

# GLOBAL TIMES MAGAZINE

*Eighteenth Edition*

**POLLUTED AIR NOW  
MORE DANGEROUS  
THAN TOBACCO AND  
UNHEALTHY DIETS**

8.1 Million People Died

**GROUNDBREAKING CANCER  
VACCINE TRIALS HERALD  
A NEW ERA IN CANCER  
TREATMENT**

Cancer Treatment, New Era



## KAIRAT H.E. AMBASSADOR SARYBAY

Diplomatic Savant Par Excellence

*Eighteenth Edition*

Global Times Magazine

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# GLOBAL TIMES MAGAZINE



*Eighteenth Edition*

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*Welcome*





Eighteenth Edition

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**KAIRAT**  
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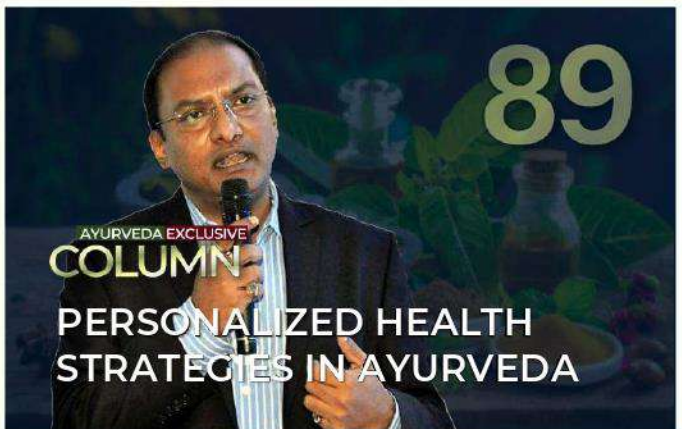
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Message Of The President:

# ROBOTS VS. HUMANS: THE BATTLE OF THE FUTURE

Dejan Štancer, President of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders

Dear Readers,

They say we are entering the era of humanoid robots. But who cares when some people already behave like emotionless machines. Companies are aging and stagnating, partly because fewer people want to work. Everyone dreams of becoming a billionaire in their lifetime, but they want it to happen effortlessly, ideally while lounging on the sofa or even in bed. Ambition seems to be dwindling.

In this context, it's not surprising to hear that a robot has successfully performed a dental procedure, or that robots are becoming proficient soldiers, or that entire production lines are now fully automated. Unlike the industrial robots of three decades ago, today's robots are humanoid. With progress, they may completely replace humans in many roles. Are we becoming a society of callousness and artificial intelligence? Very likely. What does this bring us? Who knows—progress could also spell ruin. As always, only time will tell. Let's not forget it's all about profit and greed, but let's leave it at that.

It has been evident for a long time that those driving future development, reaping billions in profits, prefer competition over cooperation. Yet, it's humans—not robots—who pay the price of non-cooperation and the resulting conflicts. Robots cannot suffer, making human suffering all the more profound. I won't delve into the growing global tensions again, but if the current world situation reminds anyone of the 1930s and the lead-up to World War II, then we are on the same page.

"Divide et Impera" (divide and rule), an expression from two millennia ago, still explains why we need humanoid robots—because we never learn. History indeed repeats itself, but we fail to grasp its lessons. We forget quickly, unlike robots with their perfect memory. We are now creating beings who won't forget.

It would be fascinating to see the future and where it all leads. Will humans become emotionless like robots, or will robots gain emotions? Observing many people today, it's clear to me that robots won't develop authentic human emotions. They cannot fall in love, love sincerely, cry, feel cramped, or be saddened by what humans are becoming.

I'm not anti-robot nor a Luddite. I just want to see people happy, that's all that I want.

Sincerely,







# Funding, Tenders

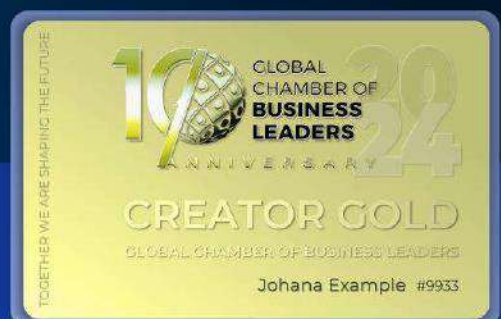
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Editor's Note:

# POLITICS, PARIS OLYMPICS AND POPULARITY WARS

Nicole J. Farrell, Chief-Editor of the Global Times Magazine

The past several weeks have been a flurry of wildly sensational headlines, and in many cases, both tongue-in-cheek and brutal memes and parodies have taken centre-stage. As the saying goes, "Never a dull moment!"

The U.S presidential campaign efforts have been interesting to say the least with alarming events captured on film to unexpected announcements and subsequent updates that inspire hope among the masses. The political climate shows no signs of allowing bland rhetoric to prevail, and so, the media is on overdrive to feed their own agendas and create heightened emotions among the local and world's citizens. The coming months might surely paint a masterpiece of jaw-dropping decision-making and developments. And so, we wait.

Skipping across to the land of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France, things are currently abuzz with an international burst of visits and activities from spectators, athletes, tourists, sporting personnel, media practitioners and business entities alike as the world remains fixated on the reported \$10 Billion-Dollar affair that is the 2024 Summer Olympic Games.

One of the most anticipated international sporting experiences featuring the creme de la creme, "Paris Olympics 2024" will hold global attention as over 10,700 athletes vie for coveted titles, new records and top-notch placements. Anxiety, excitement, disappointment, anger, frustration, sadness and pain are all par for the course and the world has watched situations of it all from their mobile phones and TV screens and some have witnessed it in real-life living colour. There has already been widespread controversies, sportsman protests, voluntary drop-outs, overly heated social media wars in Comment sections, unexpected wins and record-shattering turns of events. With this level of professional athleticism, it's anybody's chance to stand on the tri-level podium as their National Anthem is played.

All in all, excitement reigns! Here at the Global Times Magazine, we are excited about our own feat with this Eighteenth Edition/August Issue as we scored two heavy-hitting interviews.

Our Cover Story with world-renowned Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, the Secretary General of CICA, gives an in-depth look at the work and purpose of the organization. It's our first-ever joint interview as we introduce the uber-successful power couple of the AI-driven leadership initiatives of the 1492 Group, Michael and Katja Hengl, out of Europe.

See why we have a special Prose of Business feature and find out all about the riveting content in this Edition!

Sincerely,

*Nicole J. Farrell*







The Guardian

VOGUE

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GQ

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## GLOBAL TIMES MAGAZINE

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## **McDONALD'S HALTS AI DRIVE-THRU ORDER PILOT AFTER MIXED RESULTS**

McDonald's, in partnership with IBM, has concluded its pilot program for automated voice ordering at drive-thrus due to mixed outcomes. The initiative aimed to streamline operations and enhance customer experience through the use of AI technology, representing a significant step in McDonald's commitment to innovation. However, the automated system faced criticism, as some customers reported errors even with basic orders, highlighting the challenges of implementing such advanced technology in a fast-paced environment.

Despite ending the pilot, McDonald's remains optimistic about the potential of voice-ordering solutions. The decision reflects the company's ongoing efforts to advance restaurant technology and underscores its dedication to improving service efficiency and customer satisfaction. McDonald's plans to continue evaluating scalable solutions, with the aim of integrating advanced technology into their operations by the end of the year.

The fast-food giant will persist in its collaboration with IBM, focusing on refining the voice-ordering technology to better meet customer needs. This continued partnership illustrates McDonald's long-term vision of leveraging AI to revolutionize the drive-thru experience across its global locations. By addressing the current challenges and improving the system's accuracy, McDonald's hopes to eventually implement a reliable and efficient voice-ordering solution that enhances both operational efficiency and the overall customer experience.



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President of the European Commission:

# URSULA VON DER LEYEN: A NEW ERA OF UNITY AND PROSPERITY

**EUROPEAN**  
*Union*

Global Times Magazine Editorial Team

In a momentous decision, Ursula von der Leyen has been re-elected to serve as President of the European Commission, securing her second term at the helm of one of the most crucial executive roles within the European Union. This re-election marks a significant milestone not only for von der Leyen but also for the EU as it continues to navigate the complex global landscape.



Among the many congratulatory messages that poured in, one notable commendation came from Mr. Dejan Štancer, President of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders (GCBL). In his heartfelt letter, Mr. Štancer praised President von der Leyen for her exemplary leadership and acknowledged the growing global influence of the GCBL in fostering peace, cooperation, and trust among nations.

Mr. Štancer emphasized, "Under your leadership, we have witnessed a



European Union that strives for unity, resilience, and sustainable progress. The Global Chamber of Business Leaders is committed to supporting your vision of renewed harmony and collaboration on the global stage. Together, we can work towards a future where peace and prosperity are within reach for all."

President von der Leyen, in her gracious response to Mr. Štancer, expressed her gratitude and shared her vision for the upcoming mandate: "In the coming mandate, my ambition is to contribute to a Union that is faster and simpler, more focused and more united, more supportive of people and companies. I will work to reinforce our collective competitiveness and prosperity while pursuing our ambitious efforts to successfully implement the green and digital transitions, so that our companies and citizens can seize all the opportunities they offer to improve our quality of life while leaving no one behind. Furthermore, I will spare no effort to deepen commitment to a free and democratic Europe and strengthen our citizens' security and defence."

This renewed commitment to a stronger, more cohesive, and forward-thinking Europe resonates deeply with the mission of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders. GCBL, under Mr. Štancer's leadership, has been a staunch advocate for global collaboration, economic integration, and the promotion of sustainable development goals. The organization's efforts align seamlessly with President von der Leyen's vision of a green and digital Europe that is competitive, inclusive, and secure.



Ursula Gertrud von der Leyen is a German politician, serving as the 13th President of the European Commission since 2019.

As President von der Leyen embarks on her second term, the European Union stands at a pivotal juncture. The challenges ahead are significant, but so are the opportunities. With a focus on green and digital transformations, enhanced competitiveness, and reinforced security, the EU is poised to lead by example on the global stage.

The collaboration between the European Commission and influential organizations like the Global Chamber of Business Leaders will be instrumental in achieving these goals. Together, they can foster an environment where innovation thrives, economies grow sustainably, and the bonds of trust and cooperation among nations are strengthened.

With visionary leaders like von der Leyen and supportive global partners like GCBL, the future of the European Union looks promising and bright.



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application form, and submit it to us.

Any business leader, entrepreneur, executive, or professional committed to fostering global economic growth and development can become a member of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders (GCBL). Membership is open to individuals and companies from various industries and sectors who share a vision of promoting sustainable business practices and global collaboration.







## SAMSUNG'S NEW EV BATTERY OFFERS OVER 900 KILOMETERS CHARGE IN JUST 9 MINUTES AND 20-YEAR LIFESPAN

Samsung has unveiled a groundbreaking solid-state EV battery that offers a 600-mile range with just a 9-minute charge and boasts a lifespan of up to 20 years. This new technology, developed by Samsung SDI, replaces liquid electrolytes with solid ones, significantly enhancing safety and energy density while reducing the battery's size and weight.

The battery features an energy density of about 500 Wh/kg, almost doubling that of current mainstream EV batteries, allowing for longer ranges without increasing the battery size. Initially, these batteries will target the super-premium segment of the EV market due to high production costs, with mass production planned for 2027.

Samsung's innovation aligns with industry trends toward longer-lasting and quicker-charging batteries, competing with similar advancements from companies like CATL and NIO. This marks a significant step forward in making electric vehicles more practical and appealing by improving their range, charging time, and lifespan.



8.1 Million People Died:

# POLLUTED AIR NOW MORE DANGEROUS THAN TOBACCO AND UNHEALTHY DIETS

CLIMATE CHANGE  
—Challenges—

Global Times Magazine Editorial Team

Air Pollution Accounted For 8.1 Million Deaths Globally In 2021, Becoming The Second Leading Risk Factor For Death, Including For Children Under Five Years.

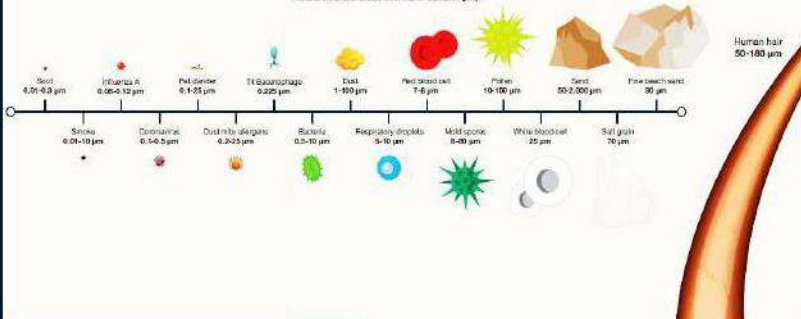
This makes it the second most common risk factor for death after high blood pressure.

## The Global Health Crisis of Air Pollution

### Particulate Size Matters: Comparing sizes

Small particles pose the greatest risk to human health. While the nose can filter most coarse particles, fine and ultrafine particles are inhaled deeper into the lungs where they can be deposited or even pass into the bloodstream.

Measurements indicate microns in diameter (µm).



The World Health Organization (WHO) has highlighted the gravity of the situation by updating its air quality guidelines in 2021. These stricter guidelines reveal that even lower concentrations of air pollutants than previously thought can have harmful health effects. Consequently, the WHO adjusted the recommended levels for key outdoor air pollutants, including PM10, PM2.5, NO2, SO2, and CO, aiming to mitigate significant health risks associated with these pollutants.

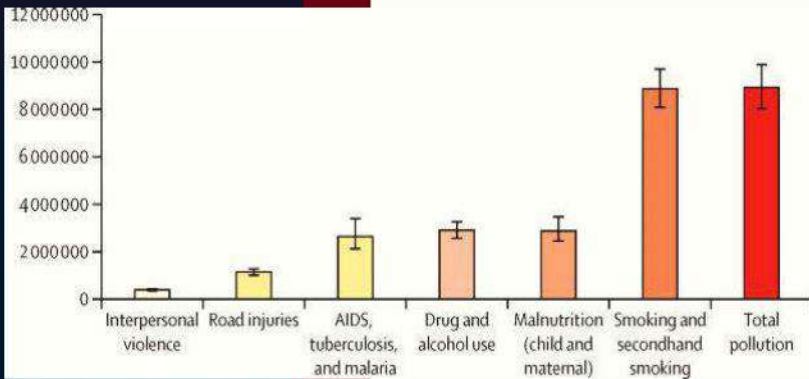
Despite these efforts, a staggering 8.1 million people died due to air pollution in 2021, as reported by the Health Effects Institute, an independent US-based research organization. This includes millions suffering from chronic diseases exacerbated by polluted air, imposing a heavy burden on healthcare systems, economies, and societies worldwide.

## Air Pollution and Children: A Deadly Connection

Children are particularly vulnerable to the detrimental effects



## Global Estimated Deaths



## The Devastating Effects of Pollutants

Recent data from the Global Burden of Disease study 2021 confirm the destructive impact of pollutants such as PM2.5, household air pollution, ozone (O3), and nitrogen dioxide (NO2) on health worldwide.

The report, covering data from over 200 countries, reveals that nearly every person on the planet breathes unhealthy levels of air pollution daily, resulting in severe health consequences.

Over 90% of deaths from air pollution—7.8 million people—are linked to PM2.5 particles. These minuscule particles, smaller than 2.5 micrometers, penetrate deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream, affecting multiple organ systems and increasing the risk of non-communicable diseases such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, lung cancer, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. PM2.5 is identified as the most reliable predictor of poor health outcomes globally.

## Fossil Fuels: The Primary Culprit

The burning of fossil fuels and biomass in various sectors, including transport, residential areas, coal-fired power plants, and industrial activities, primarily causes air pollution with PM2.5 particles. Wildfires also contribute significantly. These emissions not only harm human health but also exacerbate climate change, disproportionately affecting the world's most vulnerable populations.



In 2021, long-term exposure to ozone was linked to approximately 489,518 deaths globally. This figure includes 14,000 deaths in the US from ozone-related chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, more than in other developed nations.

As climate change continues to drive global warming, areas with high nitrogen dioxide levels can expect worsening ozone levels, leading to further adverse health effects.

For the first time, this year's report examines nitrogen dioxide exposure and its health impacts, including the development of asthma in children. Traffic exhaust is the primary source of nitrogen dioxide, posing significant health risks in densely populated urban areas, particularly in developed countries.

## Hope for Improvement



Air pollution is deadly and annually contributes to 8.1 million deaths globally

Despite the grim statistics, there is hope. Since 2000, the under-five mortality rate has decreased by 53%, thanks to improved access to clean cooking energy, healthcare, nutrition, and greater awareness of indoor air pollution dangers. Many countries with high pollution levels are now addressing the issue more aggressively. Initiatives in Africa, Latin America, and Asia, such as installing air pollution monitoring networks, implementing stricter air quality policies, and promoting hybrid or electric vehicles, are showing measurable improvements in pollution levels and public health.

The battle against air pollution is far from over, but with continued efforts and global cooperation, it is possible to mitigate its deadly impact and protect the health of future generations.



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## DUBAI TO CONSTRUCT THE WORLD'S GREENEST HIGHWAY: THE GREEN SPINE

Dubai is embarking on an ambitious project to create the world's greenest highway, known as the Green Spine. This initiative will transform a 64-kilometer section of Sheikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Road (E311) into a sustainable, multifunctional public space.

Led by Dubai's sustainable architecture firm, URB, the Green Spine project aims to integrate solar panels into the tram tracks, powering electric trams with 100% renewable energy. The project is expected to generate 300 megawatts of clean solar energy, sufficient to supply around 130,000 Dubai homes.

By shifting from fossil fuels to renewable energy, the initiative is projected to reduce Dubai's carbon footprint by approximately 1,051,200 tonnes annually. In addition, over a million trees will be planted along the highway to enhance biodiversity, while lush greenery will envelop pedestrian and cycling paths, adorned with native plants.

Residents will benefit from the ability to jog amidst this verdant environment and grow their own food in vertical farms lining the highway. This project not only emphasizes sustainability but also aims to create a healthier and more vibrant community space.





# KAIRAT

H.E. AMBASSADOR

# SARYBAY



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# DIPLOMATIC SAVANT

## *Par Excellence*

His Excellency, Kairat Sarybay, has worked his way to achieve a revered leader status during his illustrious career.

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H.E. AMBASSADOR  
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What has been his most profound motivation as an Ambassador?

Said His Excellency, "My most profound motivation as an Ambassador has always been to foster a lasting peace and understanding among nations. From the very beginning of my diplomatic career in 1991, I was inspired by the potential of diplomacy to bridge divides and build mutual understanding. One of my guiding principles has been the belief that sustained dialogue and collaboration can prevent conflicts and pave the

way for enduring peace. Whether serving as the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Türkiye or leading initiatives as Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan, my goal has consistently been to promote cooperation and prosperity. My current post as Secretary General of CICA is one of the milestones that reflect this commitment. By enhancing our strategic initiatives and expanding our partnerships, I strive to create a more interconnected and harmonious world."

Profession aside, how would he describe himself and his ideals?

"Beyond my professional responsibilities, I consider myself a passionate advocate for cultural exchange, education and gender equality. These ideals are deeply rooted in my personal experiences and values. Growing up in Kazakhstan, I was immersed in our rich heritage of nomadic traditions, which instilled in me a profound respect for our natural environment and tolerance towards various cultures, customs, and languages. This attitude towards cultural diversity is a



## H.E. KAIRAT SARYBAY

### ABOUT

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay is a prominent diplomat from Kazakhstan, known for his extensive experience and significant contributions to his country's foreign affairs.

### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Kairat Sarybay has served in various high-profile diplomatic roles. His career includes positions such as the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations and other international organizations in Vienna. He has also held the position of Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Austria, Türkiye, Germany, and Slovenia.

### CONTRIBUTIONS

Ambassador Sarybay has played a crucial role in promoting Kazakhstan's interests on the global stage, including efforts related to international security, economic cooperation, and regional stability. He has been involved in numerous multilateral negotiations and has represented Kazakhstan in various international forums.

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teaching of the Sufis. My father also raised me the values of asceticism, educating me in the self-discipline of owning only sufficient wealth, never in excess. This is another manifestation of our nomadic culture."

He continued, "I believe in the transformative power of education and continuous learning, which is why I have dedicated part of my career to lecturing and writing on topics related to international policy and ancient Turkic languages. Furthermore, I am committed to promoting gender equality, as reflected in various initiatives I have supported throughout my career. My family and I have always valued the importance of contributing to society, whether through cultural projects like 'The Pearls of Kazakhstan' in Germany, Austria and Slovenia, or through organising sports events that bring diverse communities together. These experiences shaped my approach to both life and work, reinforcing my dedication to fostering a world where respect, understanding and cooperation prevail."

As the Secretary General of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measure In Asia (CICA), he is involved in the role of CICA in ensuring security and trust in Asia. He shared about this endeavour and the role CICA plays.

