

International Climate Change and Vulnerability Conference

12-14 February
2007

Peace Palace,
The Hague,
The Netherlands



Organized by the University for Peace
www.upeace.org

Global Challenge
Global Climate Solidarity



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Please visit our conference website for updates, registration information, and the conference agenda:

www.upeace.org/climate



INTRODUCTION

You are invited to participate in the *Climate Change and Vulnerability Conference to be held 12-14 February 2007 at the Peace Palace in The Hague*. This conference addresses the need to build capacities for proactive local leadership to address the risks of climate warming, particularly in vulnerable island and coastal states.

The conference is unique in offering island and coastal representatives a leadership role in the discussion of geographic and cultural realities, coastal and water management issues, disaster preparedness and response, emerging strategies and technologies, and institutional cooperation. In addition, interactive sessions provide opportunities to learn from those addressing climate issues in other geographic areas.

The goals of the conference are to:

- Increase understandings of the risks of climate change and options for adaptation
- Design university curricula that build climate leadership and foster local adaptation
- Develop partnerships among education, research and training institutions

Climate change and sea level rise present complex environmental security risks in every region of the world. For islands and low-lying countries, hazardous conditions include flooding, coastal erosion, salinisation of fresh water resources, loss of biodiversity, drought, and extreme weather events. Communities coping with poverty are particularly vulnerable.

The Netherlands, a low-lying country where flood defense and precautionary measures are the highest in the world, is the host country for this international conference on climate change. This venue offers a preeminent opportunity to exchange experiences and learn from Dutch advocacy, participatory decision-making processes, adaptation measures, and incentives for private sector stewardship.

Focus

Key questions to address during the conference include:

- How to mainstream climate issues and build adaptation capacities through higher education?
- How to integrate adaptation measures within sustainable development projects?
- How to foster the proactive local implementation of adaptation policies?
- How to engage the private sector?
- What are the applied research and evaluation priorities?

For whom?

To enhance local capacities for climate adaptation, distinguished technical experts, policy makers, scholars, and community leaders will engage in a variety of interactive learning activities. The programme includes guest speakers, working groups, panel discussions, networking opportunities and resource displays.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Monday, 12 February 2007

08:00 – 21:00 Field Trip: **Adaptation Projects in The Netherlands** (by invitation only)
International participants visit adaptation projects in the Province of Zeeland to discuss vulnerabilities, ways to assess the changing risks, technical innovations, lessons learned, and public and private sector plans for the future.
Mr. Henk van Schaik, Co-operative Programme on Water and Climate of UNESCO

Tuesday, 13 February 2007

Venue: Peace Palace, The Hague

08:00 – Registration, Welcome Coffee and Resource Displays

09:00 – 09:20 Welcome and Orientation

In our welcome to Dutch and international participants, we explain the goals of the conference and how it is organized to encourage leadership and active participation.

Prof. Dr. Bastiaan C. J. Zoeteman, Chairman Alliance for the University for Peace

Mr. Pieter van Geel, Dutch State Secretary for Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment

Mr. Georges Tsai, Acting Rector, University for Peace

09:20 – 10:00 Opening Plenary

We recognize the key challenges of addressing global climate change through international negotiations and policies.

Mr. Jan Pronk, former Minister of Development Cooperation and Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (cabinets of Lubbers and Kok) and Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General in Sudan

10:00 – 11:00 Pacific Island and Dutch Keynote Speakers

We analyze shared and specific regional issues. From the Pacific Islands, we learn of regional vulnerabilities, coalition building and capacities to adapt. From The Netherlands, we learn of Dutch strategies for promoting multilateral cooperation, including both successes and challenges. After the presentations, the speakers engage with the audience.

Moderator: **Ms. Madeleen Helmer**, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

H.E. Enele Sosene Sopoaga, Tuvaluan Ambassador to the United Nations and Vice Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States
Prof. Dr. Pier Vellinga, Director of the Climate Centre of the Free University at Amsterdam and former Chair of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility

11:00 – 11:30 Refreshments and Networking

11:30 – 12:30 **Adaptation in The Netherlands**

How to foster the implementation of adaptation measures? We discuss national and international adaptation needs and demonstrate ways to engage the government and the public. Dutch realities and cultures are represented.

