

# ST. JAMES'S PALACE NOBEL LAUREATE SYMPOSIUM

## PRESS RELEASE

26 May 2009

### Nobel Laureates to meet in London to discuss climate crisis

**Between 26 and 28 May 2009, Nobel Laureates from across the disciplines will be joined by world experts in climate change to discuss the connections between global warming and other urgent environmental, economic and development challenges facing our world. The St. James's Palace Nobel Laureate Symposium will be hosted at The Royal Society and St. James's Palace under the patronage of HRH The Prince of Wales.**

Around 60 leading scientists from various disciplines, among them more than 20 Nobel Laureates, will discuss the dimensions of the climate crisis and innovative strategies for solutions. Participants include the US Secretary of Energy and Nobel Laureate Dr Steven Chu, who will deliver a keynote presentation on the second day of the Symposium.

This Symposium has been convened by the University of Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership. It is the second in the series that was instigated by Prof Hans Joachim Schellnhuber of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, where the first Symposium was held in October 2007.

A major item of the agenda will be measures to counter deforestation, and will include presentations in the presence of HRH The Prince of Wales by Lord Nicholas Stern, Prof Simon Schama and Prof Wangari Maathai.

"Prince Charles is a powerful advocate of the need to protect the rainforests," commented Prof Schellnhuber. "The fact that the British heir apparent, as founder of the organisation 'The Prince's Rainforests Project' is so closely associated with this cause is especially valuable for the preservation of these species-rich habitats and their contribution to climate protection."

The Symposium will also address issues of energy and infrastructure, as well as, more broadly, the role of the scientist in society and the coordination of global responses to the challenges. In addition, the programme includes a gala cultural evening, entitled 'Sculpting our History', which will explore the role of the arts, creativity and leadership in confronting the climate challenge. 150 eminent leaders from the fields of the arts, business, science, academia, civil society and the public sector will join together to open an interdisciplinary dialogue on the cultural nature of this global problem.

The conclusions of the Symposium will be presented as a memorandum to international policy makers in the lead up to the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.

Polly Courtice, Director of University of Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership, commented that the fact that such an internationally distinguished group of experts and HRH The Prince of Wales were meeting to discuss the implications of the climate crisis was evidence of the crucial importance of finding global solutions to urgent challenges.

She added: "The contributors to this Symposium are amongst the most influential thinkers in the world. We must remain optimistic that their insights will be able to transform our understanding of people's interdependence with one another and the natural world and will help prevent a global catastrophe."

**-Ends-**

## Notes to Editors:

### **About the University of Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership**

The University of Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership (CPSL) works with business, government and civil society to build leaders' capacity to meet the needs of society and address critical global challenges. Its seminars and leadership groups and its partnerships with those who make or influence decisions are designed to transform public and private sector policies and practices and build greater understanding of our interdependence with one another and the natural world. Its network of alumni brings together the most influential leaders in the world who share an interest in and a commitment to creating a sustainable future.

CPSL is an institution within the School of Technology. It works in close collaboration with individual academics and many other departments of the University. HRH The Prince of Wales is its Patron and it is also a member of The Prince's Charities, a group of not-for-profit organisations of which His Royal Highness is President.

### **About the St. James' Palace Nobel Laureate Symposium**

More information about the symposium can be found on the website [www.nobelcause.org](http://www.nobelcause.org)

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### **About the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)**

The Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) is a member of the Leibniz Association of German Research Institutes and conducts research into global change and issues of sustainable development. Set up in 1992, the Institute is a pioneer in interdisciplinary research and one of the world's leading establishments in this field. At PIK, researchers in the natural and social sciences work together to study global change and its impacts on ecological, economic and social systems. They examine the Earth system's capacity for withstanding human interventions and devise strategies for a sustainable development of humankind and nature. Through data analysis, computer simulations and models, PIK provides decision makers with sound information and tools for sustainable development.

Homepage of the first Interdisciplinary Symposium Global Sustainability: A Nobel Cause <http://www.nobel-cause.de/>

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## About The Prince's Rainforests Project

The Prince's Rainforests Project (PRP) was established in October 2007 by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales to develop consensus as to how the rate of rainforest destruction might be slowed. Rainforests regulate rainfall, preserve biodiversity and, most importantly, store vast amounts of carbon. Tropical deforestation is a major cause of greenhouse gas emissions and without tackling this problem it may be impossible to avoid catastrophic climate change. The PRP is working with governments, international businesses and non-profit organisations to find a solution. <http://www.princesrainforestsproject.org/> This has changed to <http://www.rainforestsos.org/>

For press enquiries about The Prince's Rainforests Project, please contact Hannah Howard at The Clarence House Press Office on 020 7024 5729.

