

Assessing Environmental Risk with the Ecological Footprint

Press Release

Dr. Mathis Wackernagel, Founder and Executive Director of Global Footprint Network and co-creator of the ecological footprint method, will give a talk, "Assessing Environmental Risk with the Ecological Footprint," co-sponsored by the Industrial Environmental Management (IEM) Program of the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies (F&ES) and Network for a Sustainable New Haven, Inc.

The talk, part of a lecture series on Corporate Risk Management and the Environment, will be held at 4:00 PM on Thursday, April 6, 2006 at Bowers Auditorium, Sage Hall, 205 Prospect Street, New Haven, Connecticut. A reception will follow the talk.

Mathis is co-creator of the Ecological Footprint. He has worked on sustainability issues for organizations in Europe, Latin America, North America, Asia and Australia, and has lectured for community groups, governments and their agencies, NGOs, and academic audiences at more than 100 universities around the world. Mathis previously served as the director of the Sustainability Program at Redefining Progress in Oakland, CA, and directed the Centre for Sustainability Studies / Centro de Estudios para la Sustentabilidad in Mexico, which he still advises. He is also an adjunct faculty at SAGE of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Mathis has authored or contributed to over fifty peer-reviewed papers, numerous articles and reports, and various books on sustainability that focus on the question of embracing limits and developing metrics for sustainability, including *Our Ecological Footprint: Reducing Human Impact on the Earth*, *Sharing Nature's Interest*, and WWF International's *Living Planet Report*. After earning a degree in mechanical engineering from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, he completed his Ph.D. in community and regional planning at The University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. There, as his doctoral dissertation with Professor William Rees, he created the Ecological Footprint concept.

This event is part of the 2006 IEM Lecture Series sponsored by the Yale Industrial Environmental Management (IEM) Program. In its sixteenth year, the IEM Lecture Series brings speakers from a variety of companies and organizations to the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies to discuss the relationship between business and the environment.

The IEM Lecture Series is supported by the Joel Omura Kurihara Fund. Joel Kurihara, F&ES Class of 1992, was committed to improving business and environmental relations, including the type of dialogue this series seeks to advance. For more information about the lecture series, please contact Jennifer McFadden, program coordinator, at 203.432.6953 or jennifer.mcfadden@yale.edu.