Mr. Sible Schöne, Climate Bureau, and representatives of HIER Campaign

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 15:00 **Adaptation in the Pacific Islands**

How to foster the implementation of adaptation measures? With audience participation, Pacific leaders demonstrate how to build local capacities for adaptation to climate change. Local realities and cultures are represented.

Mr. Dean Solofa, SPREP, **Mr. Roz Terubeca**, Kiribati radio, and conference participants from the Pacific Islands

15:00 – 15:30 Refreshments and Networking

15:30 – 17:00 **Mainstreaming Climate Leadership and Adaptation**

How to integrate adaptation measures within sustainable development projects? We organize into four affinity groups to develop a gallery walk of ideas for building capacities to address vulnerabilities, specifically:

- 1- Coastal management- **Mr. Riibeta Abeta**, Kiribati Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development, and **Ms. Ellina Levina**, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
- 2- Disaster risk reduction- **Mr. Daby Deolall**, University of Mauritius, and **Dr. Padma Narsey Lal**, Forum Secretariat
- 3- Water and health- **Dr. Lia Latu Maka**, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and **Ms. Diane McFadzien**, World Wildlife Foundation
- 4- Cities for the future- **Ms. Xianfu Lu**, UNDP, and **Mr. Henk van Schaik**, Co-operative Programme on Water and Climate of UNESCO

17:00 – 17:30 **Wrap Up and Orientation to Day Two**

17:30 – 21:30 **City Hall reception** hosted by **Mayor W.J. Deetman of The Hague** and **Dinner at the Bilderberg Hotel** (Bus transport provided)
Dinner Speaker: **Mr. Tom Spencer**, Institute for Environmental Security

Wednesday, 14 February 2007

Venue: Peace Palace, The Hague

08:30 – Welcome Coffee and Resource Displays

09:00 – 09:30 **Assessing Sea Level Rise and Vulnerability**

We begin with a scientific assessment of the impact of climate change and sea level rise in developing countries and small island states.

Mr. Rob van Dorland, The Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute

09:30 – 10:30 **Engaging Higher Education**

How to mainstream climate issues and build adaptation capacities through higher education? Using the assessment of sea level impact and the gallery walk of ideas on mainstreaming, stakeholders propose and display features of university curricula designed to build capacities for leadership, local adaptation and sustainable development.

Dr. Kanayathu Koshy, University of the South Pacific, **Dr. Mary Jo Larson**, University for Peace, NGO leadership and capacity building specialists, Dutch and Pacific educators, and Dutch and Pacific youth

10:30 – 11:00 Refreshments and Networking

11:00 – 12:30 **Measures of Capacity Building**

What are the research and evaluation priorities? We discuss measures of capacity building for adaptation and sustainability and suggest indicators of university performance.

Panel Chair: **Mr. Kartikeya Sarabhai**, Centre for Environmental Education
Dr. John E. Hay, University of Waikato
Ms. Diane McFadzien, World Wildlife Foundation
Dr. Padma Narsey Lal, Pacific Island Forum Secretariat
Ms. Janet Strachan, Commonwealth Secretariat

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 15:00 **Corporate Stewardship and Climate Change**

How to engage the private sector? We learn about corporate initiatives and the features and benefits of corporate social responsibility. With audience participation, we consider private sector incentives for addressing adaptation and sustainability.

