

# Environment and Climate Change

Opportunity and  
Innovation in  
21<sup>st</sup> Century  
Ireland



2nd Céifin Student Conference  
15/16 October 2007, GMIT, Galway

Further information at [www.ceifin.com](http://www.ceifin.com)  
email bookings to [ceifinconference@gmail.com](mailto:ceifinconference@gmail.com)



# Programme of Events

## Day 1 Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2007

4.30 - 6.00pm	Conference Registration	GMIT New Foyer
	Host Padraic Flesk, GMIT Student Union President	
6.00 - 6.30pm	Finger Food reception	
6.30pm	Launch of conference	Guest Speaker
7:00pm	Screening of Al Gore's award-winning documentary 'An Inconvenient Truth'	
9:00pm	Wrap-up Day 1	

## Day 2 Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2007

8.15 - 9.15am	Conference Registration	GMIT New Foyer
9.15 am	Conference Opens	Chair: Sarah Knight, Communications & Outreach Officer, Environmental Change Institute, NUI Galway
9.30am	Welcome & Introduction	Marion Coy (GMIT) and Fr. Harry Bohan (Céifin)
9.50am	<i>Environment and Opportunity in the West of Ireland</i>	Guest Speaker
10.10am	<i>Tourism and the Environment - Challenges and Opportunities</i>	Paddy Mathews, Environment Officer, Fáilte Ireland
10.35am	Review and Q&A	
10.55am	Tea & Coffee	
11.15am	<i>Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Development</i>	Peter Keavney, Galway Energy Agency
11.40am	<i>Panel Discussion on Environmental and Energy Efficient Solutions</i>	see over for list of Panelists
12.25am	Review and Q&A	
12.45am	Lunch	
2.00pm	Afternoon Session	Chair: Maria-Alejandra Gonzalez-Perez, Researcher Community Knowledge Initiative, NUI Galway
2.05pm	<i>Climate Change: Likely Impacts on the Irish Landscape</i>	Dr. Rowan Fealy, Irish Climate Analysis & Research Unit, NUI Maynooth
2.35pm	Q&A	
2.55pm	Breakout Groups	Chairs & rapporteurs from GMIT
3.35pm	Tea & Coffee	
3.50pm	Feedback from Breakout Groups	Coordinated by Paddy Duffy, European Youth Press & SpunOut.ie
4.30pm	<i>Natural Capital - how big business and economies benefit from wildlife</i>	Dr. Chris Shaw, Professor of Drug Discovery, Queens University, Belfast.
5.05pm	Review and Q&A	
5.30pm	Close of Conference	Padraic Flesk, GMIT SU President and Dave Curran, USI Environment Officer

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### Theme:

The theme of this year's student conference is the importance of a healthy environment to Ireland's economic and social development. The conference will highlight the value of environmental sustainability to wider aspects of society and the economy, addressing issues such as tourism, climate change, landscape, water quality and sustainability.

### Speakers:

We have an excellent line-up of speakers, with amongst others, climate change expert Dr. Rowan Fealy, and Dr. Chris Shaw, Professor of Drug Discovery in Queens University. See over for details.

There will also be a panel discussion with representatives from businesses in the Galway Region, focusing on environmental and energy efficient solutions to the challenges faced by local businesses.

### Location:

Galway Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) are hosting the Conference and it will open on the evening of Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, and run throughout the day on Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> 2007.

### Who are Céifin?

The Céifin Centre for Values-led Change was established in 2002. Céifin's work is concerned with the impact of change in society and the need to redefine values and responsibilities for the individual, the family, social institutions and the wider environment. We have been organising annual national conferences since 1998. 2007 marks the tenth Anniversary of the Céifin Conference.

### Why Student Conferences?

The 1st Céifin National Student Conference was held in Galway in 2006 with the aim of giving third level students an opportunity to air their views, concerns, ideas and hopes for the future.

Speakers at the student conference last year provoked excellent participation and discussion among delegates. The key findings of the debate were fed back to the 9th Annual Céifin Conference in Ennis and provided one of the highlights of the event - as can be seen from the delegate comments below:

- "The Student Perspective - the most inspirational and enjoyable!"
- "The sharing of the 4 students was excellent and an eye opener."
- "Excellent to have the input from the young people"

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For further information contact Ciara @ 061 365912

## Chairs

- Sarah Knight, Environmental Change Institute, NUI Galway
- Maria-Alejandra Gonzalez-Perez, Community Knowledge Initiative, NUI Galway

## Speakers

- Fr. Harry Bohan, The Céifin Centre
- Marion Coy, Director, GMIT
- Dave Curran, USI Environment Officer
- Dr. Rowan Fealy, Irish Climate Analysis & Research Unit, NUI Maynooth
- Padraic Flesk, GMIT Student Union President
- Peter Keavney, Galway Energy Agency
- Paddy Mathews, Fáilte Ireland
- Dr. Chris Shaw, Professor of Drug Discovery, Queens University Belfast

## Panel Discussion

- Facilitator: Ivan McPhillips, GMIT Lecturer
- Micheál Ó'Riain, EcoOla
- Shane Mooney, GMIT Graduate, SPeco Safety and Environmental Services
- Breda Joyce, GMIT Lecturer, and TG4 Presenter of An Teach Glás
- Michael Lennon, General Manager, Westport Woods Hotel

For further information and background on speakers - check out our website on

[www.ceifin.com](http://www.ceifin.com)

The Céifin Centre are grateful for the support of the following organisations in preparation for conference:

GMIT and the School Of Business  
Cohab Initiative  
Community Knowledge Initiative, NUI Galway  
Environmental Change Institute, NUI Galway

We are also pleased to acknowledge the generous support of our sponsors:



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