**Global Class on Sustainable Business Practice – Lesson Plan**

**Prepared by Prof. Paul Dervan, Institute of Technology, Dublin, Ireland**

1. **Introduction**

It is planned to hold a ‘Global Class’ on **Tuesday April 4th 3.15pm – 4.45pm (GMT), 10.15am – 11.45am (EST).** The class will explore the theme: ‘Peak Oil – A Blessing in Disguise?’

The Global Class concept has been pioneered by Professor Lon Appleby from Durham College, Oshawa, Canada and allows for an open exploration of universal topics free of outside influence. Students interact with a challenging guest, meet people from varied backgrounds, share materials, and learn from one another using state of the art Polycom video conferencing software hosted by Durham College.

The global class experience offers participants the chance to gain a better understanding of our societies and ourselves in complex "glocal" times. The Sustainable Business Practice class will involve students from Durham College, Canada, the Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown, Dublin, Ireland and Budapest Business School, Hungary interacting with each other and with a guest John Hofmeister (Founder, Citizens for Affordable Energy, and former President, Shell USA). The guest will give a brief presentation and the students will explore the topic through discussion and activities guided by the guest.

The session will be streamed live from the Global Class website (<http://www.theglobalclass.org/>) and a Live Twitter feed will also feature as part of the session.

1. **Objectives**
2. To sensitise students to global dependency on a finite supply of oil and worldwide initiatives to reduce this dependency.
3. To allow students identify the consequences of ‘peak oil’ and to explore initiatives to replace oil and the degree of readiness among citizens for this eventuality.
4. To demonstrate the power of High Definition Videoconferencing technology in facilitating global collaborative working and to allow students become comfortable in the use of this technology.
5. To facilitate students in building international contacts.
6. **Execution**
7. Introductions and overview of session (Paul or Lon TBC) [5 minutes]
8. The guest speaker will address the students for 15 minutes (needs to be agreed, include video?) on the current state of the oil industry (definition of peak oil and have we reached it?), global dependence on oil and the impact on global well-being when it runs out. Following the guest’s address, the students will work on questions posed by the guest with each location reporting back on their respective ‘findings’.
9. Question 1: Having listened to John’s talk, do you think ‘peak oil’ is a ‘blessing in disguise’ for our planet? Why or why not?
10. Question 2: As a citizen of your country, is your government doing enough to move away from fossil fuels? Can you give examples?
11. Question 3: What can the ordinary citizen do bring about improvements?
12. Question 4: To each location: What are the most important ‘takeaways’ your location has identified from today’s discussion?
13. John Hofmeister to sum up and close
14. **Student Preparation**

The following materials to be read and/or viewed by students (ideally) in advance of the global class:

Article 1 – Peak Oil: Theory or Myth?

<http://www.livescience.com/38869-peak-oil.html>

1. **Assessment (Optional)**

Write a 500 word personal reflection based on your participation in this class. The reflection may also be submitted as a short (2 to 3 minute) to-camera video.