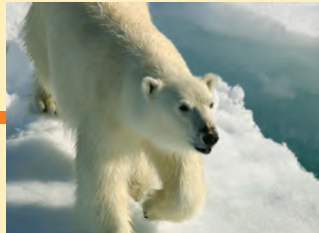


CLIMATE INSTITUTE



PROTECTING THE BALANCE BETWEEN CLIMATE AND LIFE ON EARTH





Since its creation in 1986, the Climate Institute has been a leader in both catalyzing innovative and practical policy solutions towards climate stabilization, and educating the general public of the gravity of climate change impacts.

Serving as a bridge between the scientific community and policy-makers, the Climate Institute has managed to develop flexible frameworks now being used as serious starting points for international negotiations. Working with an extensive network of experts and alliances in the US and internationally, the Institute has become a respected facilitator of dialogue to move the world toward more effective cooperation while cementing long-term partnerships for global climate balance.

Our achievements include:

- Organizing the first broad-scale climate change conference in North America in 1987, the first climate change symposium for UN missions in 1988, and the first major climate conference in the Middle East in 1989 in Cairo, Egypt
- Co-authoring and editing much of the impact section of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) First Assessment Report
- Coordinating Climate Impacts and Responses Studies in 8 Asian Nations with a Fourth of the world's population
- Briefing policymakers in 22 nations under the auspices of the IPCC (see map page 6-7)
- Organizing a study of the environmental refugee challenge resulting in the publication of *Environmental Exodus: An Emergent Challenge in the Global Arena* (1995)
- Initiating in 2000 a consortium of international partners and managing a global initiative to assist Small Island States in the development and implementation of their sustainable energy plans
- Launching the Environmental Leadership Program, an internship program that has trained and placed over 150 students in environmental projects
- Releasing in 2008, *Sudden and Disruptive Climate Change: Exploring the Real Risks and How We Can Avoid Them*, a compilation of presentations by scientists and experts on innovative responses to climate change



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THE CHALLENGE: *Climate Change*

For the past thousands of years the Earth's climate has fluctuated. However, over the last decades, climate change variability has been amplified by global warming resulting from a human-induced increase in greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. The Fourth Assessment on climate change conducted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded that evidence of the warming of the climate system was now "unequivocal." It is expected to have tremendous consequences for the Planet's ecosystems and on the livelihood of millions of people.

Today, recent findings on the Antarctic and Greenland fronts have made clear that ice sheets are retreating at an alarming pace while sea ice in the Arctic is shrinking. Climate change is already unleashing a series of disruptions including sea-level rise, coastal erosion, coral bleaching, increased frequency of severe storms, devastating flooding, wildfires, pest outbreaks and massive tree deaths.

Upon entering its Third Decade Campaign, the Climate Institute pledged to renew its commitment for a sustainable Planet by promoting climate stabilization and creating opportunities to improve the quality of life for people around the world.



Renewable Energy Provides Hope for the Future

With the demand for conventional energy sources (i.e. coal, oil, natural gas) growing rapidly, fossil fuel supplies are gradually being exhausted and will eventually dwindle. In contrast, renewable energy uses sources that are naturally replenished and can sustain our global energy needs. Generating virtually no greenhouse emissions, renewable systems have opened up new opportunities and should be actively pursued. Iceland has been extremely successful in leading the way in transitioning from a fossil fuel-based economy to an alternative- energy economy by developing its geothermal resources. We believe that renewables can offer great promise both to offset carbon emissions and enhance development; in many places they already represent a cost-effective option.

Encourage Intelligent Adaptation and win-win Solutions

Environmental protection and economic well-being are mutually reinforcing. Many climate protection initiatives, both in adaptation and in greenhouse emissions reduction, are a matter of thinking smart at the outset and need not involve added cost. Energy efficiency is a vital component to reduce our carbon footprint and can also represent a huge economic opportunity. For example, the use of cogeneration (recovery of electricity from waste heat and building of combined heat and power plants) may simultaneously realize large economic savings and drastically cut CO₂ emissions. The use of natural plantations such as vetiver grass can also prevent beach and road erosion and drastically reduce land contamination.



