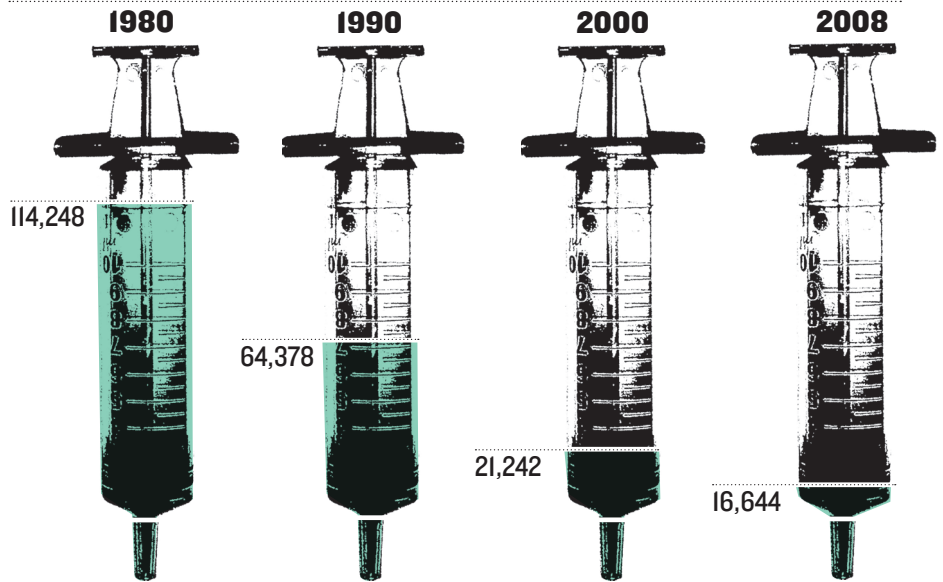


**We can prevent
and cure
more diseases
than ever
before**

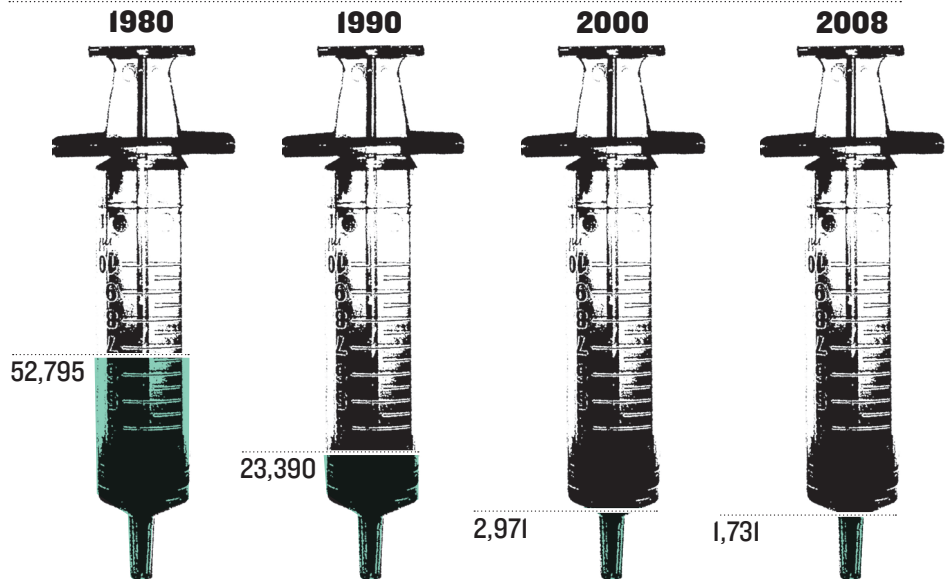
SOURCE:

WHO, 2009: Global and regional immunization profile
http://apps.who.int/immunization_monitoring/en/globalsummary/GS_GLOProfile.pdf

CASES OF TETANUS



CASES OF POLIO

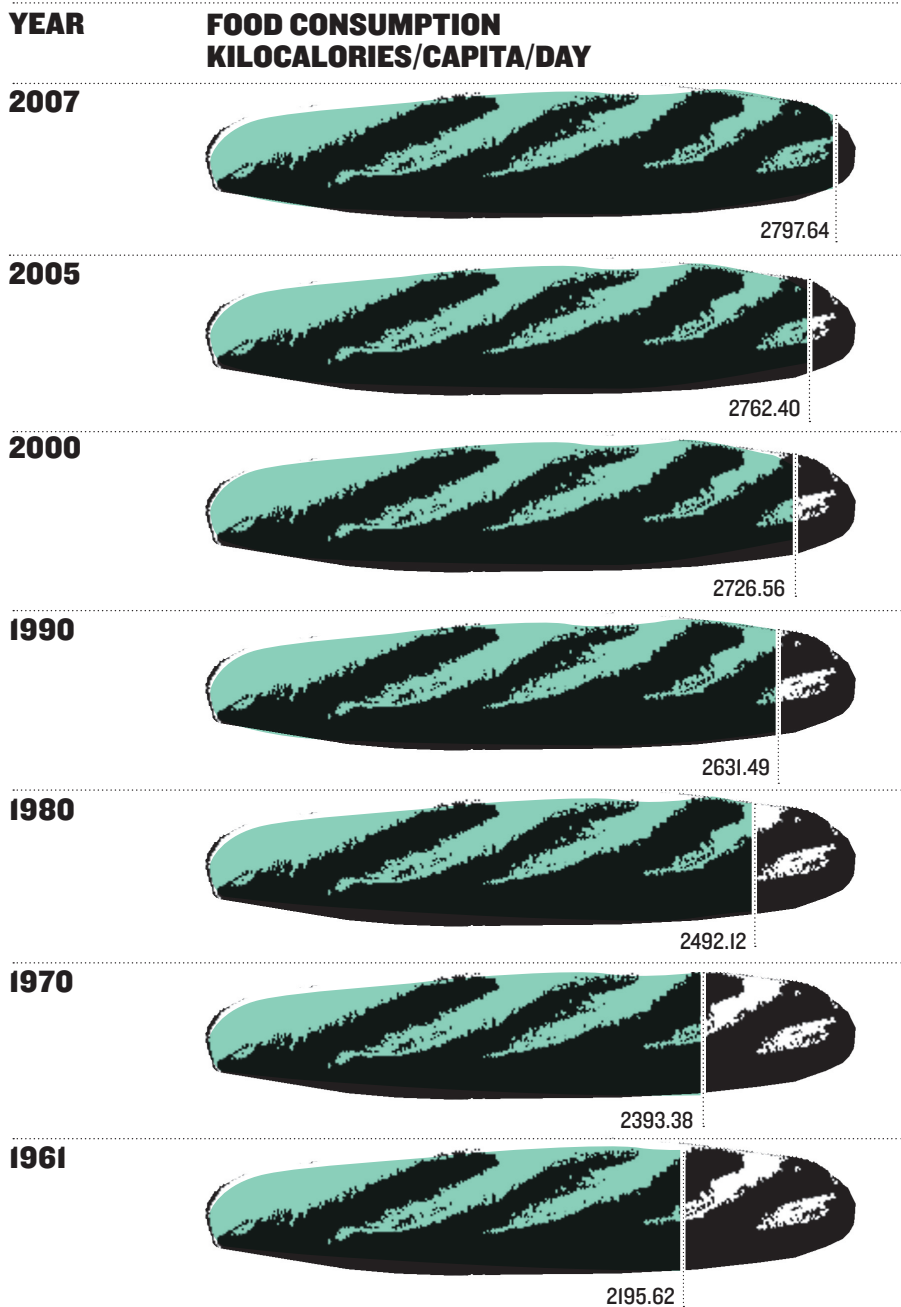


**We are better
fed than ever
before**

SOURCE:

FAO: FAOSTAT

<http://faostat.fao.org/site/609/default.aspx#ancor>



The infant mortality rate has dropped more than ever before

SOURCE:

UNICEF, 2007: Progress for Children: A World Fit for Children Statistical Review
http://www.unicef.org/progressforchildren/2007n6/index_41401.htm

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 2009:
World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision, accessed via UNData
<http://data.un.org/>

INFANT MORTALITY PER 1000 BIRTHS

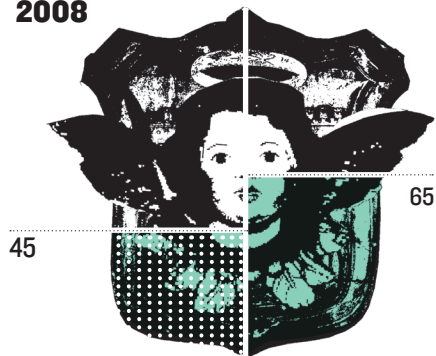
Younger than
1 year old

Younger than
5 year old

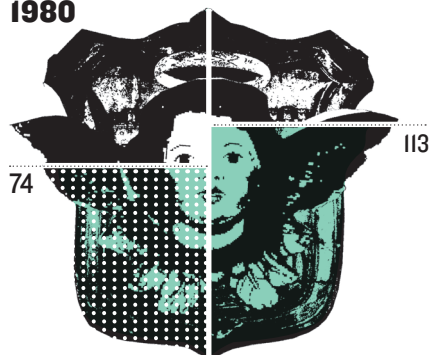
2000



2008



1980



1990



1960



1970

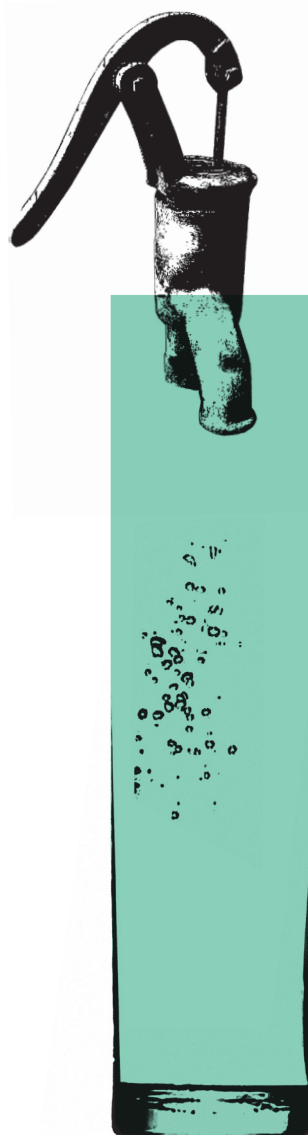


**We have more
access to
water than ever
before**

SOURCE:

