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IBM Distinguished Engineer Dr. Harry Kolar to unveil new possibilities for “smarter rivers” at Beacon Institute

Thursday, June 16 at 7 pm at Center for Environmental Innovation & Education

Beacon, NY—Coinciding with IBM’s centennial, Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries will present a talk by IBM Distinguished Engineer Harry R. Kolar, Ph.D. that features an exciting glimpse into the intelligent systems and cyber-infrastructure technologies available for real-time water monitoring. The event will take place on Thursday, June 16, 2011, at Beacon Institute’s Center for Environmental Innovation and Education at Denning’s Point in Beacon.

In his talk, titled [Smarter Rivers for a Smarter Planet](#), Dr. Kolar will illustrate the computing technologies behind IBM’s Smarter Planet initiative, which sees the world as an intelligent, instrumented and interconnected system. Beacon Institute, Clarkson University and IBM are collaborating on the [River and Estuary Observatory Network \(REON\)](#), the first technology-based monitoring and forecasting network for rivers and estuaries. REON allows for minute-to-minute monitoring of physical, chemical and biological data through a network of sensors, robotics and computational technology.

“When you consider the staggering global demands on our freshwater resources by humans, agriculture and industry, the ability to accurately monitor both quantity and quality of water becomes critical,” states Dr. Kolar. “REON is changing the way environmental science is conducted by combining real-time environmental monitoring in the river with a very sophisticated cyber-infrastructure that can intelligently collect and analyze data. It is a great example of how we can employ sophisticated computing technologies, not only to understand why changes are occurring in the ecosystem, but also to better manage the use of our precious water resources.”

As IBM marks its one-hundredth year on June 16, 2011, it is celebrating its history via [100 Icons of Progress](#), a campaign highlighting 100 of IBM’s most significant achievements to date. REON is included within the icon for Smarter Water Management.

[Online registration](#) for this event is encouraged. For more information about upcoming Beacon Institute events, visit www.bire.org/events.

About the Presenter:

Harry R. Kolar, Ph.D. is a Distinguished Engineer in IBM Research and has worked across several IBM divisions in technical, management, and executive roles to advance cross-industry application of new technologies. These include advanced analytical methods (involving signal processing, data mining, massively parallel processors and very large databases), information and knowledge management, pervasive and embedded real-time intelligent systems, and sensor-based and cyberphysical systems.

Dr. Kolar was formerly the Chief Architect for Sensor-Based Solutions in the IBM Microelectronics Division, concentrating on environmental monitoring and management (Advanced Water Management Solutions) through the IBM Big Green Innovations initiative. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in physics and an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in the science and engineering of materials. He is an adjunct professor of physics at Arizona State University and a district advocate for the American Physical Society at the U.S. Congressional level.

About Beacon Institute:

Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries, with offices in Beacon and Troy, New York, is a not-for-profit environmental research organization engaging scientists, engineers, educators and policy experts in collaborative work focusing on real-time monitoring of river ecosystems. It aims to make the Hudson Valley a global center for scientific and technological innovation that advances research, education and public policy regarding rivers and estuaries. www.bire.org

Editor’s Note: High resolution color images are available for publication upon request. Please contact Kathleen Hickey at 845-838-1600 x15.

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