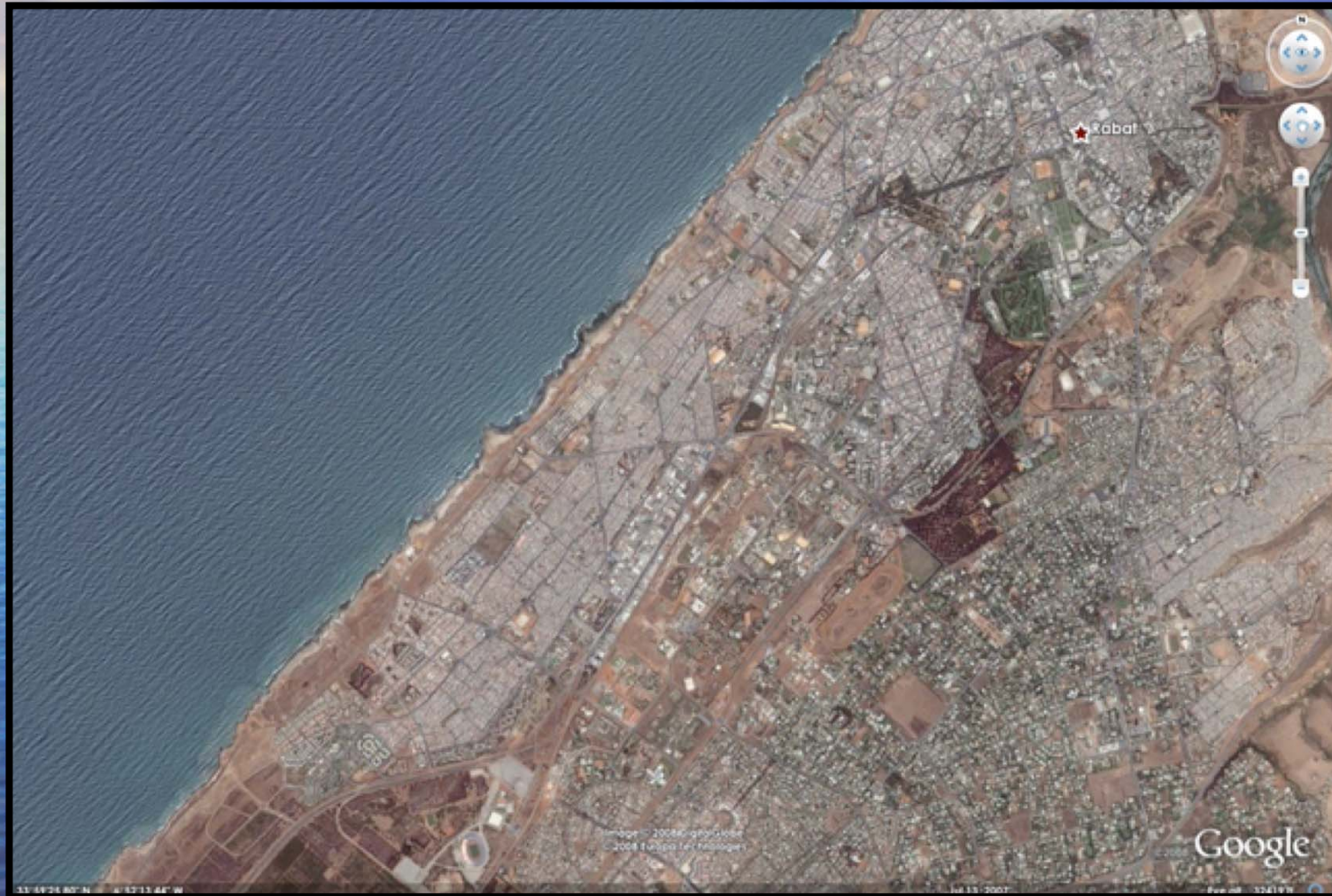


LINKING MENA



LINKING MENA

Providing a foundation for the
internationalisation of knowledge

Abdul Waheed Khan, UNESCO

Alexander Böhmer, MENA-OECD Investment Programme

Reymond Voutier, eNotus International

Sami Al Basheer Al Morshid, International Telecommunication Union



Generating Opportunities

By meeting the urgency and scale 80
million jobs during the next decade in
MENA & Africa alone