WHO/UNICEF, 2010: Progress on Sanitation and Drinking-water, 2010 Update
http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241563956_eng_full_text.pdf

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO POTABLE WATER



1990 / 77%



2000 / 83 %



2008 / 87 %

**We have
more access
to energy
than ever
before**

SOURCE:

IEA, 2002: World Energy Outlook 2002
<http://www.iea.org/Textbase/nppdf/free/2000/weo2002.pdf>

IEA, 2009: Electricity Access database
http://www.worldenergyoutlook.org/database_electricity/electricity_access_database.htm

**PERCENTAGE
OF GLOBAL
ELECTRIFICATION**

1970
49%

1990
60%

2000
73%

2008
78%



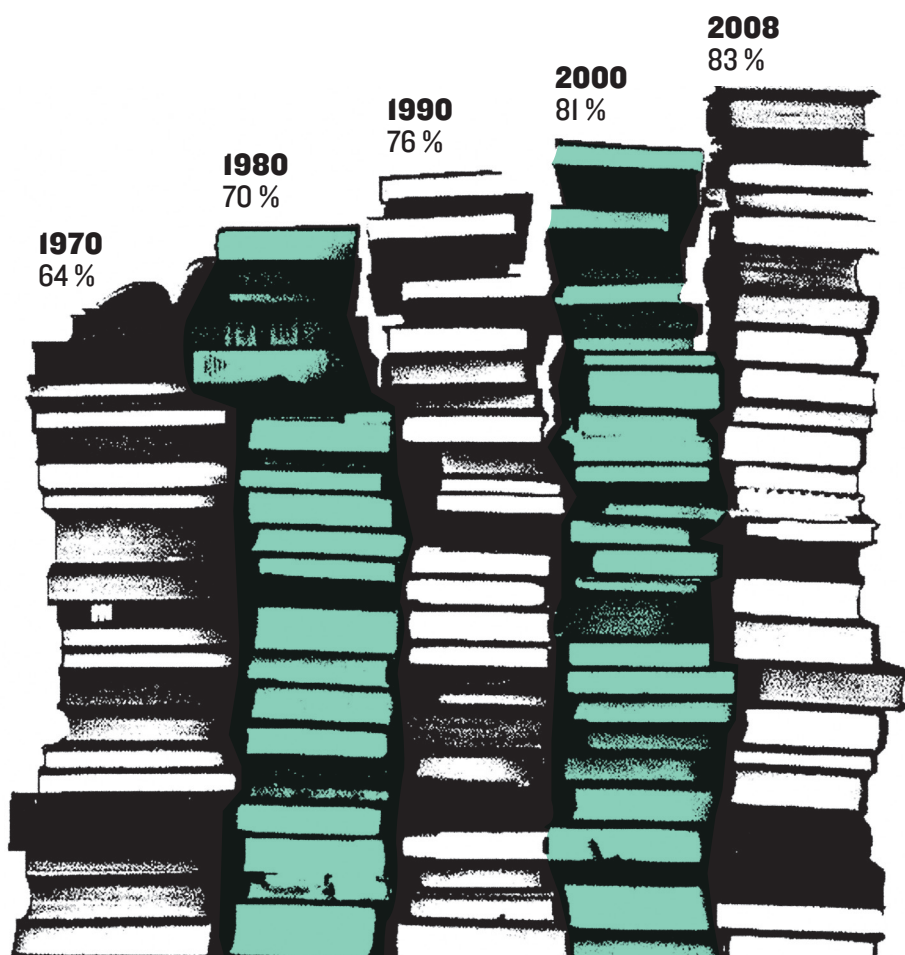
**We are
more literate
than ever
before**

SOURCE:

UNESCO Institutes for Statistics, 2010: Adult and youth literacy: Global trends in gender parity
http://www.uis.unesco.org/template/pdf/Literacy/Fact_Sheet_2010_Lit_EN.pdf

UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2002: Illiteracy Estimates and Projections
<http://www.uis.unesco.org/en/stats/statistics/literacy2000.htm>

ADULT LITERACY RATE

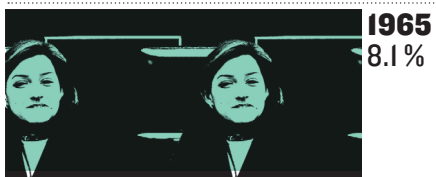
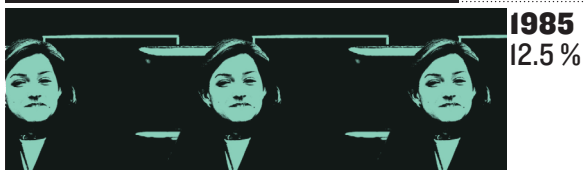


**Women have
more rights
than ever
before**

SOURCE:

IPU, 2010: Women in National Parliaments, Statistical Archive
<http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/world-arc.htm>

WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS



**There are
fewer people
living in poverty
than ever
before**

SOURCE:

World Bank, 2009: World Development Indicators

<http://ddp-ext.worldbank.org/ext/GMIS/gdmis.do?siteId=2&goalId=5&targetId=15&menuId=LNAV01GOALISUB1>

Last published data: 2005.

**PERCENTAGE
OF PEOPLE LIVING
ON LESS THAN
1.25 DOLLARS PER DAY**



2005
26 %



2000
35 %



1990
42 %



1981
52 %



**There is
more freedom
of press
than ever
before**

SOURCE:

Freedom House: Historical Trends in Media Freedom
<http://freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=359>

Freedom House, 2010: Freedom of the Press 2010
<http://freedomhouse.org/images/File/fop/2010/HistoricalGraphs.pdf>

COUNTRIES WITH PARTIAL OR ABSOLUTE FREEDOM OF PRESS



**We can
communicate
more than ever
before**

SOURCE:

ITU: ICT Eye Statistics Database

<http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/icteye/Indicators/Indicators.aspx>

United Nations, 2010: Millennium Development Goals Report 2010 Statistical Annex

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Data/2010%20Stat%20Annex.pdf>

UNDP, 2004: Human Development Report 2004

http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/hdr04_complete.pdf

**GLOBAL
PERCENTAGE
OF LAND LINES**

2009 / 18.7 %

2000 / 15.9 %

1990 / 9.8 %



**GLOBAL
PERCENTAGE
OF INTERNET
USERS**

2009 / 26.8 %

2000 / 6.5 %

1990 / 0.05 %



**GLOBAL
PERCENTAGE
OF CELL
PHONE USERS**

2009 / 68.2 %

2000 / 12.1 %

1990 / 0.2 %



**International
organizations
are more
representative
than ever
before**

SOURCE:

United Nations

<http://www.un.org/en/members/growth.shtml#2000>

**GOVERNMENTS OR STATES THAT
ARE REPRESENTED IN THE UNITED NATIONS**



**There are
more non-profit
organizations
than ever
before**

SOURCE:

UNDP, 2002: Human Development Report 2002
<http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2002/>

NUMBER OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

2000



1990



1984



1974



1839



**We generate
more knowledge
than ever
before**

SOURCE:

WIPO, 2009: World Intellectual Property Indicators 2009
<http://www.wipo.int/ipstats/en/statistics/patents/>

NUMBER OF REQUESTED PATENTS



1960
653,731



1980
1,626,822



2000
2,728,632



2008
3,514,832

**There are
more volunteers
than ever
before**

SOURCE:

World Volunteer Web

http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/fileadmin/docdb/unv/pdf/volunteer_assignments.pdf

