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**OSTP DIRECTOR HOLDREN INDUCTED AS MEMBER OF
PRESTIGIOUS ROYAL SOCIETY,
MEETS WITH BRITISH SCIENCE OFFICIALS**

Honored for Achievements in Energy, Environment, and Nuclear Arms Control

John P. Holdren, Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and Assistant to the President for Science and Technology, is to be inducted July 10 as a Foreign Member of the Royal Society, the prestigious national academy of sciences of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

At a ceremony in London, Dr. Holdren will sign a parchment membership book that contains the signatures of all those elected to the Society since its founding nearly 350 years ago, including the scientific giants Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein, and Stephen Hawking. Holdren is one of 8 scientists from outside the British Commonwealth elected to the Society this year, along with 44 scientists from the Commonwealth who were elected Fellows. In total, the Society has about 1400 Fellows and Foreign Members.

Holdren's participation in the ceremony is to be part of a larger official visit that will include meetings with several high-level British government officials, including Dr. John Beddington, Chief Scientific Adviser, UK Government Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology; Lord Drayson, Minister for Science and Innovation in the Department for Business, Innovation, and Skills; Ed Miliband, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change; Lord Rees, President of the Royal Society; Lord Broers, former Chairman of the Science and Technology Committee of the House of Lords and former President of the Royal Academy of Engineering; Lord Oxburgh, former chief scientific adviser to the Ministry of Defence and rector of Imperial College of Science, Technology, and Medicine; Lord Stern, former Chief Economist and Senior Vice-President of the World Bank and now Chair of the Grantham Institute for Climate Change and the Environment at the London School of Economics; and Professor Adam Afriyie, Member of Parliament.

In announcing his election, the Royal Society lauded Holdren as "pre-eminent in the fields of science and technology policy," adding that "his contributions to our understanding of energy technology and the population-resource-environment nexus have justifiably received wide acclaim." In addition, The Society noted, "Holdren has put his scientific and political judgments to enormous effect in furthering deliberations on international security and arms control."

The Society noted in particular Holdren's role as a leader of the Pugwash conferences on Science and World Affairs, which bring together scholars and other influential public figures dedicated to reducing the dangers from nuclear weapons and from armed conflict more generally. Holdren gave the acceptance speech for the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the Pugwash Conferences, in which he served as Chair of the Executive Committee from 1987 to 1997.

Trained at MIT and Stanford in space science and engineering and theoretical plasma physics, Dr. Holdren spent most of his career prior to joining the Obama administration as a professor at U.C. Berkeley and Harvard and, most recently, as President of the Woods Hole Research Center. He also did stints at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Caltech's Environmental Quality Laboratory, and served as a visiting professor at MIT and the University of Rome.

The Royal Society is an independent, charitable body, founded in 1660 by a dozen of the world's then-greatest "natural philosophers," including the astronomer-mathematician-physicist Christopher Wren and the chemist Robert Boyle. Created as a "Colledge for the Promoting of Physico-Mathematicall Experimentall Learning," its earliest members met regularly to conduct experiments and discuss an array of scientific topics. Since then its mission has expanded to include the funding of research, publishing of scientific journals, provision of science policy advice to the British government, and the promotion of science education and scientific understanding.

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