

Last December, the world saw the largest meeting of global leaders outside of New York in history gather together in Copenhagen to talk about climate change. This fact alone is a significant achievement as the world now agrees that this issue is one that is real and must be addressed for the survival of our species and our current standard of living. Ultimately the conference ended, for the most part, disappointingly. At the end of two weeks of often acrimonious wrangling between representatives from 193 countries, an agreement of sorts was reached at the last minute. While it may have been a step in the right direction, it was only a small step when the world needed a leap at this moment in time. The lack of a clear path forward out of Copenhagen casts a forbidding shadow on our ability to learn from our collective mistakes and adequately address the risks of climate change. Helping us better understand the situation at hand and placing us on a step in the right direction is the internationally distinguished Professor Richard N. Cooper from Harvard University, who will be presenting a lecture tomorrow evening at the Lecture Hall of the Bank of Cyprus headquarters.

The lecture is organised by the Cyprus Institute, within the framework of its fifth annual Hubert Curien memorial lecture. The opening address will be given by the Finance Minister Charilaos Stavrakis followed by Prof. Cooper's lecture entitled 'Reflections on Copenhagen: Where does policy on climate change go from here?'. Prof. Cooper will analyse why the failure of the Copenhagen Conference of parties to reach a meaningful global agreement to limit emission of greenhouse gases was inevitable. He will also elaborate on why the next annual climate conference in Mexico, scheduled for late 2010, could also fail unless the key players switch the focus of their attention from emission targets to emission-



reducing actions, where a meaningful global agreement might be possible. The lecture will be in English and entrance is free. For those of you unaware of Richard Cooper's merits, he holds quite an impressive résumé. Educated at Oberlin College, the London School of Economics and Harvard University, Cooper is currently the Maurits C. Boas Professor of International Economics at Harvard University and a board member of the Cyprus Institute. He has served on several occasions in the US government, including Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs in 1977-81 and was Under Secretary of the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston. In addition to his many publications and

several scholarships and fellowships, Cooper is the recipient of the US State Department award for Meritorious Service, a US Navy award for Superior Public Service, and the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal.

Reflections on Copenhagen: Where does policy on climate change go from here?  
Public Lecture by the Cyprus Institute presented by the internationally distinguished Professor Richard N. Cooper from Harvard University, January 15, Lecture Hall of the Bank of Cyprus, headquarters in Ayia Paraskevi, Nicosia. 6.30pm. In English. Free. Tel: 22-441922. [www.cyi.ac.cy](http://www.cyi.ac.cy)

*By Ledha Socratous*

# After Copenhagen?