UN Volunteer Programme, 2009: Annual Report 2008

http://www.unv.org/fileadmin/docdb/pdf/2009/ENG_web.pdf

INDIVIDUALS WORKING IN VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS AT THE UNITED NATIONS



1995
3,263



1990
2,637



1985
1,493

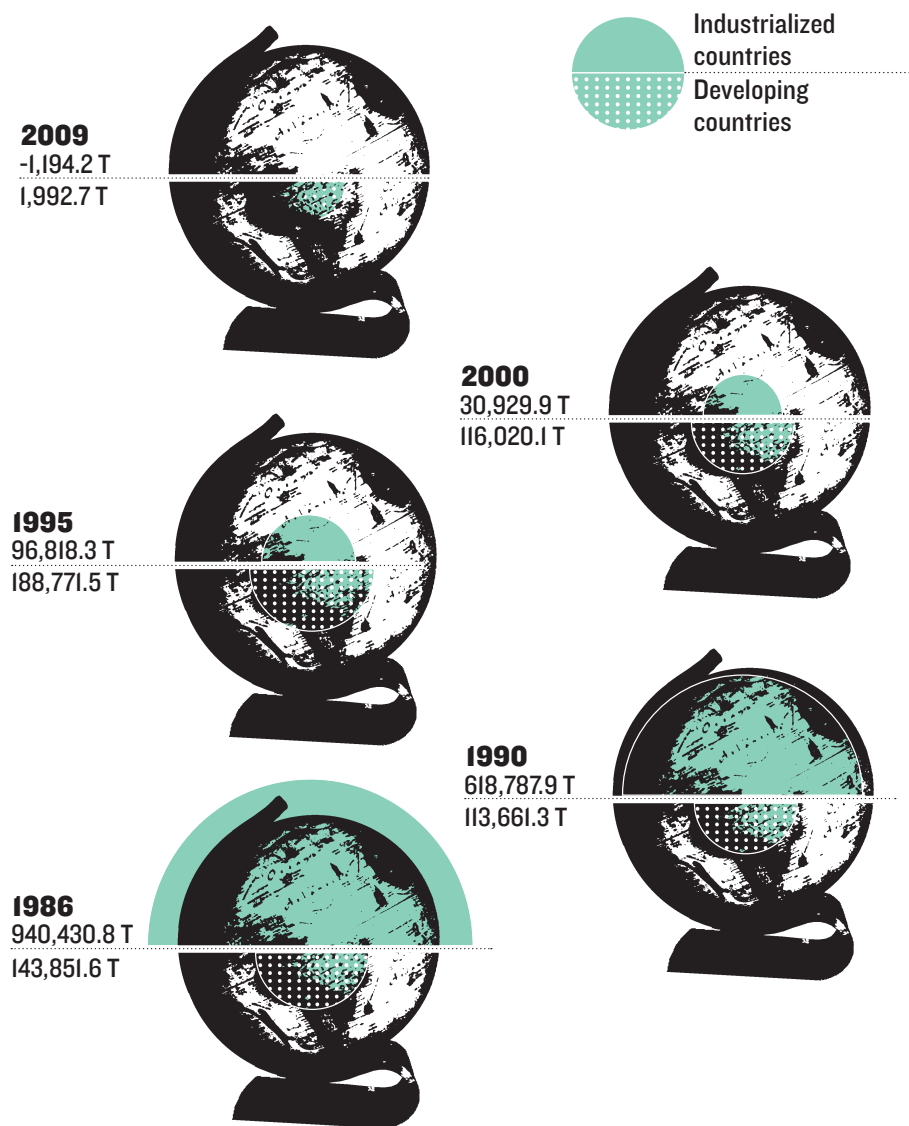


**We have more
control over
emissions
than ever
before**

SOURCE:

UNEP Ozone Secretariat, 2010: Data Access Centre
http://ozone.unep.org/Data_Reporting/Data_Access/

CONSUMPTION OF CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS (CFCS)



Negative numbers mean that exports and destruction exceed current production and imports.



II

WHAT IS NOT GOING WELL

BUT WE ARE NOT ANTS. There are many things to improve. Although we have seen progress in almost all aspects of our lives, we continue to suffer from unacceptable conditions in our relations with each other and with the environment, perpetuated by unsustainable lifestyles. First, not all human beings' basic fundamental rights are being protected: A notable proportion of the population continues to live in conditions of extreme poverty. Some diseases continue to spread even though we know how to stop them. And human rights are still not universal.

On one hand, we have greater access to basic rights and to resources for development. On the other hand, there is a greater concentration of wealth and power. Half of the world's material wealth is concentrated in the hands of a small number of human beings; the traditional media are owned by a few organizations; corruption continues to disrupt the transparent distribution of resources; and a large majority of women continues to live in conditions that are unequal to those of men.

This unnecessary and unjustifiable inequality exists among human beings and within our international organizations, which continue to depend on elite decision-making bodies that lack democratic representation. In addition, military spending is unnecessarily high. Economic interests perpetuate violence and conflicts and leave no room for dialogue or peace processes. Our approach to the environment and our planet's sustainability has created drastic situations. We continue to produce and consume in an unsustainable way. We contaminate the land, water, and atmosphere. We cause deforestation and desertification. We reduce biodiversity. In doing so, we threaten our own existence on this planet.

**But access
to basic services
continues to be
discriminatory**

SOURCE:

IEA, 2009: World Energy Outlook 2009 Edition
<http://www.iea.org/weo/2009.asp>

WHO/UNICEF, 2010: Progress on sanitation and drinking-water – 2010 Update
http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241563956_eng_full_text.pdf

**1.5 BILLION PEOPLE
DO NOT HAVE
ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY**

**884
MILLION
PEOPLE DO NOT
HAVE ACCESS TO
POTABLE WATER**



**2.6
BILLION PEOPLE
DO NOT HAVE
ACCESS TO BASIC
SANITATION**

But some diseases continue to spread

SOURCE:

UNAIDS/WHO, 2009: AIDS epidemic update
http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2009/JC1700_Epi_Update_2009_en.pdf

WHO, 2009: World Malaria Report 2009
http://www.who.int/malaria/world_malaria_report_2009/en/index.html

IN 2008 ALONE

**863,000
DEATHS
FROM MALARIA**

**33,400,000
HIV
CASES**



**But
human rights
are still not
respected**

SOURCE:

Amnesty International, 2009: Death sentences and executions in 2008
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ACT50/003/2009/en>

Los últimos datos publicados por Amnesty International corresponden al año 2009
(714 ejecuciones) pero no incluyen las miles de ejecuciones en China.

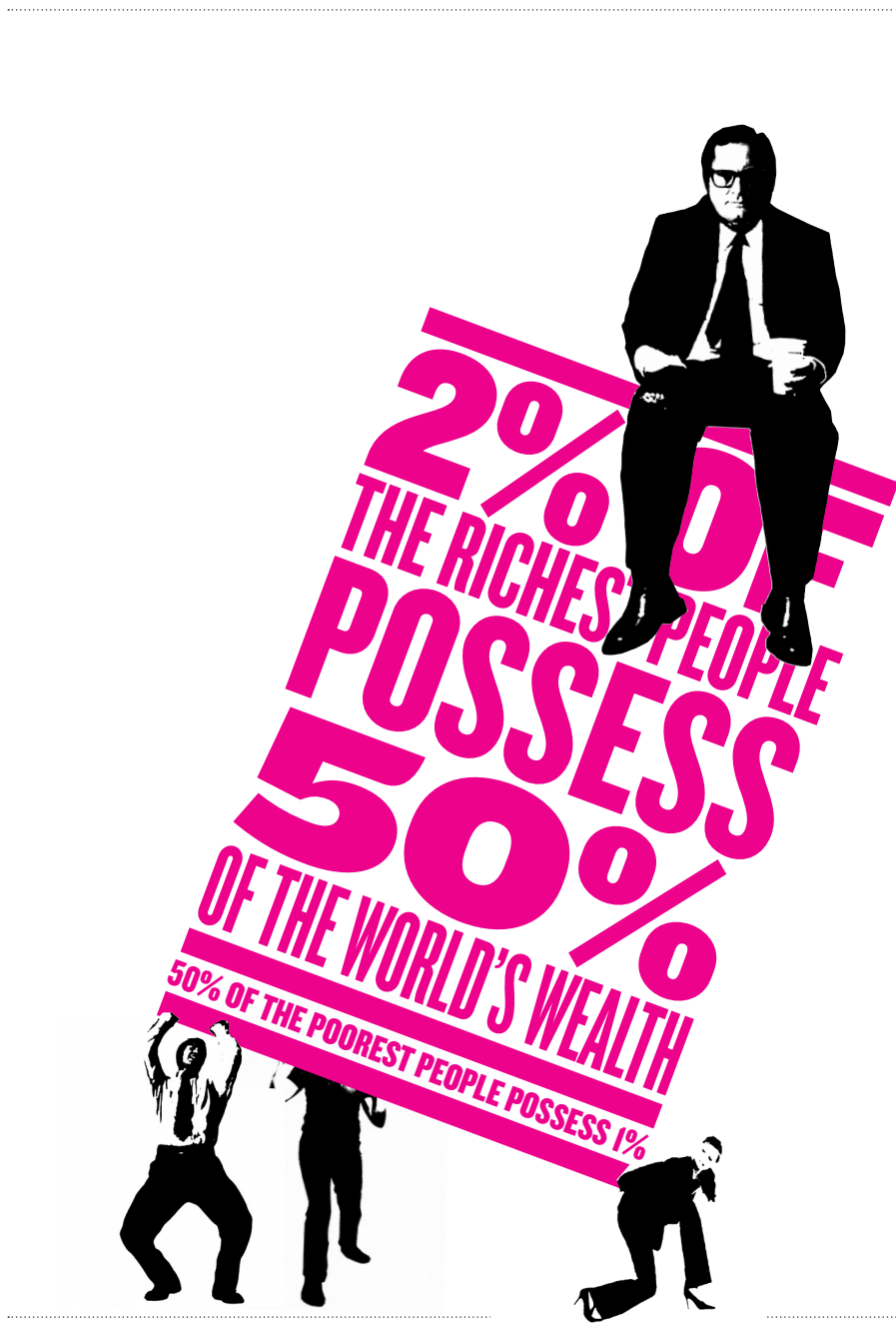


2390 PEOPLE
WERE EXECUTED UNDER
THE DEATH PENALTY IN 2008
93% OF THEM WERE CARRIED OUT IN IRAN, SAUDI ARABIA, CHINA, AND THE UNITED STATES

**But wealth
continues to be
unfairly
distributed**

SOURCE:

