



# Innovation & Entrepreneurship in the Time of Climate Change

A UNU G8 Symposium

## *Speaker Biographies*

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### **JAMES E. HANSEN**

*Head, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies*

James Hansen studied physics and astronomy with James Van Allen at the University of Iowa where he earned a Ph.D. in physics in 1967. In addition to heading the Goddard Institute, he is an adjunct professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia University and serves as science advisor to former senator Al Gore. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1996 and has been the recipient of numerous awards and honours including the Heinz Environment Award, the Dan David Prize, and the PNC Bank Common Wealth Award of Distinguished Service. His congressional testimony in June 1988 helped alert the world to the threat of climate change.

### **ALEX EVANS**

*Non-Resident Fellow, Center on International Cooperation, New York University*

Alex Evans is a non-resident fellow at the Center on International Cooperation (CIC) at New York University, where he runs CIC's work on climate change and global public goods. He was seconded to the UN in 2007 as part of the team coordinating the Secretary-General's high level event on climate change. He also leads a joint CIC/Chatham House project on the international implications of rising food prices. From 2003 to 2006, he was special adviser to Hilary Benn, then the UK Secretary of State for International Development.



### **TOSHIO HIROTA**

*General Manager, Technology Planning Department, Nissan Motor Company, Ltd.*

Toshio Hirota is head of technology planning for environmental issues at Nissan Motor Co. and has been involved in advanced powertrain research at the company for the past 35 years.



### **BILL MCKIBBEN**

*Environmentalist and author*

Bill McKibben writes about global warming, alternative energy, and the risks associated with human genetic engineering. Immediately after college he joined *The New Yorker* magazine as a staff writer and wrote much of the "Talk of the Town" column from 1982 to early 1987. He is a frequent contributor to various magazines including *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Harper's*, *Orion Magazine*, *Mother Jones*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Granta*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Outside*. He is also a board member and contributor to *Grist Magazine*. Beginning in the summer of 2006, he led the organization of the largest demonstrations against global warming in American history. He has been awarded Guggenheim and Lyndhurst Fellowships, and won the Lannan Prize for nonfiction writing in 2000. His most recent books are *Deep Economy: the Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future* (2007) and *The Bill McKibben Reader* (2008), a collection of essays from the past 25 years. His first book, *The End of Nature*, was published in 1989 by Random House after being serialized in *The New Yorker*. It is regarded as the first book for a general audience about climate change, and has been printed in more than 20 languages.



**SHUZO NISHIOKA**

*Senior Advisor, National Institute for Environmental Studies*

Shuzo Nishioka is senior adviser to the National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan, where he was formerly executive director. He is project leader for climate change policy at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategy. He also serves as a member of the Environment project of Science and Technology Council of Japan, and of the Central Council for Environment of Japan. He has served as coordinating lead author of IPCC Reports since 1988 and review editor of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment since 2004. Until 2002, he was a member of the Science and Technological Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility, the Science Steering Committee of START, the Science Planning Committee of the Asia-Pacific Network on Global Change Research, and the Technical Committee of Assessment of the Impacts of and Adaptation to Climate Change.



**TED NORDHAUS**

*Chair, Breakthrough Institute*

Ted Nordhaus is an author, researcher, and political strategist. He is co-author of *Break Through* and “The Death of Environmentalism.” Over the last twenty years, he has run major campaigns and initiatives for a large assortment of environmental and progressive political causes including the Public Interest Research Groups, the Sierra Club, Environmental Defense, and Clean Water Action. He also served as the campaign director for Share the Water, a coalition of environmentalists, fishermen, farmers, and urban water agencies advocating reform of federal water policies in California, executive director of the Headwaters Sanctuary Project, and as a partner and political strategist with Next Generation and Evans/McDonough, strategy and research firms serving political campaigns and environmental organizations.



**GWYN PRINS**

*Director, Mackinder Centre, London School of Economics*

Gwyn Prins is the director of the Mackinder Centre for the Study of Long Wave Events at the London School of Economics and the first Alliance Research Professor appointed jointly at the LSE and Columbia University, New York. He has directed the Cambridge University military education programmes and continues to lecture at the Royal College of Defence Studies of the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom and to the NATO Defense College. He was senior fellow in the Office of the Special Adviser on Central and Eastern European Affairs, Office of the Secretary-General of NATO and simultaneously senior research fellow at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, and visiting senior fellow in the (former) Defence Evaluation and Research Agency of the UK Ministry of Defence. He was the consultant on security at the Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research of the British Meteorological Office for four years to 2003, helping climate scientists to understand why their findings did not translate smoothly into appropriate political action. He assisted the UN International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty during 2001 and the Annan High Level Panel in 2004. In 2002, he was engaged in advising governments on the August 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg. In 2006, he joined the Brenthurst Foundation ‘think tank’ on rethinking the routes to sustainable prosperity in Africa.



**DAVID SANBORN SCOTT**

*Founding Director, Institute for Integrated Energy Systems, University of Victoria;  
Vice-President, International Association for Hydrogen Energy*

David Sanborn Scott has been involved in energy system analysis, design and strategy for more than three decades. After receiving a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering and astronautical sciences from Northwestern University, he joined the University of Toronto where he served as chair of mechanical engineering and founded the university’s Institute for Hydrogen Systems. He chaired Canada’s Advisory Group on Hydrogen Opportunities, which produced the influential 1987 report *Hydrogen – National Mission for Canada*. He consults for US and Canadian national laboratories and corporations and is the founding director of the University of Victoria’s Institute for Integrated Energy Systems. In 2000, he was the recipient of the Canadian Hydrogen Association’s Medal of Recognition for “Outstanding Services for the Advancement of Hydrogen Energy and Hydrogen Economy.” In 2006, he became the first Canadian to receive the prestigious Jules Verne Award, in recognition of his “Outstanding Contributions to Hydrogen Physics, and Hydrogen Energy Sociology and Philosophy.” In 2007, the Canadian Hydrogen Association made him its first honorary lifetime member. In the spring of 2008, the U.S. National Hydrogen Association named him an honorary member. He is the author of *Smelling Land: The Hydrogen Defense Against Climate Catastrophe* (2008).



**DAVID STEVEN**

*Managing Director, River Path Associates*

David Steven is a policy analyst, strategic consultant and researcher. He is managing director of River Path Associates and specialises in international responses to global risks. He is a research associate at Demos, where he runs a programme on the new public diplomacy. He reported on the Bali climate summit for openDemocracy and analysed the politics of a climate deal as part of the City of London's London Accord. Recent publications include papers on multilateralism and risks for the Progressive Governance Summit, resilience for the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Services, and foreign policy reform for Manchester University Press.

**YU DAWEI**

*Senior Writer, Caijing Magazine*

Yu Dawei is Senior Writer at *Caijing Magazine* where he covers environmental, energy, and policy issues.

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