

NORTH AMERICAN SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

FOSTERING RESILIENCE AND THE REGIONAL
CAPACITY TO ADAPT

NEW YORK, NY.
AUGUST 16-18, 2016

ICCP 



Hochschule für Angewandte
Wissenschaften Hamburg
Hamburg University of Applied Sciences

ACCO
ASSOCIATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICERS



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



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BACKGROUND

North America and the Caribbean are affected by extreme weather and climate change at a variety of scales and within the context of an even greater diversity of geographies, ecologies and institutions. Whereas droughts affect the western part of the U.S. and Canada, the eastern portion of the continent is particularly prone to flooding and sea level rise. Even in the Caribbean, where tropical cyclones have been the primary risk factor for generations, a persistent drought is leading to severe ecological stresses that are driving unprecedented transformations in economy and society.

According to the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), recent climate variations and individual extreme events demonstrate both impacts of climate-related stresses and the vulnerabilities of exposed systems. Many climate stresses that carry risk—particularly related to severe heat, heavy precipitation, and declining snowpack—will increase in frequency and/or severity in North America in the coming decades.

AR5 also states that current and future climate-related drivers of risk for small islands during the 21st century, such as those in the Caribbean region, will include sea level rise (SLR), tropical and extratropical cyclones, increasing air and sea surface temperatures, and changing rainfall patterns. In addition, these patterns are likely to persist in some of the most advanced urban environments in the world, including Miami, Washington, D.C., New York and Boston. Among other things, AR5 states that adaptation to climate change generates greater benefits when delivered in conjunction with other development activities, such as disaster risk reduction and community-based approaches to development. Whether it is a sparsely populated Caribbean island or a major continental urban region, adaptation processes are increasingly being recognized as critical steps where conventional modes of consumption, production, and risk mitigation are unsustainable.

The above state of affairs illustrates the need for a better understanding of how climate change affects North America and for the identification of processes, methods and tools which may help countries and communities to develop an adaptive capacity. There is also a critical need to showcase successful examples of how to manage the social, economic and political complexities posed by climate change, so that lessons can be learned and best practices may be disseminated.

It is against this background that the North American Symposium On Climate Change Adaptation (Symposium) is being organized by the International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIPI), Columbia University (USA), and the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany). Taking place in New York City from August 16-18th 2016, the Symposium will be a truly interdisciplinary event, mobilizing scholars, practitioners and members of governmental agencies, undertaking research and/or executing climate change projects in North America and the Caribbean region.

The North American Symposium On Climate Change Adaptation will focus on “fostering resilience and the regional capacity to adapt,” meaning that it will serve the purpose of showcasing experiences from research, field projects and best practices in climate change adaptation and resilience among countries in the region, which may be used to translate the integration of climate science with socio-economic policies in the public and private sectors.



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AIMS

Consistent with the need for more cross-sectoral interactions among the various stakeholders working in the field of climate change adaptation in North America and the Caribbean region, the aims of the North American Symposium On Climate Change Adaptation are as follows:

- to provide research institutions, universities, NGOs, government agencies and enterprises from North America and the Caribbean with an opportunity to display and present their works in the field of climate change adaptation;
- to foster the exchange of information, ideas and experiences acquired in the execution of climate change adaptation projects, especially successful initiatives and good practice across the region;
- to discuss methodological approaches and experiences deriving from case studies and projects, which aim to show how climate change adaptation may be implemented in practice;
- to network the participants and provide a platform so they can explore possibilities for cooperation.

Last but not least, a further aim of the event will be to document and disseminate the wealth of experiences available today. To advance this mission, the book "Climate Change Adaptation in North America: Experiences, Case Studies and Best Practices" will be published, with all accepted papers. This book will be a further volume of the award-winning book series "Climate Change Management" published by Springer, which since its creation in 2008 has become the world's leading book series on climate change management. The decision of the editors as to which papers may be selected and undergo peer review for the book is final and is not subject to additional review.

ORGANIZERS

CO-CHAIR

Prof. Walter Leal
Hamburg University of Applied Sciences,
Germany, and Manchester Metropolitan
University, UK

Prof. Jesse M. Keenan,
Columbia University, USA

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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Williams College and US Agency for International
Development, USA

Dr. Juan Carlos Belausteguigoitia
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Mexico

Prof. Harry Polo Diaz
University of Regina, Canada
Dr. Yannick Glemarec
UN Women, USA

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Columbia University / NASA, USA

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El Colegio de la Frontera Sur, Mexico

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Dr. Víctor Sánchez-Cordero
Universidad Nacional Autónoma
de México, Mexico

SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT

Dr. Jelena Barbir
International Climate Change Information
Programme (ICCIIP)

COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

World Health Organisation (WHO)

World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)

International Climate Change
Information Programme (ICCIIP)

International Council for Local
Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)



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Source: Museum of Modern Art [2013]

STRUCTURE OF THE EVENT

The North American Symposium On Climate Change Adaptation will be organised in two main strands:

Strand 1: Posters and Displays

Participants and organisations will be able to put-up displays describing their works and projects and to distribute the relevant information to the participants. The displays will be the backbone of the event and will allow close, one-to-one contacts between the participants and the exhibitors.

Strand 2: Presentations

A set of presentations, divided into seven main themes will be organized, distributed over parallel sessions dealing with some of the issues of strategic value in the field of climate change adaptation.