Martti Ahtisaari

Nobel Peace Prize Winner 2008

“Providing youth with education, training and purpose may be the most important single issue facing us all, and in no place is this more important than the Middle East”



November 12, 2008

Linking MENA

3



The Big Issues are Global

Development & the Digital Divide
Investment, Innovation & Trade
Youth & Education



Education & Training

Leadership and a vision for the future for a MENA-wide entrepreneurial revolution that will create a powerful private sector.



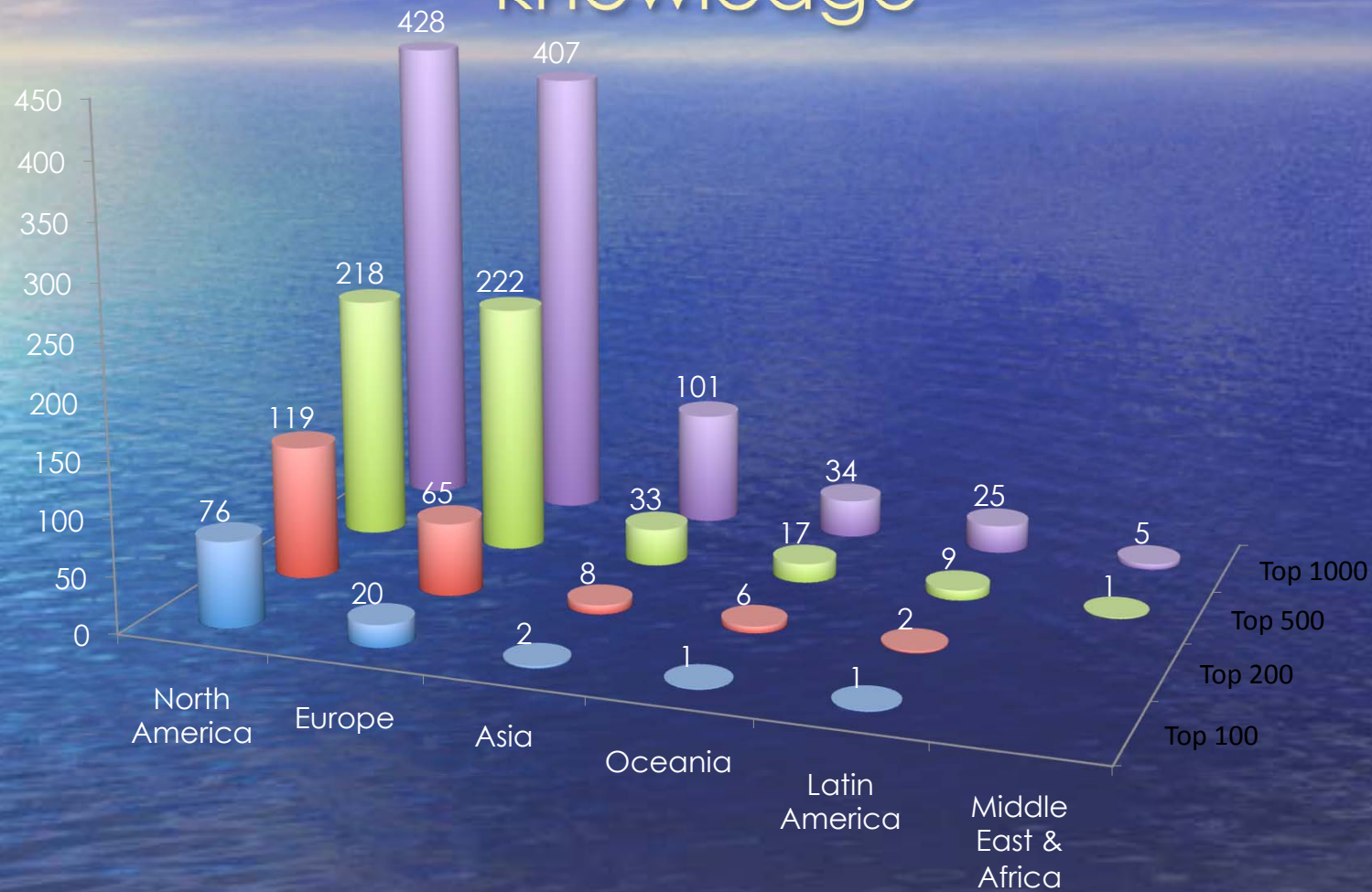
A Unique Time for the Region

The right time and place for connecting
the economies of Africa, Asia and Europe
into a super continent.

The Depth of the Challenge

- ☀ Knowledge economies first require informational infrastructure
- ☀ The knowledge flows & understanding follow
- ☀ Centers of excellence and issues networks can be rapidly generated

Research & new ways of teaching and delivery for the internationalisation of knowledge





Linking MENA will Generate Many Centers of Excellence for Future Diversification

Programs across diverse sectors of GDP,
with big impacts & results

Massive Issues & Limited Time

- ☀️ Global warming/environmental crisis
- ☀️ Peace, poverty, the digital divide, education
- ☀️ Inventing and reinventing financial, business & industry architectures



Energy Will be Essential for the Transition to the Knowledge Economy

Centres of excellence for future research
into the big issues are required and these
can be established in the region.

Energy = Knowledge = Energy

A SPACE SOLAR ENERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN THE
UAE
is just one possibility

"The region's success depends on creating an environment conducive to acquiring knowledge and on providing tomorrow's leaders with motivation to build a better future. It is our duty to convert them into great assets to themselves, their nations and to the world."

H. H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Still image courtesy of NASA

The Need For Sustainable Energy

"Energy is central to achieving sustainable development goals. Some two billion people have no access to modern energy services. The challenge lies in finding ways to reconcile this necessity and demand for energy with its impact on the natural resource base in order to ensure that sustainable development goals are realised."

