HANS ROSLING

Hans Rosling is a doctor and statistician who serves as professor of international health at Sweden's Karolinska Institute, one of Europe's largest medical universities. His current work dispels common myths about the so-called developing world which, he points out, is no longer worlds away from the west. His presentations on economic development, agriculture, poverty and health in Africa, Asia and Latin America are grounded in solid statistics — often drawn from United Nations data — that are illustrated by the remarkable trend-revealing visualization software he created. The animations transform development statistics into moving bubbles and flowing curves that make global trends clear, intuitive and even playful.

From 1967 to 1974 Rosling studied statistics and medicine at Uppsala University, and in 1972 he studied public health at St. Johns Medical College, Bangalore. He became a licensed physician in 1976 and served as district medical officer in northern Mozambique from 1979 to 1981.

Rosling spent many years in rural Africa tracking a rare paralytic disease (which he named konzo) and discovering its cause: hunger and badly processed cassava. He spent two decades studying outbreaks of the disease in remote rural areas across Africa; his investigations earned him a Ph.D. at Uppsala University in 1986.

What sets Rosling apart isn't just his apt observations of broad social and economic trends, but the stunning way he presents them. Data sings, trends come to life, and the big picture snaps into sharp focus.During his presentations, Rosling narrates the animations with a sportscaster's flair. Rosling developed the breakthrough software behind his visualizations, Trendalyzer, through his nonprofit venture Gapminder, which he founded with his son and daughter-in-law. The free software, which can be loaded with any data, was purchased by Google in March 2007.

Gapminder promotes sustainable global development and achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals by increased use and understanding of statistics and other information about social, economic and environmental development at local, national and global levels.

Rosling has been adviser to WHO and UNICEF He co-founded Médecins sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders) Sweden, wrote a textbook on global health, and initiated key international research collaborations. The Foreign Magazine named him one of the 100 Top Global Thinkers of 2009.

Rosling presented the television documentary The Joy of Stats, broadcast in the UK by BBC Four in December 2010.

TOPICS
- Debunking Myth about the “Third World”
- Social & Economic Development
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- Future Trends — Looking at the Big Picture
- Global Health
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