



Global Awareness Lecture
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New Scotland: the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century

Henry McLeish

Former first minister, Scottish Parliament

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After thirty years as an elected official, Henry McLeish retired from public office in 2003. Since retirement, McLeish has been a visiting lecturer at universities around the world. In the U.S., these have included Oklahoma State University, Denver University, and the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs. He has also served as a distinguished scholar in Residence at the European Union Centre at Oklahoma University. He is currently a visiting professor of law and liberal arts at Arkansas University. McLeish became First Minister of Scotland in 2000, taking responsibility for Scotland's emerging role on the European and world stage, leading official government missions around the globe and implementing Scotland's social and economic policies. In the same year, he became a member of the Privy Council—an honor bestowed by Her Majesty the Queen. Elected to the Scottish Parliament in 1999, he was Minister for Enterprise and Life Long Learning, overseeing higher education, industry, science, and technology. From 1997 to 1999, as Minister for Devolution, he played a key role in returning key aspects of Parliamentary power and government authority from the U.K. to Scotland and shaping Scotland's first Parliament in almost 300 years. He became a member of the Blair Government in 1997 after ten years as a member of the U.K. Parliament. Having been a professional soccer player, McLeish began his political career in Fife, Scotland, in the early 1970s, working his way through the ranks of the Kirkcaldy District Council and the Fife Regional Council. He advises the LEED programme of the OECD in Paris, the European foundation for the Improvement of working and Living Conditions in Dublin, Scottish Further and Higher education Colleges and is a Fellow of Edinburgh University. With colleague Kenny MacAskill, a member of the Scottish Parliament, he is about to publish a book on Scottish organizations worldwide (including Philadelphia), a follow-up to *Global Scots: Voices From Afar* (2006). His interests include the life and works of Robert Burns, Scottish and European history, and the study of famous speeches.