

## California Clean Innovation Conference Highlights Clean Tech's Future

*San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders Speaks On Clean Tech in San Diego*

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The UC San Diego Rady School of Management and UCLA Anderson School of Management today hosted the fifth annual California Clean Innovation Conference (CACI) at the Price Center on the UC San Diego Campus. CACI is an interactive forum for investors, entrepreneurs, managers and academics to explore current clean technology trends and innovations.

The conference covered a variety of clean tech topics such as: biofuels, renewable energy project permits, public transportation, solar technologies, alternative-energy vehicles and waste-to-energy.

"This conference is unique because it gives people the opportunity to exchange ideas and have an open dialogue about the clean tech industry, sparking creativity and enterprise," said Robert S. Sullivan, Dean of the Rady School of Management. "Our hope is that the connections made at the CACI conference serve as a catalyst for the growth of the clean tech industry in California."

San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders opened the conference and spoke on the importance of clean tech in San Diego. Conference keynote speakers were Michael R. Niggli, President and Chief Operating Officer of San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), John Denniston, Partner at Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers and Byron Washom, UC San Diego's Director of Strategic Energy Initiatives.

The conference also included the Fast Pitch Business Plan Competition, which provided aspiring entrepreneurs and newly established clean technology companies a venue to present their concepts to a panel of industry expert judges. Participants received feedback on their ideas and the winner received a \$10,000 cash prize and was sponsored to move directly to the semi-final round of the Cleantech Open, a national clean tech business competition.

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