



Symposium on Climate Change Impacts in the Urban Environment: Mitigation and Adaptation Options

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

Monday, 26th June and Tuesday 27th

June 2017





BACKGROUND

It is a fact that climate change is affecting cities and their residents across the world, and that more severe impacts are expected as extremes events in a city context increase in both frequency and intensity. Cities are major sources of greenhouse gases and major consumers of resources. There is therefore a perceived need to ensure that cities urban regions are able to effectively adapt to and be able to mitigate the various problems climate change is expected to cause to them.

Even though there have been a range of studies on the impacts of climate change to various sectors such as transport, agriculture or ecological zones, there is a paucity of work on its direct impacts to the urban environment. Yet, it is very important to discuss how to take into account the impacts of climate change in the design, development and management of urban areas. This state of affairs illustrates the need for a better understanding of how climate change affects cities and the urban environment, and for the identification of processes, methods and tools which may help municipalities and their citizens to adapt. There is also a perceived need to showcase successful examples of how to cope with the social, economic and political problems posed by climate change to cities, especially the ways to increase their resilience.

It is against this background that the “**SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT: MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION OPTIONS**” is being organized by the Academia de Ingeniería of Mexico, the Research and Transfer Centre “Applications of Life Sciences” of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany), Manchester Metropolitan University (UK), and the International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP). The Symposium will be a truly interdisciplinary event, mobilizing scholars, social movements, practitioners and members of governmental agencies, undertaking research and/or executing climate change projects in cities.

The event will focus on “mitigation and adaptations options to cities” meaning that it will serve the purpose of showcasing experiences from research, field projects and best practice to foster climate change mitigation and adaptation among cities, which may be useful or implemented elsewhere.

AIMS

Consistent with the need for more cross-sectoral interactions among the various stakeholders working in the field of climate change adaptation in cities, the aims of the “**SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT: MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION OPTIONS**” are:



- i. to discuss the influences of, the damages and the threats posed by climate change to the urban environment in Mexico (the host country), but also in other parts of the world
- ii. to introduce approaches, methods, initiatives and projects which demonstrate the mitigation and adaptation options available, so as to allow the urban environment to successfully meet the challenges climate change poses to it. Here, an emphasis will be given to on infrastructure projects, use of technologies and natural and artificial means to reduce the impacts of climate changes to urban and peri-urban areas
- iii. to network the participants, disseminate examples of best practice and foster collaboration in this very important field.

Last but not least, a further aim of the event will be to document and disseminate the wealth of experiences available today. To this purpose, the **book “Climate Change Impacts in the Urban Environment: Mitigation and Adaptation Options”** will be published, with all accepted papers. This 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.

ORGANISERS

Co-Chairs

- Professor Walter Leal, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany) and Manchester Metropolitan University (UK)
- Professor Víctor López López, Mexican Academy of Engineering and Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Ecatepec, Mexico

Scientific Support

- Svenja Scheday, International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP)

Cooperating Organisations

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- World Health Organisation (WHO)
- World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
- International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP)



PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

Delegates attending the “**SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT: MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION OPTIONS**” will come from a cross-sectoral range of areas. These are:

1. members of NGOs working with climate change;
2. researchers at universities and research centres;
3. teaching staff at universities;
4. representatives from companies;
5. representatives from UN and national development and aid agencies working with climate change adaptation and funding/ executing projects on the ground;
6. members of social movements;
7. project officers and consultants;
8. other people interested in the topic.

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 mitigation and adaptation in cities, and hence contribute to the further consolidation of this thematic area.

STRUCTURE OF THE EVENT

The “**SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT: MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION OPTIONS**” will be organised in two main strands:

Strand 1: the displays

Participating 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: the presentations

A set of presentations, divided into five main themes will be organised, distributed over parallel sessions dealing with some of the issues of strategic value in the field of climate change mitigation and adaptation in cities. These are:

Session 1: Climate Change Adaptation, Resilience and Hazards (including droughts/extreme rainfall induced landslides/floods)

Session 2: Urban Landscape and Climate Change Mitigation



Session 3: Territory and Society: vulnerability thresholds

Session 4: Information, Communication, Education and Training on Climate Change

Session 5: Climate Change and Environmental Contingencies in Large Cities

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 mitigation and adaptation in cities.

