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MYTHS AND A MYOPIC MEDIA

The questionable role of CO₂ in global warming.
By Michael Coffman, Ph.D.

More than 500 people attended the 2008 International Conference on Climate Change in New York City on March 2-4. Together, they debunked the myth that “only a few” scientists do not believe man is causing global warming. The impressive list of attendees included more than 100 leading scientists who have published peer-reviewed papers on climate change issues.

Organized by the Heartland Institute of Chicago and cosponsored by dozens of organizations, these scientists provided compelling evidence that greenhouse gases, specifically carbon dioxide (CO₂) cannot be the primary cause of the earth’s recent warming. In other words, human activities alone do not cause warming, and economy-destroying laws are not needed.

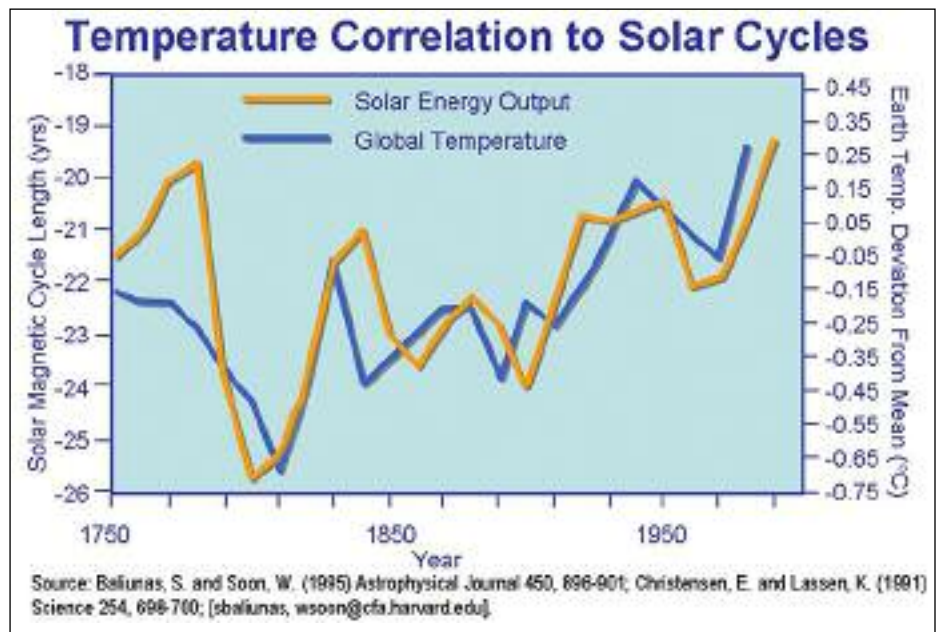
Dr. Fred Singer, an atmospheric and space physicist, and founder and president of the Science and Environmental Policy Project, provided convincing evidence that CO₂ is not playing a significant role in planetary warming. Citing a paper he coauthored in the December 2007 issue of the *International Journal of Climatology*, Dr. Singer informed the audience that CO₂-driven global warming requires that the midtroposphere (23-40 thousand feet elevation) warm faster than the surface by 1-2°C. This is widely accepted within the scientific community. Consequently, all global-warming models have this relationship built into them. (Figure 1)

However, real-world temperature measurements do not show this predicted warm-

ing—at all! (Figure 2) Therefore, either the theory must be wrong or CO₂ cannot be causing the warming. In either event, all-climate change models grossly overestimate the amount of warming. Although this finding totally discredits the current CO₂-warming theory, no one should be surprised that global-warming alarmists and the highly politicized United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) ignore it. When cornered on the subject, they brazenly insist the evidence supports their theory. Yet,

it clearly does not.

This overwhelming evidence did not faze the myopic media, however. Instead, the mainline press politely denigrated and demeaned the scientists’ presentations. For instance, Andy Revkin of *The New York Times* focused on minor disagreements between the scientists, rather than on the strong scientific evidence that CO₂ plays little to no role in global warming. Revkin merely dismisses the overwhelming evidence, writing that the scientists were trying “hard to prove that they



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had unraveled the established science showing that humans are warming the world in potentially disruptive ways.” Rather than critiquing the science presented, he attacked the Heartland Institute, writing that it is “a Chicago group whose antiregulatory philosophy has long been embraced by, and financially supported by, various industries and conservative donors.” He failed to mention that Heartland receives less than seven percent of its budget from these “various industries.”

