

Open Meeting Programme

So as to address the social challenges of global change in a comprehensive manner, the 7th Open Meeting's overall scientific framework consists of various components including plenary sessions, special round tables and parallel scientific sessions. Side events and meetings, book and project launches, a generous exhibition area as well as specialised formats addressing the science-policy interaction will all complement the scientific core of the conference. In the context of this 7th Open Meeting, four major social challenges of critical importance in sustaining livelihoods have been identified. These challenges, to which IHDP is committed, will each be the focus of one day of the meeting.

Tentative Schedule

- 26 April** Registration
Get-together/Reception
- 27 April** Opening Ceremony
How do we deal with demographic challenges?
Special round tables, parallel sessions
- 28 April** How do we deal with limited resource and ecosystem services?
Plenary, special round tables, parallel sessions
- 29 April** How do we establish social cohesion while increasing equity at various levels?
Plenary, special roundtables, parallel sessions
- 30 April** How do we adapt institutions to address global change?
Special round tables, parallel sessions
Closing Ceremony

Sponsorship Opportunities

More than 1,000 international scientists and other stakeholders are expected to attend the 7th International Science Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change, a landmark meeting addressing the "Social Challenges of Global Change". Sponsorship of this exciting international conference provides a unique opportunity to elevate the status and increase the visibility of institutions and corporations dealing with global change issues such as climate change, energy, urbanisation, food security, land and water issues or technological innovation. Sponsors may wish to make a financial contribution or, in some cases, provide 'in-kind' support. IHDP has identified different levels of sponsorship ranging from "Premium Sponsor" to "Friend of the Conference", each including various packages of exhibition and recognition possibilities. IHDP is also pleased to discuss packages tailored to meet specific requirements. For more information, please contact: *Mr. Jens Marson, E-mail: marson@ihdp.unu.edu, tel.: +49-228-815 0613.*

The World Conference Center Bonn

The venue of the 7th Open Meeting will be the World Conference Centre Bonn, the former seat of the German Parliament. The World Conference Centre, in close proximity to the IHDP Secretariat at the United Nations Campus, is a unique facility of the highest technical standards with a variety of halls and seminar rooms.

The former German Bundestag Plenary Chamber, a distinctive congress building located directly on the Rhine, is among the facilities of the World Conference Centre. One of the most striking parliamentary buildings in the world, the Plenary Chamber holds up to 1,275 people. Another facility offered by the Centre, the close-by 19th century Waterworks, is equipped with state-of-the-art conference technology and holding up to 600 people. Additional conference rooms provide space for up to 184 participants.

The City of Bonn

Beautifully located at the banks of the River Rhine, Bonn has gained recognition over the past decade as the German City of the United Nations and a centre of international dialogue on key issues of sustainability. Since July 1996, Bonn has been entitled to call itself a UN City. In July 2006, Chancellor Angela Merkel handed the new branch office of the United Nations over to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. The IHDP Secretariat, the 14th UN agency to come to Germany and part of the UN University since 2007, is looking forward to welcoming the global human dimensions community to the UN Campus.



Deadlines

Second Call for Papers and Posters:

15 August to 31 October, 2008

Open Meeting Registration begins:

1 October, 2008 (early bird registration ends 31 January, 2009)

International Scientific Planning Committee

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Social Challenges of Global Change

7th International
Science Conference on the
Human Dimensions of
Global Environmental Change

26-30 April 2009
World Conference Center Bonn
UN Campus
Bonn, Germany

www.openmeeting2009.org



About the Open Meeting

Since 1995, the Open Meetings of the human dimensions research community have grown into the world's largest international science conference series dealing with the social aspects of global environmental change. They help to determine the state-of-the-art of human dimensions research, outlining new research agendas, theoretical frameworks and methodologies. Identifying cutting-edge research themes within the science-practice nexus, the Open Meeting also serves to promote the enhanced policy relevance of social science on global change. A truly international and interdisciplinary group of over 1,000 scientists, journalists, government officials, decision-makers as well as leading representatives from the private sector, key institutes, international organisations and NGOs are expected to attend the 7th Open Meeting at the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany.

