

## Speaker Bios



**Dr. Al Binger** is a research scientist with almost 30 years experience and training in diverse scientific areas, including Chemical Engineering, Biophysics, Agronomy, Renewable Energy, and Climate Change. Dr. Binger currently serves as Energy Science Advisor for the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), located in Belmopan, Belize, and Science and Policy advisor to Alliance of Small Island States.. From 1997-2005, he was Professor and Director for the University of the West Indies Centre for Environment and Development (UWICED), the regional institution in the Caribbean designated to provide research, training and information related to developing capacity on environment and development issues affecting small island states. Since 1993, he has been a Visiting Professor at Saga University, Japan, where he is involved in research on Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC). Prior to joining UWICED, he was Director of the Global Environment Division to the Rockefeller Foundation in New York from 1992 – 1997.



**Graciela Chichilnisky** has worked extensively in the Kyoto Protocol process, creating and designing the carbon market that has become international law in 2005. Working closely for several years with negotiators of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the organization in charge of deciding world policy with respect to global warming, Professor Chichilnisky acted as a lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The IPCC received the 2007 Nobel Prize for their work in this area. In 1997, when the Kyoto Protocol was signed by 163 nations, Dr. Chichilnisky authored the Protocol language that led to the creation of the carbon market.

Chichilnisky is the creator of the formal theory of sustainable development, providing axioms and developing the notion of sustainable development in economics in 1992. A special adviser to several UN organizations and heads of state, her pioneering work uses innovative market mechanisms to reduce carbon emissions, conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services and improve the lot of the poor. The author of fourteen books and 222 scientific articles published in the preeminent academic journals covering economics, finance and mathematics, Professor Chichilnisky is an active researcher and writes and speaks extensively on globalization and the global environment, is professor of Economics and Mathematical Statistics and a University Senator at Columbia University in New York, and the Sir Louis Matheson Distinguished Visiting Professor at Monash University in Australia. Dr. Chichilnisky studied at MIT and UC Berkeley, holds two Ph.D. degrees in Mathematics and in Economics respectively, and taught at Harvard, Essex and Stanford Universities. Her website is <http://www.chichilnisky.com>.



United States Representative **Yvette D. Clarke** is a Brooklyn native whose roots are firmly planted in her Jamaican heritage. A product of the New York City Public School System, Rep. Clarke received a scholarship to Oberlin College and was a recipient of the prestigious APPAH/Sloan Fellowship in Public Policy and Policy Analysis.

Rep. Clarke was elected to Congress in November 2006 and represents the 11th Congressional District which includes Brownsville, Crown Heights, East Flatbush, Flatbush, Windsor Terrace, Borough Park, Sunset Park, Carroll Gardens, Kensington, Park Slope, Prospect Heights, Prospect-Lefferts Gardens and Prospect Park.

Prior to being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, she served on the New York City Council representing the 40th District in Brooklyn. She succeeded her pioneering mother, former City Council Member Una S. T. Clarke, making them the first mother-daughter succession in the history of the Council.

As the Congressional Representative of the 11th district, she is committed to continuing the district's legacy of excellence as set forth by the late Honorable Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman and Caribbean American elected to Congress. As an activist, a community organizer and now as a legislator, Rep. Clarke's boldness, compassion and love for humanity has allowed her to become an effective leader and an outspoken advocate on numerous issues of great importance to her constituents.

Rep. Clarke sits on several committees including the House Education and Labor Committee, the House Homeland Security Committee and the House Small Business Committee.

Just two years in office, Rep. Clarke was appointed Chairwoman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity and Science and Technology for the 111th Congress. Under her leadership, this Committee will exercise its oversight jurisdiction on a variety of issues, including cybersecurity, biodefense, pandemic influenza preparedness, nuclear detection, mitigating radiological attacks, agro-terrorism, and research and development within the Department of Homeland Security.

Known among the community for being forthright and straightforward, she is often called the "authentic voice of Brooklyn." Rep. Clarke plans on using this voice to make the needs of her community a priority within the 111th Congress as the newly appointed Whip for the Congressional Black Caucus and the Senior Whip for the Democratic Caucus. The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc., (CBCF) also recently welcomed Rep. Yvette D. Clarke of New York to its Board of Directors.

A strong advocate of community-building, she has worked with community groups and appropriators in order to secure several million dollars in federal funding for the district. As a result, major institutions received funds, including the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Brooklyn Bo-

tanic Garden, the Brooklyn Public Library, the Brooklyn Children's Museum, the Prospect Park Alliance and the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT).

As a testament to what Representative Clarke has accomplished in her first term, she received an "A" rating from the Drum Major Institute, TheMiddleClass.org, 100% by Peace Action, The Brady Campaign and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). She was also named After-School Hero by The After-School Corporation for her work on the House Education and Labor Committee. In May 2009, Rep. Clarke was also presented with an honorary Doctorate Law Degree from St. Francis College.