TIME-TABLE

The “**SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT: MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION OPTIONS**” will be held on 26th June 2017 and 27th June 2017 in Mexico City. Mexico City is Latin America’s largest city and has many international connections. The schedule is as follows:

Day 1 – 26 th June 2017	Day 2 – 27 th June 2017
<p>All day: Exhibition and visit to displays</p> <p>Morning: Plenary and Sessions</p> <p>Afternoon: Plenary and Sessions</p> <p>Evening: Reception</p>	<p>All day: Exhibition and visit to displays</p> <p>Morning: Plenary and Sessions</p> <p>Afternoon: Plenary and Sessions</p> <p>Conclusions with the hand-over of the Awards for the best papers</p>

In order to ensure an efficient use of the time, delegates are kindly asked to organise their travel in a way that allows them to arrive in Mexico City in the course of 25th June 2017, and travel back on or after 27th June 2017, so they can fully take part in the Symposium.



LOCATION OF THE EVENT

The symposium will be held at Academia de Ingeniería, Tacuba No. 5 Centro Histórico, Delegación Cuauhtémoc 06000 Mexico City, Mexico. There are many hotels nearby to choose from.

DEADLINES

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 30th January 2017

Deadline for submission of papers: 30th March 2017

Deadline for the submission of revised papers: 30th May 2017

Deadline for registrations: 30th April 2017

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 US\$ 300 (professionals) or US\$ 100 (for students) plus 19% VAT, will be charged to those who register until 30th March 2017 (early bird registration). After that, delegates will need to pay the full fee of US\$ 350 and US\$ 150 respectively (plus 19% VAT). The fee includes lunches and coffee breaks on day 1 and day 2 as well as the evening reception on 26th June 2017. Furthermore, the fee includes a **on-line copy of the book “Climate Change Impacts in the Urban Environment: Mitigation and Adaptation Options”**, to be made available to the participants.

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.

REGISTRATION AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Registrations are now open and are possible until the 30th April 2017. 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 organisers will notify any interested delegate or organisation 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 Mexico. **This is a self-funded event and the organisers are unable to pay any travel or accommodation costs of any kind.** Letters of invitation to enter Mexico 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 45 days before the event, 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: www.haw-hamburg.de/en/ftz-als/veranstaltungen/mexico

CONTACT POINTS FOR SCIENTIFIC INPUTS AND STRATEGIC COOPERATION

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
Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany) and Manchester Metropolitan University (UK)
E-mail: info@iccip.net

Professor Víctor López López Mexican Academy of Engineering, Mexico
E-mail: victorlopez@ai.org.mx

CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION AND CONTACT POINT FOR FURTHER DETAILS

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

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

All questions concerned with information on hotels, letters of invitation and logistics should be sent to:

Lic. Adriana Escobar, Academia de Ingeniería, Mexico
E-mail: a.escobar@ai.org.mx

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: svenja.scheday@haw-hamburg.de.

SAMPLE ABSTRACT

The Urban Heat Islands: coping with the impacts of climate change on the urban environment

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Abstract

The impacts of climate changes to cities, which are home to over half of the world's population are already being felt. In many cases, the intensive speed with which urban centres have been growing means that little attention has been paid to the role played by climatic factors in maintaining quality of life. Among the negative consequences of rapid city growth is the evolution of the problems posed by urban heat islands, defined as areas in a city that are much warmer than in other sites, especially in comparison with rural areas. This paper describes the phenomena of urban heat islands and outlines its characteristics and impacts. It also introduces some strategies which may be employed in order to reduce its effects.