



www.interfaithdeclaration.org

MEDIA RELEASE

CONTACT: Stuart Scott +45 3698 8798 <stuart.h.scott@gmail.com>

FAITH AND SCIENCE IN AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CRISIS
at a Joint Press Conference in the Asger Jorn Room
at 12:00 Noon on Wednesday, December 9, 2009

COPENHAGEN: Wednesday, December 9, 2009 – This coming Wednesday, the **Interfaith Declaration on Climate Change (IDCC)** holds a press conference **at the crossroads of faith and science** to present a unified, urgent message on climate change to the world. According to IDCC Director, Stuart Scott, the project seeks to create ‘as big a boat as possible’ by incorporating spiritual leaders representing the 85% of humanity that identifies with religion, and scientists who speak to the (overlapping) segment of the world that supports scientific principles and views. “When faith and science come to the same conclusion this becomes a formidable wake-up call,” he maintains. “If humans wish to survive and prosper, we must immediately awaken to the realization that humanity is one family, with the same needs and aspirations, living on a shared, limited planet. The climate crisis is just one of many planetary limitations we are encountering, but it is the most serious one at present in its potential to undermine the very habitability of the Earth” he adds.

Mr. Scott is a man on a mission. On July 18, 2009, the long-time environmentalist, scientist, businessman and educator had “an epiphany” and the Interfaith Declaration on Climate Change began to take shape. His realization was that while the climate problem has a clear material explanation, the root cause can be better described as ‘spiritual’. As Scott explains, “The globally dominant socio-economic model systematically renders the moral and ethical values of humans as ‘externalities’. Our limited notion of ‘value’ is in strictly monetary terms that include only what can be chopped, mined, harvested, processes, bought and sold. Care of nature, consideration of future generations, fairness and equity... all of these are held as irrelevant in the old narrow equation of value. How could such an economic system possibly be sustainable?”

The IDCC is a global initiative inspired by the moral and spiritual imperative to take decisive action to stop and reverse runaway climate change. Its mission is to bring religious leaders of all faiths together to call for an international climate treaty that is based on the latest science in order to slow, stop and reverse climate change. On November 25th, 2009, **Scott attended an audience with Pope Benedict XVI in Rome** to personally bring the urgency of the climate crisis to the Vatican, and to urge His Holiness to become more involved in calling for real action on the climate crisis. The huge humanitarian price that will be paid even for current excessive CO2 levers makes this a primary concern for all religions and ethical communities. While one can’t be sure of causality, the **Pope’s regular Sunday address on December 6th in St. Peter’s Square the day before the start of COP-15 contained a clear message on climate and the Copenhagen talks.**

Since its inception, the IDCC has garnered the support of a remarkable and rapidly-growing list of the world’s religions and prominent individuals of faith including: **His Holiness, The 14th Dalai Lama**, the World Council of Religious Leaders, the Asian Muslim Action Network, the World Council of Churches, the Baha’i International Community, and the Religious Society of Friends -- as well as many lay organizations including Greenpeace, 350.org, and the Interfaith Council on Corporate Responsibility. See the complete international list at: www.interfaithdeclaration.org/endorsements.html.

Scott says, “I’m not a prophet. I’m an ordinary human being who has been given an extraordinary vision, and is crazy enough to abandon all other concerns in its pursuit. I’m merely a reverent ecologist, with one foot in the material world and one in the spiritual world, able both to read the handwriting on the wall and hear voices in the wind.”



Yvo de Boer with Interfaith Declaration on Climate Change