

Climate Change and Disaster Prevention Pilot Workshop



**Media21- Global Journalism Network,
Geneva, Switzerland**

Themes and Sessions (June 4-18, 2007)

Sessions & Topics

Media21 Climate Change Workshop

(Geneva/Alps/Kenya/Mauritania, June 4-18, 2007)

in association with the

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

in Geneva (June 5-7, 2007) organized by the United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)

Coordinating support:

InfoSud Press Agency

World Meteorological organization (WMO)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Workshop Partners:

ISDR Geneva, UNOG Information Service, UNCTAD, WFP, OCHA, ILO, IPCC, UNICEF, SDC/Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, IPCC, CARE International, IRI/Earth Institute (Columbia University), Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Aga Khan Foundation, WWF, University of Geneva, Mountain Research Institute, NCCR Climate/Swiss Climate Research, Switzerland Tourism, Valais Tourism Office and Riederalp Tourism, Barbara Erskine Consultancy...

Participating journalists:

30 journalists by Media21 and ISDR from developing and industrialized countries. (*Updated list available*). The Geneva sessions are also open to international journalists based at the UN Palais des Nations and the Lake Geneva region.

(NB: Please note that the following schedule and content must remain provisional. We are still confirming final panelists. We look forward to your comments and suggestions).

Coverage:

All Climate Change session summaries, panelist papers, bios, and other information resources as well as articles, reports, podcasts and blogs produced by participating journalists will be made available on the Media21 Climate Change webpage (www.m21net.org) to be launched immediately prior to the June workshop.

Geneva Sessions

Location: Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG), 17 rue de Varembeé. Tel. 41-22-791-9111 www.cicg.ch (3-4 min. walking distance from Place des Nations and main UN buildings. Tram 13 or 15: Nations or Sismondi stops)

Monday, 4 June 2007

9.00 - 9.15 WELCOME ADDRESSES

Introductory Remarks: Daniel Wermus (*Director, Media21*)

Michel Jarraud (*Secretary General, World Meteorological Organization*)

Salvano Briceño (*Director, Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction*)

9.15 – 13.00 CLIMATE CHANGE SESSION 1 - THE FACTS

Global Warming, Global Cooling – Where do we stand? What are the realities behind climate change? How is climate affecting local or regional economies, farming, water resources, security tensions and even war, migration, health, flooding, drought, wildlife, and sea rises? What are the contributing factors? Who or what is responsible?

Panelists: 1. Olav Hohmeyer, Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC). 2. Marisol Sanjines, UNDP Human Development Report. 3. Molly Helmuth, Director, Climate and Society publication, International Research Institute for Climate and Society, Earth Institute, Columbia University. 4. Claude Martin, former head, WWF-International. 5. Chris Shore, WorldVision. **Moderator: Henry Muller, writer and former editorial director, TIME Inc. (TBC)**

13.00 – 14.15 Lunch

14.30 – 17.00 SESSION 2 - PREVENTION

Avoiding the worst. Kyoto and Disaster Risk Prevention – Responses and Challenges. How are rainfalls, floods or droughts and other climatic changes affecting communities, in many parts of the world? How are we responding locally and internationally? To what extent are we seeking quick fixes? Are the long-term challenges being taken properly into consideration?

Panelists: 1. Sylvia Llosa, UNISDR secretariat climate change focal point. 2. Yvette Stevens, OCHA, former head Geneva. Drought specialist. 3. Private sector representative eg. Munich Re TO BE CONFIRMED 4. Maryam Golnaraghi, Chief of Disaster Risk Reduction Programme, World Meteorological Organization. 5. José Romero, Climate Change Negotiator, Switzerland. 6. Jeffrey A. McNeely,

Chief Scientist, IUCN. **Moderator: Jean-Marie Etter, Hironnelle Foundation, Switzerland**

18.00 – 20.00 **Reception hosted by AlertNet, Media21 and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (CHD/HDC). To be held at the HDC's historic Villa Plantamour, 114 Rue de Lausanne overlooking Lake Geneva.**

(Near Perle du Lac. 10 minutes walk from the International Conference Centre. Or one stop by trams 13 or 15 to 'France' stop).

Reuters *AlertNet* will make a presentation of its new toolbox for the media and what it can offer journalists covering humanitarian and other crises. This includes: Online crisis briefings; country and situation statistics; which agencies? which experts? Early warning, new angles, daily updates.

Tuesday, 5 June 2007

8.00 – 9.00 **Climate Change** Breakfast with European Union expert on Europe: Ahead of the Climate Change curve? (Geneva International Conference Centre/CICG. Room to be announced)

9.00 – 12.15 SESSION 3 - MIGRATION AND CONFLICT

Fight or Flight? How is global warming – or cooling - contributing to economic degradation, conflict and migration in different parts of the world? Will the next years or decades see a rise in environmental exoduses? How should destination countries, such as Europe versus Africa, or India versus Bangladesh, respond?

