

# PROFESSOR HANS JOACHIM SCHELLNHUBER



## CURRENT POSITIONS

- Director Emeritus of the [Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research \(PIK\)](#)
- Founder and Managing Director of [Bauhaus Earth](#)
- Distinguished Visiting Professor at [Tsinghua University \(Beijing\)](#)

## BIO

Hans Joachim ('John') Schellnhuber studied physics & mathematics and completed his doctorate in quantum physics at the University of Regensburg. After a postdoctoral position at the Institute for Theoretical Physics, Santa Barbara, he held full professorships at the Universities of Oldenburg and Potsdam, as well as at the University of East Anglia, Norwich. In addition, he was engaged in numerous visiting professorships (e.g., University of California Santa Cruz; Oxford University; Stockholm University; Santa Fe Institute). Schellnhuber received honorary doctorates from the University of Copenhagen (2011), the Technical University Berlin (2012) and the University of Exeter (2022). He has published some 300 scientific articles & books in fundamental physics, complex systems analysis, climate-change research, sustainability science, and other fields. Schellnhuber is listed as a [Highly Cited Researcher \(Cross Field\) by Clarivate](#).

As founding director of PIK, Schellnhuber led the institute from 1992 until 2018. From 2001 to 2005, he also served as research director of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research in Great Britain. He is member of numerous learned societies such as the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, the German National Academy Leopoldina, the US National Academy of Sciences, the Academia Europaea, and the Academy of Athens. He received, among other awards, the German Environmental Prize (2007), the Volvo Environmental Prize (2011), the Blue Planet Prize (2017), and the *Ratio et Spes* Prize (2021). In the latter year, Schellnhuber was also awarded the Honorary Edition of the German Sustainability Prize for his "enormous influence on science, politics and business through the advancement of sustainable solutions to the global environmental crisis".

He acted as a scientific advisor to a number of eminent public and religious leaders, including the German Chancellor Angela Merkel, European Commission Presidents José Manuel Barroso & Ursula von der Leyen, and Pope Francis. He continuously served for 28 years as a member/chair of the

German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU) since its establishment in 1992. He contributed in various ways to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. Since 2019, Schellnhuber has been focusing his scientific work and communication skills on the transformation of the built environment and specifically on the climate restoration potential of regenerative architecture. In this context, he created Bauhaus Earth as a not-for-profit company and became a member of the High-Level Roundtable of the New European Bauhaus initiative.

For his achievements, Queen Elizabeth II named Hans Joachim Schellnhuber a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (2004). He was awarded the Order of Merit of the State of Brandenburg (2008), the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany (2011) and the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, of the Japanese Government (2020). In 2021, Schellnhuber received the Grand Cross of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany from President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and became Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur of the French Republic.