Fifth Anniversary Breakfast – January 2012 – Jim Turner and Malcolm Butler

Published on Thursday January 12, 2012
View online: https://www.france-science.org/Fifth-Anniversary-Breakfast.html

In honor of five years of Science Diplomats Club science breakfasts at the Embassy of France, the Royal Netherlands Embassy will be hosting a meeting with speakers Jim Turner and Malcolm Butler of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities.

Speakers

Both working at the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, Malcolm Butler is Vice President of International Programs and Jim Turner is Senior Counsel for Innovation and Technology and Director of Energy Policy. Five years ago, Jim Turner was the first ever speaker in our SDC breakfast meeting series [1].

Biographies

James Turner joined the staff of APLU after his retirement from the House of Representatives’ Committee on Science and Technology in January 2009 where he had served as the Committee’s chief counsel, technology staff director, and energy counsel. In these capacities, he worked on much of the important technology and energy legislation over a 30 year period. Prior to his work with the Committee on Science, he worked for Wheelabrator-Frye, Congressman Gary Myers, NASA, and the FAA.

In 2008, Turner became an Honorary Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He served on the Obama Presidential Transition Team in 2008 and the Clinton Presidential Transition Team in 1992. Turner currently serves a trustee of the University of Virginia School of Engineering; he is on the boards of directors of the American National Standards Institute, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, and Scientists and Engineers for America. He is also on the Board of Advisors of “Innovations: Technology, Governance, Globalization”, a Journal published by MIT Press. At the University of Virginia he is also Chair of Advisory Board for the Department of Science, Technology and Society.

Turner has received numerous awards and honors including the Association of University Technology Managers 2009 Bayh-Dole Award; a 2009 Award of Appreciation from the American Society for Engineering Education; the 2008 Ronald L. Brown Standards Leadership Award on World Standards Day; the 2006 NIBS Honor Award from the National Institute of Building Sciences, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers; 2005 Melvin R. Green Codes and Standards Medal; the Virginia Engineering Foundation (UVA) 2002 Service Award; from the Federal Patent Lawyer Association, 2001 Distinguished Service Award; the Howard Coonley Medal of the American National Standards Institute; and the Thomas Jefferson Award of the Technology Transfer Society.

Turner received a B.S. degree in mathematics from Westminster College, a M.Div. degree from Yale
Malcolm Butler is a 20-year veteran of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Before his appointment at APLU he served as senior vice president of Management Systems International, a Washington, DC-based international development firm, providing specialized short- and long-term technical assistance. Founded in 1981, MSI has over 100 projects under management worldwide in democracy and governance, economic growth, organizational capacity building, human development, and natural resource management in conflict-prone or fragile states, including in Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Peru, the Philippines, Mexico, Colombia and Russia.

Butler's USAID career included serving as Mission Director in Bolivia, Peru, Lebanon and the Philippines and leading USAID bureaus for Eastern Europe and Newly Independent States as well as Latin America and the Caribbean. He obtained the rank of Career Minister and received two Presidential citations during his USAID career.

"I have known Malcolm for 25 years and know him to be unusually able and sensitive to a broad range of cultures and circumstances," said APLU President Peter McPherson. "Of course, he has worked with universities many times over his years at USAID and is uniquely qualified to help APLU and member universities build our international activities to the next level."

Since retiring from USAID in 1999, Malcolm has served as President of Partners of the Americas as well as working with organizations such as the Riecken Foundation, Mercy Corps and North Carolina Outward Bound.

"Taking my experience into the international agenda of higher education is an exciting challenge," Butler said in anticipation of joining the APLU staff.

Prior to joining USAID, Butler served on the staff of the National Security Council, Office of Management and Budget, and the State Department. He earned a bachelor’s degree in Economics and History from Rice University and pursued graduate studies at Oxford University in Economics.

Butler replaces Kathie L. Olsen, Ph.D., who recently resigned but continues to work part-time on a USAID/Department of Agriculture funded project, which came out of the recent Purdue University meeting on research priorities for the Obama Administration’s Feed the Future initiative. Olsen has established a consulting firm called ScienceWorks.