UNU-WIDER, 2006: The World Distribution of Household Wealth
http://www.wider.unu.edu/events/past-events/2006-events/en_GB/05-12-2006/



But there are too many regional inequalities

SOURCE:

World Bank, 2010: Overview: Understanding, measuring and overcoming poverty
<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTPOVERTY/EXTPA/0,,contentMDK:20153855~menuPK:435040~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:430367,00.html#measuring>

UNAIDS/WHO, 2007: AIDS epidemic update
http://data.unaids.org/pub/EPISlides/2007/2007_epiupdate_en.pdf

UNDP, 2007: Human Development Report 2007/2008
<http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2007-2008/chapters/>



SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

90% OF MALARIA DEATHS

76% OF AIDS DEATHS

28% IN EXTREME POVERTY

**But
our media
continue
to be
controlled by
a few**

SOURCE:

Columbia Journalism Review, 2010: Who owns what, www.cjr.org/resources/

Arsenault/Castells, 2008: The Structure and Dynamics of Global Multi-Media Business Networks
International Journal of Communication 2 (2008), 707-748
<http://ijoc.org/ojs/index.php/ijoc/article/view/298>



**But
corruption
continues
to be
widespread**

SOURCE:

Transparency International, 2009: Global Corruption Barometer 2009
http://www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/gcb/2009



**But
women
still do not have
equal
opportunities**

SOURCE:

Fortune, 2010: Global 500 2010
<http://money.cnn.com/magazines/fortune/global500/2010/womenceos/>



ONLY 12
OUT OF THE 500
LARGE COMPANIES
IN THE WORLD
ARE DIRECTED BY
WOMEN

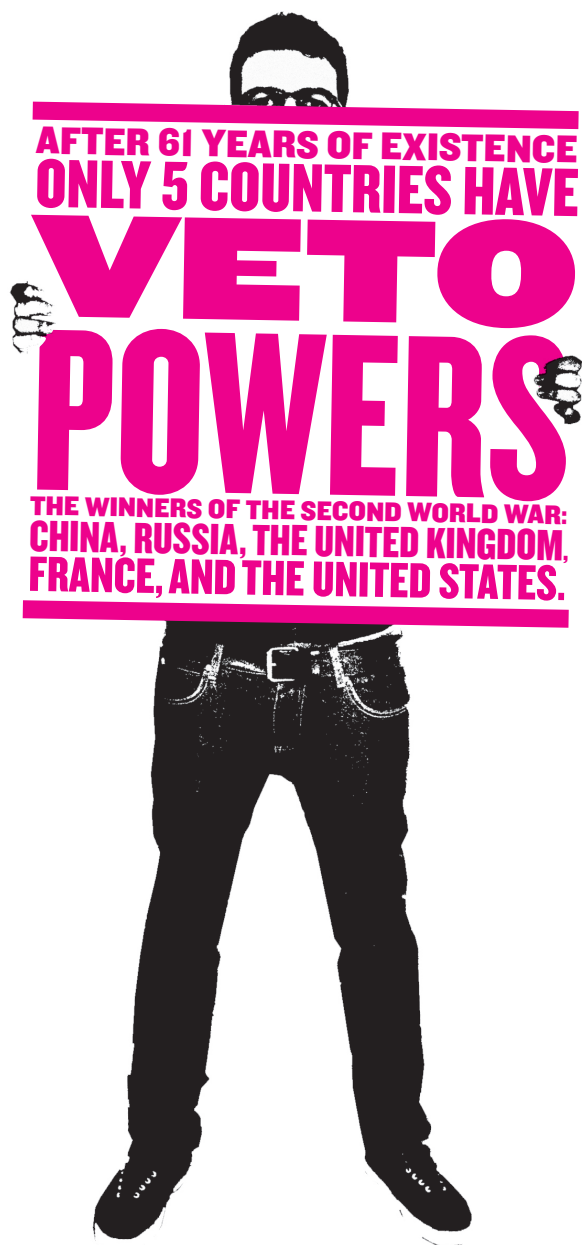
**But
our political
organizations
continue to be
exclusive**



**But the
United Nations
continues to be
controlled by a few**

SOURCE:

United Nations Security Council
<http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/>



**But
our financial
institutions
are still not
representative**

SOURCE:

UNDP, 2002: Human Development Report 2002
<http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2002/>



**But
military
spending
continues to be
excessive**

SOURCE:

OECD, 2010: Development aid rose in 2009 and most donors will meet 2010 aid targets
http://www.oecd.org/document/11/0,3343,en_21571361_44315115_44981579_1_1_1_1,00.html

SIPRI, 2010: SIPRI Yearbook 2010, <http://www.sipri.org/yearbook>

MILITARY SPENDING IN 2009:

1,531,000,000,000 \$
(225 \$ PER PERSON IN THE WORLD)



**But wars
and conflicts
continue
to be
unresolved**

SOURCE:

Uppsala Conflict Data Programme, 2010: Armed Conflicts in 2009
http://www.pcr.uu.se/digitalAssets/18/18070_armedconflicts_2009.pdf

**THERE ARE STILL
36 ARMED
CONFLICTS
BEING WAGED
IN 27 COUNTRIES**

**But
worldwide
consumption
is unbalanced**

SOURCE:

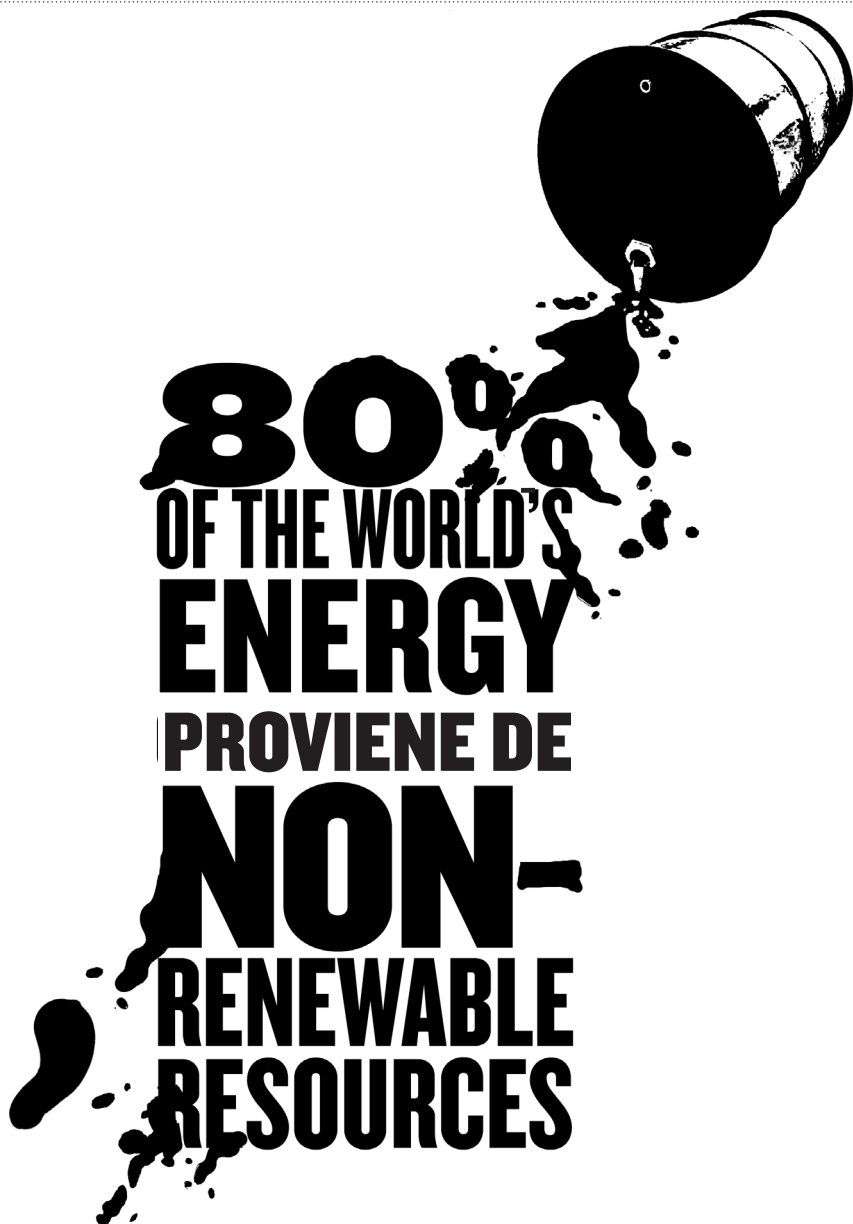
Worldwatch Institute, 2004: The State of Consumption Today
<http://www.worldwatch.org/node/810>



**But
sources
of energy
continue to be
unsustainable**

SOURCE:

Fuente: REN21, 2007: Global Status Report 2007
http://www.ren21.net/pdf/RE2007_Global_Status_Report.pdf



**But
the pressure
on the
environment
continues to
pose a threat**

SOURCE:

Global Footprint Network, 2010: World Footprint
http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/world_footprint/

**HUMANKIND NEEDS
1.4 PLANETS
TO ABSORB
ITS WASTE**



**IN 2030
IT WILL
NEED
2**



**But
deforestation
continues to be
alarming**

SOURCE:

FAO, 2010: Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010
<http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra/fra2010/en/>

356
KM²
OF
FORESTS
DISAPPEAR
EACH
DAY





III

WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT

WE ARE MORE THAN ANTS. As we have seen, humankind has made great progress. We are now better able to lead sustainable lives and to create more opportunities for all. A large proportion of the world's youth is more educated than ever before and has access to resources to find solutions for our lifestyles. Technological advances and information systems now allow us to communicate instantaneously and globally. Today, more than ever before, we are able to share, innovate, communicate, create and work together to find a different way of doing things that is both true to universal values and harmonious with nature.

