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**SPE Plastics Environmental Division**

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## **GPEC 2009 Luncheon Keynote Speaker:**

**Dr. John Christy, Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric Science and Director of the Earth System Science Center at the University of Alabama in Huntsville**

### **Abstract:**

Though global warming has garnered considerable attention in the political realm as a non-debatable issue, the notion that scientists can understand the global climate system with such precision that they can confidently predict its evolution is not supported by the evidence, according to Dr. Christy. He will demonstrate that published, observational datasets, many of which he and UAHuntsville colleagues have constructed from scratch, do not support the hypothesis that climate change is due to the human-enhanced greenhouse effect.

### **Biography:**

Dr. John R. Christy is the Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric Science and Director of the Earth System Science Center at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, where he began studying global climate issues in 1987. Since November 2000, he has been Alabama's state climatologist. In 1989 Dr. Roy W. Spencer (then a NASA/Marshall scientist and now a Principal Research Scientist at UAH) and Christy developed a global temperature data set from microwave data observed from satellites beginning in 1979. For this work, the Spencer-Christy team was awarded NASA's Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement in 1991. In 1996, they were selected to receive a Special Award by the American Meteorological Society "for developing a global, precise record of earth's temperature from operational polar-orbiting satellites, fundamentally advancing our ability to monitor climate." In 2002, Christy was inducted as a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society.

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Dr. Christy has served as a contributor (1992, 1994, 1996 and 2007) and lead author (2001) for the U.N. reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (the organization that shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize), in which the satellite temperatures were included as a high-quality data set for studying global climate change. He has served on five National Research Council panels or committees, has performed research funded by NASA, NOAA, DOE, DOT, and the State of Alabama, and has published many articles, including studies appearing in *Science*, *Nature*, *Journal of Climate*, and *The Journal of Geophysical Research*. Dr. Christy has provided testimony to congressional committees, has appeared on CNN, CNN-Headline News, ABC 20/20, CNBC, CBS Evening News, and NPR, and has been quoted in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal* and many more.

Dr. Christy received M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in atmospheric sciences from the University of Illinois (1984, 1987). He graduated from the California State University in Fresno (B.A., mathematics, 1973; Distinguished Alumnus, 2007) and taught physics and chemistry as a missionary teacher in Nyeri, Kenya, for two years. He also earned a Master of Divinity degree from Golden Gate Baptist Seminary (1978) and served four years as a bivocational mission-pastor in Vermillion, South Dakota, where he also taught college math. He was featured in the February 2001 issue of *Discover* magazine and in a National Public Radio profile in 2004.

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