

Report on discussions following the presentation on

‘Some problems of science education in a world with an exploding population and enormous disparities of affluence and poverty’,

prepared by Roy McWeeny and Jan Visser.

The following suggestions and commitments were made:

- Explore possibilities for dissemination of the basic science texts via data links associated with digital satellite broadcasting. Both texts and images could be transmitted that way. Jaap Swart promised to follow up on this when back in The Netherlands.
- It is recognized that there are certain irreducible costs (e.g. that of the paper used in printing), which could probably be met only through the Aid Agencies.
- There should be an interest in getting the books translated into other languages. A beginning has already been made with translations into Spanish (see [Por Amor a la Ciencia](#) on the <http://www.learndev.org> Web site). Translation into Arabic was thought by Egyptian participants in the dialogue (particularly Ayman Shehata and Motaz Attalla) to be an attainable goal. Ayman would follow up.
- Distributing and printing the books in India, and perhaps South Asia in general, was equally seen as worth exploring. Rustam Vania promised to follow up and has, according to email received from him, made initial contacts in this regard in India.
- All agreed that it was important to continue this endeavor as a voluntary effort rather than turning it into a ‘project’ considering that conceiving it as a project that required funding would limit the prospects of growth over time and be a threat to the passion that has so far fed the work.

- The search to get more authors involved continues. Roy McWeeny searches among his contacts. Jan Visser promised to send out a call to the Fellows network of the European Molecular Biology Organization for authors in the life sciences.
- Roy McWeeny is already thinking about the next book in the series, Book 11, on “*The Quantum Revolution.*”