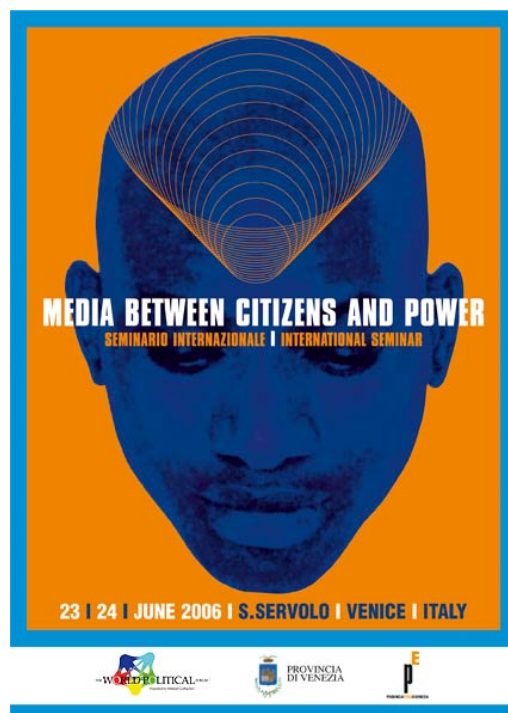


## PRESS RELEASE



### **INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR MEDIA BETWEEN CITIZENS AND POWER VENICE 23-24 JUNE 2006 ISLAND OF S. SERVOLO**

**Nobel Peace Laureate Mikhail Gorbachev, Gore Vidal, the Under-Secretary General for Information and Communication at UN-Shashi Tharoor, Margot Wallstrom, Manuel Castells, Adam Michnik, Eric Alterman, Juan Luis Cebrian, Pekka Himanen, Ignacio Ramonet, John Lloyd, Jean Reveillon, the Director-General of Al Jazeera-Wadah Khanfar, Indrajit Banerjee, Giulietto Chiesa, Ennio Remondino,**

Will analyse and discuss a central issue for our times and our democracies:  
the relationship between Power (political, economic, religious etc.) and reliable information,  
meaning the image of the world that media pass onto the citizens.

They will question the complexity of the current technological revolution that is leading to conceiving information in a broader sense, as the dominant “matrix” of the XXIst century society.

They will also question the growth of human capacity in the information elaboration and, on the other hand, on the possibility of granting access and right to information for all.  
A round table and a series of workshops aimed to launch a debate between different positions and different voices, promoted under the joint initiative of a local public Administration, such as the Province of Venice, in the framework of its “Ethical Province” Project, and The World Political Forum, founded and chaired by Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

The role of the media and the ways of intervention and participation of the institutions of the civil society call for an in-depth reflection. From here the idea of a meeting that will analyse some aspects of fundamental interest to civil society, to professionals and to the ones who have responsibilities in politics, economics and finance. The debate will focus on the relationship between new information technologies and governance; between democracy and right to information, between concentration of the property of the media and financial and political power, investigating the interrelations among the different dimensions. The information technologies revolution is changing the different levels of relationships, profoundly influencing people's life and forms of democratic participation.

An international seminar to understand the complexity of these phenomena, going beyond the mere “info-communicative” sphere. A critical analysis of a practical problem: the individual is unable to decide if he doesn't have an in-depth knowledge of the processes.

The initiative - promoted by the World Political Forum and the Province of Venice, within the Project Ethical Province - intends to be a work project for the identification of the contradictory tendencies which permeate globalization: from concentration to distribution of resources, from democratisation to control, from local to global institutions.

**Promoted by:**

**Province of Venice**

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**Organized by:**

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How to get to San Servolo Island:

Departures from Venice - Piazzale Roma to San Servolo Island 23 June at 8.15 and 8.30 a.m., 24 June at 9.00 a.m.

with free service. You can easily reach San Servolo Island by ACTV ferry, line 20 leaving from San Zaccaria (stop next to Hotel Londra). The journey lasts about 8 minutes.

Information about lagoon transports: [www.actv.it](http://www.actv.it) | [www.velaspa.com](http://www.velaspa.com)

**FRIDAY 23 JUNE**

**9.00-9.30**

**OPENING SESSION**

Davide **Zoggia**, President of the Province of Venice

Massimo **Cacciari**, Mayor of the City of Venice

Mikhail S. **Gorbachev**, President of The World Political Forum

Margot **Wallstrom**, Vice President of the European Commission, in charge of Institutional Relations and Communication Strategy, Sweden

**9.30-11.00**

**1st PLENARY SESSION: THE INFORMATION SOCIETY  
OPENING FOR DEMOCRACY, TRAPS FOR MANIPULATION**

**Introduces:**

Laura Di Lucia **Coletti**, Province of Venice Councillor in Charge of the Project "Provincia Etica"