THE CLIMATE INSTITUTE *seeks to protect the balance between climate and life on Earth by...*



Sierra Negra Mountains (Pico de Orizaba National Park) where the Sir Crispin Tickell High Altitude Global Climate Observation Center will be located at 15,000 feet (4,500 meters) above sea level.

... Moving the Science to a Higher Level

Hundreds of years ago, the Mayan civilization was well aware of the interdependence of human development with weather and climate, which enabled them to build complex infrastructures harmonized with natural cycles. Today, the Climate Institute and its Mexican partners are building the world's highest Climate Observatory in Puebla, Mexico to measure greenhouse gases and dust particles in order to monitor climate and assess hurricane risk. The Center addresses an opportunity for extensive environmental study, filling a gap in the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) that currently lacks an observation complex in the broad mid-section of the Americas (Mexico, Southern United States, Central America, and Caribbean).

... Helping Small Islands Achieve Energy Independence

Despite their geographical and cultural diversity, the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) share similar conditions including remoteness, susceptibility to natural disasters and an excessive dependence on fossil fuels. Particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts, they are also nearly all geographically suited to take advantage of natural and renewable energy resources. The Climate Institute has helped small Caribbean and Pacific Islands to develop their renewable energy programs.

... Launching the International Leadership Alliance for Climate Stabilization

Along with its mitigation efforts, the Institute has recently inaugurated a Public-Private North-South partnership initiative to design more comprehensive climate protection plans that will encompass coastal management, hurricane preparedness and emergency planning, and provide technical assistance. This International Leadership Alliance for Climate Stabilization initiative seeks to facilitate dialogue between states, provinces or major cities of larger developing countries with civic or religious groups as well as corporations and international agencies.





... Empowering Native American Tribes to Respond to Climate Change Risks

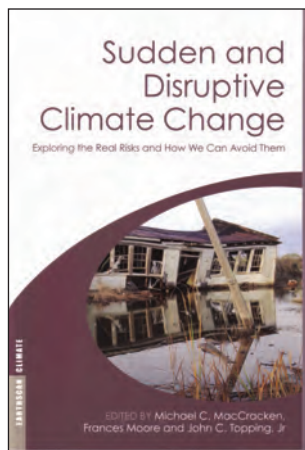


We believe that there is great potential in the exchange between modern science and traditional Native American knowledge. Many Indian reservations are located on marginal lands and are particularly threatened by water scarcity. Their environment has already undergone dramatic changes. Recent studies have raised awareness of the profound ecological consequences of climate disruption encouraging informed action. The Climate Institute has forged an alliance between Tribal Colleges, NASA and US universities to provide scientific and capital resources to empower Native American communities to be proactive in responding to climate stresses. To this end, the Institute seeks to facilitate scientific and policy training for Tribal College students to help them develop innovative and comprehensive response strategies within their tribes to direct their own future.

... Educating the Public about Climate Change Impacts

Building on the release of *Sudden and Disruptive Climate Change* and its quarterly newsletter, *Climate Alert*, the Climate Institute is developing a strong outreach and education program in the US and in Mexico to provide objective and comprehensive information on climate change risks and potential responses. The Institute's website (www.climate.org) provides a variety of online tools including a directory by country and region of climate-focused organizations. It is extensively visited and recognized as a valuable information source.

