

Welcoming Remarks
Environmental Security Exhibition
The Hon. Lee H. Hamilton
April 3, 2007

Good evening. I am Lee Hamilton, President of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. It is my pleasure to welcome you to the opening of the Environment, Conflict and Cooperation Exhibition here at the Center.

Let me say what a pleasure it is to welcome Johannes Haindl, Charge d' Affaires for the German Embassy, whom you will hear from shortly. And let me also thank Maria Soos and Alexander Winter from the Embassy and the German Information Center for helping to make this exhibition and reception possible.

Germany is in the middle of a highly successful presidency of the European Union, and will be hosting the next meeting of the G-8 later this spring. As this exhibition demonstrates, the German government has used this platform to continue its remarkable leadership on environmental issues, and to connect them to critical challenges like energy security, climate change, economic growth, and political stability.

Here at the Wilson Center, we approach the great issues of the day with a deep belief that better dialogue leads to better policy. We bring together the thinkers and the doers – scholars and policymakers, businesspeople and scientists – to advance this dialogue, and to pursue policy solutions.

One of our truly remarkable projects is our Environmental Change and Security Program – ECSP – under the leadership of Geoff Dabelko. For nearly 13 years, ECSP has drawn the essential connections between our environment and our security, and sought to break the damaging links between the two while bolstering the virtuous ones.

This exhibition offers a fascinating and illuminating look at a range of challenges. And it reinforces the eloquent speakers that you heard from earlier today, all of whom are good friends of the Wilson Center.

Dr. Patricia Kamari-Mbote of the University of Nairobi – a former Africa Policy Scholar at the Center – shared her considerable knowledge on the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region. It is in this part of the world that we see the most direct connections between natural resources, poverty, and instability.

Alexander Carius of Adelphi Research assembled this exhibition and has worked closely with ECSP for over a decade. His deep knowledge of European efforts in these areas is a tremendous resource as we try to find ways to learn lessons and work together.

And our own Geoff Dabelko addressed the need to use the management of our environment to build confidence and to build peace. Here at the Center, we are committed to finding the opportunities amidst the challenges, and ECSP provides a valuable service by doing exactly that. Indeed, several years ago we were pleased to publish a landmark book that was edited by Geoff called *Environmental Peacemaking*.

I hope that we leave here with this goal of seizing opportunity amidst uncertainty. I know that in the months ahead, we at the Center will continue to place a high priority on searching for ways to make our environment part of the solution, not simply a problem to be managed.

Now, it is my personal pleasure to introduce Mr. Johannes Haindl. He has been the Deputy Chief of Mission at the German Embassy since last summer. He previously held several posts at the Foreign Office in Berlin, most recently director for Southeastern Europe and Turkey. This is his second tour in Washington – he served as a political officer at the Embassy from 1995 to 1998.

Mr. Haindl, thank you for your government's leadership in this area, and for your Embassy's cooperation in making this evening a reality. I welcome you to the Wilson Center, and look forward to your remarks.