

WEEKEND

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Greener US-China call

CHIEF CULPRITS in the emission of greenhouse gases, the United States and China, have been urged to lead by example, sooner rather than later, in the fight against global warming pollution.

Dr Chris Busch, an economist and director of policy at the Centre for Resource Solutions (CRS) in California, made this call at a roundtable presentation focusing on **The Impact Of Climate Change**, at the United States Embassy in Wildey on Wednesday.

"The scientists are

saying we need to start reducing our emissions as a global community by 2015. Clearly, the richer industrialised nations need to go first. They need to make the biggest changes, the fastest, and they need to help support cleaner development options as well.

"China as a country releases more global warming pollution, but on a per person basis, the United States is the largest emitter . . . as much as President Obama has been trying to make progress, we don't have

the domestic framework in place that we need, and so we need to do more."

Scientists had indicated that the three great "offenders" for emitting millions of cubic metres of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere were vehicles using oil or gas; refrigerators, which are also using gas that is harmful to the atmosphere; and coal-fired electrical plants!

Deeming every country in the world guilty of the offence, he nevertheless identified as the biggest offenders the super powers

United States and China, the biggest consumers of oil and gas today.

Global warming has resulted in more natural disasters in recent years, Dr Busch said, and some countries would have to try to put defensive structures in place. He said sea walls were expensive, and not the greatest option, but in terms of existing buildings, they might be the best that could be done.

"One of the things that reduces the problem is not cutting down forests.

There are also other options for trying to suck the gases out of the atmosphere. What we really need to do is to try to be efficient and smart in our energy use," he said.

Dr Busch, a researcher on the economics of global warming and global warming solutions, said it was not too late to prevent the problem from being catastrophic.

"We have to use energies like solar energy and renewable energy that are going to keep the problem from

PARTICIPANTS in the roundtable presentation on the impact of climate change.

(Pictures by Gregory Waldron.)



GLOBAL WARMING has resulted in more natural disasters in recent years, says Dr Chris Busch.

getting worse."

In reference to the Caribbean, Dr Busch said there was no doubt that island states with infrastructure concentrated at the coasts were at huge risk from floods evolving from global warming. (MK)