

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Institute on Science for Global Policy (ISGP) Conference in partnership with Simon Fraser University will convene an ISGP conference on **Equitable, Sustainable, and Healthy Food Environments** Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, May 1–4, 2016

Food Safety, Security, and Defense (FSSD), identified by governments, international organizations, and the private sector as a major policy priority, has been the topic of an ongoing series of invitation-only, “not-for-attribution” (Chatham House Rule) conferences convened by the Institute on Science for Global Policy (ISGP). The fifth FSSD conference in this series (Equitable, Sustainable, and Healthy Food Environments), organized in partnership with Simon Fraser University, will be convened May 1–4, 2016 in Vancouver, British Columbia. ISGP conferences are devoted to linking scientifically credible understanding to the formulation and implementation of sound, effective domestic and international policies throughout our increasingly global societies.

As part of an FSSD series on “Nutrition, Sustainable Agriculture, and Human Health”, the Vancouver conference focuses on modifying the food environment to improve access to nutritious foods, especially for those in rural and remote areas. Ongoing research has revealed the importance of nutrition in genetic and phenotypic variations in populations worldwide. The dramatic prevalence of diabetes in North American Indigenous populations is one such example in which nutrition and healthy food environments can play a critical role in improving human health.

ISGP Conference Structure

The unusual, if not unique, format for each ISGP conference emphasizes critical debates between the invited scientists and an international audience of subject-matter experts invited by the ISGP and its partners following extensive interviews with subject-matter experts worldwide. ISGP conferences engage international expertise and reflect global perspectives of all its participants, with a focus on clarifying scientific and technical understanding needed by the nonspecialists who are often charged with major public and private sector policy decisions. The ISGP format also provides an opportunity for the scientific community to experience the challenges of formulating and implementing effective policies involving scientific and technological issues.

Equitable, Sustainable and Healthy Food Environments

All ISGP conferences comprise two parts: 90-minute debates of each of the three-page policy position papers prepared by seven subject-matter experts (each author begins the debate with a 5-minute summary of his or her views) on May 2 and 3. Debates are led by about 60 senior policy makers and stakeholders from as many as 12-15 countries. Caucuses are convened after the debates, first in small groups in which all participants identify areas of consensus and actionable next steps. The results from all small-group caucuses are discussed in a plenary session on the morning of May 4. All policy position papers, not-for attribution summaries of the debates and all caucus results are published in a publicly available book.

More about the **Equitable, Sustainable, and Healthy Food Systems** conference is available at jboice@scienceforglobalpolicy.org or by contacting Jennifer Boice (+1 520 343 8181).