

CLIMATE ALERT

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Protecting the Balance between Climate and Life on Earth

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Climate Institute Develops Mexican Climate Protection Effort

By Magali Devic
Climate Institute

Benefiting from a huge upsurge of interest in the Mexican news media on climate change and public excitement over the likelihood that Mexico will soon have the world's highest altitude climate observatory, the Climate Institute has developed a comprehensive climate protection effort for Mexico. This effort encompasses climate science and observation, initiatives to promote public awareness of the grave threat posed by potential climate disruption, planning of creative adaptation and coastal preparedness measures, and work with both the construction industry and building trade unions to incorporate energy efficiency and sustainable design into the building of homes and commercial facilities.

Over a five week period in February, late May and the first

half of June 2007 the Climate Institute's President, John Topping, and the Institute's Director of Mexico and Latin American Regional Affairs, Luis Roberto Acosta, traveled throughout Mexico to build a strong climate protection effort. This effort received extensive coverage in Mexico's news media, including a joint interview in a leading business magazine, *Petroleo of La Reforma*, an interview in the leading women's magazine, *Life & Style*, in which Topping was described as El Pepe Grillo, i.e., the Jiminy Cricket of Global Warming, a six page feature on global warming in the June issue of *Playboy Mexico*, based largely on a joint interview of Topping and Acosta. In the course of this the Climate Institute's Mexico program has developed a steering committee that transcends the dividing lines of Mexican politics and includes several of Mexico's leading scientists and many other



Luis Roberto Acosta, Climate Institute
Director of Latin American
Regional Activities

civic leaders prominently identified with each of the three major parties of
(continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

- DR President Agrees to Chair International Leadership Alliance 4
- Geothermal in the Caribbean 6
- Washington Summit on Climate Stabilization 8
- GSEII Hosts Island to Island Event at UNCSO 10
- Corporate Education Program 11
- Climate Protection and Adaptation Project 13
- Corporate Leadership Recognition Program 13

Florida Governor Chooses Less Carbon Over More Coal

By Jedidiah Vander Klok
Climate Institute

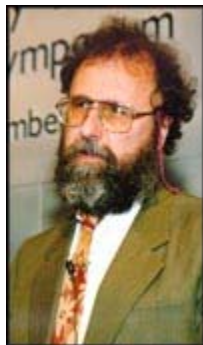
In June of 2007, the Florida Public Service Commission, worried that possible federal carbon regulation would drive up electricity rates, voted 4-0 to deny permission for the building of a new coal-fired power plant near Everglades National Park. This move was inspired by Florida Governor Charlie Crist,

who has openly criticized the proposed plant's location and impact on climate change, partly because of a briefing he received from experts including Climate Institute Board Member Stephen Leatherman. Crist has also used this opportunity to announce that he was hosting a Climate Change Summit, featuring panel discussions focused on global climate change issues, as well as specific challenges facing

the state of Florida, which Kristy Buckley and Meredith Taylor of the Climate Institute attended. Although the governor does not list any environmental issues as priorities on his website, his actions to move away from coal power and to get Floridians talking about climate change merit notice.



Former IPCC Chair Takes British Government Position



Dr. Robert Watson

By Jedidiah Vander Klok
Climate Institute

Formerly the chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Robert Watson was recently appointed by British Prime Minister Gordon Brown to the position of Chief Scientific Advisor for the Department for the Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs, a post which he will assume in September 2007. Dr. Watson

chaired the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change from 1997 to 2002, until pressure from the Bush White House (which a leaked Exxon memo suggests was instigated on behalf of the oil industry mere days after Bush's inauguration) forced him out of the office. He has also served in many senior scientific capacities at the World Bank and in the Clinton administration. His recent appointment is seen as an at-

tempt by the new British government to further distance itself from American foreign policy, as well as to benefit from Dr. Watson's tremendous knowledge and experience. As one agency spokeswoman said, "He was the unanimous choice out of all the candidates."

"The climate observatory would fill a large gap in the Global Change Observing System and would be of additional value in assessing risks of hurricanes originating in the Atlantic"

Mexico as well as the Green Party. Some short-term upshots include, among others, the beginnings of collaborative efforts with several Mexican NGOs and national and state government groups to mount a concerted climate awareness campaign, the opening by late summer of an outreach office in Mexico City located at 1717 Insurgentes Avenue North and the construction of the world's Highest Altitude Climate Observatory in the State of Puebla, Mexico. This is expected to begin by late summer 2007 with the observatory becoming fully operational by mid-2008.

Mexico's prospective lead in Climate Science

In September 2006, Dr. Jose Guichard, Director General of Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Astrofisica Optica y Electronica (INAOE), wrote to Climate Institute President John Topping to invite the Climate Institute and its partners to build a High Altitude Climate Observatory in Pico De Orizaba National Park, alongside a \$121 million radio telescope of INAOE built to reach out 13.4 billion light years to study the formation of the first stars. This June, the Pedro and Elena

Hernández Foundation agreed to provide \$250,000 to the Climate Institute towards the building and launch of the observatory. Thanks to NOAA and NASA, instruments are already in hand or committed, some already being validated by Mexico's Meteorological Agency, whose Director, Michel Rosengaus, is a member of the steering committee. The climate observatory would fill a large gap in the Global Change Observing System and would be of additional value in assessing risks of hurricanes originating in the Atlantic (by calculating dust particles) and thus helping define regional climate mechanisms.

