



Pioneer Environmentalist and a Critical Thinker

Prof. Dr. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker

June 25, 2014 is a remarkable day for *Future of Food Journal*. We celebrate the 75th birthday of our senior Editorial Board member Prof. Dr. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker. As a distinguished senior scholar in environmental science, his philosophical, theoretical and practical contributions are significant to academia and society alike, challenging and reconfiguring conventional and mainstream thinking. Prof. Dr. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker was born on 25 June, 1939 in Zürich,

Switzerland. He studied Chemistry and Physics and received a Diploma from Hamburg University. He achieved his doctoral degree in Biology at Freiburg University in 1969. In 1972, Prof. Dr. Weizsäcker was appointed Professor for Interdisciplinary Biology at the University of Essen. As the founding president of the University of Kassel, he played a momentous role to give birth to a modern university indebted to the spirit of critical thinking.

He was officiated as the director at the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development. The Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, and Energy, initiated in 1991 by Prof Dr. Weizsäcker, has been considered as one of main research centres in sustainable development and environmental studies. Furthermore, he was appointed as the Dean of Bren School in Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, University of California, United States in 2006.

Among his academic contribution, *New Frontiers in Technology Application: Integration of Emerging and Traditional Technologies* (1983), *Ecological Tax Reform: Policy Proposal for Sustainable Development* (1992), *Earth Politics* (1994), *Factor Four. Doubling Wealth — Halving Resource Use* (1997), *Limits to Privatization – How to avoid too much of a good thing* (2005) and *Factor Five* (2009) can be listed as most influential books. The book *Factor Four, Doubling Wealth — Halving Resource Use* (1997) has been translated into 11 languages such as Chinese, Czech, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Russian, Spanish and Hungarian. He is the lead author of *Decoupling: Technological Opportunities and Policy Options*, which is compiled by the UNEP International Resource Panel in 2014.

In honour of his international engagement in critical thinking on development and the improvement of society, he was elected as the Co-President of the Club of Rome in 2012. Prof. Dr. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker was elected as a Member of the Bundestag (MdB), the Federal Parliament of Germany, in 1998 and held his seat until 2005. He was

appointed chairman of the Environmental Committee in the Federal Parliament of Germany.

In admiration of his international contributions, Prof. Dr. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker was awarded from Duke of Edinburgh the Gold Medal by World Wild Fund For Nature (WWF) International in 1996 and the German Environment Prize in 2008. He was a former president (1988-1991) and he serves as an advisor of the Federation of German Scientist (VDW).

Celebrating valued milestone of his life, a book titled *Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker – A Pioneer on Environmental, Climate and Energy Policies*¹ will present his passionate and courageous scholarly contributions. The members of the Editorial Board of *Future of Food: Journal on Food, Agriculture & Society* wish Prof. Dr. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker a great and happy birthday!

¹ For more details on the anniversary publication, please log in at <http://www.springer.com/environment/environmental+management/book/978-3-319-03661-8>