

Search Terms: State of the World Forum

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HEADLINE: State of the World Forum Gets Set to Kickoff in New York

GUESTS: Jim Garrison

BYLINE: Brian Nelson

HIGHLIGHT:

Jim Garrison, the president of the State of the World Forum, discusses the issues that the forum will tackle.

BODY:

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BRIAN NELSON, CNN ANCHOR: While heads of state are meeting at the Millennium Summit, international business and civic leaders will converge at the State of the World Forum, also in New York. The forum will cover economic, technological, and other issues in the world.

And Jim Garrison is the president of the State of the World Forum, and he joins us from New York.

Mr. Garrison, thanks.

JIM GARRISON, PRESIDENT, STATE OF THE WORLD FORUM: Thank you.

NELSON: What is the state of the world in your view right now?

GARRISON: I think the state of the world is caught up in the challenges related to globalization. The collapse of the World Trade Organization Conference in Seattle last December combined with the protests around the IMF and World Bank meetings in Washington in April really signal, I think, that the central challenge before the human community is the question of how we govern globalization.

NELSON: Globalization may not mean much to many people, when most people think of poverty, misery around the world. How does globalization affect populations in other countries?

GARRISON: Well, the globalization process is effecting everybody everywhere. Economics are involved, science and technology is involved, politics are involved. One of the central aspects of globalization is that the rich are getting richer, the poor are getting poorer. There is widespread inequalities and lack of democratic processes.

And one of the central challenges that, I think, that the forum will be taking up is to really look at the paradox in globalization, that on the one hand, globalization is affecting everybody everywhere; and on the other hand, the institutions that we have in place to govern globalization, the WTO, the IMF, the World Bank, even the United Nations, were all designed before globalization emerged and are limited exclusively to representatives of sovereign states, and that contradiction is the cause of a lot of the inequities that you speak of.

NELSON: But many people credit globalization for the soaring economies around the world right now. GARRISON: That's also true. There is a lot of winners and there is a lot of losers. And one of the challenges that we're taking up this week, which has never been done before, is simply to bring all the stakeholders together: the sovereign states, the international institutions, the trade unions, the global corporations, the science and technology sector, religions, and the NGO community. It's our belief that the future of effective globalization certainly needs to include nation states, but also the global corporations and civil society.

NELSON: OK, thank you very much for talking to us. Jim Garrison, the president of the State of the World Forum that begins in New York.

Thank you very much for being on with us.

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