



Where are they now?

Working at IIASA can have a profound impact on a person's career, opening doors to positions in academia, government, industry, and business, as these brief notes on five of our alumni show only too well.

Keep in touch with fellow IIASA alumni/ae by joining the IIASA Society.

www.iiasa.ac.at/IIASA_Society

JESSE AUSUBEL is currently Director of the Program for the Human Environment at Rockefeller University, New York. He was a YSSP member in 1979, then leader of IIASA's Climate Task within the Resources and Environment Program from 1979 to 1981.

Of IIASA, he says: "My experiences at IIASA profoundly influenced my career in every way: the problems I work on, the ways I approach the problems in a technical sense, the shift from a uni-national to a multi-national perspective, the networks of people with whom I work, and my belief in the contribution science can make to conflict resolution."

To maintain IIASA's importance in the future, he once advocated: "IIASA is a small institute. It can address only a few problems. But...whatever IIASA does, it must be politically and intellectually dangerous."

PETRI AVEN, Foreign Economic Relations Minister of the Russian Federation and Russia's representative to the G-7 from 1991 to 1992, has been President of the Russian Alfa Bank since 1994.

He was a YSSP member in 1977, then principal researcher at IIASA for almost three years on the methodology of socioeconomic

comparisons, comparative economics, and economic reforms in centrally planned economies.

Ogonek magazine described Aven as one of the few Russian economists who can explain the most sophisticated economic concepts and phenomena in simple and understandable language. Though deliberately distancing himself publicly from politics, Aven is regarded as a highly influential man—one of Russia's "freshmen" billionaires, according to *Pravda*.

On YSSP, he says: "I participated in the first experimental YSSP program in 1975 and was there for the second time in 1977. For all (four) Russians, this time at IIASA was extremely interesting and helpful—it was not just IIASA but "the West." YSSP gave me a lot of information about the proper organization of scientific work, and a serious stimulus to come back, which I did 15 years later."

KIRIT PARIKH is widely known for the Report of the Expert Committee that he chaired on Integrated Energy Policy and as coeditor of the India Development Reports which provide a nongovernmental assessment of India's development and policy options. He is currently a member of the Planning Commission of India and Chair of IIASA's Indian NMO.

As the Leader of IIASA's Food and Agricultural Program from 1980 to 1986, Kirit Parikh pioneered the Basic Linked System (BLS), a modeling tool still used today to determine the effectiveness of policies to eliminate hunger. He left IIASA to become founding director of the Indira

Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) in Mumbai, from which he retired in 2000.

THOMAS SCHELLING is Professor of foreign affairs, national security, nuclear strategy, and arms control at the School of Public Policy at University of Maryland College Park. He worked with several IIASA programs between 1994 and 1999, and was active in the YSSP program, as a much-appreciated advisor to several generations of summer students.

He won the Nobel Prize in Economic Science in 2005 with Robert J. Aumann of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for research on game theory that, according to the *New York Times*, changed the way conflicts as diverse as trade wars and arms races are analyzed.

HARRY SWAIN spent 1974–1976 as Project Leader and Research Scholar in IIASA's Urban and Regional Systems Project. He rose through the Canadian federal government to become Deputy Minister at the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and Deputy Minister at Industry Canada. He was also CEO of Hambros Canada and founded the Toronto office of Sussex Circle, a consultancy concentrating on strategic and financial advice for public and private sector clients.

Of IIASA, he says: "I got to work with scholars of outstanding quality on issues that have concerned me ever since—for example, the low-carbon futures work at the Centre for Global Studies at the University of Victoria, regarding which, as is only natural, I've turned to other IIASA alumni for help." ■