Panelists: 1. Jean-Philippe Chauzy, International Organization for Migration. 2. Dr Lara Hansen, chief climate scientist, WWF, Washington. 3. International Crisis Centre (TO BE CONFIRMED). 4. Jeff Crisp, policy analyst, UNHCR. 5. William Dowell, CARE International. 6. David Stone, Director, ProAct Network **Moderator: Charles Adams, International lawyer, Geneva.**

13.15 Press conference **Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction**

15.00 – 18.00 Three parallel sessions on **Disaster Risk Reduction organized by the ISDR.**

Session 1: Disaster Risk Reduction as a key strategy for climate change adaptation (Panelists to be confirmed).

Session 2: Challenges in reducing disaster risk in urban settings and mega-cities (Confirmed panelists include municipal representatives from Bogota, Manila, and Istanbul)

Session 3: Roadblocks and opportunities to move disaster risk reduction higher on the policy agenda.

18.30 – 19.30 **Reception** offered by the Swiss Mission to the participants of the Global Platform, to be held at the CICG

20.00 – 22.30 Hosted dinner on Lake Geneva boat (SPONSOR?)

Wednesday, 6 June 2007

8.00 – 9.00 **Climate Change** Breakfast with Michel Jarraud, Secretary General, World Meteorological Organization. International Conference Centre.

9.10 – 11.00 SESSION 4 - THE ECONOMY

Global Costs... and Opportunities. Climate change will certainly produce winners and losers with whole regions doing better or worse than others. Impacts are already noticeable on energy use, tourism, health, disaster prevention, and even insurance premiums and investment. But if the international community invests in 'smart' responses, there could be a lot of positive outcomes, some of which could significantly offset the negatives. How are governments and civil society responding to the Stern Review? Can 'saving the climate' be good business? What is the private sector doing with regard to clean investment, new ideas and technology?

Panelists: 1. Jan Mumenthaler, Senior Insurance Officer, Environment & Social Development Dept., International Finance Corp (World Bank private sector development arm). 2. Dominic Waughray, Director, Environmental Initiatives, World Economic Forum, Geneva. 3. Jose Achache, Group on Earth Observations. 4. ROYAL DUTCH SHELL (NAME TO BE CONFIRMED) 5. Suren Erkman, Industrial ecology specialist, Professor, University of Lausanne. 6. Suez. (NAME TO BE CONFIRMED). **Moderator: Paddy Coulter, Director of Studies, Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, Oxford.**

Issues Prompter/Spoiler: Jean Fabre, UNDP

11.00 – 13.00 Media Roundtable
on **Disaster Risk Reduction**

14.30 – 16:30 SESSION 5 - SHIFTING AGRICULTURE

Deserts in Kenya, Vineyards in the United Kingdom and Bananas in Russia? What are the drawbacks - and benefits - of climate change for agriculture? While the impacts threaten to destroy traditional farming in many countries and regions, they will also provide new opportunities for others elsewhere.

Panelists: 1. Robert Stefanski, Agricultural Meteorology Division, WMO. 2. Syngenta (NAME TO BE CONFIRMED). 4. Water resource expert, Suez (NAME TO BE CONFIRMED) 5. Agricultural expert. TO BE CONFIRMED **Moderator: Jeffrey Carmel, Media specialist and Editor, San Diego, USA.**

1700-18.00 Reception at the Swiss Mission (opposite Geneva International Conference Centre) for the launch of the book, *Partnership for the Planet* – The role of Geneva in the international environmental governance (www.partnership4planet.ch)

Thursday, 7 June 2007

8.30 – 9.30 **Climate Change** Breakfast with William Dowell, CARE International, Mark Oxley, Tear Fund. Café du Soleil, Petit Saconnex, Geneva. (Walking distance from Geneva International Conference Centre).

9.40 – 12.30 SESSION 6 - HEALTH

New or aggravated diseases? Will climate change bring malaria back to Europe? Or worsen epidemics/pandemics, such as HIV/AIDS and unexpected surprises along the lines of bird flu? Can the world expect to suffer new disease mutations, more heatwaves and worsening pollution? What are the consequences, too, on animal diseases, notably rinderpest, in Africa? Is the international community really prepared?

Panelists: 1. Loretta Hieber, HIV-AIDS specialist/disaster mitigation OCHA. 2. Madeleen Helmer, Head, Red Cross Climate Change Centre, Netherlands 3. Global Fund, TO BE CONFIRMED. 4. Gregory Hartl, World Health Organization, Climate Change Team. 5. International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva. (NAME TO COME)
Moderator: Claire Doole, World Radio Geneva.

