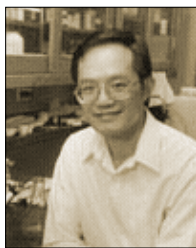


CCST Seminar:

- › Friday, May 23, 2008
- › 10:30 a.m. (refreshments available at 10:15 a.m.)
- › 366 Colburn Laboratory



Harold Kung

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Northwestern University

“Sustainability, Energy, and Society”

In recent years, the heightened awareness of the danger of global climate changes, energy security, and their effects on human life has generated substantial discussions on sustainability and calls for sustainable practices. This presentation is one person's view of how improved understanding of various forces that shape the energy landscape could enhance the role of engineers, including chemical engineers in defining roadmaps for a sustainable society. After a brief discussion of what is sustainability, the importance of energy in this context, and the consequence on climate change, we will move the focus to renewable energy, in particular biofuels as an example. The controversy on the real impact of use of biofuels highlights the importance of a systems point of view. In addition to sustainable energy supply, energy conservation plays an equally significant role in sustainable development, and the transportation sector provides great opportunities for chemical engineering to contribute to improving conservation. However, in addition to improving and developing technology, business has other strategies to enhance sustainability. Finally, all these have to be integrated with consumer behavior.