Panel Chair: **Mr. Tom Spencer**, Institute for Environmental Security
Mr. Daan Dijk, Rabobank
Dr. Biman Prasad, University of the South Pacific
Mr. Tom Vereijken, European Water Partnership

15:00 – 15:30 Refreshments and Networking

- 15:30 – 17:00 **Partnerships for Climate Leadership and Adaptation**
We organize into partner groups to outline plans for advancing climate adaptation through capacity building, higher education partnerships, applied research and local projects. Each group presents and receives feedback on 5-8 concrete steps for addressing climate change and vulnerability.
Dr. Anja de Groene, Hogeschool Zeeland, **Dr. Padma Narsey Lal**, Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, and **Ms. Janet Strachan**, Commonwealth Secretariat
- 17:00 – 17:30 **Closing Remarks**
Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director General, World Conservation Union (IUCN)
- 17:30 – 19:00 **Reception and Resource Displays**

SPONSORS

Alliance for the University for Peace



Common Wealth Secretariat



Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs



HIER



Municipality of The Hague



National Postcode Lottery



Netherlands Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment



Provincial Government of Zeeland



UNESCO-IHE



HIER CAMPAIGN

HIER (Dutch for 'Here') is the name of a large Dutch climate programme whose fundamental idea is to stress the immediate necessity to implement adaptation projects and initiatives to climate change. HIER introduces a new brand uniting and representing all initiatives that reduce the risk of climate change. This campaign involves not only 38 national charity organizations, but also government and businesses. Eventually, this could be a starting point for an international campaign.

The main issues

Worldwide, environment organizations agree that:

1. The public regards climate change as an abstract long term environmental problem rather than an urgent threat.
2. Many initiatives to reduce the risks of climate change already exist, but are not part of a bigger movement.
3. There is a lack of public awareness and drive to take action on how they can actually make a difference as an individual.

What we do

The HIER programme takes on board both adaptation to irreversible climate change and prompt attending to the cause of it, because they reinforce, rather than oppose one another. By bringing forth concrete adaptative initiatives on areas like poverty eradication, safety, agriculture, health and environment, the urgency of dealing with environmental problems do no longer become abstract and long term, but concrete and visible. From that the effects of climate change on society worldwide will become evident.

What you can do

Initiatives to climate change can easily start close to home. The Netherlands Society for Nature and Environment has presented a top ten list of energy efficient products to choose from. World Wide Fund for Nature introduced the most economical cars and Greenpeace calls up to buy energy efficient light bulbs. And there are many more initiatives! Just check our website.

HIER on radio and tv

HIER runs a broad media campaign on tv, radio and billboards. HIER is featured on the Dutch broadcasting channel Talpa, for instance during the weather forecast.

For more information, please visit www.hier.nu



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Dates and Times

The conference will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, 13-14 February beginning at 09:00 each day. Participants are encouraged to arrive by 08:00 to pass through security and enjoy a welcome coffee. (The conference will be preceded by a field trip on "Adaptation Projects in The Netherlands" on 12 February organized for invited participants.)

Venue

The Peace Palace in The Hague is home to a number of international judicial institutions, including the International Court of Justice (ICJ) or World Court, the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), the renowned Peace Palace Library, as well as the The Hague Academy of International Law, which attracts law students from all over the world every summer.

The Palace, the premises on which it stands, and the Library are the property of the Carnegie Foundation. The Foundation encourages the organization of seminars and other initiatives to foster the peace ideal and is part of the international philanthropic network of Carnegie Institutions. See www.vredespaleis.nl

For visitors' information about the City of The Hague see: www.denhaag.com

Working Language

English

Registration

As the number of places is limited, those interested in attending the conference should complete and return the attached registration form preferably by 15 January. You can also

apply on-line at: www.upeace.org/climate
Accepted participants will be notified by e-mail including information about arrival directions, hotel accommodations, etc.

Fee

Accepted participants will be invoiced for a modest conference fee of 250 Euro to cover meals and materials. (Details are on the registration form.)

Travel and Visas

In principle, all participants are expected to make their own arrangements for travel to and from the conference. Delegates should check if they require a visa for entry into The Netherlands.

For assistance with letters of invitations and visa applications contact the Conference Secretariat at conferences@envirosecurity.org

Insurance

Participants are advised to check whether they are insured during their stay in The Netherlands. Although good care will be taken of the participants, the organizers cannot be held responsible for any loss, damage or personal harm.