<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/energy/enr.htm>


Harvesting Solar Energy In Space

"The country that takes the lead on space solar power will be the energy-exporting country for the entire planet for the next few hundred years."

Charles Miller, director the Space Frontier Foundation



<http://edition.cnn.com/2008/TECH/science/05/30/space.solar/index.html>



Linking MENA and its associated
knowledge-based educational
training and capacity building
initiatives will provide many
leadership opportunities for the
region.

A Vision For The Future A Future For Humanity

"Our only choice, in the governments, the private sector, and the civil community organizations is to work fast, organise, study, and plan."

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



POSSIBLE OUTCOMES...

from the Linking MENA initiative

Open University of MENA

The ITDU Concept

- ☀ Distance education institution in the region
- ☀ Based on Arabism and Islam principles with an open looking, internationalized curricula
- ☀ Utilizing flexible delivery modes with an emphasis on ICT-assisted education
- ☀ Aiming to service the entire MENA region
- ☀ Minimum entry requirements

The Faculty of the Future

- ☀️ A unique, interdisciplinary tertiary institution probably based in the UAE
- ☀️ Drawing together leading edge discourses that investigate, analyse and develop the pathways knowledge production is taking across the spectrum
- ☀️ Maintaining a core teaching staff, yet organized around Visiting Experts/Scholars programme
- ☀️ Broader dissemination of knowledge throughout the region, especially to political and economic leaders

Education Management Strategies

- ☀ K-12 ICT intensive education programs
eg: the digital textbook,
- ☀ E-Portfolios
- ☀ The wired society: the Korean Model
- ☀ Future Industry-linked centres of excellence

Knowledge Transfer Management Strategies

THE GLOBAL FUTURES SUMMIT

- ☀ A proposed Conference, held in a different city/region across MENA annually
- ☀ Supported by regional governments and institutions: regional & global (OECD, UNESCO, ITU, World Bank)
- ☀ With corporate sponsorship
- ☀ Bring leading edge thinkers, planners, policy makers and commentators from around the world to the MENA region
- ☀ Focusing on a broad spectrum of economic, scientific, social, political and cultural issues

