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**In Bali, a harsh climate for global warming skeptic**

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CHICAGO \_ At the United Nations-sponsored conference on global warming last week
in Bali, Indonesia, Lord Christopher Monckton was feeling rather frozen out.

Monckton was leading a guerrilla troupe of scientists, activists and others who
remain skeptical that human activity contributes to climate change. He was
denied a press credential, and twice the United Nations group organizing the
Bali meeting stopped his group from holding news conferences.

Monckton is British, and Bali is in Asia, but the strategic planning and funding
for his frustrated efforts came directly from Chicago. The Heartland Institute,
a libertarian advocacy group, dispatched Monckton and others in an effort to
make a mark on a world that increasingly has decided to ignore them.

"Their arguments have been so overwhelmingly disproven that their opinions are
little more than interesting social artifacts, like the belief that Elvis
Presley is still alive," said Philip Clapp, deputy managing director of the Pew
Environment Group, one of hundreds of policy specialists at the meeting.

Still, the climate change naysayers persist. Even though Al Gore won a Nobel
Prize and his co-laureate, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, has
led thousands of top scientists in declaring that man-made greenhouse gases are
warming the planet, the deniers seem to care little what millions of others may
think.

"It doesn't matter how many scientists will say that black is white," Monckton
said in a telephone interview from the conference. "I will continue to say the
emperor has no clothes until the emperor puts on his clothes. The truth is the
truth regardless of how the rest of the world sees it."

And in that, he will be solidly backed by Heartland, a Chicago-based group that
focuses its free-market advocacy on the climate, school reform, health care and
tax policy. In the climate fight, Heartland has joined other groups \_ including
the American Enterprise Institute, Cato Institute, and Science and Public Policy
Institute \_ that are skeptical of the prevailing science and wary of taxes or
any other government efforts to address global warming.

The groups are united not only in their skepticism about man's contribution to
global warming, but also in their opposition to the taxes and other measures
that could be imposed to reduce it.

In March, Heartland will be host to a New York conference designed to
re-energize the climate-change skeptics. Sessions will focus on the science and
politics of climate change \_ with unabashed skepticism on the science and a
libertarian bent on the politics.

"The Heartland Institute certainly believes in free markets and sound science,
and that we don't hide. I remain optimistic that science will be deferred to,"
said James Taylor, senior fellow of environmental policy at Heartland and an
organizer of the conference. "Congress will make a lot of noise, but ultimately,
they'll realize that greenhouse gas regulation is not wise policy."

More than 1,000 scientists involved in the process that led to the Bali
conference examined more than 10,000 peer-reviewed papers. They declared that
human activity is causing rising temperatures after a process that involved
years of debate on dozens of topics.

But, standing his ground in Bali, Monckton has confidence in three scientific
papers he relies on to offer counterarguments. All three cite unusually high
solar flare activity \_ miles-high flares of radiation that may affect
temperatures on Earth \_ as a cause of global warming. He also has done his own
research, comparing temperatures around the world, which he says also undermines
the prevailing theory on climate change.

Afte an early career in journalism, Monckton entered the political realm as a
policy adviser to Margaret Thatcher in the early 1980s. But while the Heartland
Web site emphasizes his work on "technical issues," the leading British
newspapers at the time focused on his advocacy for school vouchers, public
housing reform and tax cuts.

Today, Monckton's newspaper articles and other writings are full of scientific
jargon and references to academic papers. While Monckton calls himself a
scientist and says he is self-taught in advanced mathematics, he has not earned
a degree in science, nor has he published a scientific article in any
peer-reviewed journal.

He refers to himself as a "peer of the House of Lords." Monckton inherited a
title, Third Viscount Monckton of Brenchley, but he is not a member of the House
of Lords, and he earned no votes in early 2007 when the Lords filled a vacancy
created by a member's death.

He came to Heartland's attention early this year. A week after losing his bid
for a seat in the House of Lords, he challenged Al Gore to debate him on the
science of global warming. Gore wrote a response but declined a live debate.

Whatever his scientific or political credentials, Monckton and his group seemed
to fall short in their chief mission at Bali: attract attention and create the
appearance of controversy over an issue the vast majority consider settled
science.

Monckton and a colleague, University of Pretoria professor Will Alexander, were
denied credentials as journalists, representing Heartland's "Environment &
Climate News." The periodical is uniformly skeptical about the science of
climate change, focuses on likely negative impacts of any proposed solutions and
questions the motives of those who believe in the theory. Rebuffed as a
journalist at Bali, despite some significant journalistic experience early in
his career, Monckton quickly reversed course and registered as a representative
of a Heartland-funded non-governmental organization group, the Committee for a
Constructive Tomorrow.

Monckton and about a dozen others sponsored by Heartland were more inventive and
persistent than most of the other skeptics' groups who descended on Bali for the
climate meeting.

They set up a booth offering back rubs to travel-weary journalists but got few
takers. They laid out leaflets, which went mostly unread. They held up a sign
outside the main meeting hall, but security guards shooed them away.

They tried holding news conferences, but those were shut down by the UN
organizers of the Bali meeting. Monckton's group did not properly register their
space for a news conference, as required by the meeting organizers, a U.N.
spokesman said.

John Hay, chief of communications and media for the U.N. Climate Change
secretariat, said Monckton and Alexander were denied journalist accreditation
because Heartland "is an advocacy group, not press."

As to the group's other efforts to gain attention \_ much of it through e-mails
to reporters covering the meeting, Hay said, "There is nothing we can do to stop
Heartland Institute from spamming."

Monckton, for his part, said the U.N. process has gone far beyond science. "It's
not a scientific process in the end," he said. "It is a political process."

Heartland also is mindful of the political process as it sponsors Monckton and
plans for its conference in March, probing for ways to influence public policy
while still arguing the science of the issue.

One immediate political bugaboo for them: A plan to cap emissions of greenhouse
gases and allow for trading of carbon credits. A bill proposed by Sen. Joseph
Lieberman, I-Conn., and Sen. John Warner, R-Va., is working its way through
Congress. Taxes on carbon emissions and increases in fuel-mileage requirements
on passenger cars also have been discussed.

Those in the scientific community who keep tabs on Monckton, Heartland and
others seem mystified by their persistent denial of scientific consensus.

"I don't know whether it's politics or economics or religion that is driving
these people," said Rick Anthes, president of the University Corporation for
Atmospheric Research, a 70-college consortium that collaborates on climate
change research. "But it sure isn't science."