

**Now we welcome the Swedish prize winner Prof. Dr. Johan Rockström, hello**

**Begrüßung:** „Hello!“

**1. How would you explain your job and what you're aiming at to a ten-year-old child?**

**O-Ton 1 (Prof. Dr. Johan Rockström):** „(Laughing). Thanks. That's a very challenging question to a scientist. I lead a large international research centre, called the Stockholm Resilience Centre. And together with my colleagues we try to explore pathways towards a sustainable and save future for humanity on our beautiful small planet. So we explore solutions of how to generate a good life for humans well at the same time having a healthy planet.“

**2. Your research is – amongst others – an approach to change environmental politics. Regarding the current national selfishness in Europe: Don't you sometimes doubt that your efforts will succeed?**

**O-Ton 2 (Prof. Dr. Johan Rockström):** „Well you see, the challenge today is that we are no longer a small world on a very big planet which we have always thought. That the planet has this endless capacity to take abuse and overexploitation by overfishing and deforestation and the emitting of greenhouse gases and that the earth can just absorb this without invoices being sent back to the economy. But since 25, 30 years when I have so much scientific evidence that we are now a big world on a small planet and that we are starting to hit the ceiling of the planet's ... of our home planet's capacity to support humanity without causing very large potentially even disastrous consequences for ourselves. So, the science is clear that we need a transformation into a new logic. And the duty is - and that's why I'm quite optimistic that even in affluent countries like Germany and Sweden that we can succeed - is that that assessment translates into a new development paradigm which is not, you know, about sacrificing anything it's actually adjoining towards a much more attractive future where sustainability becomes the vehicle for success, news technologies, better economy and particularly a better human well-being. So to give you just one small example: that today economic growth depends largely on fossil fuels. Oil, coal and natural gas. But now technologies are moving so fast, that we can think of a future we even implement the future where the sun and the wind and water and sustainable bio-energy support economic development, gives a much cleaner air and much healthier living conditions and moreover gives us a much more attractive future. And to guide that transformation you need to set planetary boundaries. You need to set the guard rails or the boundaries within which we can have a good future. And science can today define these... the ceiling, the planetary ceiling within which we can be successful. So I can see today a new story. The story of humanity succeeding within a stable and resilient planet. And that's a very attractive, it's a very new story and it's evidence based.“

**3. What do you do with the prize money of € 245,000?**

**O-Ton 3 (Prof. Dr. Johan Rockström):** „That is a good question, you know. I'm so humbled and honoured and actually have just received the the very very fantastic news that I'm been honoured with this, after all, Europe's largest and most prestigious environmental prize. So I haven't entirely thought that through, to be honest. But clearly I will be devoting that money to the pursuit of sustainable lifestyles, of sustainable development in one way or another. But I haven't thought through exactly how that will happen. But my whole endeavour with myself and with my colleagues and also my own private life has very strong you know entire devotion to a seeking innovative pathways

towards sustainable prosperity in the future, so I look forward to thinking that through carefully.“

**4. What do you expect from the United Nations' General Assembly New York on the last weekend in September?**

**O-Ton 4 (Prof. Dr. Johan Rockström):** „I am very excited about the United Nations' General Assembly top high-level meeting with heads of states. We'll be coming to New York actually to celebrate that we agree all countries in the world of adopting a new framework for world development. The sustainable development goals in fact are a proof that world is starting to listen to science because it is an articulation of exactly what I mentioned earlier. Of a world that will eradicate poverty, eradicate hunger and achieve good human development for everyone within a safe operating space on earth. So, for the first time, we have political leaders as result of the largest consultation ever to be held by all countries in the world adopting in fact a planetary boundary thinking for world development. A future for people and planet. Healthy people and planet. So for me, it's a proof that the world has already tipped over towards a sustainable future – we have entered the age of sustainable development. The question is just to get the pace right. We are moving too slowly so far. But... so the New York meeting is really really important and it's also in my mind a great success and a turning point for the whole agenda of sustainable development in the world.“

**5. What does it mean to you being awarded the German Environmental Award?**

**O-Ton 5 (Prof. Dr. Johan Rockström):** „Well, it's a tremendous honour. It is a again if possible the most prestigious environmental prize in Europe. Germany is a world leader on both, science and policy on environment and development. So, of course, being honoured by such a prestigious group and from such a prestigious country in terms of environment and development issues is really something humbling and really important for our continue to work in the pursuit of science for a sustainable future for humanity. So, on all accounts it is very important and something that will inspire me and all my colleagues here at the Stockholm Resilience Centre to continue perform our great science and I should emphasise that much of our work here is already today done in close collaboration with great scientists in Germany from the Potsdam Institute of Climate Impact Research to your Development Research Institute in Germany and in other institutions. So we have strong ties with Germany and I'm sure that this will strengthen them even further.“

***Prof. Dr. Johan Rockström, thank you very much for the interview!***

**Verabschiedung:** „Thank you so much!“