

28. April 2010, 18:15 Uhr

Neil WILLIAMS

Society of Economic Geologists + CEO Australian Geoscience, Canberra, Australia

Are We About to Run Out of Minerals - No We Are Not!

Ever since the Industrial Revolution there have been concerns about the exhaustion of non-renewable mineral resources. The concerns are serious because modern society depends on a variety of metals which are widely used but geochemically scarce. Both geological and economic evidence indicates that there is an abundance of minerals in the earth's crust, but the big problem is our growing inability to discover major new ore deposits.

Moderator: **Christian KÖBERL** (ÖAW, Uni Wien)

EDUARD SUESS LECTURES 2009/2010

Nächster Termin:

Mittwoch, 9. Juni 2010, 18:15 Uhr

Richard FORTEY, Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom

The shape of life history from the fossil record

Since the nineteenth century many of the 'missing links' between major animal groups have been discovered, especially those connected with breakthroughs into new habitats - like water to land, or earth to air. Fossils also yield surprises: from feathered dinosaurs to unsuspected human side branches. And puzzles remain, such as the cause of the great breakthrough in life's diversity at the base of the Cambrian. Life can best be understood as a series of evolutionary and ecological breakthroughs. But some ecologies seem to emerge 'spontaneously' many times over hundreds of millions of years, so maybe life's history can be seen as a story of 'advancement', or one of re-playing similar ecological themes. And is human consciousness part of the same scenario?

Neil WILLIAMS – biografischer Hintergrund

Dr. Neil Williams was the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Government's national geoscientific research and spatial information agency, Geoscience Australia (GA) and two of its predecessor agencies for 17 years until his retirement in January 2010.

Neil trained as an economic geologist. He received his BSc (Hons) degree from the Australian National University and his PhD from Yale University. Upon completion of his PhD he returned to the Australian National University and worked there for 5 years as an academic specialising in the genesis of sediment-hosted base-metal deposits. In 1981 he joined the then Mt Isa Mines group of companies as a mineral explorer and remained with them for 10 years before joining one of Geoscience Australia's predecessors, the Bureau of Mineral Resources in 1991. He was appointed CEO of the Australian Geological Survey Organisation in 1995. Since then he has overseen the transformation of the agency into the present day Geoscience Australia.

Neil received the Public Service Medal in the 2006 Australia Day National Honours List for outstanding public service in the provision of geoscientific advice to government, geoscience services, industry and the public. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and was awarded the Society of Economic Geologists Lindgren Award in 1981 for his research on the McArthur River lead-zinc deposit in the Northern Territory. He was the President of the Society in 2008. He also led Oceania's successful bid for the 34th International Geological Congress to be held in Brisbane in August 2012, and is President of the 34th Congress. Upon returning to Australia after a vacation in Europe he plans to take up an academic position in Australia and continue his research in Economic Geology and mineral exploration.

EDUARD SUESS LECTURES 2009/2010

Veranstalter: Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften (ÖAW)
Industriellenvereinigung Wien
Wiener Vorlesungen - Dialogforum der Stadt Wien

Veranstaltungsort: Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Festsaal
1010 Wien, Dr. Ignaz Seipel-Platz 2