

# Global warming causes soil to release carbon

Says study

REUTERS, London

Global warming is causing soil to release huge amounts of carbon, making efforts to fight global warming tougher than previously thought, scientists said.

A study in the journal Nature looked at the carbon content of soil in England and Wales from 1978-2003 and found that it fell steadily, with some 13 million tonnes of carbon released from British soil each year.

The team from Britain's National Soil Resources Institute at Cranfield University said its results implied a similar process would be under way in other temperate areas across the globe.

"Our findings suggest the soil part of the equation is scarier than we had thought," Professor Guy Kirk of Cranfield University

told journalists at a science conference in Dublin on Wednesday. "The consequence is that there is more urgency about doing something."

Since the carbon appeared to be released from soil regardless of how the soil was used, they concluded that the main cause must be climate change itself.

Though they could not say where all the missing carbon had gone, much of it may be entering the atmosphere as the greenhouse gases carbon dioxide and methane, which scientists say has caused global warming.

#### KYOTO PROTOCOL

International efforts like the Kyoto protocol, which came into effect in February this year, have been aimed at stopping climate change by reducing the amount of greenhouse gases released into the

atmosphere by industry.

But those efforts don't take into account carbon trapped in soil, about 300 times the amount released each year by burning fossil fuels.

In a separate article published alongside the paper in Nature, scientists from Germany's Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry said the carbon released from British soil wiped out the gains made by cutting its industrial emissions.

"These losses thus completely offset the past technological achievements in reducing CO2 emissions, putting the United Kingdom's success in reducing greenhouse-gas emissions in a different light," Detlef Schulze and Annette Freibauer wrote.

"An effective climate policy will require a more comprehensive approach," they wrote.

"The scientific and political implications of the new findings are considerable."



North South University (NSU) Vice Chancellor Dr Hafiz G A Siddiqi speaks at an orientation programme for the newly enrolled undergraduate students on the NSU campus on September 8.

## NSU firm to ensure quality education

Dr Hafiz tells orientation programme

The orientation programme for the newly enrolled undergraduate students of Business, Economics and Architecture departments for Fall 2005 semester of North South University (NSU) was held on the NSU campus on September 8, says a press release.

The orientation programme of the Computer Science and Engineering Department was held on September 7. The English and Environmental Studies orientation will be held on September 11.

Vice Chancellor Dr Hafiz GA Siddiqi welcomed the students and

thanked the guardians for showing trust and confidence in NSU. He congratulated the students for their success in the competitive admission test.

Dr Siddiqi said the NSU as the leading private university is committed to ensure modern and quality education and conducive academic atmosphere.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr S A M Khairul Bashar, deans Dr Khaliqzaman M Elias and Dr A N M Mesquatuddin, registrar Mohammad Ali and proctor G M A Quasem also spoke.