Rep. Clarke currently resides in the neighborhood where she grew up in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn.



**Kevin Conrad** is executive director for the Coalition for Rainforest Nations, an intergovernmental initiative which seeks to better align market incentives with sustainable outcomes related to tropical forests ([www.RainforestCoalition.org](http://www.RainforestCoalition.org)). With a Secretariat at Columbia University, the Coalition facilitates the development of proactive strategies toward environmentally sustainable economic growth.

Mr. Conrad has advised governments in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific related to sustainable development, economic reform, and investment incentive programs. He also has extensive business investment and operational experience within developing nations. Further, Mr. Conrad has advised international corporations, academic institutions and international agencies related to global strategy, policy development and effective execution.

Presently on faculty at the School for International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, Mr. Conrad earned a B.S. from the University of Southern California and has advanced degrees from the London Business School and Columbia Business School.



**Peter Eisenberger** has studied and worked in the applied sciences field for more than four decades. He started his career at Bell Laboratories in 1968 where from 1974-1981 he was a department head and his research interests involved using X-ray produced by Synchrotron radiation to study the structural properties of complex solids and surfaces. In 1981, Eisenberger joined Exxon Research and Engineering Company as Director of their Physical Sciences laboratory, where he remained until 1989.

In 1989, Dr. Eisenberger was appointed Professor of Physics and Director of the Princeton Materials Institute at Princeton University. From 1996-1999, he was appointed Vice Provost of the Earth Institute and Director of Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University and

today remains a Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia, though currently on sabbatical leave. Eisenberger also was a director at Cross Border Exchange from 2000-2003.

Throughout his work career, Eisenberger has remained active in various academic roles and scientific associations. He was a consulting professor at Stanford University's Applied Physics Department from 1981-1987, chair of the Advanced Photon Steering Committee and a participant in National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and Department of Energy (DOE) studies. Eisenberger is a fellow of both the American Physical Society and the American Association of the Advancement of Science. He was one of the authors of the National Action Plan for Materials Science and Engineering and was a member of the Commission of the Future of the National Science Foundation (NSF). He was chair of the Advisory Committee in the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Division of the NSF. Additional affiliations include Chairman of the Board of the Invention Factory Science Center, Member of the Board of Trustees for New Jersey's Inventors Hall of Fame, Director of Associated Institutions for Materials Science, and organizer of several NSF/DOE Conferences. He was appointed by the Governor of New Jersey to the New Jersey Commission on Science and Technology and is a member of the GEO2000 Task Force of the NSF.

Peter Eisenberger attended Princeton University from 1959-1963, where he received a B.A. in Physics with honors. He received a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship for his first year at Harvard University and a Harvard Fellowship for his second year. He graduated in 1967 from Harvard University with Ph.D. in Applied Physics and remained at Harvard for one year as a Post Doctoral Fellow, where he did research in both biophysics and on the polaron problem.



Since 2001, **Mike Honda** has represented the 15th Congressional District of California in the U.S. House of Representatives. His district includes Silicon Valley, the birthplace of technology innovation and the leading region for the development of the technologies of tomorrow. Mike has been a public servant for decades during which he has been lauded for his work on education, transportation, civil rights, national service, the environment and high-tech issues.

Mike was born in California, but spent his early childhood with his family in an internment camp in Colorado during World War II. After a decade living in Chicago, his family returned to California in 1953, becoming strawberry sharecroppers in San José's Blossom Valley. In 1965, Mike interrupted his college studies to answer President John F. Kennedy's call for volunteer service. He served in the Peace Corps for two years in El Salvador, returning with a passion for teaching and fluent in Spanish.

Mike earned Bachelor's degrees in Biological Sciences and Spanish, and a Master's degree in Education from San José State University. In his career as an educator, Mike was a science teacher, served as a principal at two public schools, and conducted educational research at Stanford University.

In 1971, Mike was appointed by then-Mayor Norm Mineta to San Jose's Planning Commission. In 1981, Mike won his first election, gaining a seat on the San José Unified School Board. In 1990, Mike was elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, where he led efforts to acquire and preserve open space in the county.

Mike served in the California State Assembly from 1996 to 2000. In 2000, Mike was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and serves on the Appropriations Committee, with postings on that body's Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, Commerce, Justice, and Science, and Legislative Branch Subcommittees. As an appropriator, Mike focuses on directing funding to critical areas such as: access to affordable healthcare; worker training; port and border security; law enforcement and the safety of our neighborhoods; health care for our veterans; recovery from natural disasters, particularly Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Ike.

Mike is serving his sixth year as Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, coordinating with his colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Caucuses to champion the causes of under-represented communities by promoting social justice, racial tolerance, and civil rights. In 2007, he was named House Democratic Senior Whip by House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (D-SC). Senior Whips are a select group of Members and Democratic Caucus opinion leaders tasked with strategic planning about how issues impact targeted Members or groups, and will help develop strategies to ensure legislative success.

Mike is widowed and has two grown children. His wife, Jeanne, was a teacher at Baldwin Elementary School in San José before her untimely passing in 2004. His son, Mark, is an aerospace engineer and Michelle, his daughter, is a public health educator with three young boys.



**H.E. Francis Lorenzo** is the Alt. Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the UN and focal point at the Dominican Mission in charge of work and initiatives relating to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Information and Communication Technology (ICT), South-South Cooperation, and Public-Private Partnership. Lorenzo is the Founder and Vice-Chair of the Public-Private Alliance Foundation. He worked with the UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development and the Economic and Social Council to negotiate the resolution that named the Dominican Republic as the second pilot country for the UN Alliance.

Ambassador Lorenzo is presently serving as the chair of the MDG Awards Committee where the president of the 62nd and 63rd Secretary of the General Assembly as well as the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda have received the award. Lorenzo was the former Vice President of the Commission for Social Development and the Founder of the United Nations Association of the Dominican Republic (UNA-DR), which has brought together key stakeholders in the country. Under the leadership of President Dr. Leonel Fernandez, the Dominican Republic is the only coun-

try using Model UN in its public schools.



**Sasha Mackler** is Research Director of the National Commission on Energy Policy. He joined the Commission in 2002 after spending several years in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Air Markets Division. At the Commission, Sasha conducts work on the economic, technological, and environmental aspects of energy production and consumption. His focus is on the potential for low carbon energy technologies to diminish the risks of climate change and enhance U.S. energy security and, in particular, how these technologies could be developed and deployed at a large scale.

While at the EPA, Sasha was involved in the design and evaluation of national emissions trading programs. He also had a lead role in overseeing the Agency's primary economic modeling tool for the electricity sector. Sasha's technical expertise includes economic and financial analysis, the engineering of energy production, and emissions trading policy design. Prior to his graduate studies and employment with the EPA, Sasha lived in London and worked with an engineering firm specializing in high performance building design. Sasha holds a B.S. in Geo-Mechanical Engineering from the University of Rochester and both an M.S. in Earth Resources Engineering and an M.P.A. from Columbia University. Sasha lives in Maryland with his wife Ana and their son Soren.



Prior to the Carbon War Room, **Jigar Shah** served as CEO of Sun Edison. Sun Edison owns and maintains solar systems on customers' rooftops; customers buy solar power from SunEdison on a quarterly basis.

Before Sun Edison, Mr. Shah was the manager for the U.S. Marketing Group at BP Solar. He was focused on helping identify ways for BP Solar to structure its channels and delivery mechanisms to increase its market share of the growing U.S. solar electricity business. Mr. Shah also served as head of U.S. Commercial Sales at BP Solar, and as an analyst within the Business Development Group. Mr. Shah joined BP Solar in 1999.

Prior to 1999, Mr. Shah worked in several other positions in the renewable energy industry, including at Energetics, a federal government consulting group where Mr. Shah was focused on fuel cells and alternative fuels for vehicles; and at Atlantic Orient Corporation, a wind power company in Vermont, where he completed one of the most successful projects in the wind energy at Kotzebue, Alaska.

He started at AstroPower (which has since been purchased by GE Solar) as an engineer on the chemical processing line. Mr. Shah received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign and a master of business administration in 2000 from the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland at College Park.



**Ms. Dessima Williams** has served as the Chair of AOSIS since the spring of 2007. She was appointed the Ambassador of Grenada to the United Nations on 17 February, 2009.

Ms. Williams holds a doctorate in international relations and a master's degree in international development from the American University in Washington, D.C., 1995, in addition to a bachelor's degree in international relations from the University of Minnesota, 1976.

Ms. Williams' diplomatic service includes serving as Grenada's NGO observer/delegate to various General Assembly sessions; NGO delegate to the 1995 Fourth United Nations Conference on Women and NGO Forum in Beijing; and NGO delegate to the World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen, Denmark, also in 1995. She serves on the board of the Inter-Agency Group of Development Organizations in Grenada, and the Center for International Policy in Washington, D.C., among others.

Ms. Williams has extensive academic experience, as an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Social Policy at Brandeis University, from 2003 to 2006; visiting Professor at Florida Atlantic University in 2002; and Jacob Ziskind Visiting Associate Professor of Sociology, also at Brandeis University, from 1992 to 1995. She is the author of the report *Gender Dimensions of HIV/AIDS in Grenada*, and was a co-author of a multi-volume report to the United Kingdom Department for International Development, *Realization of Human Rights in the Caribbean Territories*,