Past Open Meetings have been held in the United States, Austria, Japan, Brazil, Canada and Germany. Since 2005, the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP) has proudly taken the lead in their organisation.

About IHDP

The International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP) is an international, interdisciplinary science programme dedicated to promoting and coordinating research on the human dimensions of global environmental change. IHDP takes a social science perspective and works at the interface between science and practice, garnering significant added value from its international networks of high-level scientists. IHDP is a joint programme of the International Council for Science (ICSU), the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the United Nations University (UNU). Its Secretariat is located at the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany.

www.ihdp.org



Social Challenges of Global Change

The theme of the 7th IHDP Open Meeting, "Social Challenges of Global Change," responds to important changes in the perspective of the scientific community on the challenges that we are currently facing. It also outlines the new research agenda for IHDP's second decade, as this Open Meeting will be both the first under the guidance of the IHDP Strategic Plan 2007-2015 and a major contribution to this plan's implementation.

There is an increasing emphasis on the role of human beings as actors in global environmental change – an insight prominently acknowledged just recently by the IPCC's 4th Assessment Report. People's actions, however, do not only alter physical environments. Human beings define their environment, both natural and social, and human beings define what constitutes an "environmental problem" as well as how a "solution" for such a problem should look. The improved understanding of the challenges we are currently facing has shifted the focus in yet another way, from understanding the dynamics of global environmental change to using that understanding to devise ways to meet these challenges. This has pushed the scientific community to pay more attention to the relationship between science and policy, to include more use-inspired and policy-relevant research, and to improve communication with government, businesses, NGOs and members of the civil society. This human dimensions focus should be kept broad and inclusive, however, for the social challenges of global change will have to be addressed by scientists from all existing disciplines. The 7th IHDP Open Meeting will take stock of the current situation and help prepare the human dimensions research community to meet the challenges ahead.



The scientific framework

In providing a key forum for collaborative research and ample opportunity to highlight the current activities of the global research community, the 7th Open Meeting will consist of the following three components as a framework for the Conference Themes to ensure that the Social Challenges of Global Change are being addressed in a coherent manner:

1. Four major social challenges
2. Key issue areas
3. Crosscutting questions

Conference Themes

Four major social challenges

Four major social challenges, which are paramount for the future living conditions of human beings and good entry points to demonstrate IHDP's preparedness to contribute to new research perspectives, have been identified by the International Scientific Planning Committee

1. **How do we deal with demographic challenges?**
2. **How do we deal with limited resources and ecosystem services?**
3. **How do we establish social cohesion while increasing equity at various levels?**
4. **How do we adapt institutions to address global change?**

Key Issue Areas

Key issues under these overarching challenges will be discussed during parallel sessions with IHDP's core and joint scientific projects that take a leading role in these areas. Some of these specific issues include:

- Climate change linkages: land, water, coasts, food, health, urbanisation
- Sustainable adaptation options
- Mainstreaming climate change policies at multiple levels
- Building resilient systems in times of rapid change
- Tipping points: ecology, technology, society
- The world in an urban perspective
- Demographic pressures – from resources to health care systems
- How to achieve food security
- Equity, distributional effects and fairness in governance systems across scales
- Interaction of global environmental change and globalisation processes
- New approaches towards sustainable resource management
- Sustainability transitions and innovation studies
- Vulnerability, human security and conflict
- Integrative risk analysis and governance
- The next generation of institutional dimensions research
- Perceptions, learning and the role of knowledge systems
- The ethical foundations of sustainability
- Participation and stakeholder involvement in environmental governance

Crosscutting questions

The crosscutting questions constitute the third and last component of the 7th Open Meeting's matrix design. While it is likely that many such themes will emerge as the Open Meeting approaches, four crosscutting themes of increasing importance are:

- Integrative Modeling
- Forecasting techniques in a social science perspective
- System changes and transitions – the contribution of the human dimensions community
- The role of research in addressing these issues