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2012 Annual Meeting

When: October 18-19

Where: Smithsonian Institute's Ripley Center Theatre, Washington D.C.

Research Symposium Theme: "The Role Of Ecosystem Science In National Security"

Webcast (2012 AERC Research Symposium) - Recorded 2012-10-18

2012 AERC Research Symposium



The Annual Meeting was held in Washington DC 2012-10-17 (Wednesday) and 2012-10-18 (Thursday). **This was the first joint annual meeting between the Association for Ecosystem Research Centers (AERC) and NEON, Inc. The theme of this year's AERC's meeting is "The Role of Ecosystem Science in National Security"**. The theme of this year's NEON meeting is "Continental-scale ecology: informing our national priorities". The AERC and NEON meeting events provide a rich suite of opportunities to learn about emerging topics and network with scientists from different communities.

Meeting Links

- [Symposium Presentations](#)
- [Program \(PDF\)](#)
- [President's Letter \(PDF\)](#)
- [The 2012 AERC Congressional Briefing and Research Symposium \(PDF\)](#)
- [RSVP for AERC and NEON meetings](#)
- [NEON Agenda](#)

This year, the Association of Ecosystem Research Centers (AERC) is holding our Annual Congressional Briefing and Research Symposium in Washington DC on Thursday, October 18th with our Annual Business meeting the following morning on October 19th, Friday.

The AERC Board is very excited about the Research Symposium this year. Our 2012 theme is "The Role of Ecosystem Science in National Security", which builds on the Symposium last year that dealt with Ecosystem Services and their Importance to Humans. This event immediately follows the Annual NEON members meeting on October 17th. This year, members of each organization have been invited to attend both organizations' meetings. AERC Members are requested to go to [this web site](#) to RSVP for both the NEON and the AERC Meetings.

Thank you in advance, and the Board of Directors look forward to seeing you in Washington, DC this October.



2012 AERC Symposium

October 18

The Ripley Center Theater, Smithsonian Institute, Washington D.C.

"The Role Of Ecosystem Science In National Security"

The Program: Building on last year's briefing topic of Benefits of Ecosystem to Humans in the 21st Century in which the theme focused on the benefits that ecosystems provide society; sometimes referred to as "ecosystem services", this year's Briefing will address on ***The Role of Ecosystem Science to National Security***. Presentations by nationally recognized experts with focus on the importance of ecosystem science to 1) water security, 2) food security, 3) energy security, and 4) disease transmission. These presentations will be interdisciplinary in scope and will couple the natural sciences that are the core of ecosystem research with their connections to social issues important to the future of this country and the world.

12:00 - 1:00 pm

Lunch for registered attendees (please register)

1:00 - 4:45 pm

Welcome

Scott Miller Ph.D., Deputy Undersecretary for Science, the Smithsonian

Welcome and Introduction

David E. Smith Ph.D., President of the Association of Ecosystem Research Centers (AERC)

Presentations

Title: **Human Ecology, Human Resilience, Human Security**

Howard Passell, Len Malczynski, Marissa Reno, Daniel Villa

Presented by: Howard Passell Ph.D., Sandia National Laboratory, Albuquerque, New Mexico
([Abstract/Bio](#))

Title: **Societal Reliance on the Global Freshwater Resources**

Presented by: Paolo D'Odorico Ph.D., Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia
([Abstract/Bio](#))

Title: **The Role of Ecosystem Science in Food Security**

Presented by: Molly E. Brown Ph.D., Biospheric Sciences Branch, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
([Abstract/Bio](#))

Title: **Environmental Consequences of Past and Future Energy Production in the United States**

Presented by: Avner Vengosh Ph.D., Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University
([Abstract/Bio](#))

Title: **Environmental Change, Infectious Disease, and Biosecurity**

Presented by: Richard S. Ostfeld Ph.D., Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies
([Abstract/Bio](#))

4:45 - 5:00 pm

Flash presentations

Flash presentations by representatives of federal funding agencies about opportunities and direction for the next year will follow Presentations.

5:00 - 6:30 pm

Reception

Reception for attendees following the Symposium.

2012 AERC Congressional Briefing

(Final Program)

Theme: The Role of Ecosystem Science in National Security

Time/Location: Thursday October 18, 2012, 9:30 AM, Rayburn House Office Building, Rm. 2325

Program: Building on last year's briefing topic of *Benefits of Ecosystem to Humans in the 21st Century* in which the theme focused on the benefits that ecosystems provide society; sometimes referred to as "ecosystem services", this year's Briefing will address on ***The Role of Ecosystem Science to National Security***. Presentations by nationally recognized experts with focus on the importance of ecosystem science to 1) water security, 2) food security, 3) energy security, and 4) disease transmission. These presentations will be interdisciplinary in scope and will couple the natural sciences that are the core of ecosystem research with their connections to social issues important to the future of this country and the world.

Welcome and Introduction

David E. Smith Ph.D., President of the Association of Ecosystem Research Centers (AERC)

Title: Human Ecology, Human Resilience, Human Security

Howard Passell, Len Malczynski, Marissa Reno, Daniel Villa

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Presented by: Richard S. Ostfeld Ph.D., Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies

Discussion and Questions



<http://www.ecosystemresearch.org>

August 15, 2012

Hello AERC Institutional Member:

As President of the Association of Ecosystem Research Centers (AERC), I would like to invite our member institutions and their AERC representatives to our Annual Research Symposium this coming October in Washington DC. This year AERC has joined with NEON, the National Ecological Observatory Network, to plan our groups' annual member meetings back-to-back allowing members to participate in both meetings, which will broaden the exposure of both organization's members to the material presented at each meeting.

AERC has invited NEON members to the AERC Research Symposium beginning the afternoon of Thursday, Oct 18th, and to our Annual Business Meeting the morning of the 19th, Friday. Similarly, NEON has invited all AERC members to attend their annual members meeting, scheduled for all day Wednesday, October 17th. NEON's meeting theme is *Continental Scale Ecology: Informing National Priorities*.

The theme of this year's AERC meeting is *The Role of Ecosystem Science in National Security*. We are arranging for speakers to present papers on the role and importance of ecosystem science to 1) water security, 2) food security, 3) energy security, and 4) disease transmission. We are also working hard to arrange a presentation by one of the military/intelligence agencies that deal with environmental issues and national security. The AERC symposium will be held in the Smithsonian's Ripley Center Theater beginning at 1300, October, 18th. The Ripley Center is immediately adjacent to the Smithsonian Metro stop on the Mall. AERC is arranging lunch for our membership in the Theater from 1200 – 1300 prior to the start of the Symposium. A reception will follow immediately after the Symposium. On October 19th, beginning at 0900 our Association will host our annual business meeting in a room adjacent to the Ripley Theater. Our Research Symposium agenda can be found at our AERC web site, www.ecosystemresearch.org/, and is also attached to this email, along with a copy of this letter in PDF format.

On the morning of the 18th, our symposium speakers will meet with Congressional members and staff and selected NGO guests as part of our annual Congressional Hill Briefing dealing with the same theme.

I would like to remind each AERC member representative that AERC is also an affiliate member of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS). At our Annual Meeting the Director of AIBS's Public Policy Office will provide an update of the past year's science legislation and action, and a crystal-ball view of what might be expected next year in Congress. Additionally, if any of our members would like to schedule a meeting with members of their Congressional delegation, AERC and AIBS can help arrange the visit and provide some assistance to make the meeting productive. If this is something that you would like to do, I would ask that you contact AERC Board Member Jay Arnone of the Desert Research Institute (Jay.Arnone@dri.edu), who will help to arrange this through the AIBS Public Policy Office.

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In order to better plan for attendance at both the NEON and AERC events (beginning August 15th, there will be an RSVP site set up at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AERC-RSVP>) I would ask that you register for the events you would like to attend. AERC has also arranged with a local hotel in Washington, the Doubletree Guest Suites, for a block of rooms at a reduced rate. The Doubletree Guest Suites is located at 801 New Hampshire Ave. NW and is a block from the Foggy Bottom Metro stop. The reduced lodging rate is \$226 per night (plus the DC Hotel tax) for the nights of October 17th and 18th. There are a limited number of rooms available at this rate, so I suggest that you make your reservations quickly; please reference AERC-UVA when contacting the hotel.

Finally, realizing current fiscal realities, AERC is planning to broadcast the Research Symposium over the Web this year. This is a new experimental initiative of the Association and it will make it possible for those members that cannot attend to reap the benefits of the AERC Symposium. The plan is for this real-time broadcast to be recorded and made available for viewing at any time after the symposium on our AERC web site. The Association is continuing to look for ways to meet our members' expectations in a timely and financially responsible manner. Please keep your eyes open for additional emails/broadcasts from me with information about these activities and others this year.

Let me pass on one suggestion I received from one of our long-time members. If you, as the designated institutional representative, are unable to attend this Symposium and Annual Meeting, might consider delegating this opportunity to a junior colleague such as a Post Doc. This would provide a chance for your colleague to come to Washington and begin interacting with national organization

I look forward to seeing you all in Washington in October. Thank you!!

David E. Smith

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The 2012 AERC Congressional Briefing and Research Symposium

“The Role of Ecosystem Science in National Security”

Briefing Location & Time: Room 2325 Rayburn Office Building (By Invitation Only), 9:30-11:00

Research Symposium Location & Time: The Ripley Theater at the Ripley Center, Smithsonian; **Lunch at 12:00**, Symposium begins at 1:00

Date: October 18th, 2012 (Thursday)

Speakers:

Topic The Role of Ecosystem Science to National Security.....Speaker to be announced

Topic: The Role of Ecosystem Science in Water Security.....Dr. Paolo D’Odorico; Ernest H. Ern
Professor of Environmental Sciences; University of Virginia

Topic: The Role of Ecosystem Science in Food Security.....Dr. Molly Brown; NASA Research
Scientist & SAI Sr. Research Scientist

Topic: The Role of Ecosystem Science in Energy Security.....Dr. Avner Vengosh; Professor, Nicholas
School of the Environment, Duke University, North Carolina

Topic: The Role of Ecosystem Science in Disease Ecology and Security.....Dr. Richard Ostfeld; Senior
Scientist, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies; Millbrook, New York

Following the Symposium, AERC will host a reception for the Members and Speakers

Also, the 2012 AERC Annual Meeting is scheduled for the next day October 19th at the Ripley Center as well. On behalf of the Board of Directors we invite member representatives to attend!!

Important: Please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AERC-RSVP> to RSVP your attendance to the many different AERC events in October.