The first MENA Global Future's Summit
proposed to be hosted in the UAE in 2009

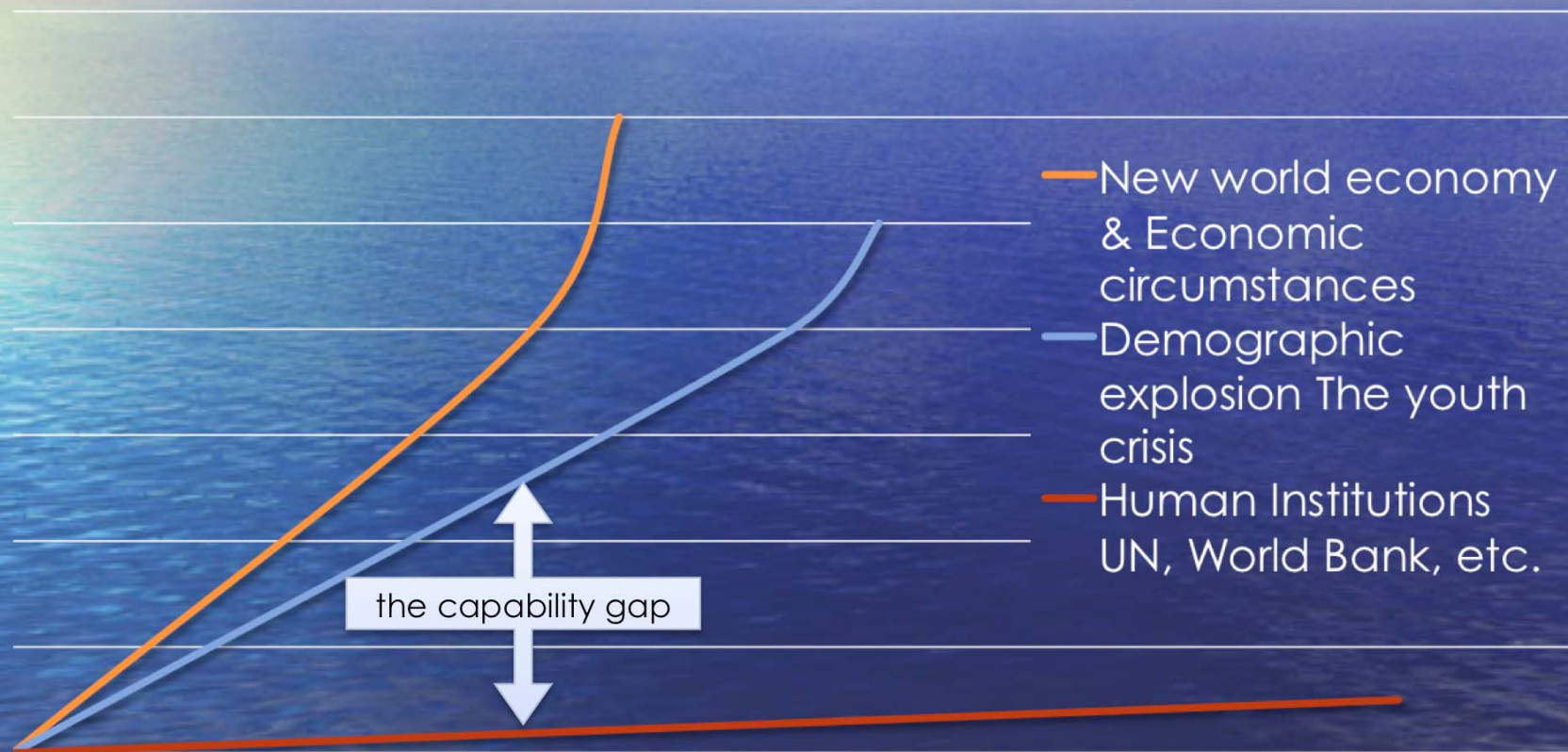
Thank You Questions?

