Proposal for convening an international symposium on climate change, environmental health and sustainability

Brisbane, Australia, 20 - 22 November, 2006

There are fundamental interrelations between economic development, environment and population health. There has been increasing evidence indicating that the expansion of economic activities, rapid population growth and extensive consumption can have significant impacts on the environment and can cause large-scale and sometimes irreversible environmental changes (eg, global warming, resources depletion (eg, oil), marine pollution, loss of biodiversity, desertification and land degradation, degradation of fresh waters, and deforestation and unsustainable use of forests). These changes will profoundly affect the quality of life, standard of living, and community health and well-being. This is an important and unprecedented challenge to scientists, policy-makers and the general public. This symposium will provide a platform for the exchange of research ideas and methodologies to tackle these challenges through a focus on climate change, environmental health and sustainability.

The …………………………………. have the honour to organise this symposium which will take place at QUT Kelvin Grove Campus, Brisbane, between 20 and 22 November, 2006.

International speakers:

Tord Kjellstrong, Confirmed
Colin Soskolne, Confirmed

National speakers:

Tony McMichael, (Confirmed tentatively)
Andrew Langley, (Confirmed tentatively)
Andy Pitman, TBC
Topics of interest

Climate change, environmental health and sustainability  
Ecosystem health risk assessment  
Environmental and public health implications of climate change  
Urbanisation and community well-being  
Change of land use and the transmission of infectious diseases  
Interactive effects between air pollution and weather on population health  
Water contamination and water-borne diseases  
Methods of assessing human health vulnerability  
Scientific integrity in environmental health decision-making  
Other emerging environmental health issues

Organising committee:

Shilu Tong, Peter Grace, Mike Hefferan, Michael Kimlin, Thomas Tenkate, Kerrie Mengersen, Lidia Morawska