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NEWS RELEASE:

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Al Gore's Vision Gave Rise to Climate Center at UH Mānoa

Decades before Al Gore received the Nobel Peace Prize, he championed the cause of global warming. He had a vision of accelerating climate-change research through international partnerships. In 1995, as US Vice President in the Clinton administration, he informally discussed such cooperation with Japan's Prime Minister Murayama. After several preliminary meetings, Gore met with Japan's Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto in March, 1997, to discuss cooperation through the "Japan-United States Common Agenda for Cooperation in Global Perspective." At the meeting they officially decided to include "global change research and prediction."

Scientists at the University of Hawaii had already been closely working with Japanese scientists on El Nino and other climate-related research. Given the strong political support from the US and Japanese governments, several climate scientists - in particular, Roger Lukas at the University of Hawaii and Toshio Yamagata at The University of Tokyo - worked hard to bring an official research partnership between the US and Japan to fruition: Their efforts brought Gore's and Hashimoto's vision to reality in October 1997 with the formation of the International Pacific Research Center (IPRC) at the University of Hawaii. Today, the IPRC has grown to be a multi-million-dollar, state-of-the-art center for climate research. It is truly a joint enterprise, with about half of its primary funding arising from the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) in Japan and half from NASA and NOAA in the US.

The IPRC is also connected to the United Nations body that shares the Nobel Prize with Gore, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a body charged with making periodic climate assessments. The latest IPCC report, Fourth Assessment Report by Working Group 1, was published in spring 2007. A year before, in February 2006, the IPRC hosted a meeting that played a key role in the writing of this report. At the meeting, over 100 scientists reported on their analyses of computer climate simulations, and these presentations formed the basis of the report. The report concluded that "Most of the observed increase in global average temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations."

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IPRC scientists contributed their findings at that February 2006 meeting, and many of their papers are cited in the latest report. Three IPRC scientists, Bin Wang, Axel Timmermann, and Shang-Ping Xie have also contributed as authors to sections of the previous and the present report.

Scientists at IPRC are continuing their analyses of the computer climate simulations conducted for the IPCC report, and they will continue to publish their findings in scientific journals. A more readable version of some of their work will be available in the *IPRC Climate* newsletter (check the IPRC website <http://iprc.soest.hawaii.edu>) in a few weeks.

The IPRC also invites the public to view summary of the findings of the recent UN report on climate change during the SOEST Open House, Friday and Saturday, October 19 and 20.

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The International Pacific Research Center (IPRC) of the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST) at the University of Hawai`i at Manoa, is a climate research center founded to gain greater understanding of the climate system and the nature and causes of climate variation in the Asia-Pacific region and how global climate changes may affect the region. Established under the "U.S.-Japan Common Agenda for Cooperation in Global Perspective" in October 1997, the IPRC is a collaborative effort between agencies in Japan and the United States.