For Immediate Release

Countdown for Global Conference for Ecological Civilization
Bill McKibben Keynotes

The most ambitious transdisciplinary event ever on behalf of the planet.

Public Is Invited to Participate, Register for June 2015 Conference in Claremont, CA

CLAREMONT, CA (Jan. 30, 2015) – The countdown has begun for an ambitious global event for world loyalty to be held in Claremont, CA this summer. “Some 1,000 leading experts and original thinkers from up to thirty countries are coming together for the largest transdisciplinary conference ever held on behalf of the planet,” announced the American philosopher, theologian and environmentalist John B Cobb, Jr., intellectual architect of the upcoming international conference. The event brings together thought leaders and activists alike across multiple fields who are working against planetary catastrophe and for the Earth. More than eighty themes will be explored by working groups. Confirmed speakers include 350.org’s Bill McKibben, the Indian environmentalist Vandana Shiva, China’s leading environmental activist Sheri Liao, The Land Institute’s Wes Jackson, the pioneer of ecological economics Herman Daly, and political theorist William Connolly. David Griffin, the father of constructive postmodernism, will be the banquet speaker, with theologian Harvey Cox responding. Titled “Seizing an Alternative: Toward an Ecological Civilization,” the conference will be held June 4-7, 2015 on the campus of Pomona College and other Claremont colleges in Claremont, CA. The conference is organized by the Center for Process Studies and is the inaugural event of an ambitious new initiative in Earth-centered public scholarship and civic engagement, Pando Populus.

According to organizers, numerous events have been held in the past focusing on one aspect or another of ecological concern. “Seizing an Alternative” promises to be unique in scale and scope. “Over the course of four days, economists will sit down with ecologists, educators with philosophers, biologists with social scientists, and Chinese officials with representatives of the world’s religions,” said the conference’s communications head Eugene Shirley. “They will consider the cultural conditions necessary for a thriving ecosphere.” The plan and the purpose of the conference is to challenge some of the most basic assumptions of the modern industrial world and
propose an ecological paradigm as opposed to isolated fixes. Shirley continued, “Unfortunately, we’ve learned it isn’t enough to drive a hybrid car and eat organic food. To create an ecological civilization requires deeper, more radical changes.” Professor Cobb put it this way, “To see the world with ecological relations at its core means never to see it in the same way again.”

John Cobb, who will be 90 years old at the time of the 2015 conference, has been called the most important living philosophical theologian. He is a pioneer at the intersection of the environment, philosophy, and ethics. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Bill McKibben will open the conference with his presentation *Climate Warming as a Civilizational Crisis*. McKibben is the founder of 350.org, a global climate movement to preserve a livable planet. He is credited with writing the first book on global warming titled *The End of Nature*. The second night speaker is Indian activist Vandana Shiva, founder of *Naydanya*, a women-centered movement for the protection of biological and cultural diversity. Shiva will speak on *The Misuse of Science in the Global Crisis*. For more information, visit: www.PandoPopulus.com. Registration: www.Whitehead2015.

The cost of the four-day conference is $300 with early registration ($400 after April 2015). There are reduced rates for seniors, students, and low-income participants.

“Seizing an Alternative” unites the 10th International Whitehead Conference with the 9th International Conference on Ecological Civilization.

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