

.... BACKGROUND

Many universities across the world perform state-of-the-art research on matters related to climate change, both in respect of mitigation, and adaptation. Yet, as shown by the latest 21st Conference of the Parties of the UN Convention on Climate Change (COP 21), held in Paris in December 2015, there is much room for improvements in the role played by universities in the negotiations and in influencing decision-making on a matter of such a global importance.

There are unfortunately relatively few events where a multidisciplinary overview of university-based research efforts and projects on climate change can be showcased, and where researchers from across the spectrum of the natural and social sciences have had the opportunity to come together to discuss research methods, the results of empirical research or exchange ideas about on-going and future research initiatives focusing on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

It is against this background that the 2nd Symposium “**Universities and Climate Change**” is being organised by Manchester Metropolitan University, Queen Mary University of London (UK), and HAW Hamburg, Germany, under the auspices of the International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP).

It will involve researchers in the field of climate change in the widest sense, not only from traditional climate science, but also from the fields of environment, human geography, business and economics, arts, administration and media studies.

The Symposium will focus on the role of climate change research and projects in fostering climate action, and will contribute to the further development of this fast-growing field.

... AIMS

The aims of the Symposium are as follows:

- I. to provide researchers at universities from across the world performing research on issues pertaining climate change with an opportunity to display and present their works and research projects;
- II. to foster the exchange of information, ideas and experiences acquired in the execution of research projects, especially successful initiatives and good practice;
- III. to discuss methodological approaches and projects which aim to offer a better understanding of climate change across society and economic sectors and;
- IV. to network the participants and provide a platform so they can explore possibilities for further cooperation.

The networking and personal interactions enabled by the Symposium will be very positive for university staff interested in international collaboration on climate change, helping them to foster partnerships to apply and secure new research projects from programmes such as HORIZON 2020, ERASMUS and Europe-AID among others, as well in being part of Consortia bidding for grants from international organisations (e.g. World Bank, GEF, etc) and other funding bodies. Those planning to initiate new research projects on climate change and looking for new partners, will also find the Symposium very useful.

Moreover, a further aim of the event will be to document and disseminate the wealth of experiences on climate change research at universities taking place today. To this purpose, a peer-reviewed publication titled "The Role of Climate Change Research and Projects in Fostering Climate Action" will be published, with all accepted papers. This will be a unique, state-of-the-art publication, which will document and promote the research on climate change taking place at universities across the world. The publication will be part of the award-winning "Climate Change Management Sustainability Series" (launched in 2008), published by Springer, one of the world's top five scientific publishers.

The event will closely engage doctoral students undertaking research on climate change.

... PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

Delegates attending the Symposium will come from a cross-sectoral range of areas. These are:

- i. teaching staff
- ii. research staff;
- iii. postgraduate students
- iv. project officers and consultants;
- v. other people interested in the field.

It is believed that this wide range of participants will help to outline the need for integrated approaches towards research on climate change and, hence contribute towards advancing this field of work even further.

... STRUCTURE OF THE EVENT

The Symposium will be organised around two main strands:

Strand 1: the poster displays

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

Strand 2: the presentations

A set of presentations, divided into two main sections will be organised, dealing with issues of strategic value in reviewing the state of the art of research on climate change today. These are:

Session 1: Research on Climate Change Mitigation

Session 2: **Session 1:** Research on Climate Change Adaptation

Submitted papers will be structured around these two main sessions.

... DEADLINES

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 20th April 2017

Deadline for submission of papers: 30th July 2017

Deadline for full, revised papers: 30th September 2017

Deadline for registrations: 30th September 2017

Since the book will be launched soon after the Symposium, the deadlines need to be followed.