INAOE radio telescope in Pico De Orizaba National Park



CICEANA's fruitful collaboration

The Climate Institute has entered into an Agreement with CICEANA, a leading environmental awareness organization, as well as with CECADESU, SEMARNAT's environmental education arm, to develop a joint public awareness campaign on climate change to inform the public of implications global warming. Efforts are also underway with several
(Continued on page 3)

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Mexican Climate Protection Effort (continued)

Mexico City museums to develop exhibits on climate change and sustainable development. It is anticipated that these exhibits would, among other things, enable museum visitors access to greenhouse and stratospheric ozone data gathered at the high altitude observatory, air quality data gathered from Mexico City's air quality monitoring network, and some astronomical data gathered from INAOE's Large Millimeter Telescope.

With the help of CICEANA's Director General, Margie Simon de Ortiz, the Climate Institute has developed some extraordinary partnering links with several key Mexican-based corporations. Wal-Mart that daily has about 2.6 million customers in its stores, has agreed to disseminate messages pro-

duced by the climate awareness campaign on what individuals can do to lessen greenhouse emissions through internal video systems in its stores and in messages to its 140,000 associates. Televisa, Mexico's largest television network, has agreed to collaborate with CICEANA and the Climate Institute in getting similar messages out through public service announcements and even by working them into the scripts of telenovelas in which Televisa is a world leader. The leadership of DuPont Latin America, based in Mexico City, has indicated willingness to participate in the International Leadership Alliance on Climate Stabilization, and to consider funding the installation within the high altitude observatory of instruments to measure ultraviolet radiation levels.

Luis Roberto Acosta has met with Mexico's leading home building firm, Geo, which produces a large proportion of Mexico's low and moderate income housing, to discuss ways Geo can build energy efficiency and environmental sustainability concerns into its housing. Geo has expressed strong interest in participating in the Leadership Alliance and perhaps building cabanas to house technicians who will gather data at the high altitude climate observatory. In June during the Cancun Climate Forum, Luis Roberto Acosta and John Topping met with leaders of the Cancun-based construction trades unions that are quite interested in building energy efficiency and environmental sustainability concerns into their work. The Climate Institute is developing a strong

steering committee for its programs in Mexico with representation across the political and geographical spectrum of the country. A much more detailed program will be announced in late September when the Institute's Chairman Emeritus, Sir Crispin Tickell, visits Mexico to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol and the 10th anniversary of the Kyoto Protocol. On September 24 Sir Crispin is scheduled to deliver the Miguel Alemán Address at the prestigious Alemán Foundation and speak soon afterwards at UNAM, the 120,000 student university where he gave the first major lecture on climate change in 1983 when he was British Ambassador to Mexico.



Humberto Lezama Centeno, Carlos Diaz Leal, Luis Roberto Acosta, Margie Simon de Ortiz, Beatriz Ruizpalacios Remus, and John Topping



Luis Roberto Acosta, Margie Simon de Ortiz, and John Topping sign the agreement with CICEANA

Mike MacCracken Helps Draft Sigma Xi Climate Change Report

By Jedidiah Vander Klok
Climate Institute

On February 27, 2007, Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, in conjunction with the United Nations Foundation, released *Confronting Climate Change: Avoiding the Unmanageable and Managing the Unavoidable*, a report on climate

change whose coordinating lead authors include Mike MacCracken, Chief Scientist at the Climate Institute. The report found that the technology exists to significantly reduce global emissions, through pursuing strategies including energy efficiency, alternative fuels, and carbon capture.

The report, was released just three weeks after the IPCC concluded that global warming exists and is "very likely" to be caused by human actions.

To quote the Sigma Xi Report: "Humanity must act collectively and urgently to change course through leadership at all levels of society."



Mike MacCracken at UN press conference



DR President Agrees to Chair International Leadership Alliance

“This fruitful meeting with President Fernández successfully set in motion the Institute’s International Leadership Alliance on Climate Stabilization, an informal collaboration of small island nations, several states and provinces in more populous countries, research institutions, voluntary carbon offset groups, university-based groups aiming at... implementing more ambitious climate change policies.”

By Magali Devic
Climate Institute

During the September 2006 Washington Summit on Climate Stabilization, the Climate Institute unveiled an outline for a public private partnership involving small island nations that have taken a lead in climate protection, states and provinces of more populous nations that have undertaken similar initiatives, research institutions, universities, voluntary carbon offset groups, religious organizations, and companies that share in the same climate protection objectives. In describing this, Nasir Khatkhat, the Climate Institute’s Director of Global Environmental Programs, made clear that the Leadership Alliance would draw on the experience of the Climate Institute’s work of the past eight years in island nations to create flexible mechanisms to support pioneering efforts in developing countries both in clean energy transformation and in creative adaptation.

One of the first places where the Leadership Alliance has

begun to move forward is in the Dominican Republic, a Caribbean island nation of about 8.5 million people. The Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD) set up by Dominican Republic President Leonel Fernández was a sponsor of the Summit and GFDD’s Executive Director, Natasha Despotovic, appeared on the Washington Summit panel announcing the Leadership Alliance.

In November 2006 both Climate Institute President John Topping and Luis Roberto Acosta, participated in a GFDD-sponsored film festival in Santo Domingo. Following the screening of the Spanish-subtitled version of *An Inconvenient Truth* at the University of Santo Domingo, the Western Hemisphere’s oldest university, the panelists had several chances to discuss climate protection issues with President Fernandez.