Abdul Waheed Khan, UNESCO
Alexander Böhmer, MENA-OECD Investment
Programme
Reymond Voutier, eNotus International
Sami Al Basheer Al Morshid, International
Telecommunication Union



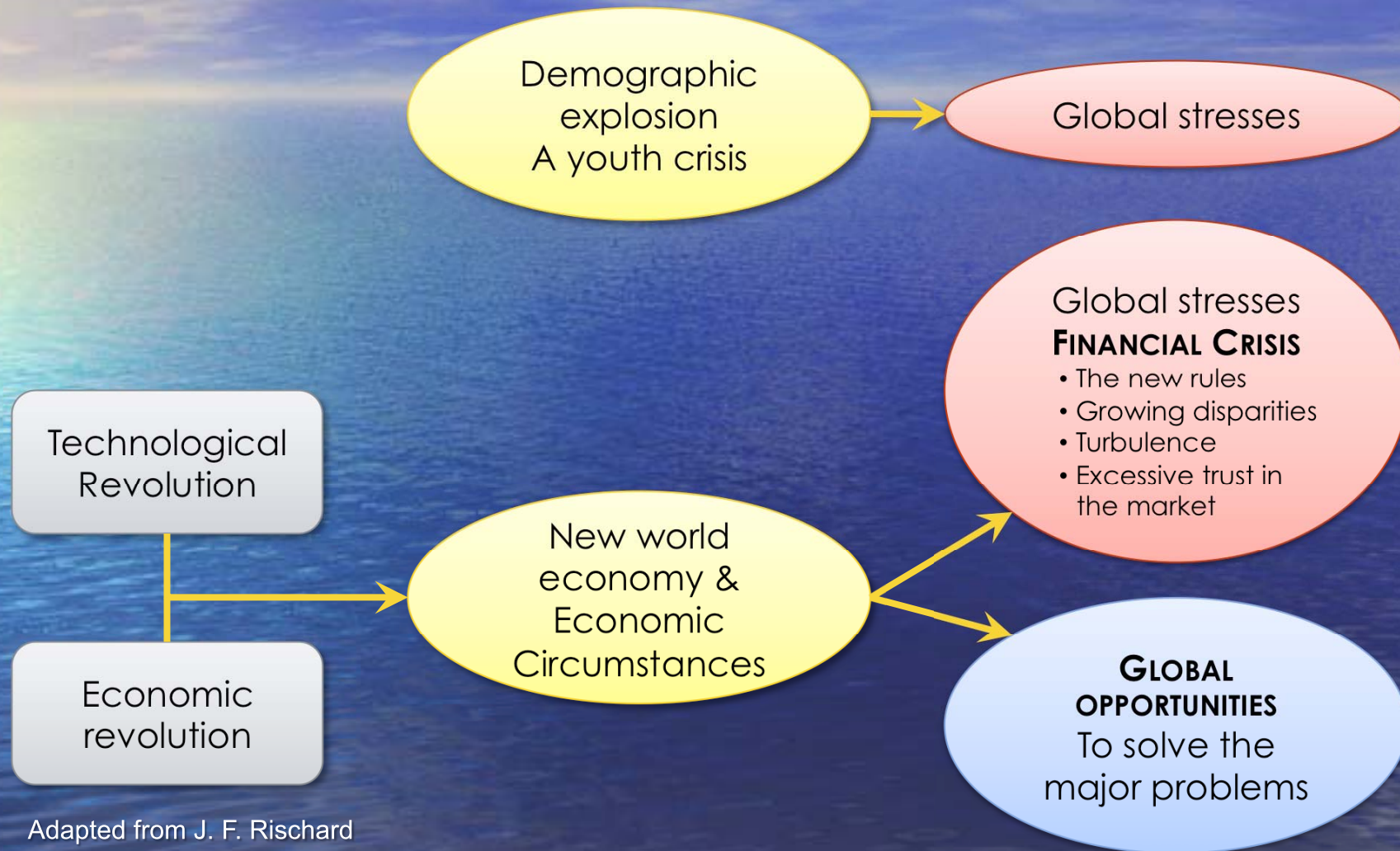
The Gap

Are the Institutions Capable?



