



AAAS NEWS AND NOTES

edited by Tiffany Ayers

FELLOWS

New Zealand's Environment Minister Addresses AAAS Fellows



Simon Upton

New Zealand's Minister of the Environment Simon Upton discussed strategies for managing environmental risks when he addressed the incoming class of AAAS Science and Engineering Fellows on 2 September. Upton's remarks were delivered

at the inaugural Robert C. Barnard Environmental Lecture, honoring Washington, D.C., lawyer Robert Barnard for his contributions to environmental and public health law.

Upton called for more research on global climate change and discussed the risks associated with releasing modified organisms into the environment. "Ours is a country that has been witness to devastating consequences of biological releases—the first of which is humans," Upton said. He described how the arrival of humans, rabbits, and possums has threatened the country's population of birds. But any attempts to use genetically modified organisms to combat the loss of the bird population—for example, interfering with the fertility of possums—should be carefully considered. "People shouldn't jump into assessments of risk without some kind of framework," Upton said.

Upton, who is also New Zealand's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, has been a Member of Parliament since he was first elected in 1981, at age 23. The lecture was endowed by the law firm of Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton to honor Barnard, who is counsel to the firm and whose career as an attorney spans more than 50 years. Barnard, who was a guest at the lecture, was also honored for his long-time service on the selection committee of AAAS's Environmental Fellowship Program.

The lecture, held in the AAAS auditorium, was attended by some 130 people, including representatives of the Washington environmental policy community and the 1999–2000 AAAS Fellows. AAAS offers seven science policy fellowship programs

that place postdoctoral and mid-career scientists and engineers in legislative and executive branch offices. The fellowships deal with Congress, defense policy, global stewardship, diplomacy, risk policy, environment, and technology policy.

For information on AAAS Science and Engineering Fellowship Programs, call 202-326-6700 or visit the fellowship Web site at fellowships.aaas.org.

INTERNATIONAL

U.S. and Japanese Legislators Talk Science

Members of the U.S. Congress met with their counterparts in Japan's National Diet this summer to discuss something both sides have in common: science and technology issues.

The Congress-Diet Program of Legislative Exchange on Science and Technology was held from 28 August to 2 September in Tokyo. More than 30 people participated in the meeting, the first in a planned annual exchange between U.S. and Japanese legislators. The meeting was organized by AAAS, which has received an initial grant from the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, an independent U.S. government agency.

"This program will hopefully lead to regular legislative exchanges between the elected representatives of the American and Japanese people," said Mike Snyder, director of AAAS's Pacific Rim Initiative. "The program aims to build a mutually beneficial mechanism for dialogue and discussion of science and technology issues that are of increasing interest to the U.S. and Japanese legislators and the public they represent."

The U.S. delegation was led by Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.), chair of the House Science Committee, and by Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas), chair of the Subcommittee on Basic Research. A multi-party group led by senior Diet member and Japanese science and technology policy leader Koji Omi hosted the U.S. group.

The meeting covered such issues as government budget setting processes for science and technology (S&T), the economic role of S&T, and university-industry S&T collaboration. During the meeting, the U.S. legislators visited Japanese scientific institutions and research facilities, including the Mitsubishi Heavy Industry Tobishima plant in Nagoya.

Japan recently has placed emphasis on its basic scientific research, under new science and technology laws. At the meeting, AAAS encouraged international access to research data and increased coordination between U.S. and Japanese scientists. The program raised other topics of mutual interest, including global climate change, the international space station, nuclear fusion energy, and information technology.

AAAS plans to continue with the meetings each year, alternating the location between the United States and Japan.

GOVERNANCE

Annual Elections

Ballots for the 1999 election of the AAAS president-elect, members of the Board of Directors and Committee on Nominations, and section officers were mailed to all active AAAS members (as of the 20 August issue of *Science*). Please return your marked ballot by 12 November. Ballots postmarked after that date will not be counted. If you do not receive a ballot by mid-October, contact Linda McDaniel at lmcdanie@aaas.org or by fax at 202-371-9526.

AAAS members can nominate candidates (including themselves) for president-elect and the Board of Directors for election in the fall of 2000 for terms beginning in February 2001. For a list of this year's candidates, see AAAS News & Notes in the 25 June issue of *Science*; for a list of current Board members, see the masthead page of any recent *Science* issue. Please send nominee's curriculum vitae no later than 29 October to Gretchen Seiler, AAAS Executive Office, 1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005. Nominations will be considered by the AAAS Committee on Nominations at its December meeting.