

Some clarifications about World Climate School – what it IS and what it IS NOT

Recently I realized that some people involved in WCS do not have realistic expectations. Therefore this text to make things clear:

World Climate School

- Is an initiative created and run by a group of **people, who are passionate about climate change**, the challenges and the solutions, and how we need to act upon it.
- The Group does this **without any intention of personal benefit of any kind, material or intangible**. The participants are not important, it is not about them, but about the future of us all - for all life here on the planet.
- We share the view that **education is an important key to raising awareness of this**, and that together we can achieve a chain reaction and thus achieve this awareness increase quickly.
- The World Climate School receives **no financial support from the outside at the moment**. All activities have been financed by the individual players of their own pockets. We see that we need financial support in the long term as the organization grows. But no one in the starting group has experience in applying for such support.
- This means that **we cannot currently provide financial support for the work of local groups**. It also means that local groups themselves must develop ideas and strategies for seeking financial support in their own country and local area.
- It also means that **we cannot offer any kind of paid job as a result of participating in the project**. We believe that in the long run, the world will have a great need for teachers with solid knowledge of climate change, but we ourselves cannot offer paid jobs. It will be up to local authorities
- We would also like to emphasize that **this is basically a grassroots initiative**. This means that most local departments work to recruit through individual contacts. 1 person knows 20 who again know 400 who again know 8000, etc, etc.
- **We understand that some groups want to work differently**: from top to bottom instead of at grass root level. This can be understandable and appropriate in some countries and some organizational contexts. It can be governments, ministries, directorates, trade unions, etc.
- However, **attaching to hierarchical structures can be both an advantage and a disadvantage**. Advantage because existing hierarchies and command paths can give

more weight and authority to the core messages, but disadvantages because they can often be slowed down because the systems and / or people in them may have hidden motives and thus slow down progress.

- We would therefore like to **encourage all local groups to evaluate these advantages and disadvantages against each other and choose the strategy that seems most effective in each country / region.**
- **What is most important is that we choose the path to enlightenment that is the fastest.** The planet and the environment have neither the patience nor understanding that humans need more time to carry out our democratic processes.
- **We do this, because with insufficient action, our children, grandchildren and all coming generations will not have a viable environment. We need action now!**

**Wishing you all a wonderful day
Hans Joergen Rasmussen,
Founder of WCS.
Narvik,
Norway.**