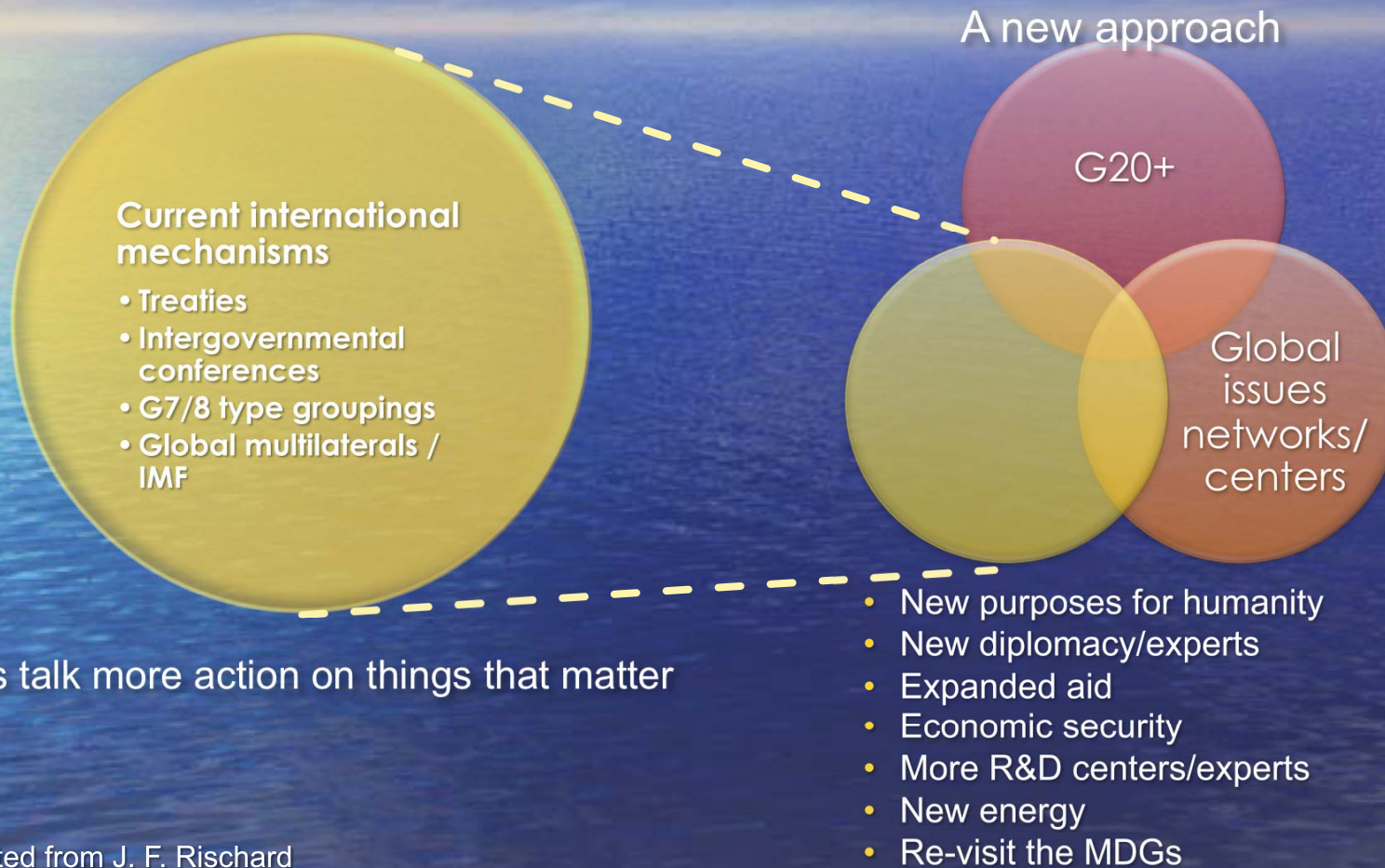
Adapted from J. F. Rischard

Massive Forces/Major Problems



Adapted from J. F. Rischard

New Thinking Leadership Required for New Outcomes



Adapted from J. F. Rischard