



**BIOS**

BERMUDA INSTITUTE OF OCEAN SCIENCES

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FACING OUR FUTURE; BERMUDA ON THE CUSP OF OCEANIC CHANGE –  
GLOBAL AUTHORITY ON CLIMATE CHANGE, SIR CRISPIN TICKELL, WILL SPEAK IN  
BERMUDA

St. George's, Bermuda: On Friday, April 20, the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (BIOS) Distinguished Lecture Series will welcome, arguably one of the world's foremost authority on climate change, Sir Crispin Tickell. His lecture titled "Vulnerable earth: Climate Change, Prospects and Hazards" will be held at the Fairmont Hamilton Princess that evening.

The BIOS Distinguished Lecture Series has brought to Bermuda some of the most compelling scientists and public policy experts in the world and Sir Crispin is no exception. BIOS launched the series in September 2005 with a talk by Dr. Sylvia Earle, famous marine biologist and National Geographic Society Explorer-in-Residence. During her visit, Dr. Earle also met with fifty local students at the Bermuda Aquarium to recount her experiences as a marine scientist, answer their questions and encourage them to learn more about the ocean surrounding them. Then in October, one of the world's leading hurricane experts, Dr. Kerry Emanuel, gave a lecture on the incredible power and complexity of hurricanes. And in 2006, the public had the opportunity to hear Mr. Robert F. Kennedy discuss the vital role our natural surroundings play in our work, our health and our identity. Sir Crispin's lecture, whose interests range from the field of environmental and international affairs, business and charities to climate, pre-Colombian art, and the early history of the Earth, will address the planet's vulnerabilities. His lecture

explains, “there are hits from space, the changing relationship between the Earth and the Sun, the movement of tectonic plates, earthquakes, changes in the chemistry of the atmosphere, and not least, variations in the global ecosystem of living organisms of which we are a tiny part.

Bermuda is on the cusp of oceanic change, and hence of climate change more generally. The state of the thermohaline circulation, the biology of the Sargasso Sea, even the so-called Bermuda triangle and hotspot, are all of global concern. Since the publication of the science report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on 2 February, we are all better aware not only of the hazards which now face us, but also of the tipping points between one set of climatic circumstances and another. As the report makes clear, current warming is unequivocal, and most of this is due to an increase in human-driven greenhouse gas concentrations. In a word we face not just climate change but climate destabilization.” According to Sir Crispin: “We also know more about the social and economic impacts of such change through the analysis in the Stern report on the Economics of Climate Change last year. We, and our successors, face a future different from either past or present. The sooner we can mitigate the effects, and adapt ourselves to the likely consequences, the less disruptive they will be.”

A first in modern history, Sir Crispin was made Hinchliffe and Honours Scholar at Oxford University. After leaving university in 1952 he completed two years of compulsory military service in the Middle East with the Coldstream Guards. His experiences as a soldier served him well when he later led the team in charge of NATO and European security matters as head of the Western Organisations Department for two years in 1972. On his return to England Sir Crispin, joined the Foreign Office. He was Chef de Cabinet to the President of the European Commission (1977-80), Ambassador to Mexico (1981-83), Permanent Secretary of the Overseas Development Administration (1984-87), and British Permanent Representative to the United Nations (1987-90). He then became Warden of Green College, Oxford (1990-97). Chancellor of the University of Kent (1996-2006). Among other things he was President of the Royal Geographical Society (1990-93); Chairman of the Board of the Climate Institute of Washington DC (1990-2002); Convenor of the Government Panel on Sustainable Development (1994-2000); a Trustee of the Baring Foundation (1992-2002); Inaugural Senior Visiting Fellow

at the Harvard University Center for the Environment (2002-3), and Advisor At Large to the President of Arizona State University from 2002. Since 1992 he has been a member of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development.

After a distinguished career in the Diplomatic Service and United Nations, Sir Crispin now spends most of his time driving home the message that nothing exists in isolation and everything is part of a bigger inter-dependent global eco-system and unless something changes, that very system is about to break down. “Climate change is a very formidable threat. The planet is seeing the highest level of carbon emissions for 460,000 years. There have been about 30 urban civilisations since the end of the last ice age and they have all collapsed. The reason for their collapses is always at least partly environmental.” Explains Sir Crispin.

Currently, Sir Crispin is the Director of the Policy Foresight Programme at the James Martin Institute for Science and Civilization at Oxford University. He is associated with other British universities as well as universities in the United States. As Tony Blair’s Science Advisor, Sir Crispin has advised on the importance of sustainable development. And from his home in Gloucestershire countryside he continues to inform, educates and advises governments, scientists and universities throughout the world on the importance of sustainable development. More recently, he has also become a judge, overseeing the innovations to come from Sir Richard Branson and former Vice President of the United States Al Gore’s, \$25 million Earth Challenge climate initiative competition.

He also believes politicians can use scientific research more effectively in the shaping of policy. “Scientific research always needs money, and on the whole climate change research has attracted a lot of funding. Indeed, if you pick up scientific journals today you will find that every issue contains results of some new climate change-related research. But the politicians have to do more than commission research; they need to change their policies. And this is proving much more difficult.”

Among Sir Crispin's published books are *Climate Change and World Affairs*, (1977, second edition 1986, Harvard International Affairs Committee) *Mary Anning of Lyme Regis*, with a preface by John Fowles (1996, 1998 and 2003). He has contributed to many books on environmental issues (including human population problems, and conservation of biodiversity). He was a member of two Government Task Forces: one on Urban Regeneration, the other on Potentially Hazardous Near Earth Objects. He has received many honours and distinctions.

Sir Crispin's lecture will be held on Friday, April 20, 2007 in the Gazebo Room at the Fairmont Hamilton Princess. There will be a cash bar reception at 6:30pm and the lecture will begin at 7:00pm. \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Reservations required, please telephone BIOS at 297-1880 extension 204 or e-mail [vanessa.shorto@bios.edu](mailto:vanessa.shorto@bios.edu).

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BIOS is an independent marine science organization founded in 1903 as the Bermuda Biological Station by scientists from Harvard and New York University to take advantage of Bermuda's ideal location for deep-ocean and coral reef research and education. BIOS is a Registered Bermuda Charity and a U.S. 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

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