An internationally recognized thought leader on sustainable development, Dr. Karl-Henrik Robèrt is the founder of The Natural Step, a global network of non-governmental organizations that lead change toward environmental and social sustainability.

A doctor and oncologist by training, Dr. Robèrt founded The Natural Step in 1989 to promote a unifying framework for social and ecological sustainability based on a scientific consensus. Dr. Robèrt has successfully nurtured what began as a grassroots effort in Sweden—a country recognized globally as a sustainability leader—into an international movement that has spread to 18 countries and engaged thousands of people in hundreds of organizations worldwide.

For the past 20 years, Dr. Robèrt has worked with well-known organizations such as IKEA, McDonald’s, NIKE, Scandic Hotels, and Electrolux to help them pioneer sustainable solutions and transform their organizations. Over 100 municipalities around the world are also using the approach that Dr. Robèrt created.

Besides being the founder of The Natural Step, Dr. Robèrt is also a Fellow of the World Business Academy, an advisory board member at the Georgia Institute of Technology, a Doctor of Public Service at the University of Portland, a professor of sustainability at the Blekinge Institute of Technology, and a member of the EU Roundtable on Sustainability. In 2004, Dr. Robèrt launched a Masters program in Sweden on strategic leadership toward sustainability, which graduates 75 international students each year. He currently serves as Chairman of the international research program Real Change, which recruits university, private, and public sector partners across the globe to apply The Natural Step Framework to key research issues.

In 1999, Dr. Robèrt won the Green Cross Award for International Leadership and, in 2000, he won the Blue Planet Prize, often considered the ‘Nobel Prize’ for ecological sustainability. In 2006, he was included in the publication “100 Visionaries of the 20th Century,” and, in 2009, he was given the prestigious honour of being named an Ashoka Fellow.

Dr. Robèrt has made a global impact in promoting and implementing sustainability. The author of several books and dozens of scientific articles, he is a world-class speaker, teacher, scientist, social entrepreneur, and leading thinker on the root causes of the global sustainability challenges we face today.

About The Natural Step
The Natural Step is a global network of non-governmental organizations with 20 years of experience helping organizations and individuals lead change toward environmental and social sustainability. For more information, visit www.thenaturalstep.org.