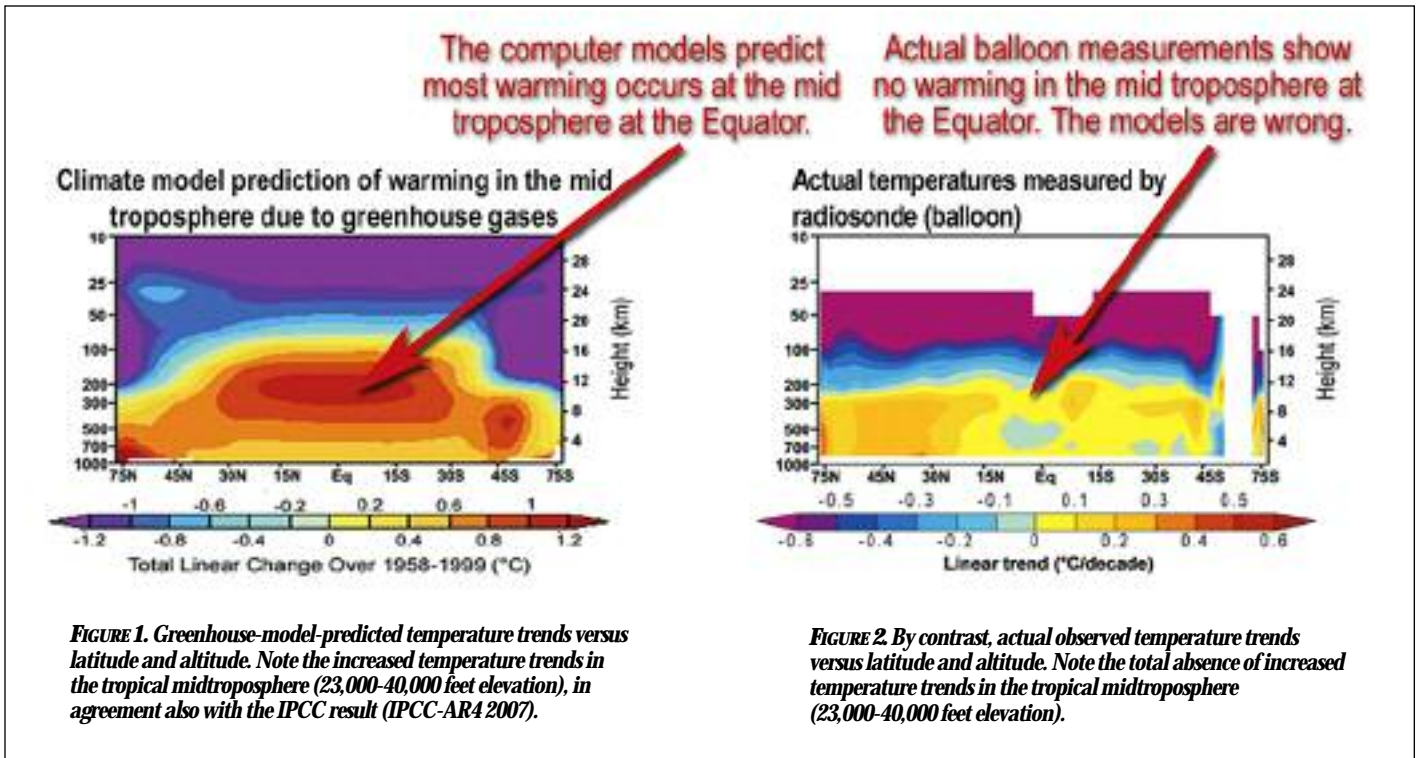
The Washington Post was only slightly bet-

reviewers, just four explicitly endorsed the chapter with its hypothesis, and one other endorsed only a specific section.” So much for the alleged vast scientific consensus.

No one should be surprised that the mainstream press got it completely wrong—again. The media gleefully report scare stories of polar bears drowning and starving as the polar ice cap recedes. It claims the bears deserve endangered species status. Yet, leading polar bear experts at the conference reported the bear is experiencing record

sun should have started a new 22-year cycle. It never happened. Although it seems to have started in February 2008, the sun is still abnormally quiet. When this has happened in the past, it has often meant we were entering a new cooling cycle, like that experienced between 1945 and 1975. Scientists caution that it is still too early to make predictions—but stay tuned.

Regardless of what happens in the coming years, current climate is not behaving the way it should if the past warming was caused by



ter. Juliet Eilperin posited that “the meeting represented a sort of global-warming doppelganger conference, where everything was reversed”—a polite way of saying that the scientists opposed everything that everybody knows is true. She cited the United Nations as the real authority on the subject, writing, “the IPCC enlisted several hundred scientists from more than 100 countries to work over five years to produce its series of reports.”

Eilperin and most other reporters are wrong. An analysis released in September 2007 on the IPCC scientific-review process by Australian climate data analyst John McLean revealed that the IPCC peer-review process is “an illusion.” Only a few of the “hundreds” are actually involved in the U.N.’s peer-review process. Says McLean, “The IPCC leads us to believe that this statement is supported by the majority of reviewers. The reality is that there is surprisingly little explicit support for this key notion. Among the 23 independent

high populations and is in no danger from global warming.

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In an unexpected twist, there was an undercurrent of constrained anticipation at the conference. Attendees were shown compelling evidence that the earth had not statistically warmed for the past eight to 10 years. In the past year, earth’s temperature has plummeted to levels not seen for three decades. The scientists were not so much concerned about the temperature drop because these kinds of anomalies are quite common. Their concern centered on the sun. Conference attendees learned that global warming the past 100 years has been caused by an increasingly active sun—solar storms, flares and such. That activity peaks and ebbs on roughly an 11- or 22-year cycle. In 2007 the

CO₂ and other greenhouse gases. The prospect of a cooling cycle terrifies the global-warming alarmists. That is probably the reason why the alarmists no longer call it man-caused global warming. Instead they call it man-caused “climate change.” That way, no matter what happens, the alarmists can try to convince the world that man is still at the root of the problem and we must turn to global governance to save the world. Hopefully, the world will see through the scam. ■

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