

LEE KUAN YEW

# Distinguished Visitors Programme

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

## Prof Richard C. J. Somerville

Distinguished Professor Emeritus  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography  
University of California, San Diego, USA



Richard C. J. Somerville is Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego, USA. He is a theoretical meteorologist and an expert on computer simulations of the atmosphere.

He received the Ph. D. in meteorology from New York University in 1966 and has been a professor at Scripps since 1979. His research is on the role of clouds, cloud-radiation interactions, and cloud feedbacks in climate. His interests include all aspects of climate, including climate science outreach and the interface between science and public policy. He comments frequently on climate and environmental issues for the media.

Somerville has received awards from the American Meteorological Society for both his research and his popular book, *The Forgiving Air: Understanding Environmental Change*, a new edition of which will be published in late 2007. Among many other honors, he is a Fellow of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Meteorological Society.

He is a Coordinating Lead Author for the 2007 Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

### Public Lecture @ NUS

Date: Tuesday, 13 November 2007

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Theatre, University Cultural Centre

For enquiries, please contact Mr Daniel Tan at [LKYDVPL@nus.edu.sg](mailto:LKYDVPL@nus.edu.sg) or log on to [www.nus.edu.sg/lkydvp/](http://www.nus.edu.sg/lkydvp/) for further information.

### Public Lecture @ NTU

Date: Friday, 16 November 2007

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Lecture Theatre 2, Nanyang Avenue

For enquiries, please contact NTU at [ccomms@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:ccomms@ntu.edu.sg) or log on to [www.ntu.edu.sg/lkydvp/](http://www.ntu.edu.sg/lkydvp/) for further information.

### GLOBAL WARMING: THE LATEST WORD ON THE BEST SCIENCE

An international group of experts has just completed a thorough assessment of recent research on climate change science. This sobering document, published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2007, calls warming of the climate system “unequivocal” and attributes most of the observed recent global warming to human activities, with a confidence level of 90% or more. At the same time, new research shows that previous IPCC projections have not exaggerated the climate changes observed since 1990 and may even have underestimated some aspects of them. As human activities continue to modify the climate system, what will the implications be for rising sea level, hurricanes, and other phenomena? This talk summarizes the key scientific findings and points out areas where scientific confidence is high as well as unsolved scientific issues which await further research progress.

### SCIENCE INFORMING POLICY: THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has become the de facto voice of the mainstream scientific community, as the world seeks to understand the findings of climate science and their relevance to public policy. The IPCC has been immensely influential in the debate over anthropogenic climate change, and it has affected efforts to limit the emissions of gases that increase the greenhouse effect and cause global warming. The IPCC was established in 1988 to provide an authoritative assessment of results from climate science as an input to policymakers. Its mandate is to assess research, not to do research. Its reports are policy-relevant but not policy-prescriptive. Thousands of scientists throughout the world have contributed to the IPCC effort. This talk provides an IPCC participant's view of what the IPCC is and how it works.