

ENVIRONMENTAL RISK: Perception and Reality
Friday 20 October 1995

PROGRAMME

- 08.45-09.20 Registration and coffee
- 09.20 Conference Opening by John Blundell, *IEA General Director*
- 09.30 **THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE**
Should we follow a risk-averse environmental policy?
Speaker: Dr John Adams, *Department of Geography, University College, London*
Discussion Chair: Dr Jo Ann Kwong, *Director of Public Affairs, Atlas Economic Research Foundation (U.S.), and Research Associate Professor, George Mason University (Fairfax, VA)*
- 10.15 **AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH**
Which institutions give us the greatest capacity for reducing risk? Is the precautionary principle itself risky?
Speaker: Fred Smith, *President, Competitive Enterprise Institute (Washington, DC)*
Discussion Chair: Dr Wilfred Beckerman, *Emeritus Fellow, Balliol College, Oxford*
- 11.00 Coffee
- 11.30 **PERCEPTION VERSUS REALITY I**
How do we determine the level at which environmental toxins present a serious risk?
Speaker: Dr James Le Fanu, *Columnist, The Sunday Telegraph*
Panelists: Dr Ian Carney, *Group Safety, Security, Health and Environmental Department, Imperial Chemical Industries plc*
Spence Clunie, *Manager, Professional and Regulatory Services, Procter & Gamble Ltd*
Mike Fisher, *Chairman, Whale Tankers Ltd, and Member H.M. Government's Deregulation Task Force*
Discussion Chair: Roger Nelson, *Group Manager, Environment, Health & Safety, BHP Minerals*
- 12.30 Lunch
- 13.45 **PERCEPTION VERSUS REALITY II**
Are claims of man-made climate change exaggerated, or are the risks as significant as predicted? Is there really scientific consensus on global warming?
Speaker: Dr Patrick Michaels, *Associate Professor of Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia, and State Climatologist for Virginia*
Panelists: Nigel Hawkes, *Science Editor, The Times*
Aubrey Meyer, *Director, Global Commons Institute*
Piers Corbyn, *Director, Weather Action*
Discussion Chair: Roger Turner, *Managing Director, United Gas*
- 15.15 Coffee/Tea
- 15.30 **RISK AND BUSINESS**
Is it possible to quantify risk and what are the implications for business?
Speakers: Niall Fraser, *Director, Risk and Opportunity Intelligence*
David Lascelles, *Natural Resources Editor, Financial Times*
Panelists: Dr Jo Ann Kwong, *Director of Public Affairs, Atlas Economic Research Foundation (U.S.)*
Eric Brandie, *Loss Prevention Manager, Chevron UK Ltd*
Phil Case, *Senior Manager, Environmental Risk Management Unit, Barclays Bank*
Fred Smith, *President, Competitive Enterprise Institute*
Discussion Chair: David Anderson, *Director of Engineering, Scottish Nuclear Ltd*
- 16.45 **Concluding Remarks**
Professor Colin Robinson, *IEA Editorial Director*
- 17.00 Conference Closure