New York Times Institute on the Environment

HOW ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES INFLUENCE OUR DAILY LIVES:
THE NEXUS BETWEEN ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS
A Seminar in the Dominican Republic for Editors & Journalists
March 15-20, 2009

This intensive program will supply the tools needed to interpret and report on the sometimes-conflicting scientific information about leading environmental issues.

THE PROGRAM
Through lectures, discussions, and workshops, this Institute is aimed at presenting to reporters and editors the latest information available, the critical issues they will face, and models for how one might report on environmental change and the economic and business consequences of various environmental issues.

Our goal is to raise the level of dialogue and reporting in these areas so that policy makers and the voting public can make informed decisions about the way they manage environmental change and thus their future.

TOPICS
Water. Scarcity of fresh water is already becoming a source of political conflict and economic insecurity around the planet.

Fisheries. Destructive fishing and land use practices are permanently damaging off-shore and deep sea ecosystems, threatening the food supply of millions.

Health. Globalization and ecosystem disruption are driving outbreaks of new and re-emergent diseases around the world, including West Nile Virus, SARS, and Avian Flu.

Climate. Our greenhouse gas emissions may be increasing the severity and frequency of extreme weather events.

Economics. Degradation of Environmental capital is causing countries to reassess their costs of production and consumption.

PARTICIPANT COSTS:
• $250 program fee
• Airfare/transportation
• Personal expenses

All expenses for tuition and lodging are covered by the New York Times Foundation and the PUNTACANA Ecological Foundation.

TO APPLY:
Download an application at www.columbia.edu/cu/cees/nyti
Submit a completed application, a letter of intent and a résumé to:
Alisa Sackwell: aas8@columbia.edu
or
Rebecca Johnson: rj136@columbia.edu
CEES
2852 Broadway
2nd Floor
New York, NY 10025
1-212-851-1781 fax

Application Deadline: February 15, 2009
Critical Environmental Issues:
During the 21st century we will see enormous changes to the environments in which we live. Increasingly, the human population will become more coastal and more urban. While it will not be as large as it was once thought, world population will reach nine billion and in the U.S. will climb toward 500 million.

As per capita income rises, this increased population will put an ever-greater demand on the world's natural resources. We are already seeing the effects of the leading edge of that demand:

- Forests are disappearing at a rate of 10-15 million hectares a year
- 60% of all coral reefs have been damaged or destroyed by human activities
- Diseases have jumped from other species to our own at unprecedented rates
- We have just completed the warmest decade in recorded weather history during which glaciers receded, sea levels rose, and animal and plant species changed their ranges, while surface and ground water has retreated worldwide unable to keep up with our agricultural demands

The costs of all of these effects run into the tens or hundreds of billions of dollars annually.

Newspapers, magazines, radio, and TV will play a major role in informing these sectors and therefore have a special responsibility to investigate, analyze, and report in a balanced way the environmental challenges we face, the choices we will have to make and the implications of those choices for the health and economic well-being of the public.

Our Hosts:
The Journalism Institutes have been held annually since 2005 at the PUNTACANA Resort and Club in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. The owners of the Resort are advocates of environmentally sustainable economic development and the role of environmental stewardship in the tourism industry. Since 2002, Columbia has been collaborating with the PUNTACANA Resort's Ecological Foundation, using their classroom, laboratory and dormitory facilities to support research, field courses and conferences.

PUNTACANA Resort and Club (PCRC) has been a pioneer in sustainable tourism for more than 35 years, both in its environmental practices and its concern for the surrounding communities. In addition to creating the PUNTACANA Ecological Foundation, and establishing a local Ecological Park and Reserve, PCRC also founded the PUNTACANA Foundation to protect the interests of the local communities of the Punta Cana region.

The Organizing Faculty
Dr. Don Melnick, Professor and Co-Director of the Center for Environment, Economy, and Society, will lead the scientific curriculum, along with a number of expert scientists from Columbia University and other top academic and research institutions.

Ms. Arlene Morgan, Associate Dean at the Columbia School of Journalism will lead the journalism workshops associated with each day’s activities.

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