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Climate Change Expert Michael Webber to Visit Costa Rica on Behalf of ECPA Senior Fellows

Washington, D.C., 4 June, 2012 – Dr. Michael E. Webber, a Senior Fellow in the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA), will be traveling to Costa Rica June 5 - 8 to meet researchers and engineers from the academic and private sector to discuss renewable energy-related projects.

The Senior ECPA Fellows Program is a network of high-level technical experts in the fields of climate change and energy who travel between countries in the Western Hemisphere to consult with governments or other institutions that request them. The Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Western Hemispheric Affairs and administered by Partners of the Americas. There are currently 22 Senior ECPA Fellows who participate in these five-day exchanges in their field. The main areas of focus for the program are: Energy Efficiency; Renewable Energy; Energy Infrastructure; Energy Poverty and Access; Sustainable Forestry and Land Use; and Climate Change Adaptation. (For more information, see below.)

Dr. Webber is an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin and has given talks all over the world for his environmental work. He has been published, cited, or featured in many publications, including the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *BBC*, *Scientific American*, and the History Channel. He and his research group analyze energy and environmental problems at the intersection of science, engineering, and public policy. Sample research topics include: global energy trends; advanced transportation; integration of renewables into the grid; the smart grid; waste-to-energy; energy and security; the nexus of energy and food; and the nexus of water and energy. He has also given more than 150 lectures, speeches, and invited talks in the last few years, including testimony for U.S. Senate hearings, keynotes for scientific conferences, and lectures at the United Nations.

While in Costa Rica, Dr. Webber will participate in two workshops hosted by the Technological Institute of Costa Rica, speaking and presenting on global trends in energy and waste-to-energy. He will also visit the institute's research laboratories. Throughout his visit, Dr. Webber will be available to media—both local and international—for comment on the work he is doing.

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The **Energy and Climate Partnership of the America (ECPA) Senior Fellows Program** is a capacity building program that was launched in 2010 to share best practices with our partners throughout the Americas. ECPA Senior Fellows are experts from the academic, non-profit, and private sector that carry out speaking engagements and act as consultants in the Western Hemisphere. Embassies are encouraged to select ECPA Senior Fellows whose expertise matches the needs of host country governments, the private sector, and civil society and non-profits. Posts are requested to work with Partners of the Americas to coordinate travel and logistics. <http://www.ecpamericas.org/>