

MEDIA ADVISORY

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FROM GLOBAL PREDICTIONS TO LOCAL ACTION

*Public Invited to Fact-finding Symposium on Global Warming and
the Greening of California's Energy Resources*

WHAT: Symposium on Global Warming: From Global Predictions to Local Action
Sponsored by the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI)

WHERE: Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, 3301 Lyon Street, San Francisco
Tickets \$10; students \$5; Available at the door or www.cityboxoffice.com

WHEN: April 11, 7:30-9:30 PM

WHO: **Congressman Jerry McNerney**, Member, Select Committee on Energy
Independence and Global Warming
Assemblymember Ira Ruskin, Chair Budget Sub-Committee Natural Resources
President Michael R. Peevey, California Public Utilities Commission
Dr. Inez Fung, Professor of Atmospheric Science; Co-Director, UC Berkeley
Institute for the Environment
Dr. Daniel Kammen, Professor of Public Policy; Co-Director, UC Berkeley
Institute for the Environment
Dr. Severin Borenstein, Director, UC Energy Institute; Professor, Haas
School of Business
Nancy McFadden, Senior Vice President, PG&E
Douglas Ogden, Executive Vice President of the Energy Foundation, and
Director of its China Sustainable Energy Program

Berkeley, CA - By now everyone has heard the dire predictions of increased global warming and rising sea levels. What's the science behind these predictions? What can Bay Area residents do about it? And if the warming trend is not reversed, what can we expect to happen locally - and when will it happen?

The science of predicting the impacts of global warming - especially the "when and where" questions - will be addressed by scientists and mathematicians affiliated with the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI), which is sponsoring the evening symposium on global warming entitled "From Global Predictions to Local Action."
"Most of the predictions heard to date are based on long-term global models that address what may happen in the next 100 to 1,000 years," said MSRI Director David Eisenbud. "We need to translate those global models into local, shorter-term predictions that government and business can take action on now."

The "greening of California's energy" and the role that alternative fuels and technology will play in reducing carbons in the atmosphere is of particular importance to Congressman Jerry McNerney, who will be participating in the panel and was recently named by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming.

McNerney, who is a wind energy expert, will address the role that new energy technologies will play in helping to clean our environment and improve our air quality. "The future of our planet is in the balance. The United States needs to take steps today to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. We can move toward a clean energy economy which will create jobs, yield positive benefits for our environment and create a safer world for our children and grandchildren."

The symposium's format is designed to encourage public participation and will include a short presentation of the basic science of global warming followed by in-depth discussions on what can be done locally, statewide, nationally and even internationally. There will be ample opportunity for questions from the public. The panel of leading experts in energy, science and the economy will include in addition to Rep. McNerney, Michael R. Peevey, President of the California Public Utilities Commission; Dr. Inez Fung and Dr. Daniel Kammen, Co-Directors of the UC Berkeley Institute for the Environment; and Severin Borenstein, Director of the UC Energy Institute, and a professor at the Haas School of Business.

PUC President Michael R. Peevey recognizes that global warming is the most serious environmental threat of our time and that immediate action is needed to prevent truly calamitous outcomes worldwide. "Cleaner electricity production is an essential factor in solving climate change issues. California set groundbreaking renewable power goals, and the PUC sets policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and has also created the most ambitious energy efficiency and conservation campaign in the history of the utility industry in the U.S."

Haas Business School Professor Severin Borenstein said "Global warming poses major risks to California. Addressing it will be a great challenge to California and the nation."

Dr. Inez Fung, a co-author of the recent IPCC report delivered at the United Nations, expects the symposium to address major challenges in climate prediction. "Our charge is to formulate new climate change models to aid policy decision making. At the symposium and subsequent workshops, we will develop new classes of models that integrate global climate predictions with risk and economic analysis on a local scale."

The Wednesday evening symposium will be followed by a two-day workshop for mathematical scientists at MSRI on April 12 and 13. The plan is to engage the mathematical sciences community in addressing the issues involved in translating global, long-term predictions of climate change into local forecasts relevant for public and private-sector policy. "Mathematics is at the center of climate predictions as well as the center of the analysis that informs decision making," said Eisenbud. Interested members of the scientific community may register for the workshops at <http://www.msri.org/>

MSRI, a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation (ID #0924830), is supported by the National Science Foundation, the National Security Agency, more than 85 departments from the mathematical sciences in the US and abroad, including UC Berkeley and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and many other public and private sources. It is located on the UC Berkeley campus. For more information on the Institute, please visit <http://www.msri.org/>. The MSRI Symposium on Climate Change was made possible by the generous support of the Sea Change Foundation.

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