

## BRITISH COUNCIL SCOTLAND LECTURE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

British Council Scotland today holds the third of its *Promoting Scotland Worldwide* debates in the Scottish Parliament. Professor Wilson Sibbett, Chair of the Scottish Science Advisory Committee, will outline his vision of how Scotland should be promoted internationally in the field of science and technology.

In his lecture, Professor Sibbett illustrates Scotland's impressive historic contribution to the field, and lists current achievements of the country's scientific community. Science and innovation, he states, are part of Scotland's cultural identity, with particular strengths evident today in bio-sciences, medical sciences, veterinary sciences, e-science and opto-electronics.

Looking forward, Professor Sibbett suggests that the global challenges for the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be addressed by innovations in science, engineering and technology. No single country will find all the answers to issues such as the supply and security of energy, climate change, health, global security and the eradication of poverty, he says, and international collaboration is therefore vital.

The task of promoting Scottish science overseas is well underway, according to Professor Sibbett, through organisations like the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Scottish Executive, Scottish Enterprise, and British Council Scotland as well as universities, research institutions and professional and industrial bodies. He outlines Scotland's place in the UK Science and Innovation Investment Framework 2004-2014 and emphasises its Global Partnership aims.

In conclusion, Professor Sibbett proposes that other countries can learn from Scotland, just as Scotland can learn from other countries. Such links can bring all manner of benefits; *scientists and science organisations*, he states, *are good advocates for global communications and international relationships*.

The event will be chaired by Dr Elaine Murray MSP, and Michael White, International Science Manager of the British Council Scotland and the Royal Society of Edinburgh, will outline the British Council's work in the field.

Further details about the lectures and speakers are available at [www.britishcouncil.org/scotland-lectures](http://www.britishcouncil.org/scotland-lectures).

**For more information please contact:**

Emma Gray, Communications Manager, British Council Scotland

Tel: 0131 524 5717

Email: [emma.gray@britishcouncil.org](mailto:emma.gray@britishcouncil.org)

**Notes to Editors :**

1. The final lecture in the British Council's *Promoting Scotland Worldwide* series is:

- Tuesday 3 May: *Education and training*  
Professor John Archer, Principal, Heriot-Watt University and Convenor of Universities Scotland.

The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. Its purpose is to build mutually beneficial relationships between people in the UK and other countries, and to increase appreciation of the UK's creative ideas and achievements. It operates independently from the UK Government. In Scotland the British Council offers its partners a gateway to its global networks, and it provides its audiences worldwide with a window on Scotland.

With 7,000 staff working in 110 countries worldwide, the British Council operates in three broad areas:

. **Learning** – the British Council increases international recognition of the range and quality of learning opportunities available from the UK; promotes the learning of English; and strengthens educational co-operation between the UK and other countries

. **Creativity** – The British Council builds appreciation of the UK's artistic creativity and scientific innovation among people overseas and strengthens their engagement with the diversity of UK culture

. **Society** – the British Council aims to enhance awareness of the UK's democratic values and processes, and works in partnership with other countries to strengthen good governance and human rights

For more information please see [www.britishcouncil.org/scotland](http://www.britishcouncil.org/scotland)