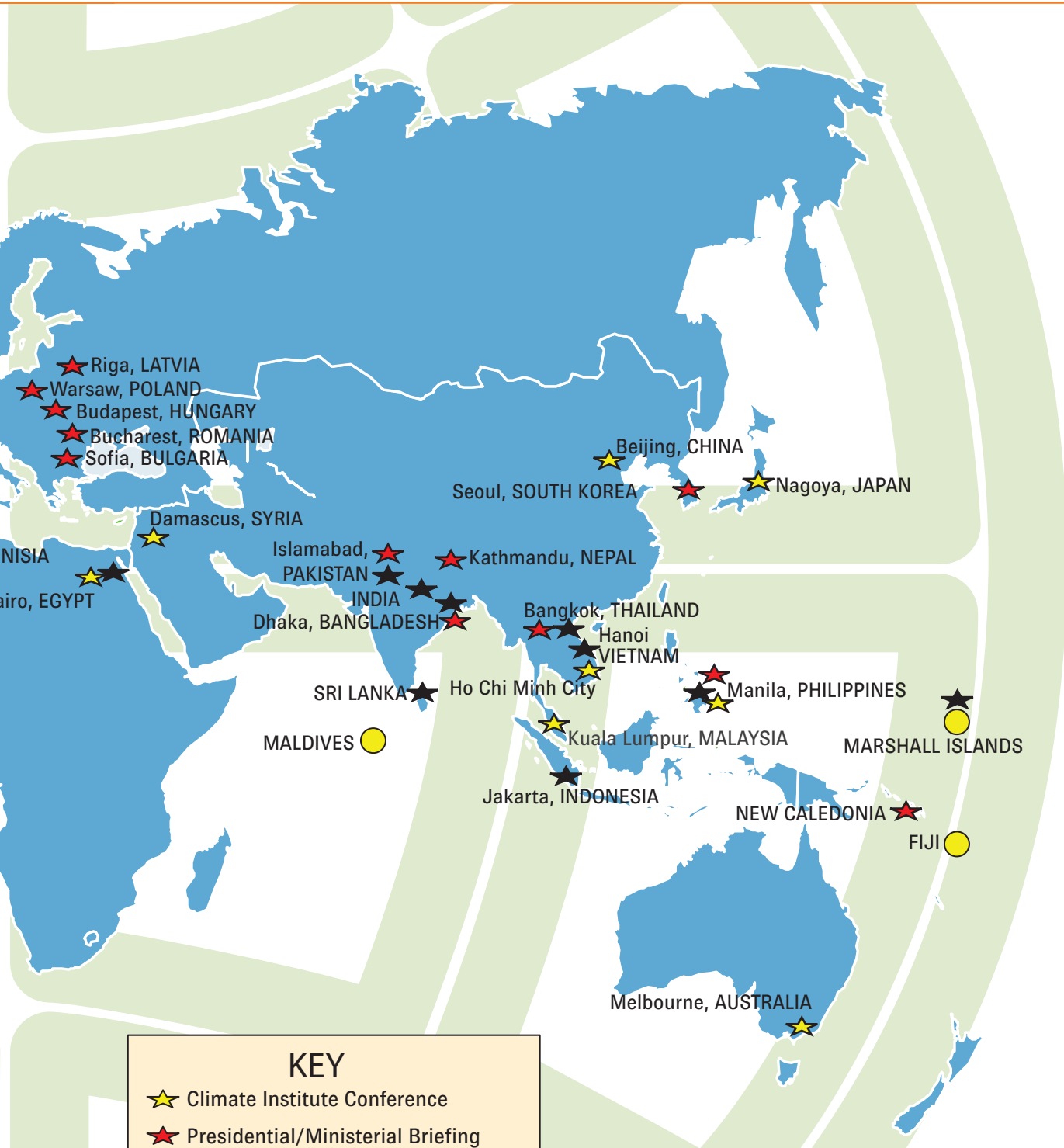
The Institute is reaching out to an even broader audience through public talks and presentations. Its website content is being translated into five other languages, including Spanish, French, German, Portuguese and Chinese. It has also opened a Latin American Regional Office in Mexico City where it is helping to design an effective national awareness campaign with local partners and cultural institutions to disseminate news of pioneering and inspiring climate protection initiatives. The Institute is already working on similar initiatives at the State level in Puebla and Quintana Roo.



This book makes it clear to all of us that, while risks of abrupt climate change are increasing, opportunities to solve the climate crisis are abundant. It's an impressive accomplishment.

Al Gore
Former Vice President of the US
Co-recipient, 2007 Nobel Prize





KEY

- ★ Climate Institute Conference
- ★ Presidential/Ministerial Briefing
- ★ Country Study
- Sustainable Energy Program



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