

NEWS TIPS
For Immediate Release

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WASHINGTON D.C. – February 1, 2005 – The National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE) announces the following events during the Fifth National Conference on Science, Policy and the Environment “Forecasting Environmental Changes” at the Ronald Reagan Building, February 3-4, 2005.

Leading scientist calls for development of a global tsunami warning system

Experts around the globe agree that thousands of lives could have been saved if an effective warning system had been in place on December 26 in the Indian Ocean. At the 2005 NCSE Conference "Forecasting Environmental Changes" **Dr. D. James Baker** will call upon the international community to develop a global tsunami warning system as part of an Earth Information Network. Baker is President and CEO of the Academy of Natural Sciences and was Administrator of NOAA during the Clinton Administration. For more information or to arrange an interview with Baker, please contact Craig Schiffries at 202-207-0003.

Emerging global observation system could save lives and support economies

The devastating tsunami in the Indian Ocean has focused global attention on the need to improve environmental forecasting and decision-making. At the 2005 NCSE Conference "Forecasting Environmental Changes," **Dr. Charles Kennel**, Director of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California in San Diego, will discuss an emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) that will yield vital socio-economic benefits for people and economies around the globe. The enormous range of benefits GEOSS will provide includes the capability to: mitigate the impact of tsunami tragedies; improve predictions of where and when diseases are likely to strike, such as malaria, West Nile virus, and SARS; and provide farmers with immediate forecasts essential to maximizing crops yields.

“The Global Earth Observing System of Systems is an idea whose time has come,” says Kennel.

“Incorporating a global tsunami warning system into this broader global observing system will produce both long-term and immediate value.” For more information or to arrange an interview with Kennel, please contact Craig Schiffries at 202-207-0003.

New U.S. tsunami warning system contributes to emerging global observing system

At the 2005 NCSE Conference "Forecasting Environmental Changes," **Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher**, Administrator of NOAA, will discuss a new tsunami warning system for U.S. coastlines. He will demonstrate how the tsunami warning system fits into the bigger picture of a Global Earth Observation System of Systems that will be formally set into motion at the third Earth Observation Summit in Brussels next month. The global system, known as GEOSS, will provide us with tools to take the pulse of planet Earth, help protect the environment, and promote economic prosperity. For more information or to arrange an interview with Lautenbacher, please contact Craig Schiffries at 202-207-0003.

U.S. faces momentous opportunities for leadership on global environment issues

The United States has opportunities to assert a leadership role in global environmental issues and change the way we understand the future of our planet. At the 2005 NCSE Conference "Forecasting Environmental Changes," **James Gustave Speth** will address these opportunities, drawing upon his recent book, *Red Sky at Morning: America and the Crisis of the Global Environment*. For the first time, he will discuss a new Afterword to *Red Sky at Morning*. The Afterword provides a ten-point plan for what we can do as Americans to address climate change. Speth is Dean of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. He previously served as Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme; Chairman of President Carter’s Council on Environmental Quality; Founder and President of the World Resources Institute; and Co-founder of the Natural Resources Defense Council. For more information or to arrange an interview with Speth, please contact Craig Schiffries at 202-207-0003.