We can consume in a responsible way, penalizing and rewarding corporations' social behavior; we can design products that use fewer materials and minimize our impact on the environment; we can create systems for saving and investing that promote values, corporate ethics, and sustainable development; we can create means of transportation that use less energy and make less noise and visual pollution; we can support the democratization of information and open access to means of communication; we can create in ways that allow more participation for social goals; we can promote direct and participatory democracy for improved social justice; and we can re-evaluate our free time in creative ways by sharing property and opening access to tourism that leaves lower carbon footprints.

Today we can do more than ever before. And, in fact, we are already doing it. Different movements among citizens are creating change in all of these aspects and making a world that is fairer and more accessible, sustainable, and unified. It's not a question of whether the world can be changed, but a question of whether you want to be a part of this changing world.

Consumption

The “desire to consume” is legitimate and as citizens we have the right to do so freely and unconditionally. All rights come with responsibilities, and as consumers we choose on a daily basis how to satisfy our needs and desires, leading to ethical, social, and environmental consequences.

We need a new model for how we “consume.” Consumption should be an activity that contributes to a better quality of life, reducing the use of natural resources, toxic materials and emissions from waste and contaminants throughout the long production-consumption cycle. We seek responsible and sustainable consumption that is based on fair commerce (exchange); that promotes balanced consumption; that is harmonious with the environment; that rewards and penalizes corporate practices based on ethical standards.

The citizen of today can foster responsible consumption by following the six R principles: Re-evaluate, Restructure, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Redistribute.

Everyday there are more consumers like us who are more willing to guide their daily lives by ethical principles. You can consume and at the same time promote a fairer world.

Victor never stopped to think about the power he held as a consumer until Paula asked him to go with her to buy a present for her niece. They searched for a gift in various stores in the city, looking at all types of products, including those made by cooperatives and associations of producers. It didn't take long for Victor to begin to notice that the idea of fair trade encompassed more than offering products in a cooperative manner. What was being proposed was a concept of consumption based on an alternative model of social capitalism that was fairer and more equitable.

The products' labels inform consumers that they have been produced in dignified working conditions, with workers receiving fair salaries, without any child exploitation, with equal conditions for men and women, while respecting the environment. Such products also help create a capitalist system that is more inclusive for business participants. One of the principles is to provide fair compensation to groups of producers from the south by paying them a dignified price for their goods. In order for this to work, middlemen or speculators who only seek profit and personal enrichment must not be employed. Instead, it is necessary to strengthen organizations that favor such groups of producers. This also requires the strengthening of distribution and sales networks that are connected to existing social movements and the promotion of policy of transparent pricing that informs consumers as to the product's distribution and price at each stage of the business cycle.

Shopping in these stores, Victor finally understood consumers' power. Through our daily decisions about what and how to consume, we can set the criteria for addressing the problems of globalization for less developed countries and the necessity for fair and equitable

commerce. We are also able to encourage attitudes of sensitivity and tolerance that can lead to equality and to place more value of redistribution policies that combat poverty. In this way, we can punish those companies that are irresponsible or not producing and distributing their goods based on the criteria of social responsibility, environmental respect, and social justice.

In the end, Paula bought a shirt and pants made of organic cotton and vegetable dyes produced by a micro-financed cooperative in Bangladesh. And Victor continued to think about the responsibility and consequences of each decision we make. Buying is a political act. Our decisions punish and reward corporations every day. By deciding what to consume and making responsible purchases, we have the power to create a system that is more compassionate and respectful of inequalities and a world that is fairer for all.

BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT AN ANT:

BUY FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Fair Trade International Group | www.fairtrade.net |
| Intermon Oxfam | www.intermonoxfam.org |
| Global Exchange Store | www.globalexchangestore.org |

CONSUME LOCALLY GROWN AND ORGANIC PRODUCTS

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Food Hub | http://food-hub.org |
| Directo del campo | www.directodelcampo.com |
| Thornton's Budgens | www.thorntonsbudgens.com |

EXCHANGE, SHARE, OR REPAIR INSTEAD OF BUYING

| | |
|--|--|
| Neighbor Goods | http://neighborgoods.net |
| Thed Up - Exchange Kids Clothing Online | www.thredup.com |
| New York Stuff Exchange | www.nyc.gov/html/stuffex |

REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Give Me Tap | www.givemetap.co.uk |
| Tap It Water | www.tapitwater.com |
| My Footprint | www.myfootprint.org |

CONTROL YOUR PRODUCERS AND SUPPLIERS

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Project Label | www.projectlabel.org |
| Transfair USA | www.transfairusa.org |
| Consumer International | www.consumersinternational.org |

Production

All citizens in one way or another participate in the production process of goods and services. Whether as manufacturers, suppliers, consumers, government officials or members of socially responsible organizations, we all have a responsibility in the process of production.

The production model must be changed. It should be more sustainable and take into account social and environmental consequences. We need production processes that do not exhaust natural resources and that take into consideration the impact on the triple bottom line. As citizens, we can actively participate by demanding that manufacturers adopt measures that guarantee sustainable production processes and that respect the environment, guaranteeing dignified labor conditions and respecting universal human rights.

It is important to contemplate the lifecycle of production, from design to the elimination of the resources used in its creation and consumption. Currently, there are various initiatives to reduce the materials used in manufacturing: using fewer materials, less transport weight, less energy for manufacturing, storage and use, or the reduction of toxic wastes. Products can be designed for more efficient re-use, for recycling after use, and to reduce materials and resources used in their manufacture.

**FAB LAB HOUSE
THE AUTO-
SUFFICIENT
HOUSE THAT
PRODUCES ALL
THE ENERGY
YOU NEED AND
SHARE THE
SURPLUS**

WWW.FABLABHOUSE.COM

They call me the dream house. They call me cave. Womb. The house of Hansel and Gretel. A cocoon. A wooded zeppelin. A space cow. A beetle. A living organism. They say that I'm shaped like a capsized boat, a rugby ball, a croissant, and a cinnamon submarine.

I make people dream. But I am no dream. I am the FabLab House, a solar house that produces enough energy for me and those who live with me. To give you an idea of what I can do: I generate 2.5 times more energy than a family of four needs.

I am made of wood, 100%. Like a tree. My wooden leaves produce energy and send it to my roots, where it is stored, shared, or returned to the house to produce the fruit of electricity.

I am a high-tech house, designed by an international group of investigators of the Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia and the Center for Bits and Atoms at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). I was designed to be self-sufficient and sustainable. With my passive indoor climatic system, I use the resources from my environment: sun, wind, and water. In this way, I am able to passively create a microclimate: my own shade in the summer and heat in the winter.

I capture energy through my leaves woven from flexible solar panels. They are the most efficient solar panels on the market right now. "Form follows energy," allowing me to generate electricity year-round, independent of geographic location or climate conditions. Any excess energy is sent to the electric grid. My interior is warm and welcoming. A space containing all the comforts: a kitchen with all types of appliances, an integrated bedroom and dining room, a small, elevated room for overnight guests, and a bathroom. My architects have installed a control panel that allows me to evaluate my behavior—my domestic metabolism—in real time. It allows me to measure my electric output and share

these data in order to improve the technological and architectural design.

I am a FabLab house. This means that I belong to a network of digital fabrication labs around the world. The idea behind “Fablabs” is push for the decentralization of production processes and to personalize the final results. Using the latest generation of digital fabrication machines, such as cutting and milling machines and digital printers, we are able to produce “almost” anything: glasses, shoes, skateboards, furniture, and even whole houses. Instead of buying what the market has to offer, we can design and produce what we really need and want. Yes, even self-sufficient houses.

In the FabLab, we share designs with others by creating an open-access knowledge base on the Internet for anyone who wants to become a producer.

I also have a dream. I dream that supported by participative methods and by the FabLab technology, you citizens will stop being passive consumers and assume the role of creative producers. I dream that production will no longer be in the hands of just a few people that decide what will be manufactured. Production could become something interactive, developed by citizens’ creative participation.

The group of organizations and companies, FabLab House, encourages the production of solar-powered houses as a package of services, including design, fabrication, installation, and maintenance for the house and its environment. The consortium offers these basic configurations: hut, refuge, studio, house, or villa.

BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT AN ANT:

USE SELF-GENERATING RESOURCES

| | |
|---|--|
| Smart Energy Glass | www.peerplus.nl |
| Voltaic Systems | www.voltaicsystems.com |
| Qurrent - The Community Energy Company | www.qurrent.com |

PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN THE PRODUCTION OF WHAT YOU CONSUME

| | |
|--|--|
| Threadless | www.threadless.com |
| Fab Lab Barcelona | http://fablabbcn.org |
| Makezine - DIY and Hardware Hacking | http://makezine.com |

SHARE LAND FOR GROWING FOOD

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Sharing Backyards | www.sharingbackyards.com |
| Landshare | www.landshare.net |
| Urban Farming | www.urbanfarming.org |

RE-USE NATURAL RESOURCES AND WASTE

| | |
|---|---|
| Zeri Foundation | www.zeri.org/mush.pdf |
| The ReBuilding Center | http://rebuildingcenter.org |
| Find Solar - Online Directory For Solar Pros | www.findsolar.com |

PROTECT BIODIVERSITY

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Network of Organic Producers | www.navdanya.org |
| Seed Savers Exchange | http://seedsavers.org |
| No Patents on Seeds | www.no-patents-on-seeds.org |

Save and Invest

Sustainable investments are made by considering social and environmental factors during the investment decision-making process. By doing this, investors reward those companies that follow a policy of responsibility towards society, allowing them to reach their financial objectives and contribute to a more sustainable economy.

