

PRESS RELEASE

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Global experts to speak at first Bermuda Climate Risk Forum



Hamilton, Bermuda (October 28, 2019)—Global experts on climate change including scientists and reinsurance industry leaders will join entrepreneur-philanthropist Michael Bloomberg and Bermuda Premier David Burt this Wednesday at the first [Bermuda Climate Risk Forum](#).

More than 120 delegates have already registered for the October 30 half-day event at Hamilton Princess & Beach Club, presented by Bermuda Tourism Authority (BTA) in association with Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (BIOS) and the inaugural [Bermuda Championship](#), an official PGA TOUR event, that kicks off the following day.

Bloomberg, the three-term New York City mayor, best-selling author, and global leader on climate change, is the keynote guest, whose conversation on climate-change issues with Premier Burt will launch Wednesday's event. The 45-minute session will be followed by two expert discussion panels focused on the challenges of climate change and sea-level rise facing islands, and the science and business of risk and resilience. The event brings together local and overseas thought leaders from science, industry and government.

"Climate change is a critical global issue that's already having an immense impact on the tourism industry and its diverse stakeholders, so we're pleased to launch this collective discussion in Bermuda," said BTA CEO Kevin Dallas. "One of the core goals of the National Tourism Plan is to be 'greener' and we recognise sustainable tourism is going to be a critical part of our industry's development in the next few years. We hope to build this event into a platform for meaningful thought leadership and a springboard for innovative solutions—not only for Bermuda but for other islands and onshore communities."

Moderated by Dr. Mark Guishard, Director of the Risk Prediction Initiative at BIOS, the first panel focuses on how islands not only are at the forefront of potentially devastating impacts, but also provide lessons in resilience. The session features BIOS President and CEO Dr. Bill Curry and National Disaster Coordinator Steve Cosham. They will be joined by Angela Burnett Penn, Climate Change Coordinator for the Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Project (DVRP) in St Lucia, and the author of *The Irma Diaries*, that chronicled the devastation of the September 2017 Category 5 hurricane on her native British Virgin Islands (BVIS). Dr. Chia-Ying Lee, an Assistant Research Professor at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and a fellow at Lamont's Center for Climate and Life, will also be a panellist in this session.

The second panel examines how the intersection of science and business has led to some of the most innovative tools and financial instruments available to build resilience against climate change and natural catastrophe risk. In particular, it looks at ways the insurance sector is undertaking efforts to reduce disaster risk and enhance climate resilience.

Moderated by Ariane West, Director of Structured Finance at Nephila Climate, this panel features Andrew MacFarlane, Chief Actuary at AXA XL; Lara Mowery, Managing Director and Head of Global Property Specialty at Guy Carpenter; John Huff, President & CEO of the Association of Bermuda Insurers & Reinsurers (ABIR); Jeffrey Manson, SVP Underwriting for RenaissanceRe; and Roy Wright, President & CEO of the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) and a former executive at FEMA (the US Federal Emergency Management Agency).

The event includes networking breaks, as well as a special lunchtime presentation on BIOS's island-wide education programmes that introduce students to the concept of ocean literacy and skills required to be informed decision-makers in the future.

Registration for the Bermuda Climate Risk Forum is \$175 per person and includes attendance at the morning event, followed by lunch and ferry transport to and from the invitation-only Pro-Am of the PGA TOUR: Bermuda Championship at Port Royal Golf Course, Southampton. That afternoon, SkyBox hospitality will be provided to Forum guests overlooking the course's panoramic 18th hole.

To register, go to: <http://bit.ly/climateriskforumbda>

For more information on the Forum please visit the [website](#), or you may contact the organisers at: hello@whitfield.bm or 292-6386.

PHOTO CAPTION:

Bermuda Climate Risk Forum expert panellists: (top, from left) Lara Mowery, Premier David Burt; Angela Burnett Penn; Michael Bloomberg; (centre) John Huff, Bill Curry, Ariane West, Jeffrey Manson; (bottom) Chia-Ying Lee, Andrew MacFarlane, Roy Wright, Mark Guishard

About Bermuda Tourism Authority (BTA)

The Bermuda Tourism Authority (BTA) is an award-winning, accredited destination marketing organisation that promotes Bermuda internationally and works to empower our tourism industry stakeholders. Explore Bermuda's National Tourism Plan at BermudaNTP.com.