

ST. JAMES'S PALACE  
NOBEL LAUREATE  
SYMPOSIUM

**PRESS RELEASE**

10 November 2009

Nobel Laureates call on world leaders for robust climate change deal

**Over 50 Nobel Laureates are calling on world leaders for a global deal on climate change that matches the scale and urgency of the human, ecological and economic crises facing the world today. The call comes in a Memorandum signed by Laureates from across the disciplines, including recent recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize, Dr Mohamed ElBaradei, Mikhail Gorbachev, and His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and winners of the Nobel Prize in Literature, John Coetzee, Nadine Gordimer and Doris Lessing.**

The St. James's Palace Memorandum, drawn up earlier this year at a Symposium held in London under the patronage of HRH The Prince of Wales, is being sent to international policy leaders in the run up to the UN climate summit in Copenhagen.

The Memorandum urges governments, scientists, the business community and civil society to seize the historic opportunity that Copenhagen represents to transform our carbon-intensive economies into sustainable and equitable systems.

Professor Sir Harold Kroto, one of the signatories and winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, said: "The world now faces several massive challenges - all of which must be confronted with serious effort if we are to survive into the next century. The rainforest challenge is a key one that will require a coordinated response from all citizens on the planet."

Nobel Laureate Dr. Hideke Shirakawa, Chemistry 2007, added: "I believe that not only scientists but also many ordinary people worry about climate change, but I am afraid that their view has not been articulated strongly enough because it is difficult to bring people together across the globe in order to express these concerns. I hope the St. James's Palace Memorandum will be a strong voice which unites and affects international society."

**-Ends-**

**Notes to Editors:**

The St James's Palace Nobel Laureate Symposium was convened by the University of Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership (CPSL) in association with the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) under the Patronage of The Prince of Wales.

It was hosted at St James's Palace, the Royal Society and the Science Museum. The St James's Palace Symposium built on the foundation of a first Nobel Laureate Symposium on Global Sustainability hosted by Chancellor Merkel in Potsdam, Germany, in October 2007.

The St James's Palace Nobel Laureate Symposium Advisory Group included Polly Courtice LVO, Prof Sir Richard Friend, Jonathon Porritt CBE, Prof Chris Rapley CBE,

---

ST. JAMES'S PALACE  
NOBEL LAUREATE  
SYMPOSIUM

---

Lord Rees of Ludlow PRS OM, Prof Hans Joachim Schellnhuber CBE, Mike Peirce (Symposium Director).

**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.

[www.cpsl.cam.ac.uk](http://www.cpsl.cam.ac.uk)

**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)

Members of the press, please contact: Becky Allen, Communications Office, University of Cambridge, Tel: +44 (0)1223 332300, Email: [ba293@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ba293@admin.cam.ac.uk)  
[www.cam.ac.uk](http://www.cam.ac.uk)

**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/>

PIK press office:

Phone: +49 331 288 25 07

E-mail: [press@pik-potsdam.de](mailto:press@pik-potsdam.de)