



Urbanization and Global Environmental Change

AN IHDP CORE PROJECT

The UGEC e-Newsletter
Issue 10

WELCOME NOTE

Dear readers of the UGEC e-Newsletter, Best wishes for a happy and productive new year! Given recent trends in global environmental change research, we believe that 2009 will bring about many opportunities for high impact research by the UGEC community – research that is designed through joint researcher/practitioner efforts, and with good chances for incorporation into local government policy streams worldwide. As we proceed with our activities in the international scientific scene on the urban human dimensions of global environmental change we believe that the engagement our network is critical in that process.

In this issue of the e-Newsletter we include reports from our past activities (such as our involvement at the World Urban Forum 4 in China and the Land Use Change in Peri-Urban Areas workshop in Taiwan), announcements for future international events we are involved in (such as the Copenhagen Climate Change Congress in Copenhagen and IHDP Open Meeting '09 in Bonn), and other information relevant to the community. You will find below information on other related events, sessions and call for papers for the first half of 2009.

We encourage you to get in touch with us for a discussion over ideas on how you can get more involved with the project and its activities. We also invite you to contact us with announcements and updates from your own projects. The UGEC project office is here to serve the needs of the community for communication and knowledge sharing.

Best regards,

Michail Fragkias, January 8 2009

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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The Urbanization and Global Environmental Change project (an International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change – IHDP - Core project) initiated its e-Newsletter in 2007 as an electronic avenue for important announcements regarding international meetings, workshops, conferences, colloquia, lectures, seminars, calls for papers and grant proposals, and job opportunities. If you wish to contribute content of that scope to the next issue of e-Newsletter please submit the information you wish to see distributed to the UGEC network of scholars and practitioners to fragkias@asu.edu. At this stage we plan to send out a digest every couple of months (with the possibility of establishing it as a monthly circulation as the project expands). Directions on how you may subscribe or unsubscribe are included at the end of this message. An archive of messages sent to the list is available at <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/ugec-l.html>. Our website (<http://www.ugec.org>) will always carry the most up to date so do not forget to visit it from time to time.

UGEC AND UGEC-SUPPORTED EVENTS

RECENT

World Urban Forum 4
Harmonious Urbanization: The Challenge of Balanced Territorial Development, November 3-7th, 2008, Nanjing, China

A conference report by Mark Pelling, UGEC Associate and UK HDGEC Committee member, King's College London, and David Simon UGEC Scientific Steering Committee member and UK HDGEC chair, Royal Holloway, University of London.
(All images © David Simon)

Nanjing, host city for the 4th World Urban Forum (WUF), is at the forefront of China's urban expansion, while at the same time being pre-

sented as a historical city - 'the ancient capital of the Six Dynasties of China'. This contradiction between the imaginary and material, and also the continuing need to meet the human and environmental challenges of urbanisation in the context of rapid growth and global environmental change, lay at the heart of this global conference. The WUF, sponsored by UN-HABITAT, brought together around 7,000 delegates from NGOs, urban professionals, academics, state and local government departments and, national and international associations of local governments. The venue – Nanjing's brand new international Expo centre, a few blocks from the Olympic centre on what two years ago were rice paddies – symbolized the rapidity and profundity of China's current urban development trajectory.



The technical, institutional and at times political elements of urbanization shaped discussions. This was a welcome change from the previous WUF in 2006, hosted by Vancouver, where private sector and engineering interested were more dominant. That said, the exhibition stands were dominated by large Chinese firms and municipalities, each trying to outdo the others in terms of the glitzy, hypermodern visions of remarkably western-style urbanity being purveyed and produced across the country's cityscapes. Curiously the largest regional contingent was from Africa, with relatively few south and Southeast Asian delegates. Perhaps UN-HABITAT is taking seriously the recognition that Africa is the world's most rapidly urbanizing continent.

IHDP was well represented by UGEC members. David Simon and Mark Pelling both presented on a UN-HABITAT panel on humanitarianism and cities (a session feeding into the policy division framing of urban disaster risk); the UN-HABITAT Urban Researchers' Roundtable on Climate Change and Cities (feeding into the Global Human Settlements Report 2011 on climate change and cities) and a session co-sponsored by ENDA, UGEC and UN-HABITAT (organised by Cheikh Guèye and David) on *Cities of the South: Localising Global Environmental Change*. Mark also participated in the launch of *Disaster Risk Reduction: Cases from Urban Africa* (Earthscan), an edited collection with Ben Wisner (also a UGEC Associate) drawing from the findings of the African Urban Risk Assessment Network, supported by the ProVention Consortium. David also served as panelist and rapporteur for the fourth Dialogue session, entitled *Harmonising the Built and Natural Environments*, which was ably chaired by Steve Bradshaw, editor and presenter of BBC World's 'Life on the Edge' series.



A notable feature of the Forum's programme was the prominence accorded to climate/global environmental change, which is now taking its place alongside the existing concerns with disaster risk and vulnerability reduction in both the humanitarian and longer-term development-oriented foci of UN-HABITAT's work. Indeed, immediately before the WUF, David was invited to Bangkok to lead an internal workshop for staff of UN-HABITAT's Disaster Management Programme (the humanitarian division) and their Asian partner organizations on these is-

ssues and how to integrate them into their work agendas. One thing emerging clearly from that session was some frustration among staff at how the institutionalized dichotomy between humanitarian (emergency relief) and development (longer term) activities hampered effective operations.



Closing the World Urban Forum, United Nations (UN) Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Anna Tibaijuka, called for the development of new ideas and working models to enable the emergence of livable urban environments, identifying key issues as the need:

- For governments to assume their responsibility for basic needs, even during times of global financial crisis;
- For every stakeholder to be committed to ensuring that rapid urban growth does not exclude the poorest;
- For urban planning, good governance and gender concerns to form the pillars of a better urban future;
- To ensure that climate change adaptation and mitigation are accepted as part of such pillars; and,
- For governments to promote pro-poor housing finance systems and balance market forces that tend to fail if left unregulated.

In short a call for inclusive governance, accountable government not being afraid to regulate where markets fail and the mainstreaming of adaptation and mitigation.



peri-urban areas in Asian cities with the global environmental change issues.



See also:

Simon, D. and Fragkias, M. (2008) The dynamic relationship between cities and global environmental change, Urban Researchers' Roundtable on Cities and Climate Change, Fourth World Urban Forum (WUF4), Nanjing, China, 5 November 2008

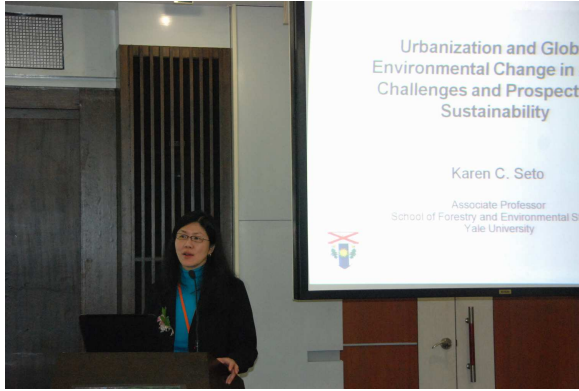
http://www.ugec.org/docs/WUF4/SimonFragkias_WUF4ResearchersRTPaper.pdf

International Forum of GEC and Land Use Change in Peri-Urban Area: Dialogue and Experience of Asian Cities

Professor Shu-Li Huang, principal investigator of the UGEC-endorsed 'Peri-urbanization and Global Environmental Change' (PU-GEC) project sent us a summary of the proceedings of the recent International Forum:

"The International Forum of GEC and Land Use Change in Peri-Urban Area: Dialogue and Experience of Asian Cities, a dissemination event of the PU-GEC Project (<http://web.ntpu.edu.tw/~shuli/PUGEC.htm>), was held in Taipei, Taiwan on November 29 2008, at the National Taipei University. Approximately eighty faculty, students and interested scholars attended the one-day event. The primary focus of this Forum was to frame the relationship between land use changes in

Beginning the one-day Forum were keynote addresses by Professor Karen Seto, the current chair of Scientific Steering Committee of *Urbanization and Global Environmental Change* (UGEC) project of IHDP, and Professor Ian Douglas, past chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the *Peri-Urban Environmental Change* (PU-ECH) project of SCOPE. In her opening remarks, Professor Seto's speech, entitled "Urbanization and Global Environmental Change in Asia: Challenges and Prospects for Sustainability", focused on the issues that peri-urbanization raises for Asian communities. Her presentation concluded with a focused examination of both challenges and opportunities that peri-urbanization raises for sustainability in Asian cities. In Professor Douglas' speech, he discussed the nature and character of peri-urban areas. These areas, as he noted, are the transition zones, or interaction zones, where urban and rural activities are juxtaposed, and landscape features are subject to rapid modifications induced by human activities. Moreover, they are impermanent; shifting in location as urban development proceeds. Today's urban fringe he noted may become tomorrow's sub-urb and the next century's inner city.



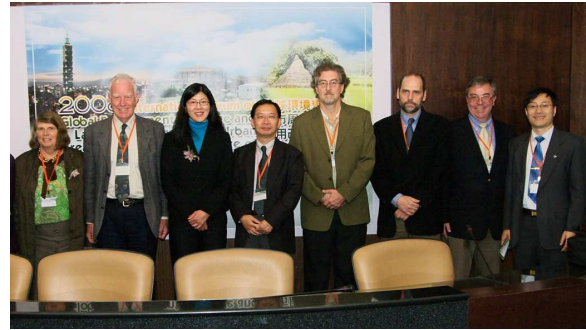
Following the keynote addresses presentations were made in three focus areas. In the first of these, *Peri-urbanization in Southeast Asia*, Professor Michael Leaf, University of British Columbia, discussed “New Urban Frontiers: Peri-urbanization and (Re)territorialization in Southeast Asia”. Professor Kog Yue Choong, National University of Singapore, then presented his paper, co-authored with Professor Ooi Giok Ling, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore on “Peri-urbanization and Cross-border Cooperation in Southern Malaysia, Riau Islands and Singapore”.



The second session, *Peri-urbanization in Taiwan and China*, included presentations by Professor Xiangrong Wang, Fudan University, China, on “Global climate change and assessment for eco-vulnerability of Estuary City—A case study of Shanghai”. This was followed by a presentation entitled “Impact of Transport Infrastructure on Land Use Change in Medium-sized Cities”, by Professors Cheng-Min Feng of the Institute of Traffic and Transportation, National Chiao

Tung University, Taiwan. The session concluded with a presentation ‘Peri-urbanization in Taiwan: A challenge for adapting to global environmental change’ by the host of the Forum, Professor Shu-Li Huang, Institute of Urban Planning, National Taipei University.

In the final session of the Forum, *Peri-urbanization: a comparison of West and East*, Professor Peter J. Marcotullio, Distinguished Lecturer, Hunter College, CUNY, New York, presented his paper entitled “The Environmental Impact of Meat Consumption in New York and Tokyo”. The final session conclude with a presentation by Professor William W. Budd, of the Division of Governmental Studies and Services, at Washington State University and Visiting Professor at National Taipei University on “Managing Peri-urban Change in the Pacific Northwest and Taiwan”.



Following the Forum presenters at the conference were given a two-day field trip to Ilan and Taoyuan Counties of Taiwan. The field trip focused both on the impacts to ecosystem functions and services in Taipei’s peri-urban areas but also experience the severe urban sprawl impacting the study area.

The International Panel on Climate Change in Cities (IