



Recent events highlight key role of Canadian scientists on the world stage *Leading organizations make link between 2007 Nobel Peace Prize and Bali climate negotiations*

(December 20, 2007, Ottawa) Three leading organizations dedicated to understanding climate change, are pleased to recognize the Canadian scientists whose contributions to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) helped win the group the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. The awards ceremony on December 10, happened at a time when evidence of climate change was at the forefront of discussions on a post-2012 international effort to fight global warming, in Bali, Indonesia.

The Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences (CFCAS), the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction (ICLR) and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) have highlighted the fact that both events demonstrate the strong role played by Canadian scientists in identifying upcoming climate challenges and opportunities, and providing the data and analyses needed for policy action on these changes. These scientists demonstrate the quality and relevance of Canadian climate research and the country's international profile.

“Science has emerged as our best tool to address climate change; Canadians should be proud of the contributions that our scientists have made to this global effort,” said Gordon McBean, chair of CFCAS. “The Nobel Peace Prize recognizes this outstanding collective effort towards understanding the underlying science, the impacts of global change and possible emission reduction and adaptation strategies.”

“It is noteworthy that the Nobel Committee awarded the Peace Prize in recognition of the implications of climate change for international peace and security,” added Paul Kovacs, Executive Director for the ICLR. “These issues are becoming more and more important as weather patterns change, extreme conditions affect agricultural sustainability, water availability, disease vectors and public security, and as the global community finds itself adapting to a changing climate.”

“It is our hope that the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize will stimulate further efforts to address global climate change, and leave a positive legacy for our children and grandchildren,” concluded John Drexhage, Director of IISD's Climate Change and Energy Program.

Over 350 Canadians have contributed to the work of the IPCC, many of them in leading positions. Dr. Jim Bruce of Ottawa chaired the founding meeting of IPCC in 1988 and later co-chaired a working group on mitigation of climate change. Canadian scientists were selected for their scientific excellence. The IPCC Assessments are based on published scientific studies where again Canadian scientists have made major contributions. The award was given to both IPCC and to Al Gore “for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change”.

Climate change adaptation and mitigation was the focus of last week's negotiations in Bali, Indonesia, which were attended by John Baird, Canada's Minister of the Environment.

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