"CICA plays a pivotal role in creating a platform for dialogue and cooperation among its Member States, addressing a wide range of issues from economic development to environmental protection and humanitarian concerns. Since my appointment, CICA and its Member States have made considerable progress expanding our partnerships with international organisations such as the United Nations. The growth of the CICA family further strengthens our collective ability to address common challenges. Moreover, our efforts in organising various political and cultural events in addition to aim to foster a sense of





**REGIONAL AND GLOBAL INFLUENCE**

As a seasoned diplomat, Ambassador Sarybay has been instrumental in fostering Kazakhstan's relationships with other nations and international organizations.

His work has contributed to Kazakhstan's growing influence in regional and global affairs, particularly in areas such as disarmament, trade, and environmental issues.

 **79<sup>th</sup> Commission Session**

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community, people-to-people connections and shared identity among Member States.

He added, "CICA's role is to act as a catalyst for positive change in Asia, promoting stability, peace and development through collective action and shared responsibility. My work with CICA is driven by the belief that through dialogue and cooperation, we can build a more secure and prosperous future for all our Member States and their peoples."

What are the main goals and objectives of CICA and what is considered to be CICA Transformation?

"Asia is dynamically becoming the main engine of international development in the 21st Century, both in terms of economic potential and its degree of influence on world politics. Possessing great human and natural resources, as well as rich cultural diversity and heritage, the continent has had a significant impact on global processes for thousands of years. As the largest region in the world, Asia must and will inevitably become a strong commonwealth of nations pursuing common goals, independently solving its internal problems and contributing to universal peace, security and global progress.

In this context, CICA, as the largest intergovernmental forum in Asia, is the most appropriate platform for consolidating the collective wisdom of all Asian countries in the interests of peace, cooperation, security and development, and its full inclusion into global security architecture and multilateral decision-making processes.

Over three decades of evolution, CICA has acquired the status, role, structure, functions, working methods and other properties of a full-fledged international organisation; constituent documents establishing





#### RECOGNITION

Ambassador Sarybay's efforts have earned him recognition and respect within the international diplomatic community.

He is known for his diplomatic acumen and his commitment to advance multilateral Approaches in resolving Pressing international issues.

**KAIRAT**  
H.E. AMBASSADOR  
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common goals and basic principles of relations between Member States; the structures of governing bodies; the executive body – the Secretariat; permanent advisory bodies and cooperation mechanisms – the CICA Business Council, CICA Youth Council, CICA Think Tank Forum, CICA Council of Eminent Persons, CICA Fund; legal capacity – Convention on Privileges and Immunities; financial and human resource management mechanisms.

Therefore, the first step in the transformation process was the decision of the Sixth CICA Summit in 2022 on the institutionalization of the supreme governing bodies of CICA into the Council of Heads of State and Government and the Ministerial Council, as well as the establishment of the post of Secretary General of CICA, previously called the 'Executive Director of the CICA Secretariat'.

As mandated by the Summit the Member States, developed a draft Roadmap for CICA Transformation (RMT), containing eight specific areas of reform. The roadmap serves as a structured agenda and guiding document for the process of gradual transformation with an open and non-exhaustive list of issues for discussion and decision-making. The Secretariat has held extensive consultations with Member States, gathered their views and developed proposals on specific measures related to transformation for future discussion by Member States. The RMT was officially approved by the decision of the CICA Ministerial Council meeting in New York on the sidelines of the high-level week of the UN General Assembly on 21 September 2023.

In the process of transformation, Member States will discuss topics such as the development of the CICA charter; improving the implementation of confidence-building measures and exploring future





**ABOUT CICA**

The Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is a multilateral forum aimed at enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security, and stability in Asia.

**FORMATION AND OBJECTIVES**

CICA was established in 1992 at the initiative of then-President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev. Its primary objective is to create a conducive environment for dialogue, cooperation, and the adoption of measures to prevent conflicts and build confidence among Asian countries.

priority areas of cooperation; the international status of Secretariat staff; updating the Rules of Procedure and Guidelines for External Relations; the role and functions of the Secretary General and the Secretariat; budget reform and human resource management reform, including the internationalization of the Secretariat.

Undoubtedly, any decisions of the Member States in these areas will contribute to improving the quality of cooperation within the framework of CICA, the institutional strengthening of our organization and, ultimately, strengthening the global role of Asia.”

One who is cognizant of the work of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders (GCBL), which shares similar core values, what has made the biggest impression on him about the organisation?

Said His Excellency, “The comprehensive and forward-thinking approach to fostering global cooperation and sustainable prosperity of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders (GCBL) has been remarkable. One of the most impressive aspects of GCBL is its ability to bring together a diverse and influential network of government officials, business leaders, entrepreneurs and industry experts from around the world.

This collective of visionary individuals and entities, united by a shared commitment to global peace and economic growth, exemplifies the power of collaboration in addressing complex global challenges.

GCBL's dedication to integrating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into future business models is particularly noteworthy. By aligning their activities with the UN's Decade of Action, GCBL not only advocates for sustainable practices but also actively contributes to

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## MEMBERSHIP

CICA comprises 28 Member States, including countries from different regions of Asia such as China, India, Russia, and Türkiye, among others. It also has observer states and organizations that participate in its activities and meetings.

## STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONING

The highest decision-making body of CICA is the Summit of Heads of State or Government, which meets every four years.

The Council of Foreign Ministers meets every four years between Summit meetings.

There is also a Senior Officials Committee that meets regularly to ensure the continuity of CICA's activities and initiatives.

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the creation of innovative solutions that drive economic and social progress.”

The GCBL has established an initiative called the Global Coalition For Cooperation and Peace (GCCP), which will champion the cause for peace and co-operation among communities and nations. It will focus on collaborative and partnered events and projects, in addition to a ‘travelling caravan’ of sorts with global leaders, respected decision-makers and professionals and even celebrities. We are in an era where the calls for peace and co-operation, solidarity and compassion are louder than ever.

What is his perspective on this initiative and if given the opportunity, how would he like to lend your support to the Cause?

“The Global Coalition For Cooperation and Peace (GCCP) initiative by the GCBL is a commendable and timely endeavor. In an era where global challenges such as conflicts, inequality and environmental crises are becoming increasingly interconnected, the call for peace, cooperation and solidarity is indeed louder than ever. The GCCP’s focus on collaborative events, projects and the innovative concept of a ‘travelling caravan’ featuring global leaders, decision-makers and celebrities has the potential to create significant impact by raising awareness, fostering dialogue and inspiring collective action.

My perspective on this initiative is one of strong support and enthusiasm. As CICA Secretary General, I have witnessed firsthand the importance of fostering trust, dialogue and cooperation among nations to achieve sustainable peace and security. The GCCP’s mission aligns closely with CICA’s objectives of promoting interaction and confidence-building measures across Asia and beyond.”



### ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

CICA works on a wide range of issues, including economic cooperation, environmental protection, combating terrorism, drug trafficking, and promoting human rights.

It promotes confidence building measures (CBMs) in various sectors, such as military-political, new threats and challenges, economic, environmental, and human dimensions.

### SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPACT

CICA plays a crucial role in fostering dialogue and cooperation among Asian countries, addressing common challenges, and contributing to regional security.

It serves as a platform for Member States to discuss and resolve regional issues through peaceful means and mutual understanding.

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As the interview moved towards the priorities of the Kazakhstan Chairmanship in CICA for the period 2022-2024, the Ambassador provided an overview.

“At the moment, the efforts of the Kazakh Chairmanship are aimed at implementing the decisions of the Sixth CICA Summit, the initiatives put forward by the President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, and the decisions of the CICA Ministerial Council meeting in September 2023. As I said earlier, these include the implementation of the strategic goal of transforming CICA into a full-fledged international organization, as well as the development of new initiatives and activities aimed at supporting youth groups and volunteerism, protecting the environment and climate, as well as ensuring sustainable connectivity and financial cooperation in the CICA region.

Recognizing the strength and potential of youth, the Kazakh Chairmanship will organize a rally of leaders of volunteer movements of CICA Member States under the auspices of the CICA Youth Council in Astana in October 2024. The event will bring together young leaders to share ideas and best practices in the field of volunteering and active public engagement.

Another key priority of the Chairmanship is the organization of the CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues in Astana on 28 August 2024. This event will be the starting point for the systematic and long-term work of CICA to address the urgent climate problems that Asia is facing today.

The Chairmanship also initiated the establishment of a Partnership Network of Leading Universities of CICA Member States.





#### SECRETARIAT

The CICA Secretariat is located in Astana, Kazakhstan, and is responsible for coordinating and implementing the decisions and activities of the organization.

The CICA Secretary General oversees its operations and liaises with Member States and other stakeholders.

Overall, CICA is an important regional forum that contributes to peace and stability in Asia through dialogue, cooperation, and confidence building measures among its Member States.

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This mechanism aims to facilitate academic exchanges, joint research projects and cooperation programs between Asian universities for the benefit of education systems and youth communities across the continent. Given the new challenges in the global economy, such as disruptions in supply chains, it was also proposed to create a Council on Sustainable Connectivity. The purpose of the Council is to stimulate the development of the transit potential of CICA Member States and strengthen sustainable transport corridors throughout the Asian continent.

Finally, along with these initiatives, CICA seeks to continue to deepen ties with Asian countries, as well as international and regional organisations, to ensure peace and security on the Continent."

He also offered an overview of the sequence of Chairmanship priorities of Türkiye, China, Tajikistan and the upcoming Azerbaijani Chairmanship.

"The Chairmanship of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) has indeed evolved significantly over the past decade, each country bringing its unique focus and priorities to the fore, enhancing CICA's role in promoting regional security and cooperation.

Türkiye, one of the founding members of CICA, assumed the Chairmanship from Kazakhstan at the Third CICA Summit in Istanbul in June 2010. During its tenure, Türkiye emphasized the theme 'Constructing Cooperative Security in Asia', focusing on integrating a comprehensive military-political agenda akin to the OSCE model. Under Türkiye's leadership, CICA expanded its structure and cooperation mechanisms, particularly in confidence-building





measures (CBMs) across five dimensions: military-political, economic, environmental, human, and new challenges and threats.

Notable events included the CICA-International Organization for Migration (IOM) Workshop in Antalya, the CICA Business Forums in Bangkok and Istanbul, and the Informal Meeting of CICA Foreign Ministers on the margins of the 66th UN General Assembly in New York. These efforts helped to foster a culture of dialogue and cooperation among Member States.

China took over the Chairmanship at the Fourth CICA Summit in Shanghai in May 2014. China's tenure was marked by substantial progress in expanding and deepening CBM cooperation. Notable initiatives included the establishment of the CICA Forum of Non-Governmental Organisations and the Think Tank Forum, which became critical platforms for non-governmental exchanges and intellectual support.

China hosted significant events such as the First Conference of the CICA Youth Council and the Fourth CICA Business Forum, boosting cooperation in economy, trade, youth, tourism, and environmental protection. Additionally, China strengthened CICA's external partnerships by welcoming new members like Bangladesh and Qatar and signing MOUs with organisations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Secretariat and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. This period saw CICA's network of partners expand, enhancing its role and influence in regional security and development.

Tajikistan assumed the Chairmanship from China during the First CICA Special Meeting of Foreign Ministers in September 2018. The Fifth CICA

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#### CYCLING AS A HOBBY

Ambassador Sarybay is an active supporter of sports and a healthy lifestyle, cycling and hiking. He uses every free moment for cycling adventures with colleagues and/or his family.

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Summit, held in Dushanbe in June 2019, was a landmark event with significant participation by Heads of State and Government.

Under President Emomali Rahmon's leadership, Tajikistan focused on addressing critical security issues, environmental challenges, and regional development. The Summit's theme, 'Shared Vision of Secure and More Prosperous CICA Region', was encapsulated in a comprehensive declaration addressing terrorism, disarmament, illicit drugs, organised crime, food and energy security, human rights, information technology, and environmental issues. President Rahmon particularly highlighted the urgent need to address environmental degradation, such as the melting glaciers in Tajikistan, which significantly impact Central Asia's water resources.

Looking ahead, Azerbaijan is set to assume the Chairmanship of CICA from 2024 to 2026. During my recent discussions with President Ilham Aliyev and Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov, we talked about potential priorities and plans of Azerbaijan's chairmanship of the CICA from 2024 to 2026, as well as current initiatives and future prospects within the organisation.

I am confident that Azerbaijan will build on the successes of previous Chairmanships and continue the transformation of CICA to effectively meet the evolving needs of its Member States. Each Chairmanship has contributed significantly to the growth and development of CICA, reinforcing its role as a vital platform for dialogue, trust-building, and cooperation in Asia. We look forward to the continued progress under Azerbaijan's leadership."

His Excellency's influence is deep and far-reaching. Many would wish to possess even a mere fraction of his experience and knowledge. For the







benefit of those who may be pursuing a similar career path, what is one key piece of advice he would give to them?

He offered, "One key piece of advice I would give to those pursuing a career in diplomacy or International Relations is to cultivate a deep sense of empathy and understanding for different cultures and perspectives. Diplomacy is fundamentally about building relationships and finding common ground, and this requires the ability to listen, learn and respect diverse viewpoints. Of course, developing strong communication and negotiation skills is essential. These skills enable you to articulate your ideas effectively and to mediate conflicts with clarity and tact."

Continuing, he said, "Additionally, remain adaptable and open to continuous learning. The global landscape is constantly evolving and staying informed and adaptable is crucial for addressing emerging challenges and seizing new opportunities. Lastly, maintain a strong commitment to integrity and ethical principles. Your reputation and credibility are invaluable assets in diplomacy and they are built on a foundation of trust and respect for others."

With all of the fall-outs and astonishing acts of epic proportions that the world has seen and experienced, what is his one wish for humanity?

"My one wish for humanity is that we embrace a spirit of unity and cooperation to address our common challenges and create a better world for future generations. In an increasingly interconnected world, our fates are intertwined, and the actions of one can have far-reaching impacts on many. By fostering a global culture of empathy, respect and solidarity, we can overcome divisions and work together to achieve peace, sustainability and prosperity for all. I hope that we can move

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"Ambassador Sarybay is one of the most capable people I have met in my life. He is a charismatic career diplomat who always knows exactly what he wants. He is a man who loves his homeland above all. He is a great leader and a great friend."

**DEJAN ŠTANCER**, GCBL President

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beyond short-term interests and conflicts to prioritise the collective well-being of humanity and our planet. Through mutual understanding and collaborative efforts, I believe we can build a future where every individual has the opportunity to thrive in a just, equitable and peaceful world.

On a departing note, His Excellency addressed the readers of our magazine. What sentiments did he share with our valued readers?

"To the valued readers of Global Times, I would like to express my deep appreciation for your interest in the work of CICA and in the broader efforts to promote peace and cooperation in Asia and beyond. Your engagement and support are vital to our mission. I encourage you to stay informed, be proactive and contribute to the dialogue on critical issues facing our world today.

Each of us has a role to play in building a more harmonious and prosperous future. Let us all strive to be ambassadors of peace in our own communities, fostering understanding and collaboration in our daily interactions. Together, we can make a significant difference and create a legacy of peace and goodwill for generations to come. Thank you."







## HARBIN ICE PARK NAMED WORLD'S LARGEST INDOOR ICE AND SNOW THEME PARK

Harbin, China, is now home to the world's largest indoor ice and snow theme park, as certified by Guinness World Records. The park, which officially opened its doors on July 6, features ice and snow sculptures crafted by a team of 10,000 individuals over the course of nearly a month.

Spanning 23,800 square meters, the park includes nine themed sections and 13 interactive projects, all designed to provide an immersive experience through advanced lighting, sound, and interactive technologies. Visitors are greeted with lifelike ice sculptures beautifully illuminated by vibrant lights, enhancing the park's enchanting atmosphere.

On its opening day, the park welcomed over 3,000 visitors, despite the sweltering outdoor temperatures exceeding 29 degrees Celsius (84 degrees Fahrenheit) due to a heat wave. Inside, the park maintains a chilly -10 degrees Celsius to preserve its intricate ice decorations, made from 20,000 cubic meters of ice harvested from the Songhua River.

In addition to its themed sections, the park boasts China's largest indoor ski resort, covering 80,000 square meters. The resort features eight snow trails and a vertical drop of up to 80 meters, catering to skiers of all skill levels.

This innovative attraction is set to establish Harbin as a year-round destination, combining the allure of winter sports with the excitement of interactive, themed entertainment.



The World's Richest Families:

# WEALTH, INFLUENCE AND GLOBAL IMPACT



Global Times Magazine Editorial Team

In 2023, the combined wealth of the world's richest families saw an astronomical increase of \$1.5 trillion. This surge reflects the diverse sources of their fortunes, spanning industries such as retail, luxury goods, energy, and finance. Below, we delve into the profiles of these affluent families, their sources of wealth, and their global influence.

## 1. The Al Nahyan Family



**Net Worth:** Over \$300 billion

**Primary Source of Wealth:** Oil, Investments

**Notable Assets:** Manchester City Football Club

The Al Nahyan family, rulers of Abu Dhabi, have emerged as the wealthiest family in the world, surpassing the Walton family. Their immense wealth is primarily derived from the abundant oil reserves of the United Arab Emirates. Over the years, strategic investments have diversified their portfolio, including the ownership of the Manchester City Football Club, which has further enhanced their global prominence (Business Insider Africa) (Business Insider Nederland).

## 2. The Walton Family

**Net Worth:** Approximately \$224.5 billion

**Primary Source of Wealth:** Walmart

The Walton family, synonymous with retail giant Walmart, has long been considered one of the wealthiest families globally. While they were overtaken by the Al Nahyan family in 2023, their fortune remains staggering. Walmart's global retail dominance continues to underpin







their wealth, which is shared among several family members who hold significant shares in the company.

### 3. The Hermès Family (Dumas)

**Net Worth:** Around \$183 billion

**Primary Source of Wealth:** Hermès

The Dumas family, owners of the luxury fashion house Hermès, witnessed a remarkable increase in their fortune in 2023, adding \$56 billion. This growth underscores the enduring allure and profitability of high-end fashion.

Hermès, known for its iconic Birkin bags and silk scarves, remains a symbol of luxury and craftsmanship, driving the family's wealth to new heights.



### 4. The Mars Family

**Net Worth:** Approximately \$160 billion

**Source of Wealth:** Mars Inc. (Confectionery, Pet Care)

The Mars family, known for their eponymous confectionery empire, is a stalwart in the American business landscape. Beyond candy, Mars Inc. has diversified into pet care, making it a significant player in multiple industries. This diversification has been crucial in maintaining and growing their wealth, positioning them among the richest families in the United States.

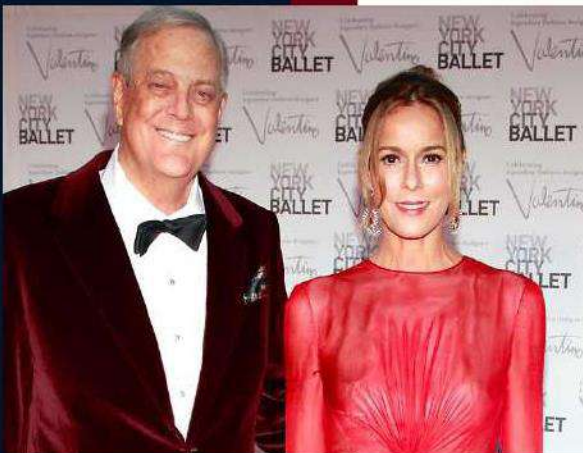


### 5. The Koch Family

**Net Worth:** Around \$124 billion

**Primary Source of Wealth:** Koch Industries

The Koch family's wealth is derived from Koch Industries, a conglomerate with interests in energy, chemicals, and investment. The family is renowned for their political influence and extensive philanthropic efforts. Their business acumen and strategic diversification have ensured their continued presence among the world's richest.



### 6. The Boehringer & von Baumbach Families

**Net Worth:** Estimated \$59 billion

**Primary Source of Wealth:**

Boehringer Ingelheim (Pharmaceuticals)

The Boehringer and von Baumbach families are at the helm of Boehringer Ingelheim, one of the world's leading







pharmaceutical companies. Their wealth is rooted in the success of this family-owned enterprise, which continues to innovate in the healthcare sector.

The family's commitment to research and development cemented their pharmaceutical industry position.

## 7. The Johnson Family

Net Worth: **Estimated \$46 billion**

Primary Source of Wealth: **Fidelity Investments**

The Johnson family, owners of Fidelity Investments, have a significant footprint in the financial services sector. Their wealth is tied to the success of Fidelity, one of the largest asset management firms globally. The family's influence in finance is substantial, with their stewardship of Fidelity ensuring its continued growth and profitability.



It was founded in 1946 by Edward C. Johnson II and is currently run by the Founder's granddaughter, Abigail Johnson. She stands as the 58th richest person in the world with a net worth of USD 27.8 billion at the time of writing this article.

### The Impact of Their Wealth

These families wield significant influence not just through their financial clout, but also via their contributions to various sectors such as healthcare, technology, and philanthropy. Their business ventures and investments shape economies, create jobs, and drive innovation. Additionally, their philanthropic efforts often address critical global issues, further amplifying their impact.

### Conclusion

The wealth and influence of these families reflect the dynamic nature of global economics and the power of strategic investments.

