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Real Life Systems®

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Abstract

Meima Communication & Learning is a founding partner of: Real Life Systems, formally established in 1999 but active since 1997, delivers leading-edge total-immersion simulation games and scenario exercises to groups ranging from a dozen to scores of participants.

Our exercises cultivate systems thinking, a grasp of sustainable development, teamwork, a deeper understanding of the meaning of performance in a multi-dimensional sense, and a variety of strategic and environmental management concepts. Real Life Systems exercises take place in an outdoor setting over several days, and include:

- A holistic systems perspective that addresses organisms, organizations, and ecosystems
- Triple Bottom Line measures of economic, environmental, & social performance
- A focus on basic human needs
- Team interaction via a market economy and political institutions (local dynamics)
- The use of scenarios and contingencies to inject global dynamics
- Physical activity, team challenges, and adventure segments

The Real Life Systems training approach is based on the Planet Kullen concept developed for a masters-level curriculum in environmental management and policy at the International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics at Lund University, Sweden. Nearly a dozen European public- and private-sector organizations have also experienced it.

Specific uses of Real Life Systems exercises include:

- Developing organizational creativity and strategic capabilities
- Exploring the challenges and opportunities of sustainable development
- Training personnel in environmental issues and management practices
- Serving as a milestone event in starting/re-starting new programs & initiatives

The basic experiential simulation concept is flexible and can be tailored to fit specific client needs.

To date, nearly 150 persons have taken part in a Real Life Systems exercise. Several events are already scheduled for 1999, and inquiries extend into 2000.

At present, Real Life Systems is equipped to deliver exercises in southern Sweden and

the UK, in English and/or Swedish. Planning is currently underway to expand our coverage area to the East and West Coasts of the USA with the help of local partners. This will probably take place during 2000.

Interested in learning more about Real Life Systems? Meima Communication & Learning welcomes inquiries. In the near future, Real Life Systems will have its own website.