



SCIENCE FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY

An Evening at The Rockefeller University

The Future of Cities: How Climate Change, Population Trends, and Urbanization Will Transform Our World

Date: Thursday, January 31, 2008

Time: 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Registration

6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Program

7:30 – 8:00 p.m. Reception

Place: Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall

The Rockefeller University

York Avenue at East 66th Street

The combined effects of population growth, urban population density, and warming climates are placing cities under significant stress. More than half of the world's 6.6 billion people now live in towns and cities. If the global population exceeds 8 billion by 2030—a conservative prediction—some 5 billion people will be urban residents. The challenges of providing them with adequate food, water, shelter, sanitation, and transportation will be daunting. With a higher incidence of coastal storms, heat waves, droughts, and other events related to changes in climate, fragile urban infrastructures in developed and developing nations could easily be overwhelmed.

Climate change will increasingly affect decision-making in areas such as risk management for investment and insurance. The decisions we make and the policies we enact will have profound and wide-ranging consequences. Proposed measures to limit greenhouse gas emissions, for example, will transform energy economics much more quickly than they change the weather. To prepare for the transitions ahead, collaborative teams of experts are needed to spot trends, predict outcomes, and formulate strategies. On **Thursday, January 31, 2008**, The Rockefeller University will host such a team of experts to discuss the future of our interdependent, urbanized world.

Joel Cohen, Ph.D., Dr.P.H. – The Rockefeller University's Abby Rockefeller Mauzé Professor develops mathematical tools to study demographic, economic and cultural forces within human populations, and how they interact with Earth's physical, chemical and biological environments. He has applied his ideas to problems such as controlling infectious diseases and assessing the impact of environmental contaminants.

Deborah Balk, Ph.D. – Associate Director of the Institute for Demographic Research at the City University of New York who designs studies that combine Earth science and social science data to derive insights about human populations in diverse environments.

Ellen Brennan-Galvin, Ph.D. – Lecturer and Senior Research Scholar at Yale University's School of Forestry & Environmental Studies who studies urban issues in developing nations, with a special focus on the creation of sustainable public transportation services.

Darren Walker, Esq. – Vice President of the Rockefeller Foundation, Mr. Walker oversees international programs and U.S. initiatives—including strategies for New York and New Orleans. The Rockefeller Foundation just announced a \$70 million initiative aimed at building the resilience of communities most likely to suffer adverse effects from climate change.

For more information, please call Ms. Kelsey Dixon
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