On May 19, 2007, John Topping and Luis Roberto Acosta flew to the Dominican Republic where they participated in a Seminar on Climate hosted by the President’s GFDD (Global Foundation for Democracy and Development or FUNGLODE) entitled *“Climate Change: its impact and what we can do about it”*. Underscoring the priority he places on climate change, President Fernandez hosted the Conference speakers at a small, formal luncheon May 22 at the Presidential Palace. Following this, Topping, Acosta, and Asunción Sanz, GFDD’s Projects Coordinator, met privately with President Fernandez in his personal office. This fruitful meeting successfully set in motion the Institute’s International Leadership Alliance on Climate Stabilization, an informal collaboration of small is-

land nations, several states and provinces in more populous countries, research institutions, voluntary carbon offset groups, university-based groups aiming at stimulating both North-South and South-South collaboration on scaling up sustainable energy investments, and implementing more ambitious climate change policies. President Fernandez, who has stood out among Caribbean island nation leaders in promoting economic growth — under his leadership growth rates in the Dominican Republic have averaged nearly 10 percent annually. He has agreed to serve as Chairman of the Leadership Alliance and to host meetings of other leaders to discuss cooperative strategies on climate protection. In addition, he has indicated the Dominican Republic’s interest in drawing on a wide range of climate protection expertise within the region, including the expertise of the Miami-based International Hurricane Research Center on storm surge mapping and hurricane preparedness, expertise of the Global Sustainable Energy Islands Initiative (GSEII) and OAS in clean energy transformation, and partnerships with voluntary carbon offset groups such as Oxford, UK-based Climate Care. President Fernández also has expressed interest in having the Dominican Republic build a climate observation station that might be linked as part of a Caribbean Climate Network with the High Altitude Climate Center the Climate Institute expects soon to build in the Pico De Orizaba National Park and with a possible sea level station that may be built in the Sian Ka-an Bio-reserve in Mexico’s State of Quintana Roo. The Climate Institute is working closely with GFDD, the



John Topping and Luis Roberto Acosta speak with Leonel Fernández, President of the Dominican Republic

DR President Agrees to Chair International Leadership Alliance (continued)

Dominican Republic's Secretary for the Environment, UNDP and UNEP to follow up on these possibilities.

Opportunities in Quintana Roo

Following five days in the Dominican Republic, Topping and Acosta flew on May 24 to Cancun where they were joined by two other Climate Institute leaders in Mexico- Carlos Díaz Leal and Aurora Elena Ramos. The next morning, they flew to Quintana Roo's capital Chetumal in the private jet provided by Governor Felix González Canto. Accompanying them were Senator Ludivina Menchaca, an environmental leader in Mexico's Federal Senate, and Renan Almendares, a California-based radio announcer on Spanish language radio in the United States who has begun raising funds through his El Cucuy Foundation for Climate Institute activity in Mexico. Governor González Canto, who distinguished himself by his leadership in the fall of 2005 when Quintana Roo was battered by Hurricane Wilma (which lingered over Cancun for about two days at Category 4 strength) hosted the group for a two hour meeting at the Gubernatorial Residence. The Governor who served as mayor of Cozumel before being elected Governor in 2004 is only in his mid-30s and because of his decisive leadership in crises is regarded as a possible future national leader. He expressed strong interest in working with the Climate Institute to enhance the State's resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change, especially hurricanes and sea level rise, through the implementation of a comprehensive climate protection policy. This

might also extend to clean energy transformation and participation in a Caribbean observation network. The Governor gave a stirring address at the June 1-2 Cancun Climate Forum at which Topping and Acosta spoke. In his address to a World Environment Day meeting June 5 he made clear Quintana Roo's desire to play an active role in the Leadership Alliance.

Possible Link with Florida

There was strong interest in Quintana Roo on linking with Florida with which it shares several characteristics — both States depend on tourism for their revenues, a large proportion of their lands lies at or near sea level, and they are also quite vulnerable to hurricanes. Florida's Governor Charlie Crist has taken strong steps to limit Florida's greenhouse emissions (see article on page 11) and has hosted a Summit in Miami on July 12-13. The Climate Institute is now exploring the feasibility of linking institutions from both states in working partnerships to enhance climate protection.

An Island to Island Initiative

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Ivan and Wilma that destroyed much of the Caribbean, new alliances and local sustainable development inventiveness have thrived with the adoption of a long-sighted vision, fighting the underlying causes feeding the recent hurricane intensification, as hurricanes' impacts have proven extremely harmful for fragile developing States' economies. A briefing by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre for Caribbean Prime Ministers pointed out that in one hour Hurricane Ivan



Distinguished guests in the Dominican Republic included, from left to right, Claudio Tomasi, Deputy Resident Representative for the United Nations Development Programme, John Topping, Climate Institute President, Asunción Sanz, representative of the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development, and Ernesto Reyna, the Undersecretary for the Environment in the Dominican Republic

destroyed property in Grenada equal to 200% of Grenada's GDP. Adaptation solutions are numerous at zero or low-cost; one example can be drawn from St. Vincent's success in using vetiver grass to limit beach and roadway erosion.

Some of the most immediate opportunities for collaboration may be in the energy transformation area. President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson of Iceland and President Fernández of the Dominican Republic have both indicated willingness to share their nations' respective expertise in energy with smaller island nations.

Under the umbrella of the Endangered Islands Campaign (EIC), the International Leadership Alliance also envisions transforming a number of island nations into models for comprehensive responses to climate change, including climate adaptation measures, improved building design, emergency preparedness and clean energy transformation.