**Chairman:**

Giulietto **Chiesa**, Member of the European Parliament, Columnist for La Stampa, Italy

**Speakers:**

Gore **Vidal**, Writer and Essayist, USA

Shashi **Tharoor**, UN Under Secretary General for Communication and Public Information, India

Manuel **Castells Olivàn**, Professor of Communication and Wallis Annenberg Chair

in Communication Technology and Society at the Annenberg School for Communication,

University of Southern California-Los Angeles, Spain

Lamberto **Maffei**, Director of the Institute of Neurosciences at the CNR

(National Research Center), Italy

Eric **Alterman**, Professor of English at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York,

Media Columnist for The Nation, USA

**11.00-11.15**

**Break**

**11.15-12.30**

**2nd PLENARY SESSION: ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION. PROMISES, GUARANTEES, REALITY**

**Chairman:**

Francisco **Jarauta**, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Murcia, Spain

**Speakers:**

Jean **Reveillon**, Secretary General of EBU (European Broadcasting Union), France

Ignacio **Ramonet**, Editor-in-Chief of Le Monde Diplomatique, France

Saskia **Sassen**, Ralph Lewis Professor of Sociology at the University of Chicago, and

Centennial Visiting Professor at the London School of Economics

Claudia **Padovani**, Researcher in International Relations at the University of Padova, Italy

Aleksei **Simonov**, President of The Glasnost Protection Foundation, Russia

**12.30-13.30**

**General Debate**

**13.30-14.00 Press Conference and Interviews**

**14.00-15.30 Lunch**

**15.30-18.30 3 Parallel workshops**

**MEDIA AS POLITICAL ACTOR: OBSERVER, MEDIATOR, PUBLIC SERVANT?**

**Chairman:**

Bernard **Guetta**, Political Columnist and Editorial Writer of L'Express, France

**Speakers:**

John **Lloyd**, Essayist, Editor of the Financial Times Magazine, United Kingdom  
Indrajit **Banerjee**, Secretary-General of AMIC (Asian Media Information and Communication Center), Singapore  
Lilli **Gruber**, Member of the European Parliament, Italy  
Roberto **Reale**, Journalist and Professor of Theories and Technics of Television Information at the University of Padova, Italy

**THE INDEPENDENT PRESS UNDER PRESSURE. THE PRICE OF SURVIVAL**

**Chairman:**

Henrikas **Iouchkiavitchious**, former Deputy Director General of UNESCO in charge of Media, Lithuania

**Speakers:**

Johann **P. Fritz**, IPI (International Press Institute) Director, Austria  
Ennio **Remondino**, Journalist RAI, Italy  
Alekssei **Venediktov**, Editor-in-Chief of the Echo Moskvy, Russia  
Daniel **Schechter**, Executive Producer MediaChannel, USA

**GLOCAL WORLD MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY**

**Chairman:**

Piero **Bassetti**, President of Globus et Locus, Italy

**Speakers:**

Fausto **Colombo**, Professor of Theories and Technics of Mass Communication at the Cattolica University of Milan, Italy  
Pekka **Himanen**, Professor at the University of Art and Design of Helsinki and Visiting Professor at Oxford University, Finland  
Serge **Latouche**, Sociologist, Professor Emeritus at the University of Paris-Sud, France

**SATURDAY 24 JUNE**

**9.30-10.30 PLENARY SESSION: CONNECTING PEOPLES. EXERCISE IN CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

**Introduces:**

Laura **Di Lucia Coletti**, Province of Venice Councillor in Charge of the Project "Provincia Etica"

**Chairman:**

Roberto **Savio**, Chair of IPS (International Press Service), Italy

**Speakers:**

Juan Luis **Cebrian**, Founder of El Pais and CEO of the Grupo Prisa, Spain  
Franco **Cardini**, Professor of Medieval History at the University of Florence, Italy  
Shibley **Telhami**, Anwar Sadat Professor for Peace and Development at the University of Maryland and Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, USA

**10.30-10.45 Break**

**10.45-12.15 Works' Resumption**

Adam **Michnik**, Editor-in-Chief of Gazeta Wyborcza, Poland  
Marie-Roger **Biloua**, President of the Groupe Africa International and of the Club Millenium, France  
Ulysse **Gosset**, Journalist, France

with the participation of Wadah **Khanfar**, Director-General of al-Jazeera Network, Qatar

**12.00-13.30 Debate and Conclusions**

**Chairman:**

Andrei **Grachev**, Chairman of the Scientific Committee of The World Political Forum, Russia

**Speakers:**

Davide **Zoggia**, President of the Province of Venice  
Mikhail S. **Gorbachev**, President of The World Political Forum  
Paolo **Gentiloni Silveri**, Minister for Communication, Italy

**13.30 Lunch**