



Increasing Public Awareness about Advancing the Use of Renewable Energy

May 5-8, 2008

San Diego, CA

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans, Environment and Science Ambassador Reno Harnish traveled to San Diego, California May 5 – 8, 2008 for a series of public outreach events as a follow up to the March 2008 [Washington International Renewable Energy Conference \(WIREC\)](#).

During his visit, Ambassador Harnish addressed a group of students, faculty and community members at the [Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice at the University of San Diego](#). He also attended the Solar 2008 conference presented by the nonprofit American Solar Energy Society (ASES) where he participated in a press conference and delivered remarks to an audience of researchers and scientists, architects and green builders, academics, policy-makers and utility representatives, investors, entrepreneurs and analysts and industry professionals. He was then hosted by the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce where he gave a brief presentation to a group of local business leaders.

Ambassador Harnish's presentations at these events focused on advancing the development and deployment of renewable energy technologies worldwide. He highlighted the mission and accomplishments of WIREC, which focused on expanding efforts to enhance energy security, combat global climate change, and promote sustainable economic development through the use of renewable energy.

In addition, Ambassador Harnish met with the executive director of the [California Center for Sustainable Energy](#), a non profit organization focused on fostering public policies and providing programs, services, information and forums that facilitate the adoption of clean, renewable, and sustainable energy technologies and practices in California. He was briefed on the organization's history, mission and programs and then received a tour of the facility.

He then visited Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), a scientific, engineering, and technology applications company, where he was briefed on the innovative energy management and climate change solutions that the company offers which has included managing and analyzing satellite imagery of CO2 impacts for NASA and assisting the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) with their technology roadmap for future carbon sequestration to find the most cost effective and ecologically beneficial solutions. The work of SAIC highlights the importance

public-private partnerships in developing solutions to increase energy efficiency and promote renewable energy technologies.

Ambassador Harnish was also interviewed on KUSI's "Good Morning San Diego" where he had an opportunity to highlight WIREC and other bureau initiatives such as the [Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate \(APP\)](#).

Ambassador Harnish's trip furthers international objectives announced at WIREC and was designed to increase public awareness of the numerous international public-private partnerships and initiatives that the United States supports to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy and other alternative fuels. WIREC gathered over 8600 participants from 113 countries, including 103 ministers, 250 speakers, and 246 trade show exhibitors, and was the largest event of its kind held to date. [President Bush](#) gave a keynote address and four cabinet-level secretaries also addressed WIREC attendees. Over 140 pledges to advance the uptake of renewable energy have been received from participating governments, international organizations and the private sector.



Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Reno Harnish addresses students, faculty, and community members at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice at the University of San Diego.