



Feasta: The New Emergency Conference

Posted by [Gail the Actuary](#) on May 13, 2009 - 12:20am in [The Oil Drum: Europe](#)

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We have been asked to help publicize an upcoming conference called "**The New Emergency-- Managing Risk and Building Resilience in a Resource Constrained World**". It will be held in Dublin, Ireland on June 10th to 12th 2009. Speakers include several familiar names: Chris Vernon, Dmitry Orlov, and Julian Darley. Below the fold is material from the [The New Emergency website](#).



Managing Risk and Building Resilience in a Resource Constrained World

Almost 70 years ago, the outbreak of World War II forced the Irish Government to declare a state of national emergency. The Emergency Powers Act of September 1939 gave it the authority "to make provisions for the maintenance of public order and for the provision and control of supplies and services essential to the life of the community." Today a similar attitude is needed to address an emergency of a different and even more compelling kind: global economic collapse, combined with crises in climate change, water and energy supply, soil erosion, and the massive over-exploitation of natural resources. The extraordinary growth in population, wealth, urbanisation and societal complexity witnessed since the Industrial Revolution cannot continue. Nature's life-support systems are failing fast. Humanity is facing what might be called "The New Emergency." If ours is to be a stable world, the restoration of resilience at a local and global level must become a priority. And this resilience has to be achieved with the commitment and pace that countries adopt when, as in 1939, there is an immediate and very real threat to people's security and well-being.

This conference, marking Feasta's tenth anniversary, will analyse the systems and the mindsets that have steered the world onto its grotesquely unsustainable current path. Discussions will focus on the new systems (financial, energy, food) and ways of thinking that are urgently required to correct the situation and bring about a rapid transition to a more secure future. Many of the

ideas explored are Feasta's. Others will be presented by international speakers who broadly share Feasta's analysis of what needs to be done to build a truly sustainable world.

Speakers include:

Eamon Ryan, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, will launch the conference with an opening speech.

Dmitry Orlov, author of *Reinventing Collapse*, will give a public lecture at the Davenport Hotel, June 9th and will feature throughout the conference with a focus on deglobalisation, relocalisation and definancialisation.

Richard Douthwaite, Feasta co-founder and author of *The Growth Illusion*, *Short Circuit* and *The Ecology of Money*, will explain how the primary global crises interrelate and are intrinsic to our economic and governance structure.

Chris Vernon, an editor of The Oil Drum, an energy futures discussion website, will discuss how much usable energy the world can expect to get from fossil fuels in the future since it is taking more and more energy to produce energy.

Julian Darley, author of *High Noon for Natural Gas*, will examine the factors involved in high-level decision making for sustainable change.

David Korowicz, physicist and human systems ecologist, will give a systems view of collapse dynamics.

Dan Sullivan, director of Saving Communities, will investigate land value taxation as a community development tool.

Emer O'Siochru, Feasta co-Founder and director of EOS Architects, will discuss the Proximity Principle in rural planning and urban settlements, integrating energy, heat, material sources, waste management and fertility.

Ludwig Schuster, Living City Architects, will concentrate on bio-regional currencies that encourage sustainable use of resources rather than requiring growth and exploitation.

Bruce Darrell, co-founder of Dublin Food Growing, will explore methods to develop secure food systems that do not rely on finite resources.

Early Bird Rates until May 22nd*:

Conference Fees for the three day event including public lecture.

Corporate/Government Rate €360

NGO Rate €170

Feasta Member Rate €150

Corporate Day Rate €180

NGO/Feasta Day Rate €100

With Conference Dinner (on June 11th): €35

Deadline for booking Conference Dinner is May 22nd.

*All prices to rise after this date by approximately 15%. All prices include daily coffees/teas and lunches.

A limited number of scholarships are available.

For more information contact conference@feasta.org or 01 6619572.

For media requests call Kathryn Speedie on 086 3642728.

[Conference Registration Form](#)



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