



Contacts:

Julie Parente, Museum of Science and Industry, (773) 753-6249

**MSI HOSTS INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF MUSEUM EDUCATORS, SCIENTISTS
NOAA Conference Highlights Using New Technology to Discuss Environmental Science**

CHICAGO (May 3, 2011) – Museum educators and scientists from around the world are gathering at the Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago (MSI) this week to discuss ways to use cutting-edge technology to educate the public about environmental issues.

MSI is hosting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Science on a Sphere Users Collaborative Network Conference May 3 – 5. Over 125 participants will share ideas, learn about new science content, and observe MSI’s unique programming.

Science on a Sphere is a room-sized global display system that uses computers and video projectors to share up-to-date, animated images from NOAA and NASA of atmospheric storms, climate change, ocean temperature and more. There are 43 installations in America and 11 across the world.

MSI’s Science on a Sphere forms the *Earth Revealed* exhibit, which features a 6-foot globe dramatically suspended from the ceiling. Museum guests participate in daily facilitated programs on climate change and space exploration. *Earth Revealed* programs quickly respond to breaking news, displaying real-time data on the Japanese tsunami, Gulf of Mexico oil spill, and the final Space Shuttle launches, among others.

“We’re honored for the opportunity to share our approach with educators from across the world,” said Andrea Ingram, vice president of education and guest services. “This technology allows us to be at the forefront in discussing the latest environmental science issues with guests.”

Suzanne Malec-McKenna, commissioner of the Chicago Department of Environment, will speak to conference participants about Chicago’s green initiatives at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 4. Participants will also hear from Jim Sweitzer, Ph.D., an astrophysicist and science communications consultant.

The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago (MSI) offers thousands of fun and interactive exhibits and one-of-a-kind, world-class experiences to inspire the inventive genius in everyone. Through its Center for the Advancement of Science Education, MSI also aspires to a larger vision: to inspire and motivate children to achieve their full potential in science, technology, medicine and engineering. Come visit and find *your* inspiration! MSI is open every day except December 25, and regular hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day. The Museum is supported in part through the generosity of the people of Chicago through the Chicago Park District. For more information, find MSI online at msichicago.org or call (773) 684-1414 or (800) GO-TO-MSI outside of the Chicago area.

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