

Focus on Global Warming and Air Quality in Latin America New Clean Air Institute Established

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WASHINGTON, July 13, 2006 – The World Bank today announced the creation of the Clean Air Institute, a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve air quality and fight climate change caused by global warming. The Institute will manage the Clean Air Initiative for Latin American Cities (CAI-LAC), a partnership for cities, private sector and non-governmental organizations, originally implemented and operated by the World Bank.

In 2005, CAI-LAC members determined that the program should be managed and operated in an independent fashion to expand the scope of activities and include more members. After a competitive process, the Breakthrough Technologies Institute (BTI) was selected to host the new Clean Air Institute. BTI is a Washington, D.C. based non-profit organization that promotes solutions to air pollution, global warming and other public policy challenges.

“The Clean Air Institute will play a pivotal role in helping cities reduce greenhouse gas emissions and clean the air,” said **Mario Molina, Chairman of the Institute’s Board of Directors and winner of the 1995 Nobel Prize in Chemistry** for his work to protect the Earth’s fragile ozone layer in the upper atmosphere. *“The Institute will serve as an important bridge between cities seeking solutions and donors, government agencies, and solution providers from the private sector”.*

“The World Bank will continue to be engaged with the Clean Air Initiative agenda through investment operations related to urban transport, energy, and environment; and through development policy lending operations directly related to enhancing air quality management in the region,” said **Abel Mejia, Environment Sector Manager for the Latin America and Caribbean Region at the World Bank**.

“We are confident that the newly created Clean Air Institute will be a key partner in this effort by, among other things, serving as a forum for regional strategy and project development, as well as for channeling training, technical assistance, and information exchange throughout the region,” **Mejia** added.

Air Pollution in Latin America

- Latin America is the most highly urbanized region in the developing world. Over 75% of the region’s population lives in urban areas, and this is expected to grow to 89% by 2030.
- The transportation sector is the leading cause of air pollution in Latin American cities, leading to significant health impacts.
- For example, 4,000 premature deaths occur every year in Santiago as a result of air pollution Latin America has 133 cities with over 500,000 in population, providing many opportunities to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Source: World Bank research

The Institute will additionally identify funding opportunities, build public support, and promote partnerships for project development and implementation. It will collaborate with the World Bank and the Municipal Government of Sao Paulo in organizing the CAI-LAC’s Biannual Conference to be held on July 24-27, 2006 in Sao Paulo, Brazil. This conference will highlight the role of sustainable transportation systems in mitigating climate change and improving air quality. Programs to be discussed during the conference will include better emission controls, improved public transportation, better management of travel demand, improved land use and

transportation planning, and promoting bicycle and pedestrian travel.

What is the Clean Air Initiative for Latin American Cities?

CAI-LAC was originally formed by the World Bank to provide a forum for cities in Latin America to exchange information on air quality programs. CAI-LAC members include Bogotá, Colombia; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Lima-Callao, Peru; Mexico City, Mexico; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Santiago, Chile; and São Paulo, Brazil. Other organizations that have supported CAI-LAC are the Companhia Estadual de Tecnologia de Saneamento Ambiental (CETESB); Environment Canada; Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ); The Inter-American Development Bank (IADB); The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS); Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO); US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA); the Shell Foundation; DaimlerChrysler; the Volvo Group; Renault; Asociación Regional de Empresas de Petróleo Gas Natural en Latinoamérica y el Caribe (ARPEL); International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI); and the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA).

Who are in the Institute's Board of Directors?

Dr. Mario Molina, born in Mexico, finished his undergraduate studies on chemical engineering in Mexico, graduated from the University of Freiburg, Germany in 1967, and got his Ph.D. degree in physical chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1972.

In 1995, Mario Molina received a Nobel Prize in chemistry for his work in atmospheric chemistry and the effect of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) on the depletion of the ozone layer. He shared the Nobel Prize with F. Sherwood Rowland and Paul Crutzen. This was the first time a Nobel Prize for research into the impact of man-made objects on the environment was awarded. After more than sixteen years developing research on global atmospheric chemistry issues at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Mario Molina moved in 2005 to the University of California, San Diego, and also to Mexico City, where he created a new center for strategic studies in energy and environment.

Today, Dr. Molina is one of the world's most knowledgeable experts on pollution and the effects of chemical pollution on the environment. He collaborates with colleagues from many other disciplines on the problem of rapidly growing cities with serious air pollution problems.

Dr. Alan C. Lloyd is currently the President of The International Council on Clean Transportation. Most recently he served as the Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in December 2004. Previously, Dr. Lloyd served as the Chairman to the California Air Resources Board, a branch of the California Environmental Protection Agency, appointed by Governor Gray Davis in February 1999 and reappointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in August 2004.

Dr. Lloyd served as the Executive Director of the Energy and Environmental Engineering Center for the Desert Research Institute at the University and Community College System of Nevada, Reno. Previously, Dr. Lloyd was the chief scientist at the South Coast Air Quality Management District from 1988 to 1996, where he managed the Technology Advancement office that funded public-private partnerships to stimulate advanced technologies and cleaner fuels.

Dr. Lloyd was the 2003 Chairman of the California Fuel Cell Partnership and is a co-founder of the California Stationary Fuel Cell collaborative. He is a past chairman of the U.S. Department of Energy Hydrogen Technical Advisory Panel (HTAP).

Dr. Lloyd, 63, earned both his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Ph.D. in Gas Kinetics at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, U.K.

Richard Ayres, principal of the Ayres Law Group, Washington, is one of the US' most well-respected environmental attorneys. He has shaped the Clean Air Act and its implementation since its inception and

has been involved in many of the most significant law and policy issues surrounding the Act. In 1970 he co-founded the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), one of the nation's most influential environmental organizations.

Mr. Ayres led the National Clean Air Coalition during Congressional consideration of amendments to the Clean Air Act in 1977, 1980, and 1990. He has served on numerous blue ribbon panels concerned with national air policy, and has been honored by the Yale Law School Association of Washington and the Yale Environmental Law Association for his outstanding service to public interest law.

Mr. Ayres received his A.B. degree from Princeton in 1964 and his M.A. and LL.B. degrees from Yale in 1969.

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