




INSIDE RFF

Sedjo Appointed President of Environmental Literacy Council

Roger A. Sedjo, senior fellow of the Energy and Natural Resources Division and director of the Forest Economics and Policy Program at Resources for the Future, has recently been appointed president of the Environmental Literacy Council.

Dedicated to improving the quality of environmental materials reaching educators, teachers, and students—particularly from a scientific and economic standpoint—the Environmental Literacy Council is a nonprofit organization comprised of experts from the science, social science, and education communities who work on projects related to environmental education.

The Council hosts a Web site (www.enviroliteracy.org) that provides a wealth of links to informative environmental resources available on the Internet. In addition, the Council evaluates textbooks to help publishers and teachers make informed decisions when choosing effective teaching materials. 

RFF Board Member Robert Solow Wins Nation's Highest Science Honor

President Clinton has awarded RFF Board Member Robert M. Solow the National Medal of Science, which the White House characterized as “the nation's highest science honor.”

The National Medal of Science, established by Congress in 1959 and administered by the National Science Foundation, honors individuals for contributions to the present state of knowledge across a variety of scientific disciplines. Including this year's recipients, the medal has been awarded to 374 distinguished scientists and engineers.

Solow, a Nobel Laureate and Institute Professor Emeritus at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was honored “for creating the modern framework for analyzing the effects of investment and technological progress on economic growth, which has greatly influenced economics and economic policy worldwide.” 

Two New Fellows

RFF's Energy and Natural Resources Division has recently hired two new fellows.

Urvashi Narain received her M.A. in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics and Sociology in India and her Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of California at Berkeley.

While a graduate student at Berkeley, Urvashi worked as a research assistant on projects focusing on community forestry in India and global climate change. As a postdoctoral researcher, Urvashi worked on a project to study the relationship between natu-



Urvashi Narain

ral resource quality and human fertility decisions.

At RFF, Urvashi plans on continuing her research on global climate change and issues at the intersection of environment and development. She will also analyze common property resource management, the environmental Kuznets curve, and child labor.

Ramanan Laxminarayan comes to RFF from the University of Washington, where he held the position of Sloan Dissertation Fellow in the Department of Economics and worked as an instructor in the Department of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences. Additional work experience includes a stint as a consultant for the World Bank in Cambodia.

At RFF, Ramanan will continue his research in the area of “resistance economics,” specifically as it pertains to problems dealing with bacterial resistance to antibiotics and pest resistance to genetically modified crops.

His other research interests



Ramanan Laxminarayan

lie in the intersection of environmental quality and public health, including social and environmental determinants of infectious disease transmission within households and villages, and valuing health costs of air and water pollution.

Ramanan received his undergraduate degree in engineering from the Birla Institute of Technology and Science in Pilani, India. He received both his master's degree in public health in epidemiology and his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Washington in Seattle. 