Accommodations

The organizers have negotiated special rates at three hotels nearby the Peace Palace. For details and reservation forms see: www.upeace.org/climate

Climate

The Netherlands have a maritime climate. In February the average daily temperature is 2° Celsius (35.6° Fahrenheit). See: www.eurometeo.com/english/home

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Rolain Borel	Head of Department of Environment, Peace, and Security, University for Peace
Tom Deligiannis	Assistant Professor, Department of Environment, Peace, and Security, University for Peace
Marius Enthoven	Secretary/Treasurer Alliance for the University for Peace and former Director-General for Environment, EU Commission
Petra van der Ham	Director, Protipico Project Management
Ronald A. Kingham	Programme Director, Institute for Environmental Security
Mary Jo Larson	Senior Fellow, University for Peace
Jeannette E. Mullaart	Programme Coordinator, Environment & Development Resource Centre
Georges Tsai	Acting Rector, University for Peace
Bastiaan C.J. Zoeteman	Chairman Alliance for the University for Peace, Professor for Globalization and Sustainable Development, Tilburg University, and Chairman Dutch National Commission on Genetic Modification

UNIVERSITY FOR PEACE



The conference is organized by the University for Peace, whose mission is to address the causes and consequences of conflict, promote cooperation, and lessen threats to world peace, security and development. It is the only institution authorized by the United Nations to grant degrees at the Master's and Doctoral levels in the area of peace and conflict studies. The university now offers eight graduate degrees, including a Master's Degree in Environmental Security and Peace. For additional information, visit our web site at www.upeace.org

HOLDING A CLIMATE NEUTRAL CONFERENCE

In co-operation with the climate emissions offset organizations such as the Climate Neutral Group, UPEACE's conference will be held in a 'climate neutral way'. Climate Neutral Group is committed to tackle global warming by restoring the CO₂ (carbon dioxide) balance in the atmosphere. Global warming poses a serious threat to life on earth. The sea level rises, climate zones shift and diseases will spread faster. This is not doom watching yet reality.

To tackle global warming we need to drastically reduce CO₂ emissions. Unfortunately it is impossible to ban all CO₂ emissions. The next step is compensating unpreventable emissions by planting trees or funding the development of renewable energy resources.

Climate Neutral Group encourages organizations to significantly contribute to the reduction of global warming by aiming for a climate neutral business. In that way we realize the biggest ambition of today's society: to keep a healthy and livable planet for next generations.

Since the beginning of the industrial revolution we have considerably influenced our climate. Almost everything we do generates substantial amounts of greenhouse gasses. Activities like traveling or producing consumer goods all need energy resources which cause CO₂ emissions. Especially CO₂ influences global warming.

CO₂ as a warm blanket

When using energy resources like fossil fuel, CO₂ and other greenhouse gasses are released into the atmosphere. The build-up of CO₂ gasses acts like a huge blanket around the earth trapping the heat and causing our atmosphere to warm up. Although this may at first sound like a nice prospect in actual fact changing climate patterns will have a huge impact on our world in the form of rising sea levels, an increasing number of weather disasters and changing flora and fauna.

Tackling climate change

CO₂ is taken out of the atmosphere by plants & trees growing and storing the CO₂ in their tissue in the form of carbon. A tree actually is a huge storage facility of carbon. On top of that trees also give us Oxygen (the O₂) as a 'by-product' of this storage process.

Thus, forests help us to tackle climate change. Unfortunately the area of forests on our planet is getting smaller and smaller due to deforestation leaving less area to store CO₂. At the same time the amount of CO₂ released into our atmosphere is increasing every year as the earth's population grows and countries use more energy as they develop.

Therefore, Climate Neutral Group plants new trees and protects existing forests in various projects around the world. In this way extra CO₂ will be absorbed from the atmosphere and stored CO₂ will be preserved. In addition to our forestry projects, we also invest in sustainable energy projects and energy efficiency projects. Our goal is to restore the CO₂ balance in our atmosphere.

For more information, please visit www.climateneutralgroup.com



CONTACT INFORMATION

Conference Coordinators

(For information regarding invitations, speakers, programme, etc.)

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Conference Secretariat

(For practical information regarding visas, travel, hotels, conference fee, etc.)

Until noon, 11 February 2007:

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