As they continue to diversify and expand their enterprises, their legacies will likely endure, shaping the future of industries and markets worldwide.

These families exemplify how wealth, when coupled with strategic vision and diversified interests, can lead to sustained growth and global impact. Their stories offer valuable insights into the world of high finance, luxury, and industrial prowess, showcasing the intersection of tradition and modernity in the pursuit of enduring success.

Article **END**







# PORSCHE

## New 2024 Porsche

# 911 Turbo S

Black 2024 Porsche 911 Turbo S AWD 8-Speed Porsche Doppelkupplung (PDK) 3.8L H6 Turbocharged DOHC 24V LEV3-ULEV70 540hp AWD, 12 Speakers, 18-Way Adaptive Sport Seats Plus w/Memory Package, 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, 911 Logo on Rear in Exterior Color, 911 Turbo SportDesign Package, ABS brakes, Adaptive suspension, Air Conditioning, Alloy wheels, Ambient Lighting, Auto High-beam Headlights, Auto-dimming door mirrors, Auto-dimming Rear-View mirror, Automatic temperature control, Bose Surround Sound System, Brake assist, Bumpers: body-color, Burmester High-End Surround Sound System, Ceramic disc brakes: front and rear, Delay-off headlights, Driver door bin, Driver vanity mirror, Dual front impact airbags, Dual front side impact airbags, Electric Slide/Tilt Glass Sunroof, Electronic Stability Control, Exclusive Design Fuel Cap, Exterior Mirror Base in Exterior Color, Exterior Parking Camera Rear, Four wheel independent suspension, Front anti-roll bar, Front Axle Lift System, Front Bucket Seats, Front Center Armrest, Front dual zone A/C, Front reading lights, Front Ventilated Seats, Fully automatic headlights, Garage door transmitter: HomeLink, Heated door mirrors, Heated front seats, Heated GT Sport Steering Wheel, Illum Door-Sill Guards in Dk Silver Brushed Alum, Illuminated entry, Inner Door-Sill Guards in Leather, Interior Trim Inlays in Leather, Ionizer, Lane Change Assist (LCA), Leather Seat Trim w/Leather Interior, Leather steering wheel, LED-Matrix Design Headlights in Black w/PDLS+, Low tire pressure warning, Memory seat, Navigation system: Porsche Communication Management (PCM), Occupant sensing airbag, Outside temperature display, Overhead airbag, Overhead console, Passenger Cupholder Trim in Leather, Passenger door bin, Passenger vanity mirror, Porsche Ceramic Composite Brakes (PCCB) in Gls Blk, Porsche Communication Management, Porsche InnoDrive w/Adaptive Cruise Control, PORSCHE Logo on Rear in High Gloss Black, Power door mirrors, Power driver seat, Power passenger seat, Power steering, Power Steering Plus, Power windows, Preparation for Front & Rear Porsche Dashcam, Radio data system, Rain sensing wipers, Rear anti-roll bar, Rear fog lights, Rear Side Air Intakes in Exterior Color, Rear window defroster, Rear Wiper, Remote keyless entry, Security system, Smoldering Package, Speed control, Split folding rear seat, Spoiler, Sport Exhaust System w/Tailpipes in Black, Sport steering wheel, Steering Column Casing in Leather w/Memory Package, Steering wheel memory, Steering wheel mounted audio controls, Storage Package, Surround View, Tachometer, Telescoping steering wheel, Tilt steering wheel, Traction control, Trip computer, Variably intermittent wipers, Wheels Painted in Satin Aurum, Wheels: 20 Fr/21 Rr 911 Turbo S Exclusive Design, Wheels: 20 Front/21 Rear 911 Turbo S, AWD





## REVOLUTIONIZING TRANSPORT: WORLD'S FIRST HYDROGEN-POWERED FERRY TO LAUNCH IN SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco Bay is set to host a groundbreaking innovation in maritime transport with the introduction of the world's first hydrogen-powered commercial passenger ferry, MV Sea Change. This 70-foot-long catamaran, designed to carry up to 75 passengers, will operate between Pier 41 and the downtown San Francisco ferry terminal.

The service, which was slated to begin on July 19, will be free for passengers for the first six months as part of an extensive pilot program. MV Sea Change boasts the ability to travel approximately 300 nautical miles and operate for around 16 hours before requiring refueling, showcasing the efficiency and sustainability of hydrogen technology.

The ferry's cutting-edge technology involves fuel cells that generate energy through an electrochemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen, producing only water as a by-product. This innovative approach not only reduces emissions but also sets a new standard for environmentally-friendly public transport.

MV Sea Change is a testament to the potential of hydrogen as a clean energy source, paving the way for future advancements in sustainable transportation.



Brokewell Trojan Can Steal Everything:

# ONE OF THE BIGGEST THREATS TO ANDROID SMARTPHONES

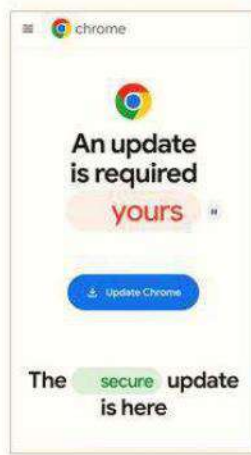
**TECHNOLOGY**  
Unstoppable

Global Times Magazine Editorial Team

In the ever-evolving landscape of cyber threats, a new danger has emerged for Android smartphone users. Known as the Brokewell Trojan, this malicious software can infiltrate your device, steal sensitive information, and even grant remote control to hackers. This article explains how the Brokewell Trojan operates, its primary targets, and how you can protect your device from this serious threat.



Legitimate page of Google Chrome



Fake page distributing Brokewell

## What is Brokewell?

Brokewell is a sophisticated Trojan horse that disguises itself as an update for various apps. Once installed, it starts recording everything that happens on your device, from mobile banking login details to personal messages. This Trojan can allow a third party to take complete control of your smartphone.

## The Discovery and Warning

Security experts at Threatfabric discovered the Brokewell Trojan and issued a warning at the end of last month. They emphasized that this threat is likely to evolve and be exploited by more cybercriminals in the future.

## How Brokewell Works

Brokewell is a remote access Trojan, which means it opens a "back door" to your device. This back door allows attackers to steal login data for online services, take full control of your device, and monitor all activities.

Threatfabric describes Brokewell as a modern banking Trojan, primarily targeting mobile banking applications.



## How Brokewell Spreads

The Trojan spreads through fake updates for Android apps. Threatfabric has identified three main attack vectors so far, with the Google Chrome browser being the most dangerous. Since Chrome is installed on almost every Android smartphone and is the most used mobile browser, it becomes an easy target.

## Infection Process

The infection process typically begins with a fake update prompt for the Chrome browser. These prompts mimic legitimate update notifications but contain subtle differences in wording. When a user installs the fake update, the Trojan exploits Android's accessibility features to gain necessary permissions for its malicious activities.

## Post-Infection Activities

Once installed, Brokewell can:

- **Monitor Banking Apps:** It can detect when a mobile banking app is opened and overlay a fake login form to steal credentials.
- **Steal Authentication Tokens:** By monitoring the screen, it can intercept SMS authentication tokens.
- **Record All Activity:** Brokewell can record everything happening on the device, including screen touches, data input, and application usage.
- **Transmit Data to Hackers:** The recorded data is sent to a remote server controlled by the attacker, enabling them to steal all data on the device, including highly sensitive information.

## Full Device Control

The Trojan can also take complete control of your device. It can stream the infected device's screen live to the attacker, who can then control it using virtual touches and swipes. According to Threatfabric, the attacker can command the Trojan to perform about twenty different actions, effectively controlling the device as if they were holding it.

## Protecting Your Device

To avoid falling victim to Brokewell or similar threats:

- **Do not click on links from unknown senders:** Be cautious with SMS messages or emails from unfamiliar sources.
- **Avoid suspicious updates:** Do not install updates from pop-up prompts or unverified sources. Always update apps through official app stores.



Brokewell can also obtain mobile banking login information by stealing cookies, the company warns



- Use security software: Install reputable security apps that can detect and block malware.
- Regularly update your system: Keep your operating system and all apps updated through official channels to ensure you have the latest security patches.

## Conclusion

The Brokewell Trojan represents a significant threat to Android users, capable of stealing sensitive data and allowing remote control of infected devices.

By understanding how this Trojan operates and taking proactive steps to protect your device, you can safeguard your personal information and prevent potential breaches.

To avoid these types of fraud attempts in the first place, it is important not to open web links received from unknown senders in SMS messages or e-mails, or not to click on (often paid) posts that either alert us to a suspected problem or danger on our device or promise something that sounds too good to be true.

Stay vigilant and ensure your smartphone's security to avoid becoming a victim of this or similar cyber threats.

Article **END**

### How to protect yourself from possible infections with such malicious programs?

Installing applications and updates only from official or verified sources is the most reliable way. On Android smartphones, for the vast majority of users, these are the Google Play app store and the official websites of app developers.

To avoid these types of fraud attempts in the first place, it is important not to open web links received from unknown senders in SMS messages or e-mails, or not to click on (often paid) posts that either alert us to a suspected problem or danger on our device or promise something that sounds too good to be true.

It is also important to check which permissions it requires for "normal" operation before installing any application and to ensure that the phone's software is always updated to the latest version, as this includes current security patches.



# HABEMUS CANDIDATE?

Former President and Vice President of the Republic of Ecuador,  
Board of Advisors Member, Global Chamber of Business Leaders,  
former Secretary General of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization



In this year's U.S. presidential election,  
Donald J. Trump and Kamala Harris  
will compete against each other.

It is true that the American President should have taken the decision to step back from the possibility of running for reelection, some months ago, to open the opportunity for his Party to organize primaries and decide who would head the electoral ticket.

But we must also recognize that Joe Biden is a Democrat and a gentleman, by stepping back and supporting the possibility of his Vice President being the candidate for President of the United States.

Let us recall that Biden, by choosing Kamala Harris as his vice-presidential candidate, gave for the first time to this country the possibility for a woman belonging to two racial minorities to be the first to occupy that position: woman, black, of Asian origin.

Kamala Harris had already tried to be a candidate for the presidency of her country, she presented her pre-candidacy after a successful career as Prosecutor of her State and then as Senator but declined precisely to unify the candidacy of the Democratic Party.

Of course, it remains to be seen how the tokens will be stacked on the board of the Democratic Party before reaching the national convention of the party that will anoint the designated candidate.

Several names of possible successors to the presidential candidacy are already beginning to appear, it is also said that the Republican Party is launching a campaign against the current Vice President of the United States, a campaign led by candidate Trump himself, however, we will have to see how the decisions of the members of the Democratic Party align.

What is certain is that today the stars are playing in favor of Kamala Harris as the most likely candidate for the Presidency of the most powerful country on earth.

Rosalía Arteaga is a prominent Ecuadorian politician and lawyer who briefly served as Ecuador's first female President in 1997. She previously held roles as Vice President and Minister of Education. Arteaga is also known for her advocacy in education, women's rights, and environmental issues, and has authored several books on these topics.





YES  
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# LAUREN

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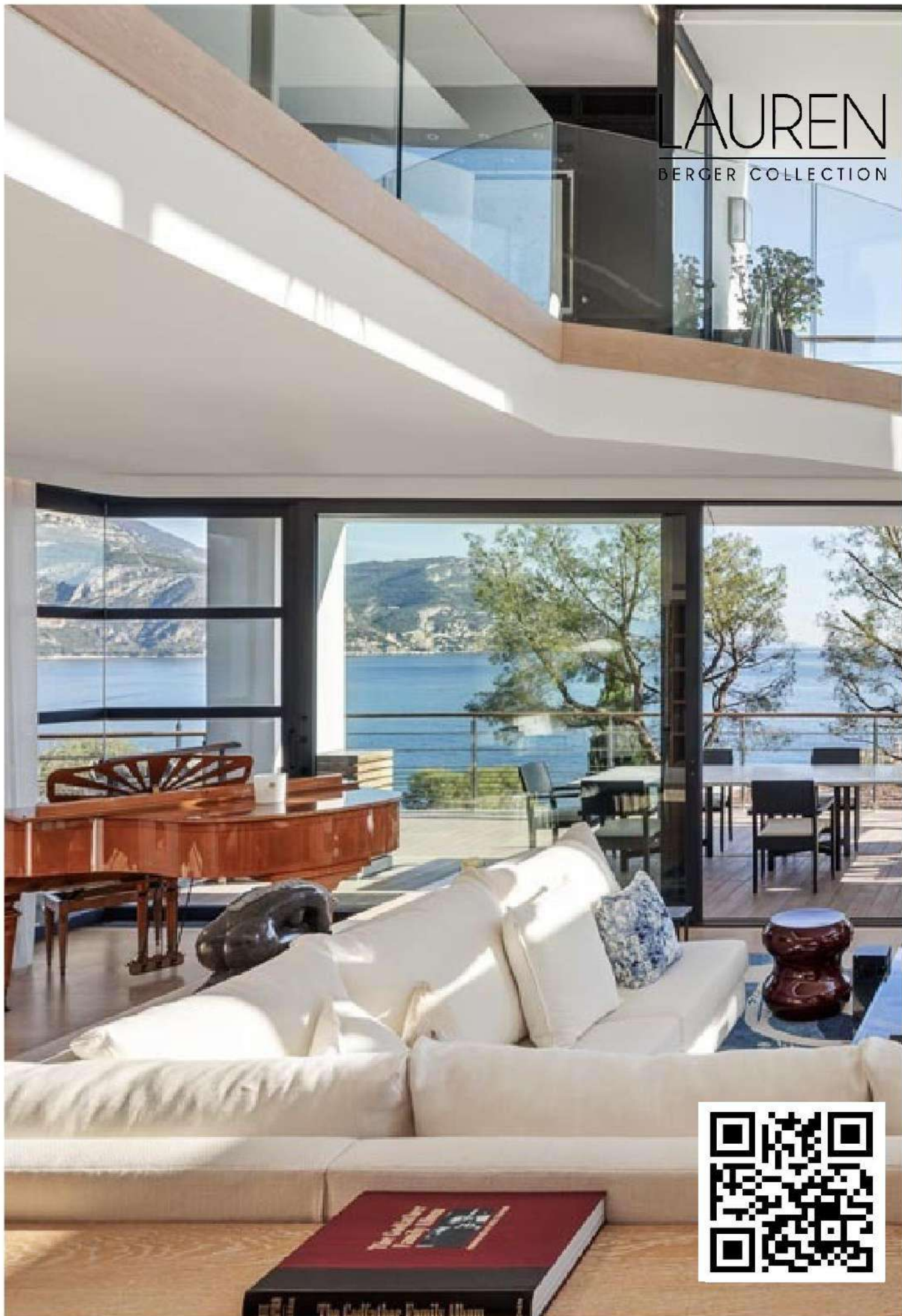
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Becoming a member of the GCBL offers numerous benefits, including:

- ✓ **Global Networking And Business Opportunities:** Connect with global business leaders, policymakers, and influential figures.
- ✓ **Access to Resources:** Gain insights from industry reports, market research, and best practices.
- ✓ **Influence and Advocacy:** Participate in shaping policies and initiatives that impact global business.
- ✓ **Professional Development:** Access workshops, seminars, and training programs to enhance leadership skills.
- ✓ **Global Exposure:** Increase visibility and credibility on an international platform.

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**MICHAEL  
& KATJA** Hengl  
Dynamics of a Dynamic Duo

## THE POWER COUPLE BEHIND AI-DRIVEN LEADERSHIP

Michael and Katja Hengl seem to embody the familiar statement: When you see one, you see the other. A couple for three decades, they have built an enviable business empire and romantically laid-back personal life experience when it's called for.

Speaking with Michael and Katja, there's a calm, down-to-earth, warm, compassionate, respectful essence that emanates from both of them. This power couple has laid the foundation for widespread success all while maintaining a penchant for creating harmonious energies in all aspects of their lives.

Being deemed as a 'power couple', what comes to Michael's mind when he hears the term?

"In our view, the essence of a power couple lies beneath the surface, based on the shared power between Katja and me. Our fundamental assumption, which we believe applies to all other couples and teams, is that we operate on the same power source or battery. Over the last 30





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## MICHAEL HENGL

Michael Hengl is a prominent figure in the fields of business and leadership transformation. His career began as an Austrian ski racer before he transitioned into entrepreneurship at the age of 19. His business acumen was further honed through academic pursuits in philosophy, psychology, system theory, and he earned an MBA.

Michael's interdisciplinary research has led him to collaborate with the MIT Centre for Collective Intelligence in Boston.

He is a published author, a blogger for Harvard Business, a life coach, and an adjunct professor at several prestigious institutions.



years, through endless iterations, we have learned that we are not just single entities, regardless of who is manifesting more actively or passively to the outside business world. It is fundamentally important for us to understand the dynamic play of masculine and feminine energy on a deeper level as two entangled energies as a constant tension. This understanding is not about the sex of the body. It goes beyond and is essential to collaborate successfully and achieve beyond one's individual potential, expressed mathematically as  $1 + 1$  needing to equal  $11$ .

There is a charming anecdote, allegedly about Mr. and Mrs. Churchill, who were walking through a posh neighbourhood in London. People greeted and exchanged a few words with the Prime Minister. However, a street sweeper greeted Mrs. Churchill quite particularly and the two stayed aside for a while in familiar conversation.

Afterwards, Churchill asked his wife why it had taken her so long to talk with a street sweeper. 'Oh... He was once in love with me a long time ago.', she replied. Churchill smiled and said, 'You see, if you had married him, you would be the wife of a street sweeper today.' Mrs. Churchill looked at her husband in astonishment and said the legendary words, 'Oh no, darling. If I had married him, he would be the Prime Minister today.' It is often not recognised that success and effectiveness in the 'We-Space' are multifaceted, yet always depend on a common source of energy."



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## KATJA HENGL

Katja Hengl, also known as Katja Bellinghausen, began her career as a classical actress in Germany and Austria, where she gained success in television and films. In 2002, she developed the "Shakespeareance" methodology at the University of Witten/Herdecke, designed to help leaders perform better within their organizations by improving their stage performance skills.

Since 2007, she has been an executive coach and the head of coaching at the 1492 Group. Katja is also a certified teacher at the "Search Inside Yourself Leadership Institute," a program developed at Google, focusing on emotional intelligence, mindfulness, and leadership.

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Michael and Katja are the Founders of the 1492 Group. What prompted that path? In a nutshell, what is the Group about?

Explained Michael, "1492 is a think tank that was founded in 1994 by Katja and myself, focusing on how to enhance the collective intelligence of organisations. This led to supporting large corporations with changes due to new strategies, which they often struggled to execute. Very early on, we experienced the biggest tension in change projects: the mindsets of leaders, executives, employees and the skills of experts who needed to stretch beyond their subject matter expertise applying systems intelligence. A leader from a certain hierarchy, function or geography is not necessarily fully equipped to embrace a new strategy because she or he needs to act beyond their own subject expertise, permanently aligning with the big picture and moving targets. That is not easy.

That's why we engage not just a few leaders or employees but the whole crowd in co-creatively developing and executing strategies more effectively with effortless ease. This is where our Webrain AI technology plays a central role in refining the signals of the crowd and introducing new management systems, based on the collective intelligence of an organisation, saving 90% of the cost of expensive consultants and being four times better, faster and more engaging."

1492 Webrain is an AI software facility that "transforms from ego to





## THE 1492 GROUP

### Overview

Founded in 1994 in Cologne, Germany, by Michael and Katja Hengl, the 1492 Group is dedicated to enhancing collective intelligence within organizations while maintaining a balance with global consciousness. This organization aims to promote innovative business strategies and leadership through a variety of programs and consulting services.



ecosystem for enriching the world". Asked to expound on this revolutionary thinking and concept and explain why in these 2020s, it is pivotal to our progress, Michael stated, "A hundred years ago, Mr. Emil Lerp, a German entrepreneur, launched the gasoline chainsaw, revolutionizing the forestry industry. In 1930, my neighbors in the Austrian Alps employed 80 lumberjacks for the arduous and dangerous task of cutting trees and producing logs and timber for houses and firewood. Today, the same work is managed by one harvester using Mr. Lerp's technologies. We are confident that the era of expensive analog consultants, who sell back the data and insights gathered from their clients, will meet the same fate as the lumberjacks did a century ago. Because the wisdom of crowd is huge, evergreen, innovative and inexpensive.

Today, everyone is connected and able to access information via Google, reducing ignorance to a minimum. Secondly, the crowd is vast. It enables endless people to help solve your problems almost for free, in nearly every corner of the world with very little effort. Thirdly, the crowd is far more innovative because a large, evergreen crowd views problems from many different perspectives, which often turn into overlooked opportunities. Moreover, all this wisdom of the crowd, with its collective intelligence embodied in an AI algorithm, is immortal - it will not retire, quit or fall ill. On the contrary, it is learning at a speed beyond light, simplifying our lives so that we can focus on creative, value-creating activities enjoying life collectively enriched."





#### Mission and Vision

The 1492 Group is committed to transforming business practices by fostering collective intelligence. Their mission is to develop leaders who are capable of driving organizational success through enhanced collaboration and strategic thinking.

The Group's vision encompasses a global perspective, aiming to integrate sustainable practices and ethical leadership into the core of business operations.