(continued on page 7)

“In the aftermath of Hurricanes Ivan and Wilma that battered much of the Caribbean, new alliances and local sustainable development inventiveness have thrived with the adoption of a long-sighted vision fighting underlying causes feeding the recent hurricane intensification...”



Geothermal in the Caribbean

By Jedidiah Vander Kloek
Climate Institute

Naturally occurring reservoirs of underground steam have been important resources in many locations around the world for centuries. The Global Sustainable Islands Initiative (GSEII) has been working with several Caribbean island states, including Dominica, St. Lucia, and St. Kitts and Nevis, to promote public awareness of environmental issues and encourage the adoption of sustainable energy technologies. For small island states in the Caribbean, geothermal generation of electrical energy is an exciting step on the path towards energy sustainability



University of the West Indies
Seismic Research Unit (2005)

and independence.

Combined with other programs to encourage sustainable energy and consumer efficiency, GSEII believes that effectively utilizing geothermal potential in the Caribbean is an important part of energy sustainability and independence for small island states. Utilizing geothermal resources has many benefits for Caribbean island states, including replacing imported diesel, creating new

industries, and leading the world's response to climate change. Island states are among those least responsible and most affected by a changing climate.

While the ability to make use of reservoirs of geothermal fluid for power generation is well understood, much of current geothermal research is focused on creating new usable resources for power generation. Researchers are endeavoring to make use of these areas of hot, dry rock to produce new resources capable of electrical power generation. As of now, these methods have been implemented, but not perfected. As these techniques are refined through more research and use, they will grant the ability to use the high temperatures of the deep earth to generate electrical power in a wide range of locations.

More accessible geothermal resources are often created at the boundaries of continental plates. In these areas, the hot magma of the inner earth wells up close to the surface, making available an access point to the heat energy present below the crust.

While promising indicators of geothermal potential exist in the Caribbean, there are significant barriers to resource development.

1. Due to a lack of general geological data for the area, the high cost of initial exploratory drilling and resource characterization leaves no guarantee of stable geothermal fluid production.
2. The regulatory environment is not friendly to Independent Power Producers developing geothermal resources and selling electricity. The utility is a

state sponsored monopoly, and there is no mechanism to allow outside companies to develop power production resources.

3. Natural parks and world heritage sites often coincide with geothermal resource areas, making the development of the resources controversial.

Through partnerships with international organizations such as UNEP, GEF, and OAS, GSEII is committed to helping the governments of the islands find solutions to the problems of the sustainable energy development of Caribbean island states. If these problems can be overcome, there are many advantages to the resources. The shining example of an island utilizing its geothermal resource potential is Iceland.

Iceland, which has a population of only twice that of St. Lucia, is in possession of extensive geothermal resources due to the island's volcanic activity. Nearly 90% of the entire island's heating needs in 2005 were supplied using geothermal heat pumps, and in 2005 all of its electrical power was generated using hydropower and

"Island states are among those least responsible and most affected by a changing climate."

geothermal resources. The government of Iceland has been very influential in encouraging the research and development of geothermal resources. Iceland GeoSurvey, the current state-run research institute, is a frontrunner in developing new exploration techniques, power generation technologies, and geothermal well design. Icelandic companies have consulted on geothermal development projects all over the world, including the Caribbean. Through the technical collaboration of small island states and companies such as Iceland GeoSurvey, the Caribbean island states of St. Lucia, Dominica, and St. Kitts and Nevis have an exciting opportunity to develop their geothermal resource potential and become world leaders in the fight to combat global climate change.

Geothermal Resource Indicators on the Islands:

Dominica: A boiling lake, several areas of hot springs, and relatively recent volcanic activity.

St. Lucia: In the past, several exploratory ventures were started only to be turned away due to the complex geologic nature of the site and corrosive chemicals found in the subterranean geothermal fluid, but extensive resources exist

St. Kitts and Nevis: On the island of Nevis prefeasibility studies have identified several areas with escaping gas, hot springs, and volcanic activity. With enhancements currently being made to technology, the Geothermal Energy Association estimated in 1999 that St. Kitts and Nevis could generate 100% of their electrical energy from geothermal sources.

John Noel Awarded 2007 DAR Conservation Medal

By Jedidiah Vander Klok
Climate Institute

Climate Institute Board Member John Noel, also part of the Board of Directors for the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, was recently awarded the 2007 National DAR Conservation Medal in recognition for his land conservation efforts. He has been very involved with efforts to renovate and preserve buildings now placed in the National Register of Historic Places. His inspiring acceptance speech highlighted

the imminent danger of a rapidly changing climate:

“Science says that almost everything frozen on earth is melting... We are burning so much oil, coal, fossil fuels and dumping tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere that we have literally changed the atmosphere and its relationship between the earth and the sun... You know, it is easy to feel overwhelmed but history shows we as a nation freed ourselves from the tyranny of a king, mobilized and put a man on the moon...we can solve this but

time is short...Patrick Henry said in 1775, ‘Should I keep back my opinions at such a time, through fear of giving offense? No, I should consider myself guilty of treason towards my country.’”



“We are burning so much oil, coal, fossil fuels and dumping tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere that we have literally changed the atmosphere and its relationship between the earth and the sun.”

(John Noel)

DR President Agrees to Chair International Leadership Alliance (continued)

building design, emergency preparedness and clean energy transformation. The latter involved, with the efforts of the GSEII, learning from Iceland’s transformation of its traditional fossil-fuel based economy to an economy based on renewable energy (with an particular emphasis on geothermal and hydro-electric sources) while advancing economic and development goals. Following on the opportunity to adapt lessons from Iceland’s remarkable eco-

nomie success, Angus Friday, Grenada’s Permanent Representative to the UN and the Chair of AOSIS, has indicated willingness to take the lead in coordinating Island Nation Involvement. Iceland agreed to host island state leaders and key officials in Reykjavik shortly to discuss ways of commercializing sustainable energy opportunities and where viable opportunities exist link them to the “Icelandic package” that would encompass technical

assistance in geothermal, hydro, efficiency and hydro-gens and possible financing by groups such as Glitnir Bank and Goldman Sachs.

Outlined during the September 2006 Washington Summit on Climate Stabilization, the Leadership Alliance received widespread interest at the top levels of Governments across the Caribbean, and across the political spectrum. On June 21, the

Climate Institute’s Director of Global Environmental Programs, Nasir Khattak, and President John Topping met with Five Eastern Caribbean Prime Ministers, several Ambassadors and Foreign Minister on the occasion of US Congressional Black Caucus Afro-Caribbean Week. Several Caribbean Prime Ministers reiterated their commitment to proceed with the implementation of sustainable responses to climate change.



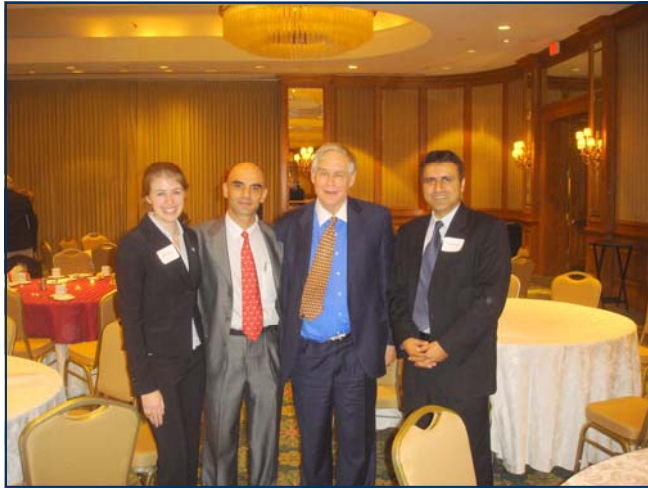
John Topping and Luis Roberto Acosta shake hands with Dominican Republic President Leonel Fernández



Luis Roberto Acosta, Senator Ludivina Menchaca, Felix Gonzalez Canto, Governor of Quintana Roo, and John Topping



Washington Summit on Climate Stabilization



Holly Johnson, Climate Institute Intern, **Luis Roberto Acosta**, Climate Institute Director of Mexico and Latin America affairs, **John Topping**, Climate Institute President, and **Nasir Khattak**, Climate Institute Global Environmental Programs Director (above, from left to right)

Amidst growing evidence that the climate system may be veering dangerously close to irreversible and highly disruptive change, the Washington, DC-based Climate Institute convened the Washington Summit on Climate Stabilization on September 18-21, 2006. The Summit went beyond quibbles about the Kyoto Protocol to look toward actual stabilization of global atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations. The conference brought together top scientific experts, leaders of companies and countries advancing clean energy transformation, and representatives of religious and campus groups that have begun to mobilize resources and members to take direct action to protect our climate.



Sir Crispin Tickell, Chancellor emeritus of the University of Kent and Climate Institute Board Chairman emeritus, presents the Global Environmental Leadership Award to **Dr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson**, President of Iceland (above)

“Iceland is in a way serving us the model of the society of the future. The society which is environmentally sound. Which is based on renewable energy and on a way of life which doesn’t really destroy the life or the atmosphere or the bio-system that we have.”

(Dr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson)
President of Iceland



Luis Roberto Acosta of the Climate Institute announces the creation of two climate observatories in Mexico (above)

Rev. Sally Bingham, executive director of The Regeneration Project, **Dr. Khalid Shaukat** from the Islamic Society of North America, and **Dr. Jo Anne Lyon**, founding member of the Evangelical Environmental Network, participate in the Religious Perspectives and Initiatives panel (right)



September 18-21, 2006

Washington, DC



Alexis Sloan Nussbaum, Director of Research and Operations at the Climate Institute, **Lina Karaoglanova**, Washington Summit Registrar, and the **Hon. Claudine Cmarada**, a member of the Climate Institute Board of Directors and former five term member of the US House of Representatives, were instrumental in the planning, organization, and successful completion of the Washington Summit
(left, from left to right)

“Despite some very troubling signs that climate change may be feeding on itself and carrying us into uncharted waters, there are some heartening signs that citizens and innovative firms may act, and governments may step up to the plate.”

*(John Topping
President, Climate
Institute)*

Speakers at the conference included **Christopher Flavin**, President of the Worldwatch Institute and Climate Institute Boardmember, **Pamela P. McVety**, who led the Presbyterian Church energy task force and helped found the Big Bend Climate Action Team, and **Dr. Stephen P. Leatherman**, Director of the International Hurricane Research Center and Climate Institute Board Member *(below, from left to right)*



“The accelerating pace of environmental change, apparent government disinterest in strong measures to curb global warming and the world’s insatiable appetite for fossil fuels are convincing many that we are nearing a “climatic tipping point.” Once that point is reached, the resulting changes are likely to become irreversible. Without decisive and promptly implemented actions, there is a real chance that global climate change could spiral out of control, devastating humanity and endangering many species and destroying entire habitats.”

