

Bill Gates for a Day

- Future decision makers have made education and trade barriers the priority

Yesterday Copenhagen Consensus Center hosted the conference “Bill Gates for a Day” with about 200 participants, where eight international economists each presented their own suggested solutions to some of the world's greatest challenges. The conference is sponsored by the Tuborg Foundation.

Based on the eight presentations and papers, each participant selected the solutions they thought best. Each participant had three balls, which they were asked to distribute between one or more cylinders representing the eight problem solutions.

The result was:

| Topic | Percentage of votes |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Education | 30% |
| Trade barriers | 21% |
| Water and sanitation | 16% |
| Conflicts | 14% |
| Biodiversity | 6% |
| Air pollution | 5% |
| Women's issues | 5% |
| Terrorism | 2% |

Young people are focused on education and trade barriers

Together education and trade barriers sucked up more than half of the votes. The main solution to the lack of education in developing countries was to increase the demand for education on the part of the population, for instance by eliminating fees for schooling. Every dollar invested in education can result in a return of more than three dollars.

The recommended solution to trade and tariff barriers was binding agreements regarding the liberalization of trade on a global (WTO) level. A conservative guess is that every dollar invested in the elimination of international trade barriers will return 67 fold.

"We are happy that everyone was so engaged," says Bjorn Lomborg, adding: "There was a focus on many and good solutions, and there was great understanding of the concept of prioritizing".

Further information

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