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# The Straits Times

**SE** Money**HD** Exxon Mobil exec tackles green issues at seminar**BY** Rachel Chang**WC** 382 words**PD** 18 August 2007**SN** [Straits Times](#)**SC** STIMES**LA** English**CY** (c) 2007 Singapore Press Holdings Limited**LP** FOR an oil giant, there is no touchier topic than climate change. For an Exxon Mobil executive speaking in Singapore two weeks after former United States vice-president and environmental campaigner Al Gore's visit here, there are no easy answers.

Ms Sherri Stuewer, vice-president for safety, health and environment for Exxon Mobil, gamely picked up the gauntlet and spoke yesterday at the **Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy** on the US oil giant's role in a 'carbon-constrained' world.

**TD** The seminar, organised by the Centre on Asia and Globalisation, came on the heels of Mr Gore's remarks during the Singapore Global Brand Forum that Exxon Mobil was part of a campaign to finance academic views disputing the certainty of climate change.

Ms Stuewer, armed with charts and graphs from sources such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, reiterated the view that policymakers still 'need to know more about the science'.

Yet, there were signs that Exxon Mobil is feeling the heat. A substantial part of the presentation was devoted to steps the company has taken to promote energy efficiency.

These include a US\$225 million (S\$346 million), 10- year research programme at Stanford University on carbon capture and sequestration techniques.

The techniques involve liquidising carbon dioxide and injecting it into aquawafers deep underground.

Ms Stuewer said Exxon Mobil had increased its 'avoided greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions' count to more than 12 million tonnes.

Total emissions for the company over the same period, however, had risen sharply. This means the proportion of avoided GHG emissions to total emissions is actually smaller now than in 2004.

Ms Stuewer's presentation failed to impress some in her audience, mostly comprising students and academics.

Dr Matthias Roth, an associate professor of geography, objected to her interpretation of the evidence.

Ms Stuewer used the fact that models predicted a rise in the average temperature of between 1 and 6 degrees Celsius over the next 100 years as proof of the uncertainty of climate change.

Dr Roth said these values were obtained as an average of all scenarios, which explains the wide range.

'The urgency of the situation is more than what Exxon Mobil would like us to believe,' he said.

**CO** exxn : Exxon Mobil Corporation**IN** i1 : Energy | i13 : Crude Oil/Natural Gas | i1300003 : Crude Petroleum Extraction | iextra : Natural Gas/Oil Extraction**NS** gclimt : Climate Change | genv : Environmental News | gwea : Weather | gcat : Political/General News | gglobe : Global/World Issues**RE** usa : United States | namz : North American Countries/Regions

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