Responsible savings and investment practices that ensure that the money saved, such as retirement and insurance funds, is managed ethically, without promoting companies that are harmful to society and the environment.

There are now more sustainable investment funds, organizations that favor socially responsible investments, and banks that promote responsible savings than ever before. Insurance and retirement fund companies and banks are social agents that affect the welfare of society based on their appraisal criteria. In this sense, savings and investments have become the effective mechanism to promote sustainable development, values, and ethical entrepreneurship. You can invest and save in a way that contributes to your society's wellbeing.

**TRIODOS
BANK**
**THE VALUE OF
MONEY IS MEASU-
RED BY UTILITY
AND ETHICS**

WWW.TRIODOS.COM

My name is Petz Scholtus. I am an eco-designer. I am also one of the first clients of the Triodos Bank office in Barcelona. In 2005, I began to look for a workspace where I could launch my project of designing sustainable housing. As an eco-designer, I try to respect sustainability principles and the eco-design in everything I do. The five Rs: Reuse, Reduce, Recycle, Recover, and Respect.

Once I found the apartment that would be converted into the “R3project”—the sustainable renovation of an apartment in the Gothic neighborhood of Barcelona—I began searching for a bank to provide a mortgage. More than just a bank, I wanted to find a business partner who would understand and share in the project. I looked for someone who was ethically principled, socially conscientious, and environmental. I did not want to work with a partner who invested money in arms, wars, unsustainable industries, or other ethically questionable or socially irresponsible goals.

I had heard of Triodos Bank. They said that it was an ethical bank specialized in exclusively financing projects, companies, and institutions that work in the cultural, social, and environmental sectors. The first point of its mission statement caught my attention: “Our mission is to contribute to a society that promotes quality of life and focuses on human dignity.” I decided to dig deeper to find out more about this bank.

The bank’s history begins in 1968, when an economist, a professor of tax law, a management consultant, and a banker form a study group to see how money can be managed in a conscientious manner. Three years later and under the name of “Triodos Foundation,” they provided the first loans to social businesses and initiatives that could not get financing through the conventional

financial system. At first, the project functioned as a guarantee fund until 1980 when it became established as a bank with its headquarters in the Netherlands. For the bank's evolution, 1986 turned out to be a watershed year. After the tragic accident at the Chernobyl nuclear plant, Triodos Ventures, Triodos' risk capital institution, began to invest in the first wind energy projects. The ethical bank continues to grow. In 1993, the bank opened an office in Belgium. In 1995, it opened a branch in London and began operations in Great Britain.

Triodos' vision for its clients is based on the conviction that people have the freedom to develop on their own. We all share the same rights and we are responsible for the consequences of our financial decisions and how they affect society and the planet. To guarantee that the investments and savings are used for ethical projects, Triodos has established positive financing criteria to regulate the concession of loans.

Now I know that they are not using my money to support industries that are harmful to society and the environment. I can also feel confident that my savings will contribute to a fairer and more sustainable world.

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| BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT AN ANT: | | |
| BECOME A CLIENT OF AN ETHICAL BANK | Brac Bank | www.bracbank.com |
| | Alternative Bank Schweiz | www.abs.ch |
| | New Resource Bank | www.newresourcebank.com |
| INVEST IN PEOPLE AND THEIR PROJECTS | KIVA | www.kiva.org |
| | Next Billion - Development Through Enterprise | www.nextbillion.net |
| | AMK Cambodia | www.amkcambodia.com |
| BE A SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTOR (INVESTMENT FUNDS) | Good Capital | www.goodcap.net |
| | Ashoka - Innovators For the Public | www.ashoka.org |
| | Acumen Fund | www.acumenfund.org |
| PRACTICA EL SISTEMA BANCARIO ENTRE CIUDADANOS (PEER-TO-PEER) | Zopa | http://uk.zopa.com |
| | Prosper | www.prosper.com |
| | Vittana P2P Students | www.vittana.org |
| EDUCAR A LOS MÁS PEQUEÑOS EN CÓMO EMPLEAR EL DINERO | Ekomini | http://ekomini.com |
| | Money instructor | www.moneyinstructor.com/kids |
| | The Mint | www.themint.org |

Transportation and Moving Around

Our current transportation systems are responsible for 25% of world energy consumption and inflict serious social costs, such as atmospheric pollution, city stagnation, and safety risks due to the multiple accidents that they cause. Building more highways, expanding parking areas, lowering gasoline prices, and subsidizing the automobile industry are measures that simply avoid the problem and do nothing to promote sustainable transport.

The world's transportation mentality must be radically changed. There is great potential for improving our transport systems, both in the transport of merchandise and of passengers, that would have less impact on the environment, consume less energy, pollute less, and make citizens' safety a priority.

Public urban transport offers a viable solution. It is more attractive and less environmentally harmful (with lower energy consumption and less noise and visual pollution). Sustainable, alternative modes of transportation can be designed.

They call me number I3,I35 and I travel around Barcelona. I am one of the 6000 bicycles of the city's public rental system called "Bicing." From what they tell us, only in Paris are there more publicly rented bicycles in circulation on a daily basis.

I really love my job. I don't produce CO2 emissions, make noise, or get into traffic jams. I just take people from place to place. On lucky days, I get to go to the beach. It's my favorite part of Barcelona. I can spend hours locked in the Barceloneta or in the Paseo Marítimo observing people: Some people go there to exercise; others, to walk their dogs; couples come to see the sunset; and tourists party in the refreshment stands. Being at the beach makes me feel alive.

On October 18, 2008, a Saturday, at 5:30 in the morning, Joan from the maintenance team leaves me in one of Bicing's most popular stands: "Plaza Universidad." It will be my busiest day since I joined Bicing. However, at this moment, there is no one. The city is sleeping. At 6:00, Guillermo, the waiter at the Bar Estudiantil, takes me out. He has just finished his shift and is going home. He leaves me in Plaza Espanya, where I rest for the following two hours. It's difficult for this city to wake up early on the weekends. The sun comes out, and everything indicates that this will be a fantastic autumn day. At 8:00, Laia arrives. She works at the store in Caixa Forum at Monjuïc. She takes the metro to Plaza Espanya, and from there she usually rides a bike for the last leg of her trip to work. At her work, I sit and rest for a while. Somebody take me, please!

At around 10:00, Barcelona wakes up and I begin to go for kilometers; I don't stop until 1:00 in the afternoon, when Teresa drops me off in the Rambla near the Boqueria where she does her end-of-the-week shopping. I have

already logged 20 trips and about 50 kilometers. This is already more than I do on a normal day.

Taking into account all of the bikes of the cities, we clock an average of 30,000 to 35,000 daily trips. If we calculate that the average distance of each person's travel is about 2.5 kilometers, this means that we travel about 75,000 to 87,000 kilometers on a 130-kilometer bicycle trail. If we calculate that a medium-sized car produce 13 kilograms of CO₂ per kilometer, these kilometers traveled by bike instead of car, save about 9 to 11 tons of CO₂ emissions each day. Eleven tons of CO₂ not emitted! This means that in a year, Bicing prevents 3,500 tons of CO₂ emissions. Not bad: less CO₂, less noise pollution, fewer traffic jams; and more moderate physical exercise, as the doctors advise.

It is 6:00 in the evening, and I have taken 35 trips. I'm at the crossing of Numancia and Avenue Sarria where Tony has left me on his way to the Filmoteca to see a retrospective on Bergman. I L-O-V-E Bergman films, but, at the Filmó, bikes, including the folding kind, are not allowed to enter. By 8:00, I have already been on 40 trips. I am now in the neighborhood of Gracia, and I can't take any more. My wheels are quite deflated. My brakes are squealing. But there is no truce. Here comes a couple that recently fell in love, and the boy rides with the girl seated on the handlebars. They go to Plaza Catalunya. Mercy!

It is 10:00 at night, I have been taken 43 times from the bike rack, and two hours remain before closing time. I am locked up in Trafalgar Square. Leo walks over and takes me out. We cross Ciudadela Park and we ride along the lake wall of the zoo. I start to smell the sea. We speed up and take the first street heading to the beach. Leo climbs down and locks me up at 397 Avenue Litoral. It is still hot outside. The moon has appeared and it casts a warm yellow color onto the beach. I'm exhausted, but happy. I'll spend the night on the beach. A day of luxury.

In 2009, Barcelona had 440 stands with more than 6000 bicycles in use and around 182,000 members. The “Bicing Rush Hour” is at 7 in the evening. Each day a single bicycle makes between 35,000 to 45,000 trips.

BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT AN ANT:

SHARE A CAR

| | |
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| Avancar, Carsharing | www.avancar.es |
| Relay Rides, Person2Person Carsharing | www.relayrides.com |
| GoLoco | www.goloco.org |

USE A BICYCLE AND DEMAND MORE BIKE TRAILS

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| Los Angeles Bike Coalition | http://la-bike.org/ |
| Bike Sharing Blog | http://bike-sharing.blogspot.com |
| Scratch Bike | www.scratchbikes.co.uk |

ASK BUSINESSES TO SUPPORT PUBLIC TRANSPORT

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Nuride | www.nuride.com |
| CamShare | www.camshare.co.uk |
| Travel For Work | www.tfw.org.uk |

USE SUSTAINABLE COURIER SERVICES

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| Green Planet Logistics | www.greenplanetlogistics.com |
| ShiPLY | www.shiPLY.com |
| Citizen Shipper | www.citizenshipper.com |

DEMAND URBAN POLICIES THAT REDUCE CAR TRAFFIC

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| Slow Movement: Cities, Traffic and Transport | www.cittaslow.net |
| Reclaim the City | http://rts.gn.apc.org |
| Carbusters-Car-free Movement | http://carbusters.org |

Communication and Information

Access to information, freedom of expression, and the right to knowledge are human necessities. The ability to communicate and be well informed are fundamental rights that contribute to our development and freedom. The Information technologies, especially the Internet, have democratized access to information and the ability to communicate freely.

Internet access should become a right; it is an essential tool so society can communicate, connect, be informed, and develop, socially and economically, as a “knowledge society.” It is necessary to increase the quality of infrastructures and lower the cost of communication services, maintaining the neutrality of the Web.

Today’s citizen can be active and independent with an accessible platform for expressing himself and interacting with the whole world from any place. Information has ceased to be a “good” with restricted access. Economic and political interests can no longer manipulate it. In this new era of access, there are more equal opportunities because of greater and equal access to information. The rise of free and interactive encyclopedias and Internet search engines has shaken up the communications industry. You can participate in the democratization of information and help decentralize the communications industry.

**GLOBAL VOICES
THE WORLD IS
SPEAKING TO
YOU. ARE YOU
LISTENING?**

[HTTP://GLOBALVOICESONLINE.ORG](http://globalvoicesonline.org)

Global Voices is an international community of bloggers that gather, translate, and distribute what other bloggers and average citizens publish around the world. It is a non-profit organization and it offers access to its contents at no cost. The project is maintained through volunteer collaborators and donations.

Global Voices' objective is to promote a diversity of opinions and freedom of expression by giving a voice and visibility to real people and their stories, which are not covered by the conventional media. Global Voices makes it possible for us to access and understand stories, opinions, and news produced by the world's citizens. Without their publication on Global Voices we would not have been able to understand them in their original language.

Rezwan lives in Jakarta, Indonesia. He is one of 250 volunteer editors who write for Global Voices. During his time with the organization, he has translated to English and published more than 1,630 stories written by other authors in their respective languages. Rezwan's native language is Bengali, a language spoken by more than 230 million people in Bangladesh and India. Rezwan translates articles into English and uploads them onto Global Voices' website so that others can understand and follow the news and opinions written in Bengali by local bloggers. He also selects articles published in English on Global Voices and translates them into Bengali.

In August 2009, he translated "Blogging with HIV: Love is still possible," an article that summarizes the difficult but inspiring experience of 7 HIV-positive bloggers from 7 different countries: China, Kenya, the United States, the Republic of Congo, the Philippines, South Africa, and Great Britain.

Rezwan also referred to other articles that had previously been translated by other contributors, such as

Li Xiang's story. Li Xiang is a Chinese citizen and a blogger who was infected with HIV through a blood transfusion. Her testimonial was originally published in Mandarin on her personal blog. Bob Chen translated it into English and made it accessible on Global Voices. Bob Chen is a student and has been a volunteer collaborator of Global Voices since September 2007.

"Blogging with HIV: Love is still possible" has been translated into 7 languages: Portuguese, Malay, French, Chinese, Spanish, Bengali, and Italian. In 5 years, Global Voices has been able to convert these anonymous citizens' posts of supposedly little media value into important first-person testimonials that are accessible, thanks to a network of translators and editors, to the whole world.

Since its launch in 2005 by Rebecca MacKinnon and Ethan Zuckerman, Global Voices has increased its following to 300,000 readers per month. The website has approximately 250 volunteer editors and the most-translated article is available in 25 different languages.

BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT AN ANT:

FIGHT FOR A FREE PRESS

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| Freepress | www.freepress.net |
| Reporters Without Borders | http://en.rsfs.org |
| Wikileaks | http://wikileaks.org |

EXPAND YOUR SOURCES OF INDEPENDENT INFORMATION

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Truth Out | www.truth-out.org |
| Adbusters | www.adbusters.org |
| Pro Publica | www.propublica.org |

BECOME A CITIZEN JOURNALIST

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| Demotix - News by You | www.demotix.com |
| Witness. See it. Film it. Change it. | www.witness.org |
| Open File | http://openfile.ca |

DEMAND INTERNET NEUTRALITY

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|---|---|
| Electronic Frontier Foundation | www.eff.org |
| Digital Democracy | http://digital-democracy.org |
| Save The Internet | www.savetheinternet.com |

CONNECT TO THE WORLD

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| The World Café | www.theworldcafe.com |
| 6 Billion Others | www.6billionothers.org |
| Crowd Voice | http://crowdvoice.org |

Create and Innovate

Creation, invention, innovation, and research are inexhaustible sources of solutions to humanity's principal challenges. We are all creators in one way or another and each day we directly or indirectly participate in the creative process. In light of our current reality and the availability of new technologies, the diversity of information sources, and different regions' intercultural connectivity, the ability to add value to society is becoming increasingly based on how we use available resources in creative and innovative ways.

So we need to redefine innovation practices, research processes, and the agreements that regulate the access to knowledge, and, above all, to the most basic and relevant innovations and techniques that allow the sharing of scientific advances and technologies in a fairer way.

Humanity has never had so many technological, financial, and human resources to promote creative processes that provide solutions to the world. We must find new ways for our resources to produce social value. Societies can share challenges and knowledge. We can create and innovate more than ever before and find solutions to the world's problems.

**SCIENCE COMMONS
HOW TO DESIGN
OPEN LICENSES
THAT ALLOW
SHARING OF
KNOWLEDGE IN
ORDER TO FIND
A CURE**

**WWW.HEALTHCOMMONS.NET
WWW.SCIENCECOMMONS.ORG**

Dispersion is the main problem facing many researchers, scientists, and doctors: A large part of relevant scientific data is fragmented, warehoused in multiple “silos”, and inaccessible due to structural and technological limitations. Legal protection, such as licenses and patents, also pose a problem because they impede professionals from sharing data and freely making discoveries.

Even large laboratories and pharmaceutical companies have recognized that the current system cannot satisfy their need to access knowledge for basic scientific research. If the conditions were changed so that information could flow more freely among researchers and scientists, it would significantly increase the possibilities of great discoveries and innovations, such as the eradication of malaria, tuberculosis, and the AIDS virus.

The Science Commons addresses these issues. It is a non-profit organization supported by the Creative Commons, and its main objective is to create structural, technological, and legal changes that make it easier to connect to the “data silos and isolated knowledge” through the Internet. This would facilitate scientists’ work and accelerate important research advances to benefit society.

Alluding to the current debate over patents and other intellectual property rights, Michael Carroll—a Board Member of the Science Commons—stated: “The truth is that scientists are authentic re-mixers. They work with information from multiple sources. They analyze it, and then ask themselves how everything fits together. In the Science Commons, we want to upload data to a common platform on the Internet so others can give the data a new use, carry out experiments with it, and obtain new knowledge, while, at the same

time, guarantying some minimum control to those who share these data.”

One of Science Commons’ first successes in its five years of existence has been the publication, with open-access online, of a series of stem cells. Thanks to intermediary work of a laboratory network—the so-called biobanks—and the scientific community, now any researcher can request stem cells online under open licenses (like the Creative Commons licenses that are used in the realm of artistic creation) and use the cells for their research.

A significant problem in the medical field is that a large amount of funding is dedicated to finding cures for the health problems suffered by the developed world (e.g., cancer, childhood obesity, erectile dysfunction, baldness) simply because this is more profitable. As for tropical diseases, such as river blindness, which affects more than 18 million people around the world, no effective medication exists. Restrictive patents are part of the problem since they add costs for basic research that the majority of independent scientists and laboratories cannot pay for. Another side of this problem is the lack of a system based on standards that allows the sharing of data, experiment results, worldwide trials; this impedes the people who are searching for solutions to the same problems from supporting each other through the already existing network of knowledge or from collaborating.

To confront this challenge, the Science Commons is promoting the Health Commons, which aims to create a type of virtual scientific information marketplace that simplifies the process of medical research. It consists of a decentralized database that is accessible to the whole scientific community, whose data can be used under open licenses (with only some rights reserved). In this way, it helps to accelerate scientific discoveries of treatments for diseases that threaten populations in developing countries.

BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT AN ANT:

USE OPEN CODE TO CREATE

| | |
|---|--|
| LINUX - Open Source Operation System | www.linux.org |
| EyeOS - Open Source Desktop | http://eyeos.org |
| MIRO - Open Source Video Player | www.getmiro.com |

USE OPEN LICENSES (COPYLEFT)

| | |
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| Creative Commons | http://creativecommons.org |
| MIT Open Courseware | http://ocw.mit.edu |
| Free Geek | www.freegeek.org |

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO INNOVATE

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|--|---|
| Open IDEO | http://openideo.com |
| Code For America | http://codeforamerica.org |
| Knowledge Ecology International | http://www.keionline.org |

INNOVATE TO HELP DEVELOPING SOCIETIES

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|---|--|
| Centre for Social Innovation | http://socialinnovation.ca |
| Intellectual Ventures | www.intellectualventures.com |
| Kopernik - Breakthrough Technology For People Who Need Them Most | www.thekopernik.org |

JUMPSTART YOUR INNOVATIVE PROJECTS AND CREATIVE IDEAS

| | |
|--|--|
| Kick Starter - Fund and Follow Creativity | www.kickstarter.com |
| The Point - Easy and Effective Group Action | www.thepoint.com |
| Pledge Bank, Banco de Compromiso | www.pledgebank.com |

Mobilize and Unite

We live in representative democracies, in which as free citizens we elect who will represent us, assigning them powers and inherent rights to govern and legislate. However, citizens themselves are now able to exercise those powers and rights as human beings to demand accountability when the political system is unable to respond to citizens' needs. This exercise of direct democracy allows citizens to mobilize when facing injustices and unite for social causes.

