

UNU-ISP and IR3S Consultation Conference on

The Role of higher education in adapting to climate change

For 'Establishing a regional network to develop postgraduate educational programmes on climate change adaptation'

10-12 June 2009

U Thant International Conference Hall, UNU Headquarters, Tokyo

Note: Only the first day of the programme (10 June) will be open to the public.

Adaptation to climate change has emerged as one of the most important concerns in the global development agenda. How we adapt, and the solutions we create to overcome the adverse impacts of climate change must be developed locally, while being supported by regional and global knowledge and experiences. For adaptation strategies to evolve locally, local human resources and technical capacities should be developed, particularly in the vulnerable regions of the world. This can be achieved through postgraduate education, where the necessary research can be conducted in partnership with implementing agencies and local communities.

Currently, the knowledge gap on adaptation is vast. Knowledge and expertise remains primarily at the international level and is failing to reach those in the developing world who need it most. Higher education institutions in developing countries do have a critical role to play. To enable this, closer cooperation is needed between higher education institutions, through partnerships, interdisciplinary research, student and faculty exchanges, and collaborative degree programs. These would connect stakeholders and support the sharing of experience and data necessary for effective adaptation in the Region.

United Nations University Institute for Sustainability and Peace (UNU-ISP) together with the Integrated Research Systems for Sustainability Science (IR3S), a consortium of universities conducting research on sustainability science, will organize an international conference from June 10-12, 2009 to discuss the role of higher education in adapting to climate change and how to establish a regional network to develop postgraduate programmes on climate change adaptation.

The first day of the Conference is a public event composed of four keynote lectures by renowned speakers on the themes of conceptualizing adaptation, climate change impacts and adaptation needs, mainstreaming adaptation to development, and innovation for climate change adaptation. The workshops on the second and third days are invitation-only and will centre on joint curriculum and course development, resource sharing, and joint research.

To register, please visit <wm.hq.unu.edu/?q=node/47>.

For up-to-date information visit the conference website at <wm.hq.unu.edu/?q=node/48>, or <<http://www2.ir3s.u-tokyo.ac.jp/UNU-IR3S/index.html>>

English and Japanese simultaneous translation is available only on June 10.

Please participate in our survey!

If your institution has educational or research programmes related to climate change adaptation, you are cordially invited to complete a short questionnaire we are conducting at <wm.hq.unu.edu/?q=node/45>. Even if you are unable to attend the event, we welcome all contributions. This information will help us to grasp ongoing activities, and identify needs and gaps.

DAY ONE, 10 June 2009

Venue: U Thant International Conference Hall, UNU Headquarters, Tokyo

Setting the stage: Adaptation To Climate Change

10:00 – 10:30	Registration	
10:30 - 11:30	OPENING	(Master of the Ceremony: Prof. Srikantha Herath, UNU-ISP)
	Brief introduction to the programme	Prof. Srikantha Herath, Senior Academic Programme Officer, UNU-ISP
	Opening remarks	Prof. Konrad Osterwalder, Rector, UNU
	Climate change adaptation education	Mr. Isao KISO, Director-General, International Affairs, MEXT, Government of Japan
	Climate change and Sustainability	Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi, UNU-ISP & IR3S
	Climate change initiatives	World Bank: Mr. Kazushige Taniguchi, Special Representative, the World Bank Tokyo Office GEOSS/AWCI: Prof. Toshio Koike, the University of Tokyo
11:30 – 11:50	Coffee Break	Reception Hall, 2 nd Floor, UNU
11:50 – 12:35	<u>Keynote speech 1</u> Conceptualizing adaptation	Prof. Janette Lindesay, Deputy Director, Australian National University Climate Change Institute, Australia
12:35 – 12:45	Discussion, Q&A	Open
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 14:45	<u>Keynote speech 2</u> Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation needs	Prof. Diqiang Li, Institute of Forest Ecology, Environment and Protection; Chinese Academy of Forestry, China
14:45 – 15:30	<u>Keynote speech 3</u> Mainstreaming Adaptation to Development planning	Prof. Nobuo Mimura, Director, ICAS Professor, Center for Water Environment Studies Vice President Extraordinary, Ibaraki University
15:30 – 15:40	Discussion, Q&A	Open
15:40 – 16:00	Coffee	Reception Hall, 2 nd Floor, UNU
16:00 – 16:45	<u>Keynote speech 4</u> Sustainability Science for Action	Prof. Hiroyuki Yoshikawa, Director-General, The Center for Research and Development Strategy (CRDS), Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
16:45 – 16:55	Discussion, Q&A	Open
17:00 – 18:00	Panel Discussion: Climate Change Adaptation – Challenges and Opportunities for higher education Facilitated by Prof. Akimasa Sumi, Executive Director, TIGS, IR3S, the University of Tokyo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. S. B. S. Abayakoon, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka • Prof. Mazlin bin Mokhtar, Director, Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI), Universiti Kebangsaan, Malaysia • Prof. U. C. Mohanty, Center for Atmospheric Science, IIT, Delhi, India • Prof. Soontak Lee, President, International Association for Environment and Hydrology, Distinguished Professor, Yeungnam University, Korea • Prof. Mai Trong Nhuan, President, National University of Viet Nam, Viet Nam • Prof. Sudip Kumar Rakshit, Vice-President, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand • Prof. Ir. Tumiran, Head, Faculty of Engineering, Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia
18:00 – 18:25	Discussion, Q&A to the panelists	Open to the floor
18:25 – 18:30	Closing remarks	Prof. Akimasa Sumi, Executive Director, TIGS, IR3S

