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editors

MEGATRENDS

Rise and Fall
of Megatrends in Science

Proceedings
of CASS-Symposium 2000

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Rise and Fall of Megatrends in Science

Proceedings

**Edited by Margrit Leuthold, Hans Leuenberger
and Ewald R. Weibel**

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Foreword

Bernard Hauck, President of CASS

For the year 2000 the Council of the Swiss Scientific Academies chose the theme of its Symposium to be 'Rise and Fall of Megatrends in Science'. Several reasons determined our choice, and in particular the interdisciplinary aspect of this subject and its relationship to scientific policy.

Mentioning megatrends immediately raises several questions. What is meant by megatrends? How do they evolve? What is their internal dynamic, their impact on scientific policy, on university and on society?

We would like this symposium to provide an opportunity to discuss megatrends, their role and their importance in human and social sciences, natural sciences, medical and technical sciences. Consequently we have asked four scientists each representing one of the Academies to describe the situation in their respective domain. In each case colleagues of the other three Academies commented on their presentation. The second part of the Symposium was devoted to the links between megatrends and scientific policy on one hand and society on the other hand.

I take pleasure in thanking all speakers and other participants for their contribution to this Symposium. I would also like to thank the organisers, and in particular Dr Margrit Leuthold, Secretary General of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences and true centerpin of this event as well as her colleagues. Lastly I wish to thank the editors of these proceedings without whom this publication would not exist.