



## ASTC, Fiocruz, FEMSA Foundation Highlight International Youth Involvement in Global Issues

*Youth groups from 14 science centers and museums in 12 countries engaged in an international collaborative program to address global issues such as water sustainability and climate change.*

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL – Youth from 14 science centers and museums in 12 countries, engaged in an international collaborative program addressing global environmental and health-related issues, will be featured in a live webcast Tuesday, June 19, from 2:00-3:30 p.m. (Rio time), just prior to the official start of the Rio+20 Earth Summit. These youth participate in the **Science Centers Engagement and the Rio Summit (SCEnaRioS)** initiative, supported by the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC), the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), and the FEMSA Foundation. The webcast will be held at Armazém "Pop Ciência" in Warehouse 4, Porto do Rio de Janeiro, during the science popularization event created by the Brazilian Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation.

The SCEnaRioS project is based on the strong conviction that young people are willing to be part of the solution that will create a sustainable planet, and their interest in the use of information technology to establish a new form of dialogue, will benefit the development of new ideas and solutions. With science centers and museums placing a special emphasis on engaging youth in the processes of learning and employing science-based knowledge in the broadest possible interests of society, science centers from different parts of the world were partnered to facilitate global dialogue on one of three issues—energy and the green economy, access to clean water, and health issues related to environmental change.

The webcast will be introduced by Walter Staveloz, ASTC's director of international relations, who will discuss the SCEnaRioS project and address how it complements the international science strategy for the Rio+20 Earth Summit and beyond. The webcast will also include remarks from Fiocruz President, Dr. Paulo Gadelha, and FEMSA Foundation Director, Vidal Garza Cantú.

Youth involved in SCEnaRioS projects at participating science centers and museums will be featured discussing what they have learned from each other, the original views they had when addressing the issues in a different region/place, and what common ground they have found through the SCEnaRioS program. These include:

- Students from the Museu da Vida in Rio de Janeiro, who were partnered with youth from the Paulo Samuel Kankhomba Secondary School in Mozambique, will address their work on climate change and its effects on the environment and health;
- Miami Science Museum participants, who partnered with youth from Maloka in Bogota, Colombia, will discuss their work focused on water and coastal management;
- MIDE participants, who partnered with youth from the Museo delle Scienze in Trento, Italy, will discuss their work on water and heritage; and
- Participants from MadaTech: The Israel National Museum of Science, Technology, and Space, in Haifa, who were partnered with youth from Sci-Port: Louisiana's Science Center in Shreveport, will share their work on green energy and sustainability.

Short films developed by several participating science centers and museums will also be shown during the webcast, including:

- A film developed by Questacon in Canberra, Australia, which partnered with the Guangdong Science Center in China and the Science Centre Singapore, to focus on water and the essential role it plays in life;
- A film developed by the Canada Science and Technology Museum Corporation in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, which partnered with the Chabot Space and Science Center in Oakland, California, and Experimentarium in Copenhagen, Denmark, to focus on global energy consumption; and
- A film developed by MIDE in Mexico, which partnered with the Museo delle Scienze in Trento, Italy, to focus on water and heritage; and
- A film developed by the team from Experimentarium, who will present the film onstage during the webcast.

Closing remarks and recommendations will be provided by Lidia Brito, UNESCO's Director of the Science Policy Division and Sustainability. The webcast will be accessible from ASTC's website at [www.astc.org](http://www.astc.org).

### **About ASTC**

The Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) is a global nonprofit organization of science centers and museums committed to raising public understanding of science's role in solving critical societal issues, and its value in igniting and nurturing the innovative spirit that people of all ages need for success in today's world. Founded in 1973, ASTC represents over 600 members in 45 countries, and its members include not only science centers and museums, but also nature centers, aquariums, planetariums, zoos, botanical gardens, and natural history and children's museums, as well as companies, consultants, and other organizations that share an interest in informal science education. Visit [www.astc.org](http://www.astc.org) to learn more about ASTC and to find a science center near you.

### **About Fiocruz**

The Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) is linked to the Brazilian Ministry of Health and is the most prominent science and technology health institution in Latin America. It participates of SCEnARIOS through Museu da Vida (Museum of Life), a hands-on science museum which is a space of integration between science, culture, and society.

### **About FEMSA Foundation**

FEMSA Foundation is a social investment instrument that supports both the conservation and sustainable use of water and the improvement of quality of life in our communities, through applied education, science, and technology. Its **Sustainable Development of Water Resources** area channels resources to projects focused on the efficient use of water to protect Latin American ecosystems today and for future generations. Its **Quality of Life** area is dedicated to supporting projects that improve nutrition and health for people in Latin America.

###

### **CONTACTS:**

ASTC  
Larry Hoffer  
[lhoffer@astc.org](mailto:lhoffer@astc.org)  
+1 202 783 7200

Fiocruz  
Alex Principe  
[principefiocruz@gmail.com](mailto:principefiocruz@gmail.com)

FEMSA Foundation  
Ilsa Ruiz  
[ilsa.ruiz@femsa.com.mx](mailto:ilsa.ruiz@femsa.com.mx)  
+52 818 328 6224