DAY TWO, 11 June 2009

Venue: Children's Castle (next to UNU Headquarters), Tokyo

The second day is dedicated to sharing experiences. All invited universities have been sent a questionnaire to summarise their existing climate-related teaching and research. Each faculty will present their experiences as well as needs and expectations in relation to two broad categories:

1. Educational programmes:
 - a. Joint or dual degree programmes.
 - b. Common courses open for credit sharing schemes.
2. Research programmes:
 - a. Resource sharing such as experimental fields, experimental facilities, modeling and forecasting systems, short-term training, etc.
 - b. Frameworks for joint research programmes, existing and proposed initiatives, available funds and fundraising activities, etc.

9:30 - 9:40 **Opening and Introduction to the Programme**

9:40 - 12:00 **Asia-I (presentations 15 min each)**

- Prof. Mai Trong Nhuan, President, National University of Viet Nam
- Prof. Sudip Kumar Rakshit, Vice-President, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand
- Prof. Guillermo Q. Tabios III, Head, National Hydraulic Research Center, University of the Philippines
- Prof. Ir. Tumiran, Head, Faculty of Engineering, Gajah Mada University, Indonesia
- Prof. Mazlin bin Mokhtar, Director, Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI), Universiti Kebangsaan, Malaysia
- Prof. Soontak Lee, Yeungnam University, Korea

12:00 - 13:00 **Lunch**

13:00 - 14:30 **Japan (presentations 15 min each)**

- Prof. Toshio Koike, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Tokyo, Japan
- Prof. Kaoru Takara, Deputy Director, Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University, Japan
- Prof. Shunji Matsuoka, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University
- Prof. Monte Cassem, President, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University
- Dr. Ai Hiramatsu, Integrated Research Systems for Sustainability Science, University of Tokyo
- Prof. Hiromichi Fukui, Faculty of Policy Management, Research Director, Global Security Research Institute, Keio University

14:30 - 15:15 **Asia-II (presentations 15 min each)**

- Prof. S. B. S. Abayakoon, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
- Prof. Mafizur Rahman, Department of Civil Engineering, BUET, Bangladesh
- Prof. U. C. Mohanty, Center for Atmospheric Science, IIT, Delhi, India

15:15 - 15:45 **Coffee Break**

15:45 - 16:45 **Asia and Oceania (presentations 15 min each)**

- Prof. Rabindra Nath Shrestha, Head, Department of Civil Engineering, Institute of Engineering, Nepal
- Prof. Diqiang Li, Institute of Forest Ecology, Environment and Protection, Chinese Academy of Forestry, China
- Prof. Janette Lindesay, Deputy Director, Australian National University Climate Change Institute, Australia
- Dr. John Colvin, Director, Learning to Live with Climate Change Programme, the Open University

16:45 - 18:30

International /Research Organizations (presentations 15 min each)

- United Nations University – Institute for Sustainability and Peace
- Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), Dr. Linda Stevenson, Scientific Officer
- Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Dr. Anbumozhi Venkatachalam, Capacity Development Specialist, Capacity Building and Training (CBT)
- International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Dr. Sudo Tomonari, Advisor, Climate Change Office
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), Dr. Chu Ishida, Director, Space Cooperation Office for Asia Pacific Region (SCOAP)
- Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Dr. SVRK Prabhakar, Policy Researcher, Climate Policy Project

DAY THREE, 12 June 2009

Venue: Children's Castle (next to UNU Headquarters), Tokyo

This day is dedicated for discussions to develop commitments, future action plans, phased deliverables, and a framework for a network for cooperation.

09:30 - 09:45	Summary of presentations: Curricula and courses
09:45 - 10:00	Summary of presentations: Joint research & resource sharing
10:00 - 10:15	Discussion
10:15 - 10:30	Coffee break
10:30 - 12:30	Break-out group discussion Group A : Focus on joint research and resource sharing Group B : Focus on curricula and course module development
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 14:30	Presentation of group discussions
14:30 - 15:30	Establishing a framework, commitments and responsibilities
15:30 - 15:45	Agenda, date & venue for next workshop on implementation
15:45 - 16:00	Vote of thanks and Closure