Today thanks to the Internet, social networks, and new communication systems, it is possible to mobilize and express support directly for a cause in a global and organized manner. In this way, we can give opinions, control government officials' performance and political representatives' activities, and put pressure on governments, organizations, and companies.

The decentralized, virtual, social movements are able to demand universal justice and human rights where they are violated. You can also support direct and participatory democracy for greater social justice.

The afternoon of October 29, 2009 was similar to most afternoons for Paul Sanders, a citizen of Cambridge, when he picked up his granddaughter from daycare. He liked to walk to his daughter Fiona's house, where he would leave his 3-year-old granddaughter, Sarah. Paul would take the stroller along because Sarah usually got tired from walking. However, maneuvering a stroller along the Cambridge sidewalks is no easy task, due to the increasing number of cracks and small holes. And the curbs have become dangerous obstacles, especially for the elderly, wheelchair-bound people, parents pushing strollers, and the blind.

Paul would usually tolerate the cracks silently. Until one day, he noticed that the sidewalk curb at Catharine Street and Mill Road was missing whole stones. Soon the corner became a dangerous trap for anyone caught unaware.

That afternoon, Paul left the house with his digital camera. On the way from the daycare to his daughter's house, he stopped Sarah's stroller and took several pictures of the damaged curb. When he returned to his house, he imported the photos to his computer and then connected to FixMyStreet.org, a website where British citizens can complain of any problem related to the infrastructure of their streets, neighborhoods, or cities.

Paul files a complaint, describes the problem with the broken curb, uploads one of the photos, marks the exact spot on a map, and demands that the responsible government officials repair the street as soon as possible. All FixMyStreet users are able to view the incident report as soon as it is classified and saved because it is then automatically published. FixMyStreet also sends a message to the respective Cambridge governmental department apprising them of the problem.

A few days pass. The curb has not been repaired. Paul decides to return to his account on FixMyStreet.org and update his complaint: "Everything remains the same. Come repair it." He decides to insist until the sidewalk is repaired. Three months later, Paul is pushing Sarah's stroller down the sidewalk and sees that a group of repairmen have blocked off the corner of Catharine Street and Mill Road. They finally repaired the curb! Two days later, Paul enters FixMyStreet.org and reports that the problem has been addressed: "This is fixed!"

Since its creation in 2007, more than 40,000 users, such as Paul, have used FixMyStreet.org as a tool to report and pressure local city officials to take action and repair the neighborhood's infrastructure. Up to the end of 2009, 75,000 problems had been reported, and 25,000 had been addressed. Just in the month of December 2009, the website helped to address more than 1,070 reported problems.

BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT AN ANT:

CONNECT WITH YOUR NEIGHBOR- HOOD AND GLOBAL COMMUNITY

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|---|--|
| The Good Gym | www.thegoodgym.org |
| World Community Grid | www.worldcommunitygrid.org |
| See Click Fix - Power To The Community | www.seeclickfix.com |

PUT PRESSURE AND MOBILIZE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Avaaz, El Mundo en Acción | www.avaaz.org |
| Change.org | www.change.org |
| Human Rights Watch | www.hrw.org |

DEMAND MORE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION

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|---|---|
| Gap Minder - For A Fact Bases World View | www.gapminder.org |
| Ushahidi | www.ushahidi.com |
| Technology For Transparency Network | http://transparency.globalvoicesonline.org |

ACTIVELY PROMOTE DEMOCRACY

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| They Work For You | www.theyworkforyou.com |
| Write To Them | www.writetothem.com |
| Open Democracy | www.opendemocracy.net |

GET INFORMED BEFORE DONATING

| | |
|---|--|
| Fundación Lealdad | www.fundacionlealtad.org |
| Guía de la Transparencia de ONGs | www.guiatransparenciaong.org |
| Idealist | www.idealist.org |

Re-evaluate your free time

There are many ways to spend your free time and there are more options to enjoy our leisure time than ever before. The leisure and entertainment fields are growing enormously: culture, travel, sports, relaxation, videogames, gastronomy, do-it-yourself and photography courses. These are all valuable ways to have a good time and lead a balanced, full, and varied life.

Undoubtedly, traveling and seeing new places are the most popular activities. Tourism is undergoing unstoppable and positive changes. We are seeing the rise of new concepts of tourism, such as eco tourism, responsible tourism, and sustainable tourism. We can travel while respecting the natural environment and maintaining the cultural integrity, ecological cycles, and biological diversity of our destination.

Another option is to dedicate part of your free time at one of many volunteer activities. There are time banks, which allow you to exchange your free time with others. For example, I'll take care of your child and you'll cut my grass; or you teach me how to meditate and I'll teach you English. And if you want to give away your time, there are national and international programs devoted to volunteering; these programs also provide enormously enriching personal experiences.

As you will see, there is a leisure market that functions perfectly without money. Instead of buying a service, each of you exchanges a tangible resource. Let's see how.

**VACATIONS P2P
EXCHANGE YOUR
LIFE, HOUSE, CAR,
AND DOGS**

**WWW.INTERVAC.COM WWW.HOMEEXCHANGE.COM
WWW.ISTHOMEEEXCHANGE.COM**

Can you imagine leaving the keys to your house and car to a total stranger and his family, trusting that they will take care of your cats and water your plants while you are on vacation? If you have never exchanged houses with another person, just thinking about it might make your hair stand on end.

However, there are more people exchanging homes with strangers than ever before. They exchange houses, cars, bicycles, pets, and even their adolescent children (through agreements to host them during vacations). This practice of exchange is called “house exchange.” This is a global market that operates without money: a market between individuals based on trust and mutual respect and a willingness to share what you have with others, even with a stranger.

The only valuable being exchanged is your house and its use. The principles of this type of agreement are simple: I give you the right to use my house—with all it might include, such as a car, a second house, etc.—and you give me the right to use yours. Many have described this vacation that is becoming more popular as “peer-to-peer” sharing (sharing with people like me). Hollywood has also dealt with the issue in the romantic comedy “The Holiday.”

My friend Eva and her partner, Marc, have a centrally located apartment in Barcelona. Good location, nothing luxurious, and 4-person capacity. Between 2008 and 2010 they participated in 6 exchanges: Berlin in 2008, Toronto in April, New York in the summer, a weekend getaway in Amsterdam in September. The following year they exchanged their apartment for a house with a yard in San Francisco with a couple in their sixties who they got to know. The experience

of exchanging houses has led to friendship. In the summer of 2010, Eva and Marc spent their vacation in a house-cave in the Sierra of Andalucía.

This is how the travel agency used by Eva and Mark works. They use 5 “exchange” websites; to access some of them you have to pay. In 2 years, they have received 100 offers to exchange houses. They have spent 80 nights in houses belonging to strangers. However, they have gotten to know these strangers’ neighborhoods, their neighbors, and in some cases, even their friends. They have exchanged houses in 6 cities on 2 continents and they have saved 8,000 Euros on hotels. They never had any problems with their temporary tenants.

The pioneers of vacation house exchanges are a group of Scandinavian professors and teachers, who began looking in the 1950s for alternative and economical ways to visit other places, countries, and ways of life. In the beginning, they sent letters and photos of their houses to select among the most attractive offers. Today, the market has moved to the Internet and through “exchange” websites, such as Intervac, HomeExchange, or Geenee—just to mention a few—contacts are made and agreements are entered into.

People with large houses in rural areas are delighted to exchange for an apartment in the center of Paris, London, Barcelona, or New York. Others are looking for a place that is rural and peaceful. An exchange always turns out to be fair when both parties are satisfied with what they agreed to.

BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT AN ANT:

**PARTICIPATE IN
SUSTAINABLE AND
RESPONSIBLE
TOURISM**

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Sustainable Trip | www.sustainabletrip.org |
| The Travel Foundation | www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk |
| Responsible Travel | www.responsibletravel.com |

**SHARE YOUR
TIME AND
TALENTS FOR
THE COMMON
GOOD**

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| P2P University | http://p2pu.org |
| World Volunteer Web | www.worldvolunteerweb.org |
| 826 National - Writing Center | www.826national.org |

**SHARE
RESOURCES
WITH OTHER
TRAVELERS**

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Couch Surfing | www.couchsurfing.org |
| Geenee Home Exchange | www.geenee.com |
| Taxi To - Airport Taxi Sharing | www.taxi.to |

**HAVE FUN
WITHOUT
SPENDING
MONEY**

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Sin Dinero | www.sindinero.org |
| Plus 3 Network | www.plus3network.com |
| Book Crossing | www.bookcrossing.com |

**LEARN TO
TAKE CARE OF
YOURSELF**

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Slow Food | www.slowfood.com |
| Yoga Journal | www.yogajournal.com |
| Jamie Oliver Foundation | www.jamieoliver.com/foundation |



THIS STARTS NOW

www.wearenotants.org

THANKS TO:

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