Session 1:
Climate Adaptation Management
in Rural and Urban Areas

Session 2:
Conflicts and Synergies: Adaptation,
Resilience and Multi-Hazard Mitigation

Session 3:
Climate Change and Agriculture

Session 4:
Climate Change and the Built Environment

Session 5:
Climate Change and Health

Session 6:
Information, Communication, Education and
Training on Climate Change

Session 7:
Developing Pedagogy in Climate Change
Management

The plenary and parallel sessions, as well as the social events, will provide participants with an outstanding opportunity to interact, network and learn about the latest ideas, projects and practices, mainstreaming climate change adaptation in North America and the Caribbean.

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

Delegates attending the North American Symposium On Climate Change Adaptation will come from public, private and civic sectors, including:

- members of NGOs working within climate change
- researchers at universities and research institutes
- Ph.D. students in science, applied science and social science
- representatives from private sector firms
- local, state and federal administrators and executives

The participation of doctoral students is warmly encouraged and supervisors/advisers are kindly requested to facilitate their participation. The sort of international exposure and the rich content of this Symposium, will be beneficial to their training and to their future careers. It is believed that this wide range of participants will help to outline the need for and the usefulness of integrated approaches towards climate change adaptation in North American and Caribbean; and, hence contribute to the further consolidation and refinement of the science of adaptation.



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SCHEDULE

The North American Symposium On Climate Change Adaptation will be held from August 16-18, 2016 in New York, NY, on the campus of Columbia University.

August 16, 2016

Afternoon:
Arrival and Set-up of Displays/Posters

Evening:
Informal Get-together of Participants
for Informal Conversations
and Networking

August 17, 2016

All day:
Exhibition and Visit to Displays/Posters

Morning:
Plenary and Sessions

Afternoon:
Plenary and Sessions

Evening:
Reception

August 18, 2016

Morning:
Plenary and Sessions

Exhibition and Visit to Displays/Posters

Afternoon:
Plenary and Sessions

Exhibition and Visit to Displays/Posters

Round-table with Key Experts & Conclusions, including Awards for the Best Papers

In order to ensure an efficient use of the time, delegates are kindly asked to organize their travel in a way that allows them to arrive in New York in the course of August 16, 2016, and travel back on or after the August 19, 2016, so they can fully take part in the Symposium.

DEADLINES

Deadline for Submission of Abstracts:
January 20, 2016

Deadline for Submission of Papers:
March 30, 2016

**Deadline for the Submission
of Revised Papers:**
June 30, 2016

Deadline for Registrations:
June 30, 2016

Since the conference book is expected to be launched shortly after the event, the deadlines need to be followed.

FEES AND CHARGES

A discounted fee of \$300 (USD) / €280 (Euro) (professionals) or \$150 (USD) / €130 (Euro) (for students), plus 19% VAT that will be charged to those who register until March 30, 2016 for early registration. After that date, delegates will need to pay the full fee of \$350 (USD) / €308 (Euro) (professionals) or \$175 (USD) / €154 (Euro), plus 19% VAT. The fee includes lunches and coffee breaks on August 17th and 18th, as well as the evening reception on August 17th. Organizations or individuals not able to pay this fee should contact the Secretariat so that it may be reduced in special cases. Interested people and organizations are encouraged to register by completing the application form provided. This is a self-funded event and the organisers are unable to pay any travel or accommodation costs of any kind. They are however happy to issue letters of invitation to support delegates to request funding for their participation.



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REGISTRATION AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Registrations are now open and are possible until June 30, 2016. Regrettably, logistical limitations mean that registrations after the deadline will not be possible. Since the space for displays and the time for presentations is limited, delegates are advised to register as soon as possible. The organizers will notify any interested delegate or organization in case there are any limitations with time for presentations or space for displays. Registered delegates will then receive further details on the payment of the fees and updated information on the preparations for the event. The decision as to which papers will be accepted for presentation will be taken by the chairpersons, following consultation with the organising committee. Participants registering to the event will do so under the condition that they will cover their own travel, accommodation and incidental costs (e.g., visa fees) related to their trip to New York City. This is a self-funded event and the organizers are unable to pay any travel or accommodation costs of any kind. Letters of invitation to enter the United States can only be sent to bona fide, registered delegates, who have paid their fees and need a document to show their employers. For cancellations of registrations up to June 30, 2016, a 50% refund may be made. For cancellations afterwards, no refunds will be possible. Registrations are now open and may be made on-line at: <http://www.haw-hamburg.de/en/ftz-als/veranstaltungen/NorthAmerica2016.html>

HOW TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT

An abstract should be up to 200 words, it should describe the rationale and aims of the paper, the initial results and the preliminary conclusions. General descriptions of broad contexts should be avoided. The full contact details about the author(s) should be provided. Abstracts should be written in the third person. Authors whose abstracts have been accepted, will receive further details about how to submit their full papers, as well as further logistical information.

Abstracts should be emailed in a word (.doc or .docx) format to: info@iccip.net

CONTACT POINTS FOR SCIENTIFIC INPUTS, STRATEGIC COOPERATION AND GUIDANCE ON PUBLICATIONS

All questions related to scientific inputs, abstracts and strategic partnerships, as well as the book, should be sent to:

Prof. Walter Leal
E-mail: info@iccip.net

Prof. Jesse M. Keenan
E-mail: cure@columbia.edu

CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION AND CONTACT POINT FOR FURTHER DETAILS

All questions related to registrations should be sent to:

Dr. Jelena Barbir
International Climate Change Information
Programme
E-mail: jelena@barbir.com.es