“Only now are we beginning to understand the implications of our actions, and realize how dire their effects may be. Higher concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are causing changes at rates faster than most scientists were predicting a decade ago. While some of the added effects can be attributed to the rapid industrialization of China, India, and other booming Asian economies, feedback effects are causing sea ice-retreat, glacial melting, sea level rise, and ecosystem impacts that are greater than anticipated.

We are only beginning to appreciate many phenomena that are being amplified by the increasingly evident pace of warming.”

From a **Moral and Profitable Path to Climate Stabilization**, by **John Topping** and **Erin Frey**,
Based on the events of the Washington Summit on Climate Stabilization



GSEII Hosts Island to Island Event at UNCSD



United Nations Building in
New York City
© UN, 2006

“Sustainable energy is not only an environmental necessity; it also makes economic and social sense.”
(Tom Roper)



H.E. Ambassador Crispin
Gregoire, Dominica
© UN, 2006

By Magali Devic
Climate Institute

Launched in November 2000, the Global Sustainable Energy Islands Initiative (GSEII) program assists Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) nations in their efforts to achieve energy independence, and to transform their fossil fuel-dependent energy systems into systems using renewable, efficient energy sources. On May 8, during the Fifteenth Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UN CSD-15) in New York, the GSEII and the UN Foundation sponsored a side event entitled; *Island to Island (I2I) Partnership on Sustainable Energy* aimed at gathering leading representatives of small Caribbean nations and international institutions such as OAS, UNIDO and AOSIS.

The GSEII-UN Foundation efforts brought together industrialized island nations with small developing Islands from the Pacific and the Caribbean to stimulate both North-South and South-South collaboration on scaling up sustainable energy investments. Iceland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative, Thorir Ibsen, testified on his island's remarkable economic ascension, made possible through the transformation of its traditional fossil-fuel based economy into an economy based on renewable energy, geothermal and hydroelectric power. Although this transition was costly, the use of the country's geothermal potential, water reserves, and natural resources prove, in the long run, extremely beneficial to Iceland, which now represents the only Western country that has a fully renewable electricity

generation system (83% is produced by hydro power stations and the other 17% by geothermal power stations).

Ibsen stressed that geothermal power, a clean, “low cost” and reliable technology, is currently being developed in as many as 73 countries, and can be extended to developing states. He also reiterated Iceland's commitment to assisting SIDS switch to sources of clean and renewable energy.

Ibsen's speech was welcomed by both H.E. Ambassador Crispin Gregoire, Dominica's Permanent Representative to the UN, and H.E. Dr. Angus Friday, Permanent representative of Grenada to the UN and Chairman of the Alliance of Small Islands States (AOSIS). Nation-wide sustainable energy plans and feasibility studies developed in several SIDS in the Caribbean by experts from the OAS have led to the conclusion that the abundant natural resources of these SIDS: biomass, geothermal, hydro, solar, and wind, can be exploited on a competitive basis, and help Caribbean Islands reduce their reliance on fossil fuels.

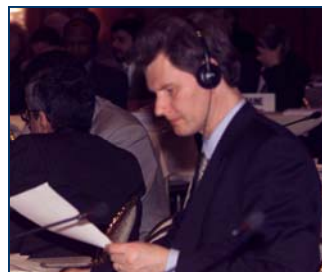
Tom Roper, Director of the Small Island States Energy Initiative, presented several renewable energy projects, capacity building and training project underway in partner-

ship with the SIDS. The large-scale replacement of traditional incandescent light bulbs by energy saving bulbs carried out in Cuba has led to impressive and encouraging results. Guadeloupe's utility, EDF, has also subsidized 358,000 lamps in 44,000 households, saving 7 MW of peak demand. Dominica's coconut industry (Dominica Coconut Products) was purchased by Colgate Palmolive in 2000, and it is expected to be shut down by September 2007. The government reacted by deciding to convert the coconut industry into a biodiesel industry, fulfilling its pledge to reduce greenhouse emissions. Barbados has installed 32,000 Solar Hot Water Heaters into roughly 40% of its households, which has saved the country US\$6.5m in imported fuel and boosted its industry.

Environmental awareness campaigns have gradually instilled a nascent, energy saving culture in the Caribbean Basin. Although the transition to a carbon-neutral economy will demand heavy initial investment, the technology an the funds necessary to implement serious changes are readily accessible, and will likely spur considerable economic growth for the small islands. One of the underlying arguments of Tom Roper's last slideshow was that: *“Sustainable energy is not only an environmental necessity; it also makes economic and social sense.”*

Thorir Ibsen, Iceland
Ministry of Foreign
Affairs Representative

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Negotiations Bulletin



Corporate Education Program

By Jedidiah Vander Klof
Climate Institute

On April 2, 2007, the US Supreme Court determined that the EPA has the authority and obligation to regulate tailpipe carbon dioxide emissions. This directive to regulate motor vehicle emissions has overtones of a much broader mandate – that of regulating carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases as pollutants for all industrial and commercial enterprises in the United States. However, until federal regulation happens, US businesses are stuck in the unfortunate position of trying to predict the future.

In this regulatory vacuum, the Climate Institute has chosen to start a Corporate Education Program. Spearheaded by Kristy Buckley and Meredith Taylor at the Climate Institute, the program aims to provide corporations with guidance and knowledge to effectively manage their climate change impact and prepare for future regulatory risk derived from possible future federal regulation. The program is composed of two parts: a process guide for busi-

nesses who wish to know more about the issues and what steps they can take, and a series of workshops designed to inform executives and employees alike.

The guidebook, entitled “Corporate Education Program on Climate Change,” provides a comprehensive overview of managing a corporate carbon footprint. It includes a step by step process spelling out in detail how companies can position themselves to take advantage of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and carbon offset programs. It is not designed to be industry specific, but rather to inform executives about climate change and give specific advice about how to go about reducing their carbon footprint.

The workshop series, is designed to be delivered at both an executive and employee level to give a solid background of climate science and terminology. The series will also present practical steps that employees can take, as well as general strategies to be implemented on the corporate level.



The workshops will be an active working environment and participants will come away with concrete strategies for their own companies. The workshops are far along in their development and a pilot study is likely to happen in the fall of 2007.

The Corporate Education Program puts the Climate Institute at the forefront of the effort to demonstrate to business leaders that making their activities more “green” can lead to direct cost savings, as well as public relations and marketing potential.

Check our website often for updates on the progress of this project and others.

“While it may be true that regulating motor-vehicle emissions will not by itself reverse global warming, it by no means follows that we lack jurisdiction to decide whether EPA has a duty to take steps to slow or reduce it.”

(John Paul Stevens)

Greening Climate Institute Operations

By Jedidiah Vanderklok
Climate Institute

Upon entering its Third Decade, the Climate Institute is launching a **Green Office Campaign**, spearheaded by the Institute's new Director of Operations, Nina Rinnerberger. The campaign is aimed at greening office operations and identifying opportunities for environmentally responsible office practices.

In its initial phase, the campaign seeks to establish partnerships with environmentally responsible office supply and printing companies. “It is hoped that companies will also qualify for our Corporate Leadership Recognition program, which we are launching simultaneously.” In a related effort, the campaign will create a **Green Corner** on the Climate Institute website, which is soon to be launched with a new design.

The Green Corner will offer tips and information on eco-friendly products and services as well as provide a forum for sponsors of the Green Office Campaign to showcase their environmental stewardship.



Washington Summit Recognizes Climate Leaders

The Washington Summit on Climate Stabilization recognized leaders in the fight against global warming with several awards. A selection of the winners are shown here.



Dr. Robert W. Corell, Chair of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment and Senior Fellow at the American Meteorological Society, accepts the **Roger Revelle Memorial Award for Scientific Achievement**

Susan Joy Hassol, author of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment and writer of the HBO film *Too Hot Not To Handle*, was presented with the **Nancy Wilson Memorial Award for Climate Science Communication**, by **Lee Huebner**, Climate Institute board member



Karen Coshof, creator and producer of the Stonehaven Productions film *The Great Warming* was honored with the **Climate Film Communications Award**, by **Lee Huebner**, Climate Institute board member



Alan Waxman accepted the **Environmental Financial Stewardship Award** on behalf of Goldman Sachs for its Clean Energy Investment Leadership, from **Bill Nitze**, Climate Institute Chairman



Josephine Cooper of Toyota Motor Company accepted the **Transportation Climate Leadership Award** for his company's work on hybrid vehicles and fuel efficiency, from **Bill Nitze**, Climate Institute Chairman



Climate Protection and Adaptation Project

By Jedidiah Vander Klof
Climate Institute

In the majority opinion of *Massachusetts vs. EPA*, Justice Stephens quotes Climate Institute Chief Scientist Michael MacCracken as saying that “‘qualified scientific experts involved in climate change research’ have reached a ‘strong consensus’ that global warming threatens (among other things) a precipitate rise in sea levels by the end of the century.” The IPCC cites estimates that about twenty percent of the world lives within thirty kilometers of the ocean and nearly forty percent within one hundred kilometers.

To respond to this imminent risk, Kristy Buckley and Meredith Taylor of the Climate Institute have started the Climate Protection and Adaptation Project. Unlike the steep Pacific Coast, Florida lies on the gently sloping Atlantic Plain, which means that any vertical increase in sea level is magnified many times horizontally. Combined with other hazards, such as the predicted increase in the frequency of severe storms, salt-

water intrusion into the groundwater supply, and a lack of coordination for emergency response organizations, Florida is among the most vulnerable of US states to the effects of climate change. Unfortunately, many in Florida are not aware of the danger and do not know how to adapt to climate change impacts and protect important physical and environmental assets.

The Climate Protection and Adaptation Project seeks to bring together the many stakeholders who are affected by these changes, including state and local government officials, insurance company representatives, emergency responders, the tourism industry, and the general public, for a series of roundtable discussions. The sessions will be conducted in a question and answer format with the goal of educating and engaging stakeholders about climate protection in Floridian order to devise cooperative, comprehensive and specific planning mechanisms and solutions.

The roundtable discussions are slated to begin in January of 2008, and will be hosted by local universities and nonprofit organizations such as Focus the Nation (www.focusthenation.org).

“The IPCC cites estimates that about twenty percent of the world lives within thirty kilometers of the ocean and nearly forty percent within one hundred kilometers.”



Corporate Leadership Recognition Program

By Jedidiah Vander Klof
Climate Institute

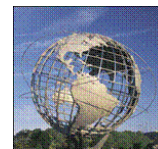
In anticipation of future regulatory requirements, many companies have taken early action to position themselves at the forefront of what they see as inevitable future regulation of carbon emissions. In order to recognize these companies for what they are doing for the environment, the Climate Institute has initiated a Corporate Leadership Recognition Program. We are seeking to lever-

age the 3,000 plus visitors on our website each day to promote corporations who have taken substantial steps to reduce their climate change impact.

