

November 6, 2008

We are delighted to introduce the final report of the International Commission on Education for Sustainable Development Practice to the World Federation of Engineering Organizations. The Commission began with the premise that current training for development practitioners does not sufficiently integrate science, engineering, and policy.

The Commission spent nearly 18 months working to identify the gaps in current training for development professionals and to recommend improvements. After an examination of current development training worldwide and consultations with stakeholders and experts on five continents, the Commission presents in its report a series of key recommendations.

These include the creation of new, 27-month Master's in Development Practice (MDP) programs at universities worldwide. The MDP degree will combine classroom study in the natural and social sciences, public health, engineering, and management with two summers of field training to educate a new generation of development practitioners prepared to tackle the challenges of poverty across complex fields. We believe a sound knowledge of engineering is key for practitioners who must understand how to help countries develop better infrastructure, one of the key building blocks for sustainable development.

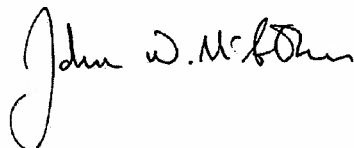
Universities in developed and developing countries are encouraged to partner to offer the full curriculum. With support from the MacArthur Foundation, the first such program will be offered by Columbia University's Earth Institute in cooperation with the School of International and Public Affairs in the fall of 2009. MacArthur will support up to 12 universities to launch similar programs in the next three years.

The MacArthur Foundation has also helped to establish a Global MDP Program Secretariat at Columbia's Earth Institute to serve as the umbrella organization overseeing all Master's in Development Practice (MDP) programs and activities worldwide. We hope you will visit the Secretariat at <http://mdp.ei.columbia.edu/>

We look forward to the advancement of understanding across fields to help aspiring practitioners tackle some of the greatest challenges of our century—thus helping to improve the quality of life for millions who have not yet seen the benefits of economic development. And we hope that current and future leaders in the field of engineering will help us take up this challenge.



Jonathan Fanton
President
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation



John W. McArthur
CEO
Millennium Promise



Jeffrey D. Sachs
Director
The Earth Institute at Columbia University