... **TIMETABLE**

The Symposium will be held on 12th and 13th December 2017. The schedule is as follows:

Tuesday 12th December 2017	Tuesday 12th December 2017
Morning: arrival and registration 09:00- 10:00 -Registration 10:00-11:00- Plenary Session 11:30-13:00- Parallel Sessions 1 and 2 13:00-14:00- Lunch	Afternoon: Plenary Session Parallel Sessions 3 and 4 Evening: Reception and networking
Wednesday 13th December 2017	Wednesday 13th December 2017
Morning Plenary Session Parallel Sessions 5 and 6 13:00-14:00- Lunch	Afternoon 14:00-15:00- Final plenary session and close of the event, with the hand-over of the Best Paper Awards 15.00- Departure

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 on time to attend the plenary session and travel back in the late afternoon of 13th December 2017, since **the best papers awards** will be handed over at around 14.30 on that day.

... ABOUT THE VENUE AND THE ORGANISERS

The Symposium "**Universities and Climate Change: the Role of Climate Change Research and Projects in Fostering Climate Action**" will be held at Queen Mary University of London, one of the most prominent higher education institutions in the United Kingdom. It is a modern university, located in central London, with state-of-the-art facilities for conferences and events, offering an ideal venue for the Symposium.

London is the capital city of the UK, with various airports, which makes it easily reachable from the UK, Europe, North America, Asia and elsewhere. Apart from being accessible by plane, the city is connected to the UK's main railway line. The University is conveniently close to various hotels, all of which are within a short distance from the Symposium venue.

... FEES AND CHARGES

A discounted fee of £290 (inclusive of VAT) will be charged to delegates who register until 30th July 2017 (early bird registration). After that, delegates will need to pay the full fee of £360 (inclusive of VAT). The reduced fee for MSc/PhD students is £150. The fee includes free lunches and coffee breaks on 12th-13th December 2017 and free electronic access to the book "**Role of Climate Change Research and Projects in Fostering Climate Action**", expected to be launched soon after the Symposium.

Organisations or individuals not able to pay this fee should contact the Secretariat so that it may be reduced in special cases. Interested people and organisations 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.

... ORGANISERS

- Queen Mary University of London, UK
- Manchester Metropolitan University, UK
- Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Research and Transfer Centre "Applications of Life Sciences", Germany
- International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP)

. . . NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

- UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- World Health Organisation (WHO)
- Baltic University Programme (BUP)

. . . SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs

- Prof. Walter Leal, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK, & HAW Hamburg, Germany
- Prof. Rafael Leal-Arcas, Queen Mary University of London, UK

. . . MEMBERS

- Prof. Javier Aliaga, Catholic University of Bolivia, Bolivia
 - Dr. Abul Quasem Al-Amin, University of Malaya, Malaysia
 - Prof. Fátima Alves, Universidade Aberta, Portugal
 - Dr. Nelson Amaro, Galileo University, Guatemala
 - Prof. Ulisses Azeiteiro, University of Aveiro, Portugal
 - Prof. Sandra Caeiro, Universidade Aberta, Portugal
 - Prof. Luiz Velazquez Contrera, University of Sonora, Mexico
 - Prof. Boaventura Chango Cuamba, Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique
 - Prof. Alexander Feher, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Slovakia.
 - Prof. Amadou Gaye, University Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, Senegal
 - Prof. Baltasar D'Andrade Guerra, UNISUL, Brazil
 - Prof. Henning Sten Hansen, Aalborg University Copenhagen
 - Prof. Arvo Iital, Technical University of Tallin, Estonia
 - Prof. Maris Klavins, University of Latvia, Latvia
 - Prof. Linas Kliucininkas, Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania
 - Dr. Evangelos Manolas, Democritus University of Thrace, Greece
 - Prof. David Chávez Muñoz, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Peru
 - Prof. Justice Nyamangara, Chinhoyi University of Technology, Zimbabwe
 - Prof. Nicholas Otienoh Oguge, University of Nairobi, Kenya
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- Prof. José A. Milán Pérez, Climate Change Technologies, Nicaragua
- Prof. Diana-Mihaela Pociovalisteanu, Constantin Brancusi University, Romania
- Prof. Osvaldo Quelhas, Fluminense Federal University, Brazil
- Prof. Julia Seixas, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal
- Prof. Michael Shilin, Russian State Hydrometeorological University, Russia
- Prof. Anirudh Singh, University of the South Pacific, Fiji
- Prof. Luis Vargas, University of Chile, Chile
- Prof. Luis Velazquez, University of Sonora, Mexico
- Prof. Menas Wuta, University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe

... **CONTACT POINT FOR SCIENTIFIC INPUTS,
STRATEGIC COOPERATION AND GUIDANCE
ON THE PUBLICATIONS**

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

Walter Leal (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DEd, DLitt, FSB, FRGS, FLS)
Professor of Environment and Technology, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK
E-mail: w.leal@mmu.ac.uk

Prof Rafael Leal-Arcas
Professor of European and International Economic Law
Queen Mary University of London, UK
E-mail: r.leal-arcas@qmul.ac.uk

... **CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATOR AND CONTACT POINT
FOR FURTHER DETAILS**

All questions related to abstracts and registrations should be sent to:

Svenja Scheday
International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP)
E-mail: svenja.scheday@haw-hamburg.de

... HOW TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT

An abstract should be up to 200 words, it should describe the rationale and aims of the paper, and some of its results. General descriptions of broad contexts should be avoided. The full contact details about the author(s) need to be provided. Abstracts should be written in the third person and not in the first or second one (e.g. I, me, or my paper). Please see below a sample abstract.

Authors whose abstracts have been accepted, will receive further details about how to submit their full papers, and further logistical information. Please send your abstract to:

svenja.scheday@haw-hamburg.de.

SAMPLE ABSTRACT

Promoting Climate Change Adaptation in Developing Countries: breaking misconceptions and addressing information needs

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Abstract

The impacts of climate change to natural ecosystems, infra-structure and livelihood, means that the implementation of climate change adaptation strategies in developing countries has become a pressing issue. Among other factors, the undertaking of adaptation strategies is made difficult by the general lack of awareness and spread misconceptions about the real impacts of climate change which may slow down the execution of the adaptation initiatives needed, and which may ameliorate them.

This paper presents an analysis about the misconceptions related to the implementation of climate change adaptation strategies, and describes the most widespread ones, as well as their implications. A special emphasis is given to the problems and barriers caused by misinformation, which – in turn- prevent the promotion of adaptation initiatives at local level. Finally, some concrete steps which may be taken in order to break the misconceptions and foster a more systematic view of adaptation strategies, are outlined. Experiences gathered in this paper will be useful to people and organisations interested in the different levels of responses given to climate changes threats, and on some of the tools which may be used to encourage specific action to adapt to changing climate conditions.

. . . HOW TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION ON “THE CONTRIBUTION OF UNIVERSITIES IN UNDERSTANDING AND HANDLING EXTREME EVENTS”

Recent extreme weather incidents such as the storms Harley and Alma in the United States, and the severe floods associated with the monsoon in South Asia, have emphasised the relevance of and the need for discussions in the impacts and means to handle extreme events.

Therefore as part of the Symposium “Universities and Climate Change”, a Special Session will be held for university staff and other specialists undertaking research and/or performing projects which look at the technical, political, economic and social aspects of extreme events.

University staff and other specialists working on the on matters related to extreme events are warmly invited to present and discuss their research projects and activities on this important field.

The schedule prepared for the special session is as follows:

1. Deadline for submission of abstracts: 10th October 2017
2. Deadline for Submission of presentations: 10th November 2017
3. Deadline for the submission of written contributions (papers) if desired (full papers are not mandatory): 30th January 2018

This specific schedule should enable potential participants to fit in the event with their busy schedules.

Expressions of interest to attend the special session “**The Contribution of Universities in Understanding and Handling Events**” consisting of a 200 words abstract should be sent to: iusdrp@ls.haw-hamburg.de by 10th October 2017 at the latest.