Duraflame, the leading maker of firelogs in the United States and the newest participant in the Corporate Leadership Recognition Program, recently began manufacturing firelogs made with bio-wax instead of petroleum-based wax. Removing the petroleum content from

its products not only led to lower carbon emissions, it also made the emissions from burning the firelogs carbon neutral. Independent testing reviewed by the Climate Institute shows the new bio-wax logs create no net increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and that they produce 70 percent less carbon emissions than firewood; they also produce up to 80% less carbon emissions than natural gas fireplaces burned for an equivalent duration.

Kristy Buckley and Meredith Taylor of the Climate Institute are working on this project, which is continually seeking corporate partners to highlight on our website. Check back often for more updates and news about new carbon-conscious corporations.





New Staff at the Climate Institute

Kristy Buckley Director of Strategic Development

John Topping, President of the Climate Institute, announced that the Institute has chosen Kristy Buckley to be the new Director of Strategic Development. Topping commented: "Kristy is the type of driven individual who will help lead the international environmental movement in the future. Kristy has the cross-cultural understanding and vision to transcend the stale discussions that have frittered away so much time while the earth verges on metastatic climate change."

In her post, Kristy will assume several core responsibilities. First, she will catalyze the launching of new initiatives

such as educational roundtables on coastal vulnerability in Florida. Secondly, Kristy will develop a corporate partners program to engage companies in the international activities of the Climate Institute.

Kristy, an alumna from George Washington University, stated: "Public education and outreach on environmental issues is critical for achieving effective and widespread progress. We hope our efforts to engage progressive corporate entities will serve as replicable models for individuals, stakeholders and policymakers in working together towards a solution."

Kristy will also spearhead efforts to make the Institute's website www.climate.org one of the world's most used and trusted online source of information on climate change, while also increasing the organization's capacity through online donations and membership.



Kristy Buckley

Nina Rinnerberger Director of Operations



Nina Rinnerberger

Nina Rinnerberger was named as the Institute's new Director of Operations and Intern Program Coordinator in January 2007. In her role as Director of Operations, Nina is spearheading efforts to launch a Green Office Campaign to identify opportunities for sustainable office practices.

As Intern Coordinator, Nina is working closely with interns on various Climate Institute projects, providing guidance that ensures interns optimize their internship time, advance their own learning, and gain first-hand experience of the workings of a non-profit organiza-

tion. Nina, a native Austrian, stated, "With the Intern Program entering upon its Third Decade, it is tremendously encouraging to see strong continued interest among students to volunteer at the Institute. We have reached a critical point for action on climate change and now more than ever interns play a pivotal role in advancing the Climate Institute's mission."

During her own time as a former Climate Institute intern, Nina published "Drowning Islands: Social Justice Through Litigation?", a paper inspired by her work on the Endangered

Islands Campaign (www.eic.climate.org). Nina also created a section on international links on climate.org, which has been greatly expanded by subsequent interns to include links to environmental organizations in over one hundred countries worldwide.

Next to her responsibilities at the Institute, Nina is completing her Master's in Global Environmental Politics at American University, focusing her research on energy security and clean energy transformation in Eastern Europe.

Interns at the Climate Institute — Spring 2007

The Climate Institute would like to thank our Spring 2007 interns for all their hard work and dedication. They contributed greatly to the Institute's operations and we wish them all the best in their future endeavors



Courtney Wilson (United States)

University: Hobart and WillNNNiam Smith

Major: Environmental Studies and Public Policy

At the Climate Institute:

Worked on Washington Summit, health papers, preparation of report for international journalists



Magali Devic (France)

University: Political Science Institute-Toulouse

Major: International Development

At the Climate Institute:

Translating the website, drafted UNCSO report, worked on International Leadership Alliance

Frances Moore (United Kingdom)

University: Harvard University

Major: Earth and Planetary Sciences

At the Climate Institute:

Wrote Greenland article, co-edited the book that resulted from the Washington Summit



Vittorio Gabriele (Italy)

University: University of Malta—Rome

Major: International Studies

At the Climate Institute:

Worked on website and Small Island Developing States Initiatives

Marcie Cooperman (United States)

University: University of Kansas

Major: Genetics

At the Climate Institute:

Worked on website redesign, country links, and Climate Institute publications



Stephanie Haas (Belgium)

University: Pace University Law School

Major: Law

At the Climate Institute:

Worked on potential for combined heat and power to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Nate Frey (United States)

University: University of Maryland

Major: Environmental Science and Politics

At the Climate Institute:

Worked on website redesign and country links, wrote article on energy trends in China



New Membership Program Coming Soon!

The Climate Institute is anticipating the launch of a new membership program in the Fall of 2007. Membership will offer exciting benefits including an automatic subscription to the Institute's periodically published Climate Alert, monthly e-bulletin updates, as well as a Climate Action Pack to help our members jumpstart their way toward sustainable living.

As a Climate Institute Member, you will join a special alliance of policymakers, scientists, and concerned citizens around the world who are working to address environmental issues. Keep checking our website regularly for updates on membership developments!

Your membership contributions will make a direct impact on crucial issues that concern you most and will advance the Institute's mission to educate the general public about the gravity of climate change, to work internationally as a bridge between policy-makers, scientists and environmental institutions, to catalyze practical policy solutions toward climate stabilization, and to identify practical ways of achieving significant emissions reductions.



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