Afternoon: free for interviews, further research and writing

Friday, 8 June 2007

8.30 – 9.30 Breakfast with PROPOSED NAME

9.40 – 13.00 SESSION 7/8 – FORGET DEVELOPMENT?

Talking the Talk or Walking the Walk? How are we really dealing with climate change? Should there be a truly global response with each country doing its bit? Or do some economies which are blossoming only now, such as India and China, have the right to develop on an equitable basis as they wish regardless of global consequences? Can the world still afford the excessive consumerism once – and still - practiced by traditional industrialized nations? Are there better ways to take advantage of climate change and limited resources?

Are governments finally responding to the threats or do they still need a serious kick up the rear? Is it possible to change the minds of the politicians and the consumers? What can make the difference?

What is the proper role of the media in this respect? What are the most effective ways of communicating climate change issues in a credible manner to a broad spectrum of audiences in different parts of the world?

Panelists : 1. Lucas Assunção, Coordinator, Climate Change and BIOTRADE Initiative, UNCTAD 2. Robert Lamb, OnePlanet, London 3. Everett Ressler, UNICEF 4. Rajiv Tikoo, Financial Editor, Indian Express 5. Yan Zhu, News Editor, China Central TV, 6. Martin Beniston, Climatologist, University of Geneva. **Moderator: Edward Girardet, writer/journalist, Media21/Crosslines.**

Afternoon: free for interviews, further research and writing

15.56 Departure for Brig/Riederalp for Alpine Sessions

Alpine Sessions

Hotel/Chalet Villa Cassel, Riederfurka (Aletschglacier)

20.30 Informal working dinner at the Hotel Relais Walker in Mörel at the foot of the Riederalp. Presentation by Ursula Mathieu of Riederalp Tourism on impact of climate change on tourism industry and region. General introductions to climate change and mountain communities by Dr. Gregory Greenword, director, Mountain Research Initiative, Lausanne, Dr. Ralph Logon, Geomorphologist, plus representative of Energie Ouest Suisse, builders of the Aletsch Dam.

The [Introduction to Climate Change in Alpine Communities](#) is organized in conjunction with Geneva University, Mountain Research Institute and NCCR Climate/Swiss Climate Research to explore the impact of climate change on mountain environments and communities ranging from the Alps to the Hindu Kush and the Andes, but also the effects on water resources and availability (eg. hydroelectric power or irrigation systems). Trip sponsored by the Valais Tourism Office and Riederalp Tourism.

Saturday, 9 June 2007

7.00 - 8.30 Breakfast followed by cable car and chairlift ride to the Hoflüh above Riederalp, where the group will be met by Laudo Albrecht, head of Pro Natura, a Swiss environmental organization. He will provide a briefing about the Aletsch Glacier, the largest in Europe, with information on the region's history and changes brought about by climate change. The group will be accompanied by Dr. Gregory Greenwood and Dr Ralph Logon, who will provide one-on-one or small group meetings. Group meets for lunch at the Villa Cassel Environment Centre with further briefings and field walks, including a tour of the Riederhorn to view chamois, marmots and other mountain wildlife. Return to Mörel in the late afternoon for dinner with informal discussions.

Sunday, 10 June 2007

7.30 – 9.00 Breakfast

9.00 – 16:00 Sessions with lunchtime picnic and walking field trip to the Aletsch and visit to the Aletsch Dam.

16:00 Return to Geneva (Possible evening departures for Africa)

Africa Sessions

Please note : Please note that one or two expert panel sessions with UN, NGO and other experts will be organized while in Kenya or Mauritania. On-the-ground logistics to be organized in conjunction with local and international aid organizations and institutions by UNDP.

Monday 11 June, 2007

Travel Day. Departure for Nairobi or Nouakchott

Nairobi: 19:30 Working dinner with UNDP/UNEP country and regional reps, NGOs. Local journalists also invited. UNDP to coordi-

nate travel and logistics for journalists with participating aid agencies, foundations and private sector.

Nouakchott: UNDP country representative to coordinate travel and logistics for journalists with participating aid groups. Possible working dinner depending on arrivals.

Tuesday 12 June, 2007

Wednesday, 13 June 2007

Thursday, 14 June 2007

Friday, 15 June 2007

Saturday 16 June, 2007

Sunday 17 June or Monday 18 June, 2007

Travel Day. Departures for Geneva and return home.

GENEVA WRAP-UP

Monday, 18 June 2007

10:00 Debriefing sessions for those journalists and organizers available for the benefit of their colleagues.