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One whose creativity was realised early in her life and one who is an equal force in the business realm, Katja shared her personal outlook. "As an artist and coach, I encourage leaders to view their life and business as a journey of performance art piece, where they thrive until their deepest desires are reflected back to them from the outside world."

In Katja's early adult life, she was a Classical Theatre Actress in Germany and she eventually went on to experience success in award-winning television shows and movies. She described that period saying, "The magic of resonating with a large audience (crowd) on stage was transformative." She is also a certified teacher of the prestigious Search Inside Yourself Leadership Program, which originated at Google and is based on Neuroscience. As a Co-Founder of the 1492 Group, she created visibility for her art at the University of Witten/Herdecke through a coaching format that she branded "Shakespearience".

What was the impetus for such a creative move?

Said Katja, "In 1999, I experienced an embarrassing moment of a 'blank' on stage, forgetting everything during a large 'live' event in front of 3,000 people.

Unable to slip into any of the many characters I performed, I stood there, alone with myself, naked and embarrassed. That moment ignited my passion to help others on stage transition from merely pretending to becoming truly authentic leaders who love what they do. An audience resonates with your whole self and all your stories but it often takes a jolting experience to shake off the old self residing within your character. There are millions of books on leadership but there's only one true indicator of effective leadership: the archaic moment when someone follows simply because they are drawn to the leader's presence. A prime example is the scene from William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, where Mark Antony turns the crowd to his side after Brutus's speech. This is the ideal study in how to lead without violence and power, using only your soul."

This program is said to help leaders to operate with a deeper understanding of who they are, which in turn, provides opportunities for them to elevate their performance. The program being way ahead of its time when it began and certainly being a revolutionary approach to coaching and learning, did people immediately understand her vision?

Katja remarked, "No, it is not something that can be fully understood





#### Impact and Influence

Through their work with the 1492 Group, Michael and Katja Hengl have significantly influenced modern business practices.

They focus on the development of collective intelligence and leadership on a global scale, helping organizations achieve sustainable success and ethical growth.

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cognitively, as it is an experience or a 'Shakespeareance'. Some leaders are clinging to a superficial or mechanistic approach, attaching themselves to their messages or content. They believe that instructing someone on where to position their hands on stage or how to pronounce certain words will create followers. In reality, this approach often worsens the performance of a leader because it lacks authenticity, leading to a dull performance that might put the audience to sleep. At this point, the value of Da Vinci's 'Salvator Mundi'—auctioned for \$450 million – is destroyed to that of a mere Amazon knockoff selling for \$6.91. What a pity and what hard work it is to help executives find the courage within themselves again. Leadership is an art not a craft, so we need more artists in business."

Building a business and brand is sometimes an uphill battle for many entrepreneurs. What were her early experiences with building credibility for and gaining acceptance of the coaching concept and the brand as a whole?

"I believe that I am the brand and people either trust me or they don't. Trust is not transactional; at some point, it needs to pay forward. This coaching approach is suitable for people in high-performance situations. Many average and straightforward jobs with low uncertainty can be handled simply by knowing what to do, distributing the work and ensuring that it is done. Tasks that require order and control tend to fall more on the management side of jobs, distinguishing them from





### Programs and Services

The 1492 Group offers a range of programs designed to improve organizational effectiveness and leadership capabilities. These include:

#### Leadership Development

Programs like "Shakespeareance" and executive coaching that focus on enhancing leadership skills and performance.

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leaders who face high-uncertainty challenges and need to keep people engaged with limited organizational control and power."

Interestingly enough, Michael actually began his entrepreneurial journey at the age of 19. How did this come about? "Being born into an entrepreneurial family, I think I was primed very early for a kind of freedom paid for with the currency of self-responsibility. It's my conviction that the world is invented, not merely discovered – a concept that's easy to grasp when you look around. The room where we read or write, the chair we sit or stand on, the computer we work with and the entire civilization we've brought into existence didn't appear out of nowhere since the Big Bang; they were invented. So why not self-start and invent something on top of that, rather than living within the boundaries and constraints of old structures?

Going beyond the things I discovered, combined with a divine satisfaction, opened a door to imagine improvements and new ideas springing from a fountain of innovation. In sports, I learned that winning a race goes beyond dreaming. It requires crazy, enduring training over many years to achieve competitiveness or perfection. I see the work of an entrepreneur as the work of an artist, creating meaningful value and receiving standing ovations on one side, and on the other, as a very enduring development process, managing everything in a systematic, disciplined way."

It is evident that he has a deep consciousness of things which extends





#### Brand Strategy:

Assisting companies in building and refining their brand identity, ensuring it aligns with consumer expectations and market trends.

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to various life situations. After a car accident, he experienced a spiritual awakening. How would he describe that epiphany and how did it play into his own consciousness as an entrepreneur in his field?

"Yes, a car accident blew my mind in a literal sense, yet what remained was a paradise-like pure awareness, a reality unfiltered by thoughts. Thoughts, although familiar, function as abstracts or symbols that can easily be mistaken for reality itself, quickly becoming counterproductive and dangerous.

My car accident liberated me from a cognitive prison by the force of destiny, a prison I wasn't even aware of because I couldn't see, feel or smell its bars. Naively, I did not know that I did not know, and realised that everything around me was already filtered through the lenses like in the Matrix movie. Waking up to reality felt like the release from a spell. This epiphany I also found in the story of King Midas, who wished that everything he touched turned to gold, only to realise he became unable to eat or drink as his food and beverages also turned into gold. Realising all the conscious and unconscious thoughts about the outside world cannot feed or satisfy me, and that it will never fill the void inside myself, was significant. It opened a new way of living, working and doing business for me from a place outside abstract symbols and thoughts. I discovered who I can be without my stories of dependency on love, approval, appreciation, social status, money, success or fame and yet using everything like we use tools with a



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#### Market Analysis:

Conducting in-depth market research to guide product development and brand positioning, helping businesses stay competitive.

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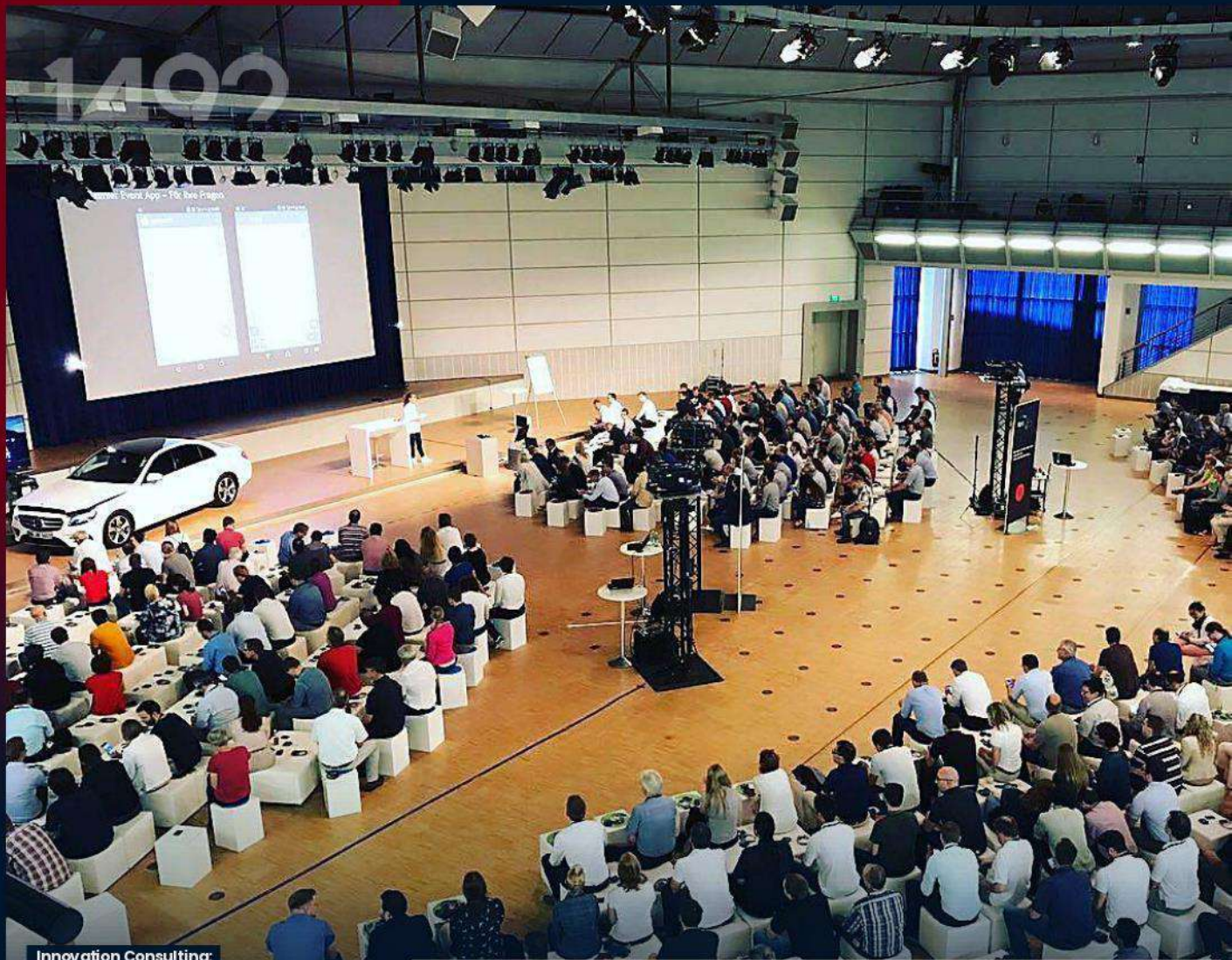


mindset of detached involvement, much more effectively and with much greater power, without limitations.”

Michael's studies include Gestalt Psychology, Integral Philosophy and Macroeconomics and he has lectured on social learning at the University of Witten/Herdecke. What exactly is the concept of social learning and how it can potentially impact professionals, especially at the leadership level?

“Everybody knows that learning by doing is effective, with its most famous strategy being trial and error. While this method is great, it is also risky, expensive and often tiring. This is why the evolution of Homosapiens has crystallized around our capacity to build on each other's ideas. This ability is humanity's secret sauce because we can do it even beyond space and time, becoming unbelievably more successful than all other animals that use trial and error to progress. That is the most fundamental element of social learning because we do not rely solely on our individual intelligence; we also use tons of transitional knowledge stored in the minds of other humans dead and alive. Primordial to this is language – not just sounds with semantics and syntax like many animals use but fictional language. You could promise your dog many tasty treats tomorrow to alter his behaviour today but it will not work because dogs are not yet abstract thinkers who can comprehend the idea of ‘tomorrow’, even though they have amazing social skills. In our research, we see evidence that suggests





#### Innovation Consulting:

Offering insights and strategies to drive innovation within organizations, focusing on creating value through new ideas and approaches.

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changing the school system, where social learning in tests is strictly prohibited and punished, most hurtfully with failing that exam. Yet, in the business world, success often fully depends on teamwork and collective intelligence.”

Boasting a business career where they’ve done over 2000 projects helping companies around the world in 150 countries, from USA to China, Mexico and India, Michael and Katja’s collective work has resulted in them being recognised in Harvard Business Manager. Michael shared why it was such a monumental feat in their eyes and what it meant to have their work recognised in that way.

Said Michael, “Harvard Business Manager was initially skeptical but the business facts and KPIs spoke a surprisingly honest language. The editors acknowledged that the topline increased by 425% over the course of four years, while customer satisfaction significantly improved, and costs were reduced by 25% during the same period through a joy-based collective intelligence approach that also increased employee satisfaction overall. This represents a gross performance improvement of 100% per year. Such results are typically seen only in turnarounds or restructuring programs that involve reverse re-engineering companies, yet here, it was the crowd that achieved these results through revitalization and tapping into potential. Although they have featured many successful leaders who achieved extraordinary results, this was a unique case where the crowd itself was the driving force. We look back



**Retail Solutions:**

Providing expertise in enhancing retail experiences, from store design to customer engagement strategies.

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on countless projects that have averaged over 4X improvements driven by the wisdom of the crowd."

The couple has delved into the era of Metahumanity, which Google has stated as "a concept that describes how humanity is developing itself as it adapts to the challenges and possibilities that come with the reality of the Metaverse". Katja explained Metahumanity in her own words for the benefit of our readers.

"A Metahuman is capable of leading themselves regardless of external circumstances and shapes it. In the past, people's moods often depended on the weather and other external things. However, some have realized that they can break free from such dependencies and regulate their feelings no matter what weather we have. Austrian Psychologist, Viktor Frankl, maintained this state of mind even in the Nazi German concentration camps. He refused to let the Nazis define his thoughts and emotions. This represents a crucial step in human development. While we may not influence everything happening in the world, we must take responsibility for our thoughts about the world. From that realization, happiness becomes a choice regardless of the external environment. The next step in our development begins when we shape the outer world with our inner world, using elevated emotions to manifest the world we collectively wish to live in. This integration of inner antifragility and external influence marks a profound evolution in how we understand and interact with our reality."





# 1492 MICHAEL & KATJA Hengl

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This year, Michael and Katja are celebrating 30 years in business. Upon reflection, what comes to Michael's mind about their journey - the ups, the downs, the good, the bad and the ugly?

Said Michael, "First and foremost, I am deeply grateful that life has provided the gift of a global experience for me. Working with so many amazing people from Afghanistan to China, India, Africa, the Middle East, Europe, all the way to the Americas, who are running various businesses and handling numerous challenges, has led to a realization that all cultures and races form just one race: the human race, interconnected on our pale blue dot called Earth. Recalling all the overwhelming unpleasant situations, the setbacks, failures and mess-ups, I am still intrigued to meet the source or intelligence from which all those miracles have been drawn."

About their anniversary, Katja added her thoughts, "I feel like I'm living in a children's playground, sitting on one of those swings. My swing doesn't just swing forward and backward from the sunny side of life back to the shadows but instead does full-circle looping with me. I wonder whether I should slow down this roller-coaster or not. I feel so much better now than in my youth. I am so happy that I became that old and that I've matured. In my twenties, working as an actress, I believed life was a movie set where I had to play my part, perhaps discovering some more facets of the same backdrops but generally staying within the given frame. Consequently, I thought I had to always



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make choices sacrificing other possibilities – either career or family, kids or fame, love or money and so forth.

Now, I am overjoyed to no longer see life as just a movie set where I need to figure out what is going while playing my part. I am truly blessed to have found the 'zoom out' button, understanding that behind the scenes, there are a whole lot of directors, producers and authors, an entire industry of creative inventors designing plots, striving to make one blockbuster after another. I feel so liberated having had the blessing to transform from a victim into a creator and inventor of my own movie. If life can't get any better, it simply has to!"

Sharing on their anniversary plans, Michael chimed in, "We have invited family, friends, partners and our neighbors for a 'Think Pink' party on August 15th, where we will be all invited to celebrate the beginning of a new trail. After 30 years of marriage, 30 years of 1492 and countless great projects, in many beautiful countries with profound encounters with wonderful people, dazzling cultures and the associated mega (mistakes), two things became clear to us – first, there is no real 'End of the Trail' even though the mind often pretends there is, life always goes on. And secondly, whether we focus more outwardly or inwardly was obviously not the right question either. Rather, it was the dependencies of the two sides that became increasingly significant over the years. Anyone who wants to multiply their business, their life or their love by 10-X must first also expand their mind and heart to 10-X."



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#### Conclusion

Michael and Katja Hengl, through their innovative approaches and dedication to enhancing collective intelligence, continue to shape the future of business leadership. The 1492 group stands as a testament to their vision, promoting sustainable and ethical business practices worldwide.

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Katja added, "Yesterday, I felt like cancelling everything and slowing down my swing of life. Today, however, I am delighted to meet all the awesome people, so I have contacted all of them, teasing the upcoming celebration. Embracing all the creative freedom, which is balanced with the currency of responsibility, and being fully transparent about my good in the bad and the bad in the good, will make the party truly vibrant and magical."

Reminiscing on their individual and joint journeys, they reflected on lessons learnt. What is one of the most fundamental lessons they've learnt early on in business that they still carry with them?

Katja stated, "Know thyself. It is the maxim written on the Greek temple of Apollo, the god of light and it is the most important lesson in my life. Not knowing who I am can become not just a blind spot; it can mutate into a very active and dangerous shadow, affecting the organizations I work with and the job I need to perform or even character traits. Instead, I ask, 'Who am I? What do I mean by I, me, myself?' My more practical approach to this topic in business involves slipping into meaningful roles or into characters deliberately because the task requires it. I use the data science and AI capabilities of our *webrain.ai* applications to align my daily practices and routines with my secular improvements, KPIs, and tangible goals. This translates the 'know thyself' philosophy into very tangible commitments to improve and mature as a human being, serving as a role model for my children,





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grandchildren, partners and clients.”

As for Michael, he described his lesson as, “The passion for delivering a great customer experience. The one who can best anticipate the needs of a customer will be the most successful. We can achieve this by adopting a ‘stretching up’ strategy, where there is no existing customer demand, yet we find a smart way to create it, for example, the iPhone. Alternatively, we can adopt a ‘fitting in’ strategy, where we address an existing demand and find a smart way to fulfil it, for example, Amazon. Either way, we need to be smart in competition but not just on an individual level that is old school. We need to be smart by leveraging our collective intelligence.”

As Michael and Katja continue to pledge a life of joy and true passion, they embrace the twists and turns of their continual personal evolution and life as a couple. Said Katja, “When people today ask me how I got to know Michael, I always reply, ‘Through marrying him.’ I quickly add that I’m not even halfway through getting to know him because I am still working on my first challenge: understanding who I am.”



And we all shine on, like the moon and the stars and the sun.  
- John Lennon



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## MICROSOFT'S REVOLUTIONARY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE VALL-E 2, STAYS UNDER WRAPS

Microsoft's groundbreaking AI, VALL-E 2, can replicate human voices with just a few seconds of audio input. Researchers assert that it has reached "human parity" in text-to-speech synthesis, producing speech that sounds indistinguishably natural compared to a human voice.

Despite its impressive capabilities, Microsoft has decided against a public release due to potential misuse.

VALL-E 2 employs advanced methods such as "Repetition Aware Sampling" and "Grouped Code Modeling" to enhance the quality of synthesized speech.

These innovative techniques contribute to its remarkable ability to mimic human vocal nuances. However, the AI will remain confined to research, with no current plans for integration into products or public availability.



New Study:

# CLEANER MARINE FUEL REDUCED CO2 BUT CONTRIBUTED TO OCEAN WARMING

**MOBILITY**  
— Future —

Global Times Magazine Editorial Team

In 2020, new marine fuel regulations were introduced to curb pollution, and while they successfully reduced sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, a recent study suggests they may have inadvertently contributed to ocean warming.

## Significant Reduction in SO<sub>2</sub> Emissions

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) implemented anti-pollution rules requiring ships to reduce the sulfur content of their fuel from 3.5 percent to 0.5 percent. This change led to an 80 percent reduction in SO<sub>2</sub> emissions, according to a study led by Tianle Yuan from the University of Maryland.

## The Double-Edged Sword of Reducing Air Pollution

While SO<sub>2</sub> is a major pollutant, it also plays a role in mitigating global warming. SO<sub>2</sub> creates aerosols that increase the thickness and brightness of clouds, which in turn reflect more of the sun's rays back into space. The reduction in SO<sub>2</sub>, therefore, may have led to less cloud cover and more heat being absorbed by the oceans.

## Impact on Global Warming

The study, published in the journal *Communications Earth & Environment*, suggests that the IMO fuel standards could account for 80 percent of the planet's total net heat gain by 2020, with the most significant effects observed in heavily trafficked shipping lanes. Climatologists have noted a decrease in SO<sub>2</sub> as a possible factor in the record-high ocean temperatures observed last year. This aligns with the broader observation that reduced air pollution globally might be accelerating global warming.

"This cooling effect of SO<sub>2</sub> is well-known," said Stuart Haszeldine, director of the Edinburgh Institute for Climate Change at the



University of Edinburgh, who was not involved in the study. "Historical episodes have shown this effect following several major SO<sub>2</sub>-emitting volcanic eruptions over the past 2,000 years."

## Exploring Solutions: Marine Cloud Brightening

The reduction in SO<sub>2</sub> emissions and its potential link to increased ocean temperatures has raised concerns about the broader impact on global climate patterns.

Some scientists argue that the study might overstate the IMO fuel policy's impact. "Investigations into the recent spike in temperatures are ongoing, and reduced sulfur content in marine fuel is just one of many factors," said Joel Hirschi of Britain's National Oceanographic Centre.

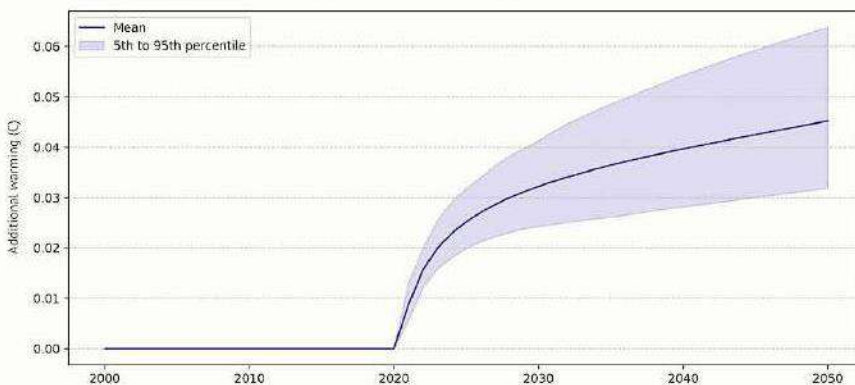
Despite the debates, the study's findings have led to discussions about possible geoengineering solutions to global warming such as "marine cloud brightening."

This concept involves increasing cloud reflectivity to send more solar radiation back into space.

However, proposals to inject SO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere remain controversial.

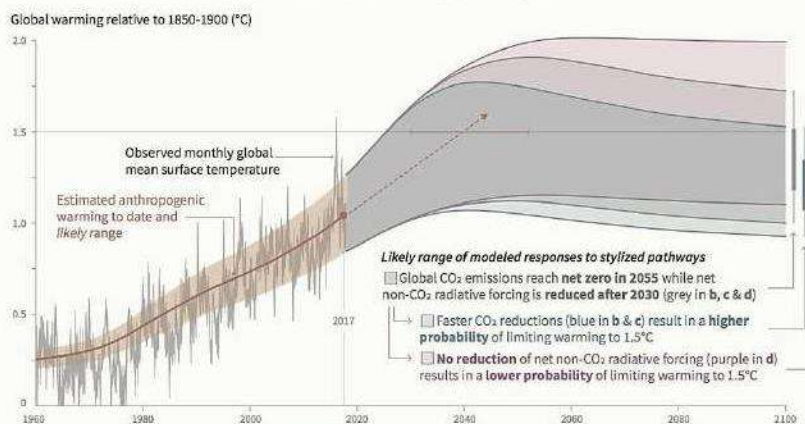
Alternatives, such as spraying seawater into the air to enhance cloud density, are being explored.

Additional warming due to low-sulphur marine fuels (C)



## Cumulative emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and future non-CO<sub>2</sub> radiative forcing determine the probability of limiting warming to 1.5°C

a) Observed global temperature change and modeled responses to stylized anthropogenic emission and forcing pathways



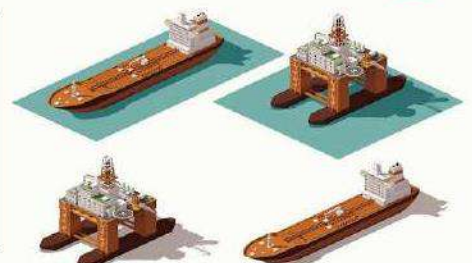
## Conclusion

The cleaner marine fuel regulations have undeniably achieved their goal of reducing sulfur dioxide emissions, but they have also brought unintended consequences that could influence global warming.

As the scientific community continues to investigate and understand these complex dynamics, the need for innovative solutions and careful consideration of all factors becomes increasingly clear.

A new study by scientists in the United States, China, France and Germany estimates that the world's oceans have absorbed much more excess heat from human-induced climate change than researchers had estimated up to now. This finding suggests that global warming may be even more advanced than previously thought. Atmospheric scientist Scott Denning explains how the new report arrived at this result and what it implies about the pace of climate change.

Article **END**







## INNOVATIVE SARCO CAPSULE BY THE LAST RESORT OFFERS NEW APPROACH TO EUTHANASIA

The Sarco capsule, developed by the assisted-dying organization, The Last Resort, introduces a novel method for euthanasia. Designed like a futuristic pod, Sarco uses nitrogen to reduce oxygen levels, causing hypoxia (dangerously low oxygen), which leads to unconsciousness and death within approximately ten minutes. The Last Resort asserts that there are no legal barriers to using the Sarco capsule in the country.

To maintain privacy and avoid media scrutiny, details about the first user, as well as the exact timing and location, remain undisclosed. However, the procedure is planned to take place privately on personal property before the end of the year. The Sarco creates a low-oxygen environment by releasing nitrogen from its base, activated by a button inside the capsule, ensuring only the user can initiate the process.

Prior to using the Sarco, individuals must undergo a psychiatric evaluation to verify their mental capacity to make this decision, as the process is irreversible once started. The minimum age for using the capsule is 50, with exceptions made for seriously ill individuals over 18. The cost of utilizing the Sarco is minimal, approximately \$20 (18 Swiss francs) for the nitrogen.



## The Rising Threat of Heat Domes:

# UNDERSTANDING THE WEATHER PHENOMENON AND ITS IMPACT

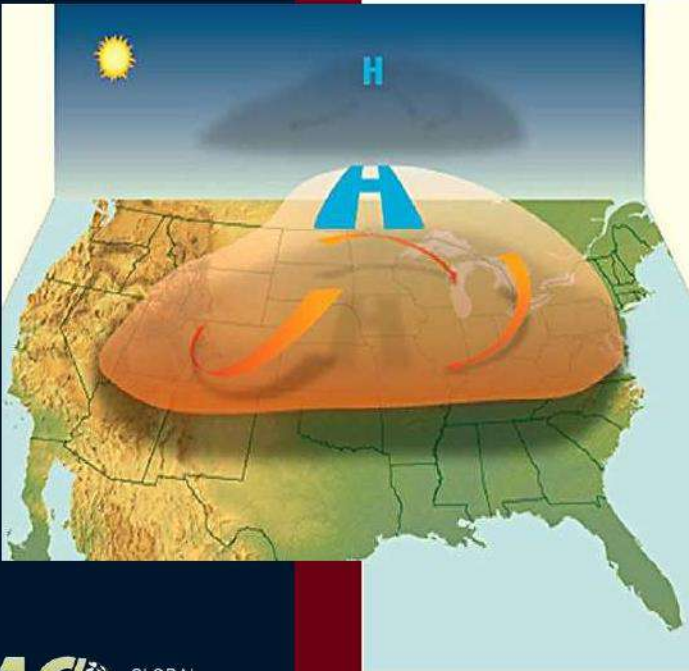
CLIMATE CHANGE  
— Challenges —

Global Times Magazine Editorial Team

Severe Weather Situation in Europe

## How Does A Heat Dome Form?

A heat dome is a meteorological phenomenon where a large mass of hot air is trapped over a specific area, leading to extreme temperatures. Typically, warm air rises because it is less dense than cold air. However, a strong high-pressure system can trap this warm air near the surface, preventing it from dissipating and causing prolonged heatwaves.



High-pressure systems act like a lid or dome over an area, trapping warm air below. This anticyclonic air field inhibits deep convection and evaporation, effectively stopping the mixing and ventilation of air. This situation often arises when the jet stream, polar or subtropical, is weakened, a condition increasingly observed due to current climate changes.

## The Vicious Circle of Heat Domes

Solar energy heats the ground, which then warms the air above it. Without the ability to rise and disperse, this hot air stays near the surface, continually heating up. Trapped under the dome, the air's temperature rises as its total heat is confined to a smaller volume. The high pressure also prevents cloud formation and precipitation, keeping the area dry and sunny, further intensifying the heat.

## Notable Examples of Heat Domes

One of the most extreme examples occurred in 2021 in North America, where parts of the western USA and Canada experienced



record temperatures exceeding 40°C. This led to severe health issues and widespread forest fires.

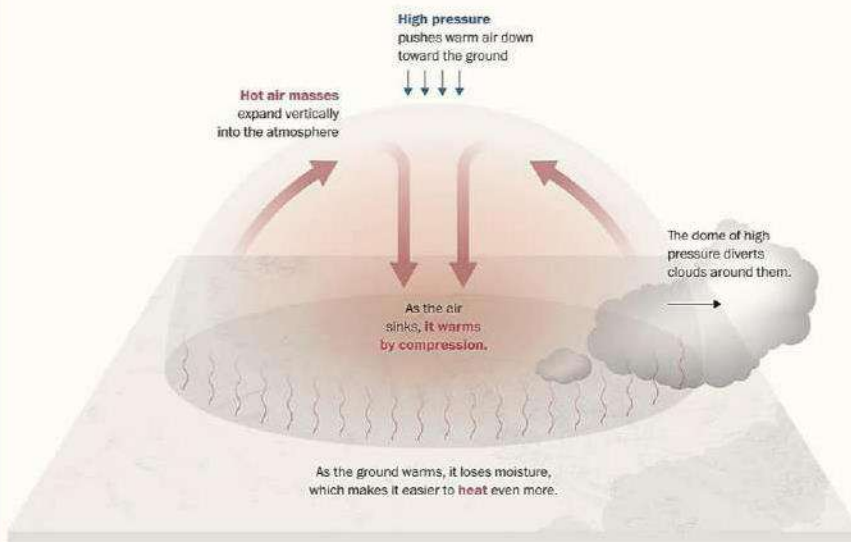
## Increasing Frequency and Intensity

Understanding heat domes is crucial as they are expected to become more frequent and intense with ongoing climate change. A study published in *Nature Climate Change* analyzed the 2021 heat dome in western Canada and the US, concluding that climate change significantly increases the likelihood of such events.

If global temperatures rise 2°C above pre-industrial levels, heat domes like the one in 2021 could occur every decade.

"The relationship between heat extremes and average temperature can be partially explained by feedback between soil moisture and

the atmosphere," the study authors note. They predict that extreme heat events will become more common due to general warming, enhanced feedback between soil moisture and the atmosphere, and the increased likelihood of heat dome-like circulation.



## Climate Change and Heat Domes

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists reported in 2023 that climate change has made heat domes five times more likely.

Climate change affects atmospheric dynamics, including changes in high and low-

pressure patterns. Stronger and more persistent high-pressure systems can lead to more frequent heat domes.

Additionally, a weakened jet stream allows high-pressure systems to remain stationary for longer periods.

## Urbanization and Reflectivity (Albedo) Reduction

Urban areas exacerbate the effects of heat domes. Materials like concrete and asphalt absorb and retain more heat than natural surfaces, intensifying heatwaves in cities.

Moreover, the reduction in Earth's reflectivity due to melting polar ice caps and the replacement of forests and grasslands with urban infrastructure leads to more heat absorption and, consequently, more heat domes.

## Drought and Soil Moisture

Climate change also contributes to more frequent and severe droughts. Dry soil and lack of moisture reduce cooling through

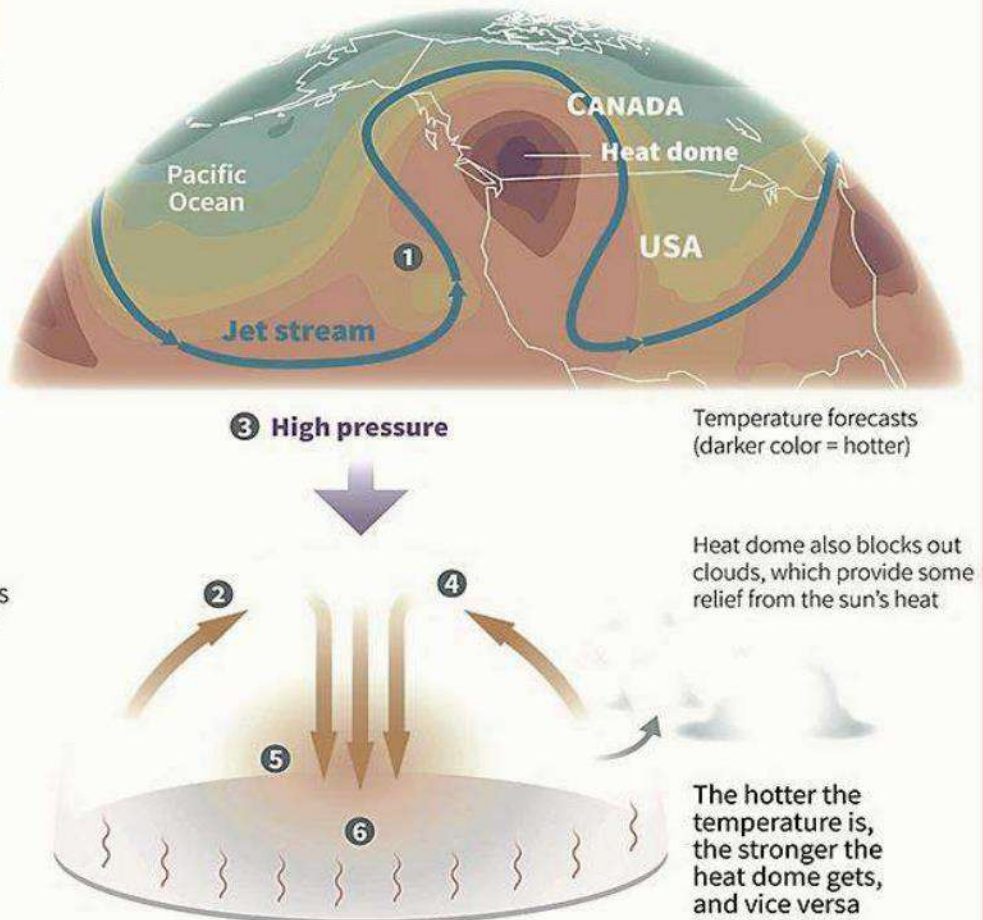
Multiple factors, including sea surface temperature anomalies and the influence of a La Niña can cause a Heat Dome. The upper air weather patterns are slow to move, referred to by meteorologists as an Omega block.



### The Heat Dome

Occurs when the atmosphere traps hot ocean air like a lid or cap

- 1 In summer, the **jet stream** (which moves the air) shifts northward
- 2 Hot and stagnant air expands upwards
- 3 Strong and **high-pressure** atmospheric conditions combine with influences from La Nina act like a dome or cap
- 4 In a process known as **convection**, hot air attempts to escape but high pressure pushes it back down
- 5 Under the dome, the air sinks and **compresses**, releasing more heat
- 6 As winds move the hot air east, the jet stream traps the air where it sinks, resulting in **heat waves**



evaporation, intensifying the heat dome effect. The lack of moisture also reduces cloud formation, allowing more solar energy to reach and heat the ground.

### Duration of Heat Domes

With climate change, heat domes are likely to last longer. The weakening of the jet stream and the reduced temperature and pressure differences between polar and tropical regions cause atmospheric systems to move more slowly.

This means high-pressure systems that create heat domes can linger over areas for extended periods. Prolonged droughts further stabilize high pressure, allowing heat domes to persist.

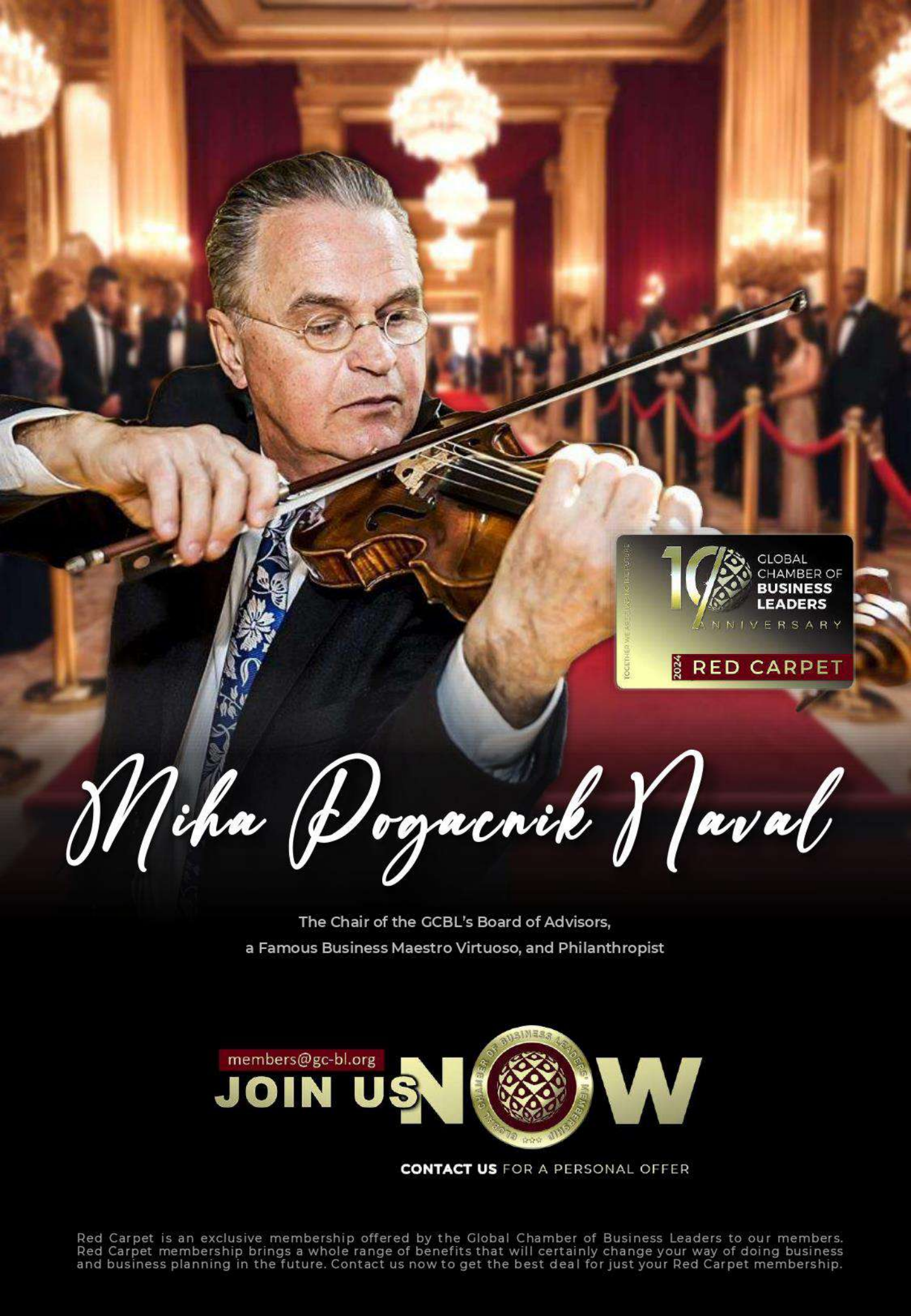
### Conclusion

Heat domes are a significant and growing threat as climate change progresses. Understanding their formation and impact is crucial for

preparing and responding to these extreme weather events.

As global temperatures continue to rise, the frequency, intensity, and duration of heat domes are expected to increase, posing serious challenges to human health, ecosystems, and infrastructure.





# Miha Pogacnik Naval

The Chair of the GCBL's Board of Advisors,  
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Bankruptcy:

# RECARO AND BBS COULD SOON BE OUT OF BUSINESS

**AUTOMOTIVE**  
Industry

Global Times Magazine Editorial Team

Recaro, the renowned seat manufacturer known for its high-performance sports seats, has filed for bankruptcy. This move was approved for self-administration by a German Court, according to a report by Autocar. The decision has left the future of Recaro, which supplies seats to major automotive brands like BMW, Ford and the VW Group, shrouded in uncertainty.

In 1963, Porsche acquires the body factory. Now the focus is on seating: REutter CAROserie becomes RECARO, the seating specialist. The new sports seat revolutionizes automotive seating thanks to foam cushioning and lateral supports.

## Impact on Operations and Workforce

The implications of the bankruptcy filing on Recaro's operations are currently unclear. Employees at Recaro's factory in Kirchheim unter Teck, Germany, were reportedly unaware of the impending financial troubles. The IG Metall trade union, representing 215 workers at this facility, has demanded transparency from Recaro's upper management. The Union's call for clarity underscores the anxiety and unrest among the workforce as they await further information on how this financial restructuring will affect their jobs and the company's operations.

## Recent Ownership Changes

In January 2020, Recaro Automotive announced its acquisition by



Raven Acquisitions LLC, a Detroit-based investment firm. At the time, Recaro reported approximately \$150 million in revenue for 2019. The acquisition was presented as a strategic move to enable more agile and flexible decision-making processes, purportedly to better align with market demands. Despite these optimistic projections, the financial trajectory that led to Recaro's insolvency remains unclear.

## Historical Significance and Innovations

Recaro's roots trace back to 1906 when Wilhelm Reutter, a master saddler, began designing and building car bodies and interior components. The company, originally known as Reutter Carosserie-Werke, has a rich history of innovation in automotive seating:

**1965:** Launch of the first sports seat.

**1967:** Introduction of the first road-legal full shell seat.

**1977:** Release of a seat with integrated speakers in the headrest.

**1989:** Development of the Recaro A8 sports seat.

**2004:** Creation of the first retrofit seat with a universal side airbag.

**2005:** Design of a seat with a new lightweight composite shell.

These milestones highlight Recaro's longstanding commitment to enhancing automotive seating through innovation and quality.



With the company's global operations based in North America, Germany, and Japan, Recaro operates for its OEM and aftermarket customers in its three main markets of Europe, America and Asia.

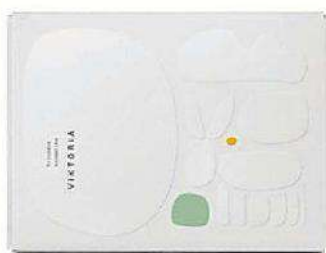
## The Road Ahead

As Recaro navigates this challenging period, the focus will likely be on stabilizing operations and addressing the concerns of its workforce and stakeholders. The company's legacy of innovation provides a strong foundation, but the path to financial recovery will require strategic planning and effective management.

The broader automotive industry will be watching closely to see how Recaro's situation unfolds, especially given its integral role in supplying high-performance seats to major car manufacturers. The outcome will not only impact Recaro but also the numerous brands and consumers who rely on its products for safety, comfort, and performance.

In conclusion, Recaro's bankruptcy filing marks a significant moment in its storied history. The next steps will be crucial in determining whether this iconic brand can overcome its current financial difficulties and continue its legacy of innovation and excellence in automotive seating.





Viktoria Natural Cosmetics is a European brand renowned for its high-quality natural skincare and beauty products. With a diverse range that includes facial creams, body lotions, serums, soaps, and more, each product is crafted from natural and organic ingredients, free from harmful chemicals.

## Milk line

Committed to sustainability, Viktoria Natural Cosmetics uses recyclable packaging and sustainably sourced ingredients. Their gentle formulations cater to all skin types, including sensitive skin, ensuring a holistic approach to skincare that promotes overall well-being.

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## FLYNOW TO MASS-PRODUCE ELECTRIC HELICOPTERS FOR 2030 WORLD EXPO IN KSA

Austrian-based FlyNow is set to manufacture thousands of electric helicopters for the 2030 World Expo in Saudi Arabia. To achieve this ambitious target, FlyNow will establish a production facility in Saudi Arabia, as announced by Saudi Arabia Holding Co. CEO, Mohammed Al Qahtani, on LinkedIn.

In his post, Al Qahtani detailed FlyNow's plans to deliver thousands of these eco-friendly helicopters by 2030, aiming to enhance mobility and sustainability during the International Expo in Riyadh. The small electric helicopters, available in single or double-seater models, can carry up to 200kg (440lbs) and have a maximum takeoff weight of 570kg (1,256lbs). They offer a 30-minute flight time with a 50km (31 miles) range and can reach speeds of up to 130km/h (80mph).

Powered entirely by batteries, these helicopters produce zero CO2 emissions, making them a sustainable choice for future urban mobility.



## BREAKING

The New Era In Cancer Treatment:

# GROUNDBREAKING CANCER VACCINE TRIALS HERALD A NEW ERA IN CANCER TREATMENT

**SCIENCE**  
*News*

Global Times Magazine Editorial Team

In a landmark development heralding a new frontier in Cancer therapy, Great Britain embarks on groundbreaking trials of the world's first personalized mRNA melanoma vaccine. This innovative vaccine not only targets melanoma but also holds promise in combating bladder, lung, and kidney Cancers.



Melanoma affects about 132,000 people a year globally and is the biggest skin cancer killer.

Tailored to each individual, this revolutionary treatment signals a paradigm shift in the fight against Cancer, aiming to empower the body's immune system to recognize and thwart Cancer cells, thus preventing disease recurrence.

The pivotal trials, spearheaded by the University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (UCLH), mark a significant milestone in medical history. Dr. Heather Shaw, the testing coordinator, describes the endeavor as "one of the most exciting things we've seen in a really long time," emphasizing its finely honed precision. Known as individualized neoantigen therapy (INT), the vaccine is meticulously crafted to prime the immune system to combat the

patient's specific Cancer type, offering a bespoke solution tailored to each individual's genetic makeup.

But how exactly is this personalized therapy engineered? The process begins with the removal of the tumor, followed by DNA sequencing, augmented by the integration of artificial intelligence. Dr. Shaw underscores the bespoke nature of this therapy, asserting, "It is completely custom-made. Therefore, we could not give the same vaccine to another patient." With its potential to revolutionize immunotherapy, this groundbreaking treatment holds promise as a game-changer in Cancer treatment modalities.

The ultimate goal of this innovative therapy is ambitious: to achieve complete Cancer remission and eradicate any residual malignant cells undetectable by conventional imaging techniques. Building on the success of the second phase of trials, which

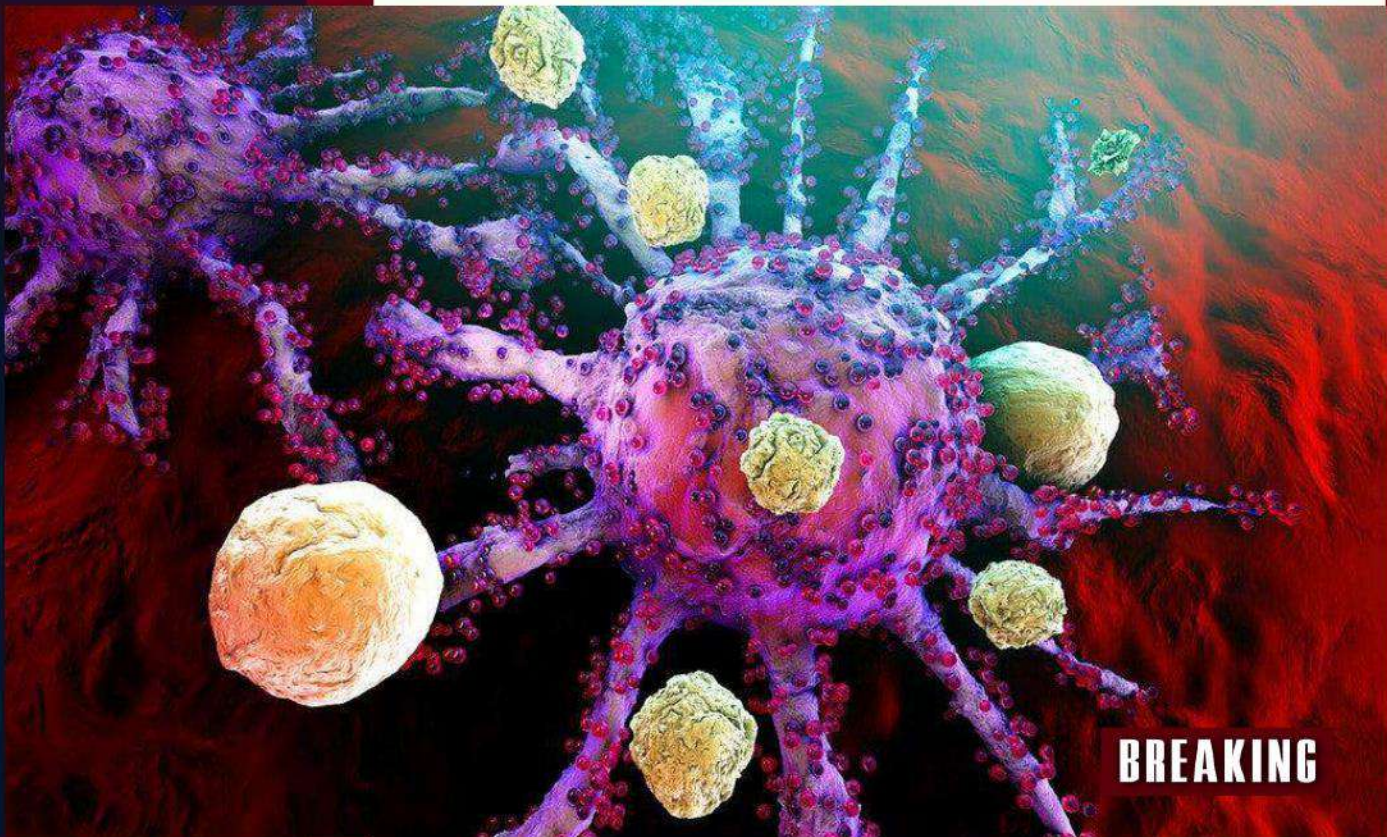


demonstrated a significant reduction in Cancer recurrence risk among melanoma patients, the research advances to its final phase with renewed vigor and optimism.

The promising results of the initial trials have galvanized researchers to expand their scope, with plans to enroll approximately 1,100 patients in the global trial's third phase. In Great Britain alone, the trials will encompass around 70 participants across eight medical centers, extending the potential benefits of this cutting-edge therapy to lung, bladder, and kidney Cancer patients.

Professor Lawrence Young from the University of Warwick lauds this milestone as one of the most exhilarating developments in modern Cancer therapy. He highlights the resurgence of interest in Cancer vaccines, fueled by a deeper understanding of immune response mechanisms and the advent of mRNA vaccines.

These advances, he contends, have facilitated the development of vaccines tailored to the immune profile of individual tumors,



Doctors have begun trialing in hundreds of patients the world's first personalized mRNA Cancer vaccine for melanoma, as experts hailed its "game-changing" potential to permanently cure Cancer.

promising a more targeted and effective approach to Cancer treatment.

As the trials unfold, the medical community eagerly anticipates the transformative impact of this groundbreaking vaccine on Cancer treatment paradigms.

With each milestone achieved, the journey towards conquering Cancer takes a decisive step forward, offering hope and healing to millions affected by this relentless disease.

In the crucible of innovation and collaboration, the promise of a future free from the scourge of Cancer beckons, fueled by the tireless efforts of researchers and the resilience of the human spirit.





## **BREAKTHROUGH ANTI-AGING DRUG EXTENDS LIFESPAN OF MICE BY 25%, NOW UNDERGOING HUMAN TRIALS**

Researchers from the MRC Laboratory of Medical Science, Imperial College London, and Duke-NUS Medical School in Singapore have developed a drug that extended the lifespans of laboratory mice by nearly 25%. They are now testing the drug in humans to see if it can produce the same anti-aging effects.

In the experiment, mice were injected with a drug that blocked the harmful effects of the IL-11 protein. Treatment with anti-IL-11 from 75 weeks of age until death extended the median lifespan of male mice by 22.5% and female mice by 25%.

After just 25 weeks of therapy, the treated mice not only lived longer but also showed no grey hair, improved vision, lower cholesterol levels, better metabolism and muscle strength, and reduced Cancer risk. The treated 75-week-old mice (equivalent to 55-year-old humans) lived an average of 155 weeks, compared to 120 weeks for those not treated.

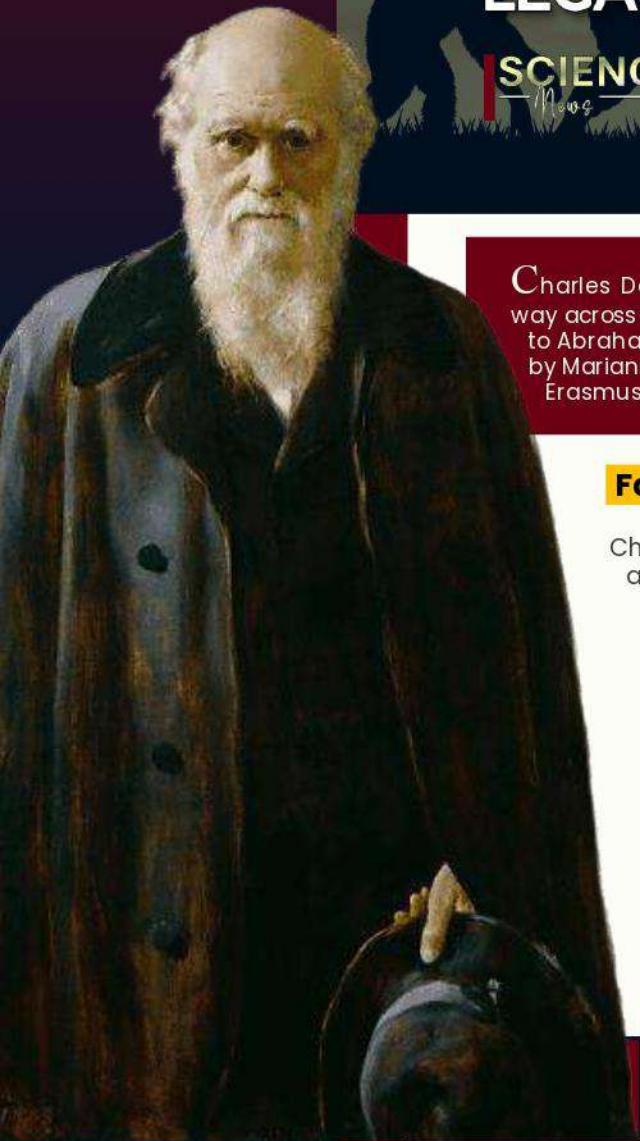


The Evolution of Genius:

# EXPLORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHARLES DARWIN

**SCIENCE**

Global Times Magazine Editorial Team,



Charles Darwin was born on February 12, 1809, the very day that, half-way across the world in a log shack in Kentucky, Nancy Lincoln would give birth to Abraham, a boy with a likewise hidden destiny. Charles was preceded by Marianne, Caroline, Susan, and his best boyhood friend and only brother, Erasmus, and then Emily came along afterward.

## Familial Influences

Charles was the son of Robert Darwin, a prosperous physician and industrial financier. Robert was the son of the famous physician-poet-evolutionist Erasmus Darwin. Today we remember Charles and forget Erasmus, but for nearly the first three decades of Charles' life, he was Erasmus Darwin's grandson — the grandson of England's most famous evolutionist (or transmutationist, as it was then called).

That's an important point to make about his life. Charles Darwin didn't discover evolution. Evolution was old hat as a theory, and had been circulating in radical circles in England and France for at least a half-century before he was born. Charles imbibed the theory from his grandfather and father. Although Erasmus died before his grandson was born, Charles carefully studied his grandfather's evolutionary treatise, the *Zoonomia*, sometime in the mid-1820s, long before he stepped on the *HMS Beagle*. Robert Darwin also affirmed transmutationism although he kept his opinions to himself.

So, when Charles Darwin was hurried off to medical school at Edinburgh in 1825, he was already well-versed in evolutionary theory. When he got there, he soon realized that he wasn't cut out for medicine (as he discovered, there's nothing like witnessing surgery without anesthetic on a small boy to sharpen one's sense of vocation to medicine, or lack thereof).

Rather than spend time on his studies, he began working under the transmutationist, Robert Grant, and generally had a good time, riding, shooting, eating, and acting the young gentleman.



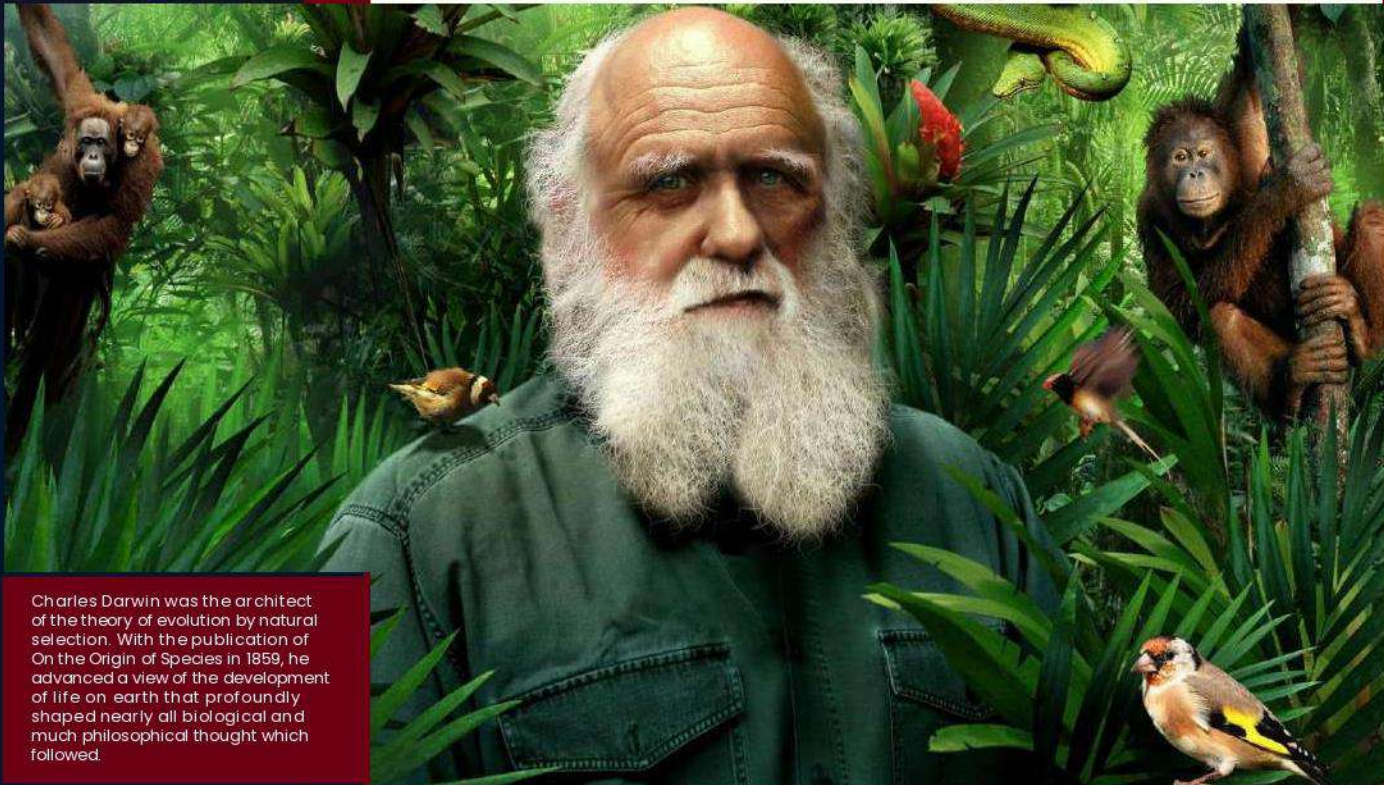
It soon became clear to his father, that Charles was failing at the family vocation of medicine. It was decided that, as a last resort, he might cut it as an Anglican parson with a country parish. Few demands, a fair living, and lots of time for shooting, running dogs, hunting, and amateur natural history. Darwin shuffled off to Cambridge in January of 1828 to get an undergraduate Degree in preparation for more advanced study to become a man of the cloth.

We should not overrate Darwin's piety here. The Darwins were long-standing liberal Whigs. Erasmus was, if anything, the thinnest of theists, and Robert was most likely an atheist. The Anglican Creed and the Bible were considered relics of superstitious ages they dearly hoped would be left far behind as the Enlightenment marched forward.

That Robert would send his son to become an Anglican parson tells us more about the state of the Anglican Church at the time than it does about Charles' piety. That Charles could, in his *Autobiography*, insist that at the time he accepted the Creed and the literal truth of the Bible reveals him as less than forthright.

### Voyage On The Beagle

At Cambridge Charles met two very important Anglican priests who were also top scientists, [John Henslow](#) and [Adam Sedgwick](#). Under their kind tutelage, Charles was probably as close to a theist as he ever



Charles Darwin was the architect of the theory of evolution by natural selection. With the publication of *On the Origin of Species* in 1859, he advanced a view of the development of life on earth that profoundly shaped nearly all biological and much philosophical thought which followed.

would become, although the effect of their guidance and passion for science was to confirm Charles' vocation as a naturalist rather than a country parson. It was, in fact, Henslow that arranged for Darwin to join [Captain Robert FitzRoy](#) on the *HMS Beagle* after his graduation from Cambridge in 1831. After long delays, the *Beagle* launched from England's shores on December 27, 1831 to sail around the world collecting and measuring for the enhancement of Britain's place as a growing world mercantile power.

Right away Darwin got seasick. He was sick nearly the whole time he was at sea during the *Beagle's* five-year voyage. But violent nausea wouldn't end when he finally stepped off ship in October of 1836. The



voyage of the *Beagle* marked the beginning of Darwin's life-long struggle against his head and stomach.

Whatever the cause of his perpetual bouts of retching later on — a strange “bug” picked up on his odyssey, frail nerves, his addiction to taking snuff, a diet rich in sweets, a hereditary malady — he spent nearly his entire life as if he'd never gotten off the *Beagle*, suffering long periods of debilitating nausea and vomiting, accompanied by headaches, interrupted only occasionally by bouts of good health.

Darwin spent the two decades after the *Beagle* cementing his place in England's scientific society. He lived a kind of intellectual double life, gaining public respectability by his non-evolutionary scientific work, even while he was working away, right from the very beginning, at his theory of evolution in private. As his private notebooks make clear, from 1838 on Darwin was bent on making a purely materialistic, reductionist account of evolution, one that completely eliminated the need for divine intervention and oversight.

## Marriage and Family

By this time, he had largely lost any faint traces of theism that he may have gained at Cambridge, and had fallen back into the

Darwin hereditary religious skepticism bordering on atheism. After he proposed to his cousin Emma Wedgwood, he was honest enough to tell her of his unbelief. She was heartbroken, but married him anyway at the beginning of 1839. They would have a long and happy marriage despite their deepest mismatch about God, and would bring ten new Darwins into the world, only seven of which would live beyond childhood.

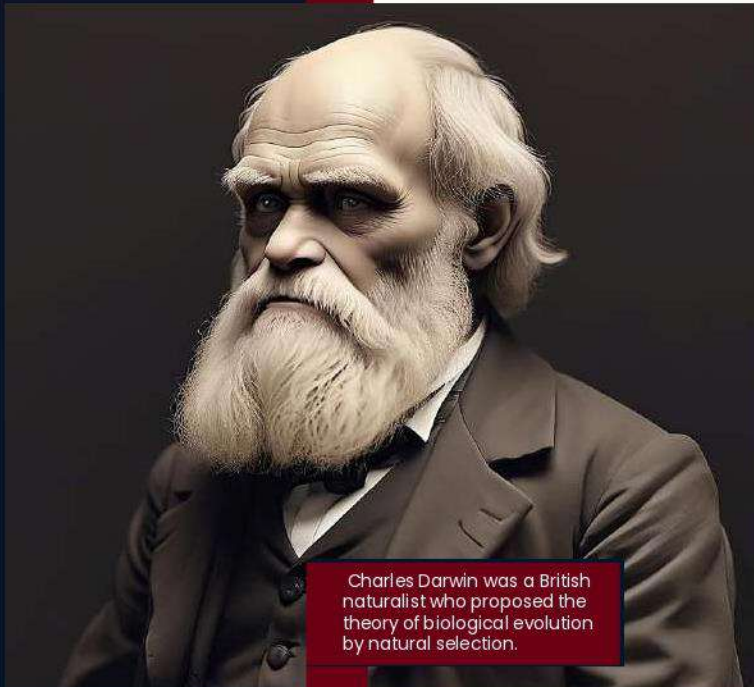
## Substantiating the Theory of Evolution

Although as an heir to the Darwin fortune, Charles didn't have to work, he threw himself into developing his scientific career and his theory with such zeal that he was always teetering on ruining his already fragile health.

He wanted *his* theory to be perfect, perfectly argued and perfectly backed up by endless facts. He was also afraid of the backlash against him if he published so radical a theory, which the public already associated with atheism.

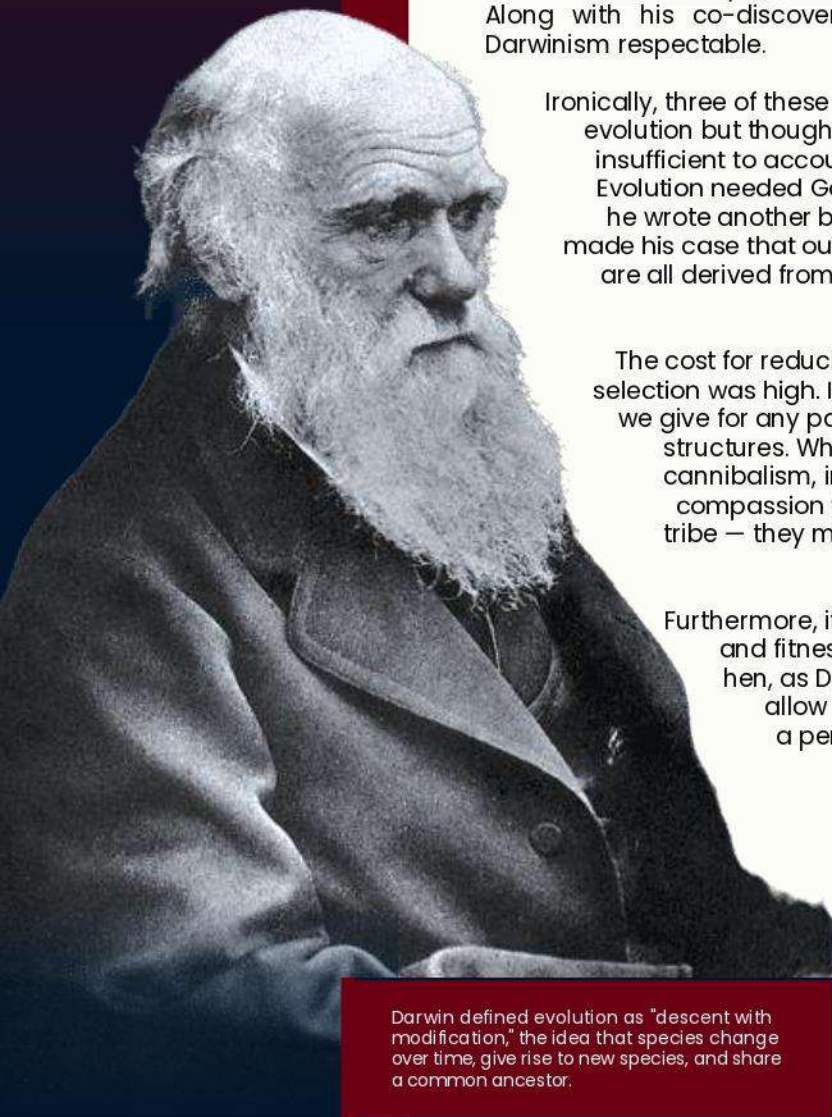
Who knows how long he would have worked on his theory without publishing if he hadn't received a surprise in June of 1858: a clear and concise account of evolution by natural selection that couldn't have been a more accurate synopsis of Darwin's own. It was written by Alfred Russel Wallace. He'd been scooped! Darwin was crestfallen.

The truth was that evolution had been in the air for some time, and many others had been working along the same lines as Darwin. Wallace was just one of them. The two issued a joint paper, read



Charles Darwin was a British naturalist who proposed the theory of biological evolution by natural selection.





Darwin defined evolution as "descent with modification," the idea that species change over time, give rise to new species, and share a common ancestor.

at Linnean Society on the first of July, 1858. Wallace was still overseas. Darwin was not there either. His youngest boy, Charles junior, had died at the end of June, the last of the Darwin children and the third child to die before adulthood. The dark side of the survival of the fittest.

Darwin began working feverishly on a full statement of his theory, but ended up writing what he considered a mere synopsis, *The Origin of Species*, publishing it in November of 1859. It shocked the public, not because evolution was new, but because Darwin was an already well-known and respected scientist whose work had been heralded among the conservative British scientific society. He was a turncoat, not a revolutionary.

## Promoting The Theory

Immediately upon publishing, he threw himself into an enormous international effort to have his theory affirmed, pulling every string available. Four men were particularly influential as his helpmates in this endeavor: Charles Lyell, Asa Gray, Thomas Huxley, and Joseph Hooker. Along with his co-discover, Alfred Wallace, they strove to make Darwinism respectable.

Ironically, three of these men — Lyell, Gray, and Wallace — affirmed evolution but thought that natural selection alone was radically insufficient to account for man's moral and intellectual nature. Evolution needed God. Their "defection" so peeved Darwin that he wrote another book, *The Descent of Man* (1871), in which he made his case that our moral, intellectual, and "spiritual" aspects are all derived from natural and sexual selection. Evolution did not need God, thank you.

The cost for reducing our moral nature to an effect of natural selection was high. It meant that "morality" is merely the name we give for any particular existing society's habits and social structures. Whatever these are — polygamy, monogamy, cannibalism, infanticide, gentlemanly behavior, courage, compassion toward all or just toward members of one's tribe — they must have contributed to the survival of that society via natural selection.

Furthermore, if natural selection is the root of all morality, and fitness is the criterion for evolutionary success, then, as Darwin rightly concluded, society should not allow the unfit to breed. Interesting thought from a perpetually sick man, whose own ten children inherited his physical weaknesses.

## Death and Resting Place

Darwin spent the rest of his life working on more specialized monographs that supported his theory and answering his critics with successive editions of the *Origin of Species*. On April 19, 1882 death, the great creative force of evolution, finally came to call on Charles Darwin. Hooker, Huxley, and Wallace were among the pallbearers to his final resting place in

Westminster Abbey next to Sir John Herschel, the famed astronomer who rejected Darwinism, near the eminent Charles Lyell who would only accept a modified form of it, and close to Sir Isaac Newton whom it would have horrified





# “WOMAN OF STATURE” AWARD NOMINEE

Dr. Khomotšo Maleté-Mashalane, South African Delegate of the GCBL

The Global Chamber of Business Leaders (GCBL) is thrilled to celebrate Dr. (h.c.) Khomotšo Maleté-Mashalane's nomination for the prestigious Woman of Stature™ Awards South Africa in the Education and Training category. This recognition highlights her dedication, exceptional achievements and significant contributions as a global thought leader in Human Resources and woman empowerment.

Dr. Maleté-Mashalane's influence extends to numerous international organizations. She is the Global Ambassador for Hearts of Change (Headquarters, New York), representing the abused in South Africa, and has served as the Ambassador of G100 South Africa (Oneness and Wisdom) and Female Wave of Change (South Africa). She also holds roles as Head of People, Africa, Alliance of the People of the World; Ambassador of Research Foundation India; and Ambassador of World Women Organisation South Africa. The Delegate for South Africa at and an Executive of the GCBL, she has also contributed to their Global Times Magazine, addressing critical issues related to woman empowerment and Human Resources.

Reflecting on her journey with the GCBL, Dr. Maleté-Mashalane shared, "The Global Chamber of Business Leaders gave me a voice when I was given the chance to contribute to their Global Times Magazine. Within this organization, I truly felt heard. In our meetings and during women's conferences, we shared stages with men and our President, Dejan Štancer. This organization leads in woman empowerment; they practice it without even speaking about it. I am immensely proud to be part of the GCBL."

Her nomination for the Woman of Stature™ Awards South Africa underscores her commitment to embodying and promoting the principles of the GCBL. She aims to enlighten people about diversity and inclusion, drawing from her extensive experiences and insights gained from her esteemed roles and accolades. The GCBL stands proudly behind her as this nomination is not just a recognition of her past accomplishments but a celebration of her ongoing influence and dedication to making a significant impact.

The renowned Woman of Stature™ Awards, now in its 10th year in South Africa and second year in Dubai, continues to honour the remarkable achievements of women who have made significant contributions in their various fields and communities. It is more than just an awards ceremony; it is a movement that recognizes women who have excelled in their respective domains and exemplified the spirit of resilience and innovation, serving as role models for future generations.



Dr. Khomotšo Maleté-Mashalane is a global leader in Human Resources and women's empowerment. She holds a Master's Degree from Edinburgh Business School and leads HR Function. As a Global Ambassador for the World Women Organisation, she has spearheaded initiatives like "Outcome Based Women Empowerment" and has scaled Mt. Kilimanjaro to fundraise for education. Her influential work includes books on business etiquette and leadership, earning her numerous international accolades.





Tackling The Invisible Treat:

## A CLOSER LOOK AT MICROPLASTICS AND PROMISING SOLUTIONS FOR CLEANER DRINKING WATER

**PLASTIC**  
Treaty

Global Times Magazine Editorial Team, Index News

In the era of rampant plastic consumption, microplastics have infiltrated every aspect of our lives, from the tea we savor to the water we drink. These minuscule particles have found their way into our bodies through various means, raising concerns about their potential impact on human health.

Microplastics have infiltrated every aspect of our lives, from the tea we savor to the water we drink.

While the exact consequences remain uncertain, emerging research suggests a need for proactive measures to mitigate this invisible threat.

Chinese scientists from Guangzhou Medical University and Jinan University have undertaken a groundbreaking exploration into the removal of microplastics from our drinking water. Their study, focusing on both soft and hard tap water, revealed intriguing insights into the effectiveness of boiling and filtration as a potential solution.

The research involved introducing nanoplastic and microplastic (NMP) particles into tap water before subjecting it to boiling and filtration. Astonishingly, this process removed up to 90 percent of NMP in some cases, with the efficacy dependent on the water type. The hard tap water, rich in minerals, exhibited higher removal rates due to the formation of scale deposits during heating. This scale, while often seen as an inconvenience, proved beneficial as it trapped plastic particles, allowing for subsequent filtration. While soft water exhibited lower removal rates, boiling still proved effective in reducing microplastics.

"Drinking boiled water could be a viable long-term strategy to reduce global exposure to NMPs. The problem is that such a practice is considered outdated and is practiced in only a few regions," note the scientists in their study.

The urgency of addressing microplastics in our daily lives becomes more apparent when considering recent findings from Italian





Eighteenth Edition | 18-2024 | MMXXIV

## PLASTIC Treaty

researchers. Their study examined fatty deposits extracted during surgeries on patients with blocked arteries, uncovering microscopic and nanoscopic plastic particles embedded in arterial plaque. These particles, primarily composed of polyethylene and polyvinyl chloride (PVC), were associated with a significantly higher risk of heart disease, stroke, and mortality.

Cardiologist Raffaele Marfella from the University of Campania in Naples emphasizes the severity of the issue, stating, "Of the 304 patients who had the main artery in the neck removed, 58% had microscopic and nanoscopic pieces of plastic with sharp edges in the plaque lining the blood vessel."

The study found that individuals with microplastics in their plaque faced twice the risk of stroke, non-fatal heart attack, or death compared to those without these particles.

As we navigate the intricate web of challenges posed by microplastics, from their omnipresence to potential health risks, the promising findings from Chinese scientists underscore the importance of exploring innovative solutions.



The urgency of addressing microplastics in our daily lives becomes very apparent.

Boiling water, once a traditional practice in select regions, could emerge as a contemporary strategy to safeguard our global community from the pervasive impact of microplastics on our health. It is imperative to continue research and adopt sustainable practices that address this invisible threat, ensuring a cleaner and safer future for generations to come.

Article **END**

**10** GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS ANNIVERSARY



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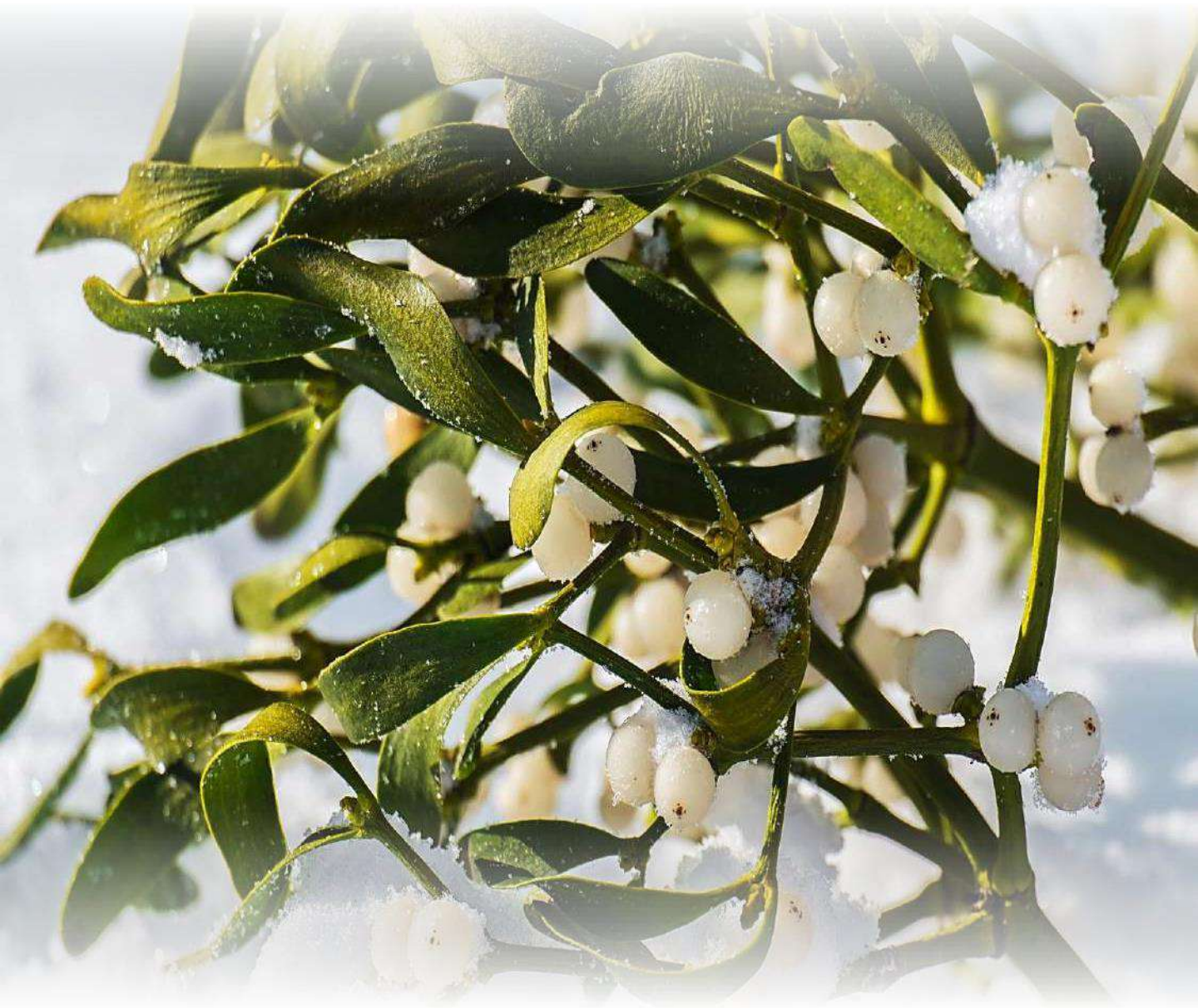
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## SWEDEN TO BUILD **WORLD'S FIRST ELECTRIFIED** ROAD FOR CHARGING ELECTRIC VEHICLES

The Nyobolt 35kWh battery pack has shattered records for the fastest charging battery, recharging from 10% to 80% in an astonishing four minutes and 37 seconds during its first live demonstration. This remarkable speed provides an additional 120 miles of range to a sports car in just a few minutes. Set to be market-ready "at a small scale" within a year, with an initial production run of 1,000 packs, the Nyobolt battery is currently available in the UK and aims to revolutionize electric vehicles, including compact cars.

Nyobolt has rigorously tested the battery, completing over 4,000 full-depth discharge fast-charge cycles, which equates to about 600,000 miles of real-world usage. Impressively, the battery maintains its ability to charge to 80% even after 4,000 cycles, demonstrating exceptional durability and resilience against the usual degradation seen in other batteries.

The Nyobolt EV prototype outpaces existing batteries by charging twice as fast, typically reaching 100% in just six minutes in lab tests. This groundbreaking technology represents a significant leap forward in the advancement of electric vehicles, promising quicker charging times and longer-lasting battery life.





## Integration Of Ayurveda With Modern Medicine:

# ENHANCING MENTAL HEALTH AND STROKE RECOVERY OUTCOMES

Prasanta Das, Internationally Renowned Ayurveda Specialist

With the global burden of mental health disorders and stroke increasing, innovative treatment solutions are crucial. Integrative approaches that combine Ayurveda with modern medical practices have shown potential in improving these outcomes. This article, supported by a meta-analysis, explores the efficacy of such integrative methods and assesses their viability as a business opportunity in the healthcare sector, including insights from global data and specific case studies from Europe and the USA.

## Global Demand For Integrative Healthcare

The shift towards holistic and non-invasive treatment methods is evident worldwide, driven by patient demand for more comprehensive care options. Integrating the ancient wisdom of Ayurveda with evidence-based modern medicine can address this demand, providing enhanced therapeutic outcomes for mental health and stroke recovery.

## Meta-Analysis:

### Global Efficacy of Integrative Approaches

A detailed meta-analysis was conducted focusing on the effectiveness of Ayurvedic integration with conventional treatments in mental health and stroke rehabilitation. This analysis included randomized controlled trials from the past decade across various continents, including data from Europe and North America.

**A) Study Selection:** Studies involved combinations of Ayurvedic treatments—such as herbal therapies, yoga, meditation, and dietary changes—with conventional medical treatments.

### B) Key Findings:

- **Mental Health:** Integrative care resulted in a 40% greater improvement in depression and anxiety symptoms globally, with significant patient satisfaction.
- **Stroke Recovery:** Patients treated with combined methodologies showed a 30% better improvement in motor functions and cognitive recovery compared to those receiving conventional therapies alone.

**C) Statistical Significance:** These improvements were statistically significant, with p-values <0.05.

Source: [HERE](#)

## Case Studies from Europe and the USA

- **Europe (Germany):** A 58-year-old stroke survivor underwent a combined treatment protocol incorporating Ayurvedic herbal medicine and physiotherapy. Over six months, significant gains in

With three decades in the pharmaceutical industry, the author is a leader in integrative health solutions. As the Founder of VEDAVISION, they aim to enhance patient care by merging Ayurvedic practices with modern medicine. Their commitment to improving patient quality of life and innovative approach has significantly impacted integrative therapy, promoting holistic treatment in global healthcare.







motor skills and speech recovery were noted, markedly faster than typically observed with conventional rehabilitation alone.

Reference: [HERE](#)

- **USA (California):** A clinical trial involving 120 patients with chronic anxiety tested the effects of integrating Ayurvedic practices like meditation and dietary adjustments with cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT). The results showed a reduction in anxiety scores by an additional 35% over CBT alone after three months.

Reference: [HERE](#)

## Business Opportunities in Integrative Healthcare

The positive outcomes highlighted by the meta-analysis indicate substantial business opportunities:

1. **Specialized Integrative Clinics:** Clinics that offer custom integrative treatment plans can be established globally, tapping into markets in Europe, North America, and beyond.
2. **Research and Development:** There is potential for developing Ayurvedic products that can be used in tandem with pharmaceuticals, particularly for mental health and neurological conditions.
3. **Educational Programs:** Creating certification courses for medical professionals in integrative health practices can standardize treatments and expand their acceptance.
4. **Health Tourism:** Developing centers that provide luxury recovery experiences combining Ayurvedic and modern treatments can attract international patients looking for effective and holistic recovery options.

## Challenges and Strategic Recommendations

**A) Regulatory Challenges:** Ensuring compliance with international healthcare regulations is essential for the acceptance of Ayurvedic practices.

**B) Market Acceptance:** Effective marketing strategies must address diverse cultural perceptions and the scientific community's skepticism towards Ayurveda.

**C) Standardization:** Establishing global standards for Ayurvedic treatments is crucial for maintaining quality and efficacy.

## Conclusion

The integration of Ayurveda with modern medicine presents significant opportunities for improving mental health and stroke recovery outcomes globally. Supported by meta-analysis and exemplified by case studies from Europe and the USA, this approach not only promises enhanced patient care but also opens lucrative business avenues in the healthcare industry. As demand for holistic treatments grows, investing in integrative health solutions could provide substantial returns by addressing gaps in current treatment models and setting new standards in global healthcare.







## MINGYANG SMART ENERGY UNVEILS WORLD'S LARGEST FLOATING WIND TURBINE PLATFORM

MingYang Smart Energy, a Chinese wind turbine manufacturer, has launched the world's largest floating wind turbine platform, Ocean X, in Guangzhou. This dual-turbine, 'V'-shaped platform has a total capacity of 16.6 MW and can produce 54,000 MWh annually, enough to power about 30,000 Chinese homes.

Ocean X features 597 ft (182 m) blade diameters on a V-shaped structure, stabilized by high-tension cables, and rests on a Y-shaped floating platform weighing approximately 16,500 tons (15,000 tonnes). Designed for waters deeper than 115 ft (35 m), it can withstand Category 5 hurricanes with winds up to 161 mph (260 km/h) and waves as high as 98 ft (30 m), continuing to generate electricity even in extreme conditions by rotating to face the wind.

This innovation represents a major advancement in renewable energy, highlighting China's commitment to sustainable energy solutions and setting a new standard for floating wind turbine technology.





Eighteenth Edition | 18-2024 | MMXXIV

Humanity's Ecological Debt:

# LIVING BEYOND OUR PLANET'S MEANS

**PLANET**  
*In Crisis*

Global Times Magazine Editorial Team

A week ago we marked World Environmental Debt Day, a somber reminder that humanity has exhausted all the biological resources the Earth can renew within a year. This year, this critical day has arrived even earlier than last, underscoring the escalating urgency of our ecological crisis.

The Global North consumption is higher than its production.

**10**  
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## What Is **World Environmental Debt Day**?

World Environmental Debt Day, also known as Earth Overshoot Day, signifies the point in the year when human consumption surpasses the Earth's capacity to regenerate those resources within the same year. According to the latest Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity reports by the Footprint Data Foundation (FDF), this year's World Environmental Debt Day falls on August 1st, one day earlier than last year, indicating that our planet's regenerative ability is being exceeded at an accelerating rate.

## **Understanding Ecological Debt**

Ecological debt occurs when human demand for natural resources and



ecosystem services exceeds what Earth can renew. Alessandro Galli, a scientist in this field, likens it to a balance sheet where the available biological resources are compared to our demand. When our consumption outstrips nature's ability to replenish these resources, we enter a period of "ecological debt."

The ecological footprint measures this demand and includes factors such as food, goods, services, and the land required to absorb the CO<sub>2</sub> we produce. The calculation is straightforward: the ecological footprint is divided by the planet's biocapacity, then multiplied by the number of days in a year, pinpointing the exact day we deplete our annual resource allotment.

### The EU's Role In Ecological Debt

In high-income regions like the EU, ecological debt appears earlier due to high consumption levels. As Alessandro Galli explains, wealthier



Ecological debt refers to the accumulated debt seen by some campaigners as owed by the Global North to Global South countries, due to the net sum of historical environmental injustice, especially through resource exploitation, habitat degradation, and pollution by waste discharge.

countries tend to have a larger ecological footprint. In Europe, for instance, mobility and construction sectors significantly drive the national ecological footprint, more so than food systems, which are the primary drivers in other European nations.

### The Urgent Need For Change

The trend towards ecological debt has stabilized somewhat over the past five years, but the progress in delaying the day of ecological debt is not sufficient given the scale of the challenges we face. The Institute for Health and Environment (IZO) warns that our current lifestyle habits are increasingly depleting the natural environment. They have developed a Slovenian calculator for personal ecological footprint, which is available on their website. This tool helps individuals understand and reduce their personal impact on the planet.

### Steps Towards Mitigating Ecological Debt



The Institute for Health and Environment (IZO) highlights that our lifestyle choices are depleting Earth's natural resources at an unsustainable rate. They advocate for actionable measures to reduce our ecological footprint, such as reforestation, which could delay World Environmental Debt Day by eight days if 350 million hectares of forest were restored.

## Innovative Solutions and Future Directions

Debora Barioni from the Global Footprint Network emphasizes humanity's potential to reverse this trend through innovative solutions focused on cities, energy, people, and the planet. By embracing environmental protection, restoration, regenerative agriculture, and sustainable fishing, we can enhance the health of our ecosystems, thereby extending Earth's capacity to regenerate biological resources.

Barioni further explains, "Ecological Debt Day for 2024 is a critical reminder that we are using natural resources 1.7 times faster than the planet can renew them. By focusing on innovative solutions related to cities, energy, people, and the planet, we are committed to making these changes and ensuring a sustainable future in which resource security and environmental stability are attainable for all."

## Why Does Ecological Debt Appear Sooner In The EU?

The European Union, being one of the wealthiest regions globally, has a substantial ecological footprint. Galli elaborates, "There is a high correlation between income levels and resource consumption. More consumption inevitably leads to a greater burden on the planet." In Slovenia, unlike other European countries where food systems are the main driver, the mobility and construction sectors significantly impact the national ecological footprint.

## The Path Forward

IZO underscores the necessity of reducing resource consumption while maintaining our planet's ecosystems. They point out that thriving natural ecosystems like oceans and forests are crucial for life on Earth, regulating the climate, and absorbing carbon emissions.

The massive overconsumption of biological resources has led to economies being limited by Earth's biocapacity. To ensure a healthy planet capable of sustaining us now and in the future, we must reduce resource consumption and improve the health of our ecosystems.

World Environmental Debt Day is a stark reminder of the urgent need for global action to address ecological overconsumption. While the trend towards ecological debt has somewhat stabilized over the past five years, it is clear that more ambitious efforts are needed. Through targeted actions and sustainable practices, we can work towards a future where resource security and environmental stability are attainable for all, ensuring a healthy planet for generations to come.

By understanding and addressing our ecological debt, we can strive towards a balanced relationship with our planet, ensuring that it remains a viable home for future generations.

Within the ecological debt broad definition, there are two main aspects: the ecological damage caused over time by a country in one or other countries or to ecosystems beyond national jurisdiction through its production and consumption patterns.



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Decoding Belief In Conspiracy Theories:

# WHAT DRIVES OUR FASCINATION WITH THE UNCONVENTIONAL?

**SOCIAL**  
Media

Global Times Magazine Editorial Team, Index Team

Conspiracy theories have long captured the human imagination, from tales of hidden government agendas to speculations about extraterrestrial life. But what drives some people to embrace these theories while others dismiss them?



Experts identify several factors contributing to negative behavior on social media, including human psychology, algorithmic design, anonymity, polarization, and addiction.

A new comprehensive study sheds light on the psychological, developmental, and social factors that contribute to belief in conspiracy theories, revealing intriguing insights into this pervasive phenomenon.

## The Development of Conspiracy Beliefs:

### A Lifelong Journey

The study suggests that beliefs in conspiracy theories emerge early in life, stabilizing from the age of 14 onwards. Factors such as mistrust, paranoid thinking, and ontological confusion—confusion about fundamental questions regarding existence, identity, or reality—contribute significantly to the formation and persistence of these beliefs.

### Health and Developmental Factors

The research highlights several health and developmental factors linked to belief in conspiracy theories. Adverse childhood experiences, peer and behavioral problems, and certain sociodemographic factors have all been associated with a higher propensity for embracing conspiracy theories. Additionally, traits like right-wing authoritarianism and trait anxiety are correlated with a greater likelihood of believing in conspiracy theories.

## Cognitive Factors:

### A Protective Shield?

On the flip side, cognitive abilities, including higher cognitive functions and active open-mindedness, appear to weaken belief in conspiracy theories. These cognitive factors offer potential avenues for intervention strategies aimed at reducing belief in conspiracy theories.



## Conspiracy Theories vs. Actual Conspiracies:

### A Critical Distinction

While the term "conspiracy theory" often carries a negative connotation, it is essential to differentiate between conspiracy theories and actual conspiracies. Conspiracy theories propose explanations for events or situations as the result of secret plots by powerful actors, often without compelling evidence. In contrast, actual conspiracies involve documented secret plans or events, such as the Watergate scandal.

## The Social Impact of Conspiracy Beliefs

Belief in conspiracy theories is not merely a personal belief; it has far-reaching social implications. These beliefs can erode trust in institutions, authorities, and even science, leading to societal destabilization. Moreover, the spread of misinformation through conspiracy theories can undermine informed decision-making and the democratic process, posing significant public health risks and contributing to societal polarization.



The study emphasizes the importance of cognitive media literacy in addressing online toxicity.

## The Role of Social Networks

The rise of social media platforms has facilitated the rapid dissemination of conspiracy theories, amplifying their impact. Confirmation bias, where individuals seek out and remember information that aligns with their pre-existing beliefs, further exacerbates the spread of these theories on social networks.

## The Evolutionary Perspective:

### A Survival Mechanism?

From an evolutionary standpoint, a certain degree of skepticism or distrust may have conferred survival advantages by encouraging protective behaviors against potential threats. While belief in conspiracy theories is generally considered undesirable due to its social harm, understanding its evolutionary roots offers a nuanced perspective on this complex phenomenon.



## Methodology:

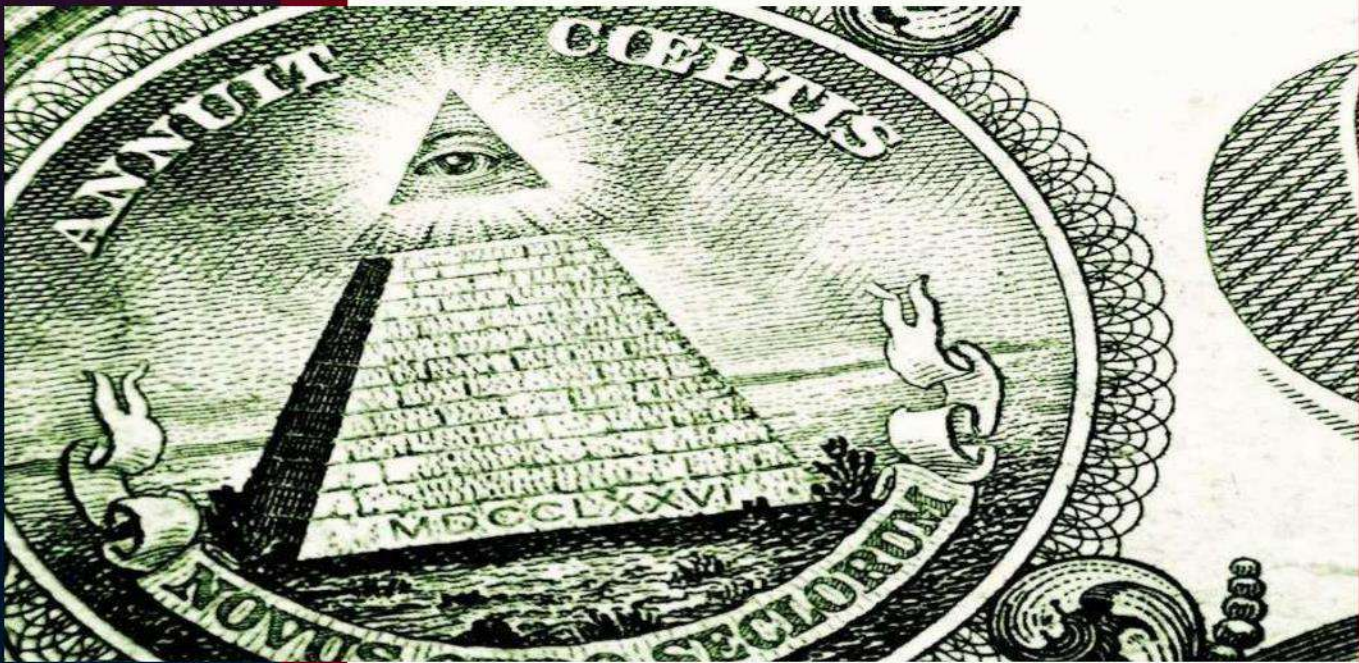
### A Global Perspective

The study analyzed data from six research papers conducted in various countries, including Poland, Great Britain, Austria, North America, and South Africa. These studies explored beliefs in different conspiracy theories, ranging from HIV and COVID-19 theories to attitudes towards Jews.

## Key Findings:

### A Summary

Developmental factors, including cognitive development during adolescence, influence the acquisition of conspiracy beliefs. Adverse life experiences, such as abuse and neglect, are associated with paranoia and belief in conspiracy theories.



Conspiracy theories have long captured the human imagination.

Family distrust plays a pivotal role in fostering belief in conspiracy theories, with mistrust often developing before adolescence. Cognitive abilities, particularly analytical thinking, offer potential protective factors against belief in conspiracy theories.

## Conclusion

The study offers a comprehensive exploration of the factors contributing to belief in conspiracy theories, shedding light on this intriguing yet often misunderstood phenomenon. By understanding the psychological, developmental, and social dynamics at play, we can develop targeted interventions to address the spread of misinformation and promote critical thinking.

In an age where information is readily accessible but often fraught with misinformation, cultivating a society grounded in evidence-based reasoning and trust is more critical than ever.

As we navigate the complex landscape of beliefs and ideologies, a deeper understanding of conspiracy theories offers valuable insights into the human psyche and the societal forces that shape our world views.





## SAUDI ARABIA'S 2034 FIFA WC BID INCLUDES 11 NEW STADIUMS AND NEOM'S SKY-HIGH VENUE

Saudi Arabia has formally submitted its bid to host the 2034 FIFA World Cup, outlining ambitious plans that include the construction of 11 new cutting-edge stadiums across five cities. Among these venues is the NEOM Stadium, slated to be located within The LINE, a 105-mile-long mirrored skyscraper soaring 500 meters above sea level.

The NEOM Stadium is proposed to accommodate 46,010 spectators and is scheduled for completion by 2032. Positioned with its pitch elevated over 350 meters above ground level, the stadium will integrate state-of-the-art technologies tailored for players, spectators, and broadcasters alike. These innovations encompass e-ticketing systems and 4K Ultra HD broadcasting capabilities.

Notably, the NEOM Stadium will prioritize sustainability, operating entirely on renewable energy derived from wind and solar sources. The venue aims to be easily accessible while setting new benchmarks for eco-friendly and technologically advanced sports facilities.

Saudi Arabia's bid underscores its commitment to hosting a world-class sporting event while pushing the boundaries of stadium design and sustainability in the global arena.





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Launching Your Own E-commerce Business:

# TOP 5 ESSENTIALS FOR SUCCESS

**BUSINESS**  
— World of —

Global Times Magazine Editorial Team, Index Team

With the rapid growth of online shopping, there has never been a better time to start your own e-commerce business. However, embarking on this venture requires careful planning and strategic decisions. To help you navigate this exciting journey, here are the top five things you need to know before starting an e-commerce business.

## 1. Identifying Your Product Line

Choosing the right products is the cornerstone of a successful e-commerce business. The internet offers a vast marketplace where consumers can purchase almost anything. However, not all products yield the same profitability.

Begin by considering your interests and passions. Selling products you are enthusiastic about can make your brand more relatable and engaging to potential customers. Use tools like Google Trends and Ubersuggest to identify trending products and analyze market demand. Conduct thorough market research to understand your competition and identify gaps you can fill. This approach will help you differentiate your business and attract customers.

## 2. Understanding Your Target Audience

Knowing your ideal customer is crucial for tailoring your products, services, and marketing efforts. Developing a detailed buyer persona can help you understand your target market's demographics, behaviors, and preferences.

Consider factors such as age, income, location, gender, job, lifestyle, challenges, and goals. This information will guide your product development and marketing strategies, ensuring they resonate with your audience and meet their needs.

## 3. Planning Your Packaging Strategy

If your e-commerce business involves physical products, effective packaging is essential. Your packaging should protect products during shipping and create a memorable unboxing experience for customers.

Select materials based on the nature of your products—bubble wrap, tissue paper, padded envelopes, or sturdy cardboard boxes might be necessary. Additionally, consider branding your packaging with your logo and colors.



Adding personalized notes or free samples can enhance the customer experience, encouraging repeat business and fostering brand loyalty.



#### 4. Choosing Your Sales Platform

Decide whether to sell your products on online marketplaces or through your e-commerce website. Each option has its pros and cons.



Online marketplaces like Amazon and Etsy offer convenience and exposure, but you'll face stiff competition and incur listing and commission fees. On the other hand, having your own e-commerce site provides more control over your brand and customer experience. Utilize a robust online store builder like WiziShop to launch your store and support its growth with powerful tools and features.

#### 5. Developing a Marketing Strategy

Marketing is essential for driving awareness and sales. Even the best products won't sell if people don't know they exist. Develop a comprehensive marketing strategy before launching your store.

Your strategy should evolve as your business grows, but start by identifying where your target audience spends their time online. Create profiles on relevant social media platforms, and consider other tactics like email marketing, SEO, blogging, and paid advertising. Tailor your marketing efforts based on your research and continuously refine your approach to maximize effectiveness.

#### Conclusion

Launching an e-commerce business is an exciting endeavor that promises immense opportunities. By thoughtfully considering these five aspects—product selection, target audience, packaging, sales platforms, and marketing—you'll be well-prepared to build a thriving online store.

Embrace the adventure and set the stage for your e-commerce success.

Article **END**





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**Unknown author**



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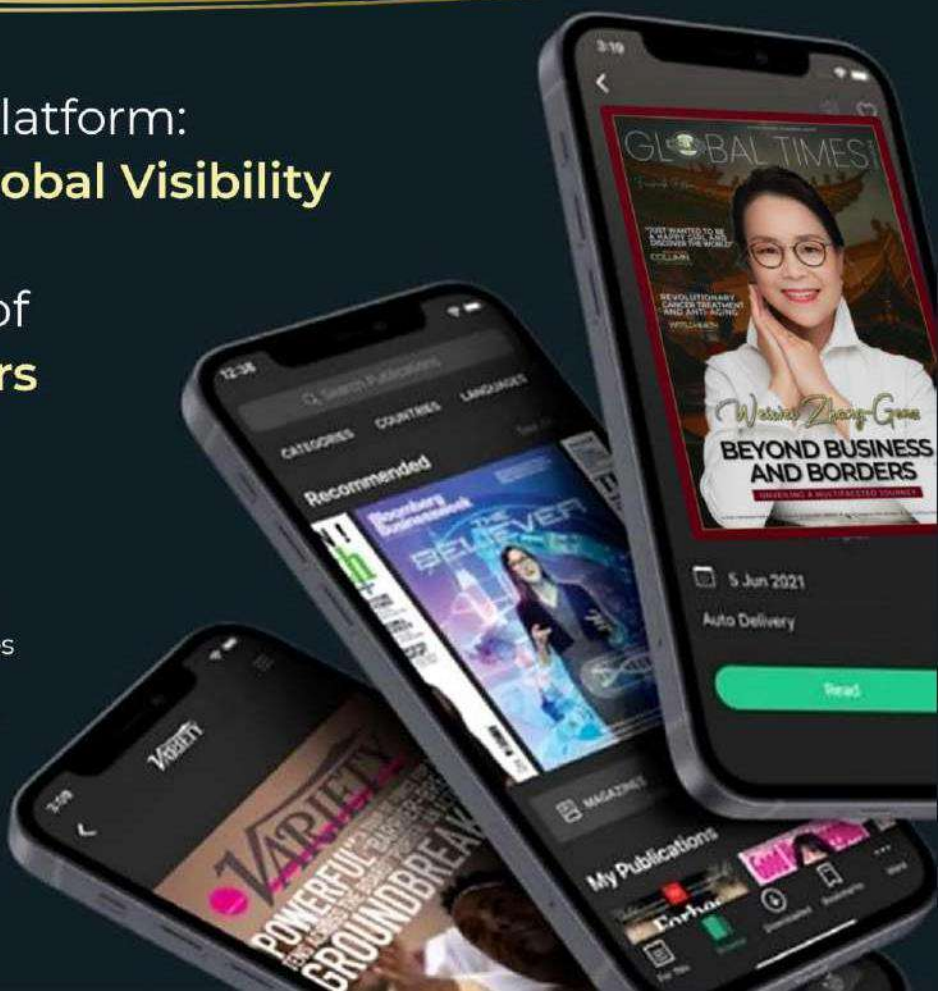


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