



MEDIA RELEASE

DECEMBER 7, 2007

YOUNG LEADERS 'MUST TAKE A STAND' FOR GOOD SCIENCE

Young scientists from around the world will be reminded by a leading Australian authority on climate change that they must be vigilant against the sometimes deceptive and propagandist portrayal of their science.

Addressing the 55 young researchers, Professor Barry Brook, Director of the Research Institute for Climate Change and Sustainability at the University of Adelaide, will remind them that good science can be the basis of good decisions for the planet, but unsound science or the misinterpretation of good science has the potential to be very destructive.

A worldwide network of the next generation of **leading coral reef scientists** and managers will gather for a unique Future Leaders Forum at The University of Queensland in Brisbane on **December 10-14**.

"These future leaders in coral reef science have a great responsibility towards marine life and to so much that depends on it," Professor Brook will say during the closing address to the week-long forum next Friday (14 December).

"We have seen many situations where vested interests assert 'scientific evidence' to support their claims, when in fact they are at best selectively drawing on a small part of the evidence or at worst relying on 'junk' science.

"Nowhere is this more obvious than in the discussion of climate change, and particularly in the popular media."

The students will be joined by internationally-renowned coral reef scientists and managers who will build the students' understanding of a wide range of issues and challenges surrounding coral reef ecosystems.

Sponsored by the Coral Reef Targeted Research & Capacity Building for Management Program (CRTR), the Leadership Forum has attracted postgraduate students and postdoctoral researchers in coral reef studies from 20 countries.

www.gefcoral.org



As part of its resolve to build scientific capacity and knowledge, the CRTR Program sponsors or associates with more than 55 students in coral reef studies worldwide. Students from Mexico, The Philippines, Cuba, Tanzania, Kenya, USA, Australia, United Kingdom, Colombia, Venezuela, Palau, Thailand, Canada, Costa Rica, Belize and Guatemala will attend the event.

The CRTR Program is a leading international coral reef research initiative that provides a coordinated approach to credible, factual and scientifically-proven knowledge for improved coral reef management.

The CRTR Program is a partnership between the Global Environment Facility, the World Bank, The University of Queensland (Australia), the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and approximately 40 research institutions and other third-parties around the world.

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Further information:

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Further reading:

www.gefcoral.org

Professor Barry Brook: www.adelaide.edu.au/climatechange/about/barrybrook.html

Please note:

A copy of the forum program containing session times and speaker details can be downloaded from www.gefcoral.org; copies of speaker presentations or press releases will be made available at this same address.

The media is welcome to attend the CRTR Future Leaders Forum. The forum will be held at the Hawken Engineering Building (50), The University of Queensland, Research Road, St Lucia, QLD 4067.

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