



State of the Planet 2010

The Earth Institute at Columbia University, New York is organising the State of the Planet 2010 event on the 25th March 2010. Over 25 Universities from around the world are going to link up on March 25 to exchange views on how to tackle critical challenges facing the world. People will participate at event sites in several countries through direct links to the international debate, moderated from New York.

University of Mauritius is one of the Universities that will host a Global Classroom to listen into the dialogue and interact actively. We will be able to see and hear several of the world's most influential and innovative thinkers and leaders in a wide range of fields - from academia to media, government, policy and business.

The event will be held in New York from 8.30 am till 5.30 pm. **Given the time difference, the event will start in Mauritius at around 5.00 pm on the 25th March. Arrangements have been made in LT 1 for the live webcast, as from 4 pm.**

Those interested, please contact the local Event Coordinator, Assoc Prof Dr S Facknath, on 7673 or by e-mail sunif@uom.ac.mu

The 2010 conference will address four important challenges currently facing our world, namely:

Climate Change: Post-Copenhagen has brought considerable uncertainties about what it will take to complete a climate deal. Is there still hope for a legally binding treaty among countries? Who will take the initiative to try and achieve an agreement? Who will help bridge the huge gap between rich and poor countries?

Poverty: The deadline for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is only five years away. While many countries have done remarkably well (including Mauritius), many countries are still far from the set targets. What should be done to help countries reach their MDGs to acceptable levels in the short time remaining till 2015?

Economic Recovery: The economic crisis has hit many countries badly, with high unemployment rates, and escalating prices of basic commodities. Is the global economy reaching the end of the crisis? What have we learned from this crisis?

International Systems: The world is being hit by a number of simultaneous crisis – food crisis, economic recession, disease, and environmental disasters. How and what international systems do we develop to enable countries to respond to, and overcome, these crisis?

*Dr Sunita Facknath
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Local Coordinator, SOP 2010*

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