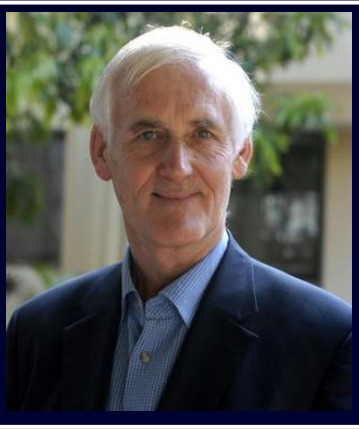
Department of
Civil & Environmental Engineering
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

The Chiang C. Mei Lecture in Applied Mechanics

Wednesday, October 3, 2012

4:00pm – 5:30pm, Lecture Hall E14-633

Reception: 5:30-7:00pm, E14 – Winter Garden



Presented by

Julian Hunt

Professor of Climate Modeling
Department of Space & Climate Physics
Department of Earth Sciences
University College London

Fluid Mechanics and Public Policy: Environmental Impacts and Change

The contributions of fluid mechanics to dealing with problems of public policy concerned with natural disasters and environmental change are increasingly used by decision makers and practitioners. This has benefitted fluid mechanics through the new questions that have arisen from these problems. There has been substantial progress in the analysis and forecasting of extreme events and their impacts both in the atmosphere and oceans , and also progress in understanding and ameliorating the effects on the environment of human activities, from the scale of cities to the whole globe. More technical progress with great social benefits should be possible through greater collaboration between fluid mechanics and other areas of science and technology, such as geology, atmospheric electricity, remote sensing, and urban development. But the greatest progress in using fluid mechanics will come from recognising that new approaches are needed, since the future environment will have many features that differ from those in the past; it becomes even more necessary to follow the USA practice and have better exchange and communication of relevant data and knowledge.

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