



Canterbury Branch ESR
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Canterbury Branch ESR Meeting
15 April 2010

A new development paradigm for sustainable societies

Speaker: Tim Taylor

We enter the second decade of the 21st Century accompanied by a range of resource crises and continued rapid population increase. It is clear that to become sustainable in this new world, our societies will need new modes of operation. Continued dependence on the simplified economic models and assumptions of the 20th century is likely to result in crises of increasing regularity and severity - crises that are ecological, economic, social and daunting mixtures of the three.

A key challenge is to shift how societies perceive and pursue progress. A broader conceptualisation of development is necessary, one that represents socially equitable and ecologically sustainable improvements in wellbeing. Such a shift in our understanding of progress would provide the foundation for a transition to societies that are ecologically, economically and socially sustainable.

Of course such a transition is an almighty challenge, but engineers have always relished solving problems that others perceive as impossible.

Tim Taylor is a studying at Lund University in Sweden for a Masters degree in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science with the financial assistance of a Hume Fellowship. Tim's passion is the daunting challenge of transitioning to sustainable societies, and the blend of social change that must support technological innovation to make this possible. He sees the need for the engineering profession to make a significant contribution to such a transition, and the course he is taking part in is leading the world in the new transdisciplinary field of Sustainability Science.

This lecture will be open to anyone interested and members are encouraged to publicise it among friends and colleagues .

Joint ESR/IPENZ Event

Date: 15 April 2010, 7.00 pm

Venue: University of Canterbury, School of Engineering Lecture Room E1 (in the Mushroom).