



The Dad of Vertical Farms inaugurates AquaFarm / Vertical Farm

Donald Dickson Despommier of Columbia University, creator and promoter of the vertical farms concept, is in Italy for the first time to start the conference on Vertical Farming at AquaFarm in Pordenone Fiere on 26th January.

Milano / Pordenone 9 January 2017. Dickson Despommier, the father of the vertical farm concept, will come to Italy for the first time to start the conferences regarding Vertical farming within AquaFarm.

The keynote of Professor Despommier , professor emeritus of Microbiology and Public Health at Columbia University in New York, will concern the political, economic, social and environmental motivations that underlie the need for vertical farming, a potential solution for several problems, as stated in the title of one of the conference sessions.

Vertical farming will be the subject of a strand of conferences to be held on the first day of the larger event, AquaFarm, also dedicated to sustainable aquaculture and seaweed farming, held at Fiera di Pordenone on 26th and 27th January.

For over 15 years, Dickson Despommier has been developing and promoting vertical farming, encouraging studies, giving lectures (for example, in TEDs), writing articles and books, including the reference text on the subject: *The Vertical Farm: Feeding the World in the 21st Century, St. Martin's Press, 2010*. Here is a link to his site: <http://www.verticalfarm.com/>

Vertical farming – introduced to a wide audience in Italy for the first time at Expo2015, where the first Italian vertical farm was in operation - is one of the possible non-destructive solutions for the environment, in the face of the global growth of population and the consequent increase in the standard of living, towards the production on scales ranging from home kitchen to giant constructions, specially made or renovated from other uses.

Seeing as vertical farming does not require large areas to get large quantities of product, and being independent from the external environment, vertical farms



are suitable for integration in urban environments, both in a non-visible way, and as spectacular (and useful) landmarks: from aesthetic vertical woods to vegetable and salad fields. The result is the production of healthy food, with minimal or no logistical demands, being the vegetables consumed a few meters from where they are produced.

The vertical farms are interesting not only for those involved in food and for architects looking for new values and objectives in design, but also for town planners and governments facing the problem of converting industrial and service landscapes and architecture in societies with low population growth and the need for a sustainable development of urban areas. It is no coincidence that most of the ever-increasing examples of vertical farms built in advanced countries, and reviewed by Despommier's keynote, are housed in recycled buildings.

"The organizers of AquaFarm - says Aurora Marin, coordinator for Studio Comelli of the sessions dedicated to Vertical Farm - are happy and proud to be able to host Professor Despommier for the inauguration of the first event in Italy where the issue of vertical farms is tackled in a comprehensive way and integrated with the related subjects of fish farming and seaweed farming. Our wish is that his presence will be the starting point for our country to go from experiments to large-scale applications. Vertical farming is a theme that is ready to enter everyone's mental horizon, thanks to the solutions it offers to problems which are globally but also locally relevant"

Dickson Despommier is an honorary member of the Association for Vertical farming, which brings together all those involved, professionally and as a passion, in this cultivation method. The association is a supporter of AquaFarm and will attend the event, not only with an information desk, but also with two speeches held by young promises for the sector of vertical farming and novel food: Zjef Van Acker and Diane Esvan.

The program for the 2017 AquaFarm conference is available and constantly updated on the website www.aquafarm.show, in the Program section, where you also can already register for free participation.



For other press releases: <http://www.aquafarm.show/comunicati-stampa/>

For more information

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