

TÄLLBERG FOUNDATION

Climate Wars

25 November, 2008, 14.30-17.30

Oscar II - salen
Nybrokajen 11

The Tällberg Foundation is delighted to invite you to a presentation by freelance journalist and author **Gwynne Dyer** of the conclusions from his recent book, *Climate Wars*. The presentation is followed by a conversation with **Lena Sommestad**, CEO, Swedish District Heating Association and Former Swedish Minister for the Environment; **Tomas Ries**, Director, Swedish Institute of International Affairs; **Anders Wijkman**, Member of European Parliament; **Peter Wallensteen**, Dag Hammarskjöld Professor of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University. The conversation is moderated by **Carl Mossfeldt**, Tällberg Foundation.

On the new risk and security landscape

Human civilisation has formed over roughly a period of ten thousand years. On a geological time scale, this has been a period of rare planetary stability. Temperatures have fluctuated only marginally; ice sheets and sea levels have been largely fixed. Similarly, the wider climate systems – inherently unpredictable in the short run and full of surprises and local variability – have over a longer time-frame exhibited fairly stable patterns. It is in this landscape of relative stability human civilisation has flourished.

Science now tells us conclusively that we are leaving this period of relative stability. How fast, and how far we will move into uncharted territory is not clear. It is however beyond doubt that we are entering a new landscape of risk and security, where the increased pressures on interacting natural systems open up for a new level of unpredictability.

Already many communities and states are stressed to the point of collapse, where small added pressures risk pushing them into social and political turmoil. Similarly, conflicts over land, water and energy are playing out at the global level – over gas pipelines, the unexplored arctic and over the protection of river water. We are seeing these conflicts intensify by the day.

The new landscape of risk and security is emerging with a pace that is quite staggering. Against these developments stands an institutional framework ill suited to handle the complexity of interacting natural, economic, social and political

systems. There is an urgent need for our institutional designs to catch-up with the world they are intended to handle.

Program and logistics

- 14.30 **Bo Ekman** (Tällberg Foundation) introduces the author **Gwynne Dyer**
- 14.40 **Climate Wars** – **Gwynne Dyer** presents his book with the same title
- 15.20 **Coffee break**
- 15.45 **Panel discussion on the implications for governance:**
- **Lena Sommestad**
 - **Tomas Ries**
 - **Anders Wijkman**
 - **Peter Wallenstein**

 - **Moderator: Carl Mossfeldt, Tällberg Foundation**
- 17.00 **Closing remarks by Bo Ekman**

You register for the event on the Tällberg Foundation website
www.tallbergfoundation.org.

Cost: SEK 600 incl. VAT, Students: SEK 300 incl. VAT (please present student id)

Gwynne Dyer has worked as a freelance journalist, columnist, broadcaster and lecturer on international affairs for more than 20 years, but he was originally trained as an historian. Born in Newfoundland, he received degrees from Canadian, American and British universities, finishing with a Ph.D. in Military and Middle Eastern History from the University of London. He served in three navies and held academic appointments at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and Oxford University before launching his twice-weekly column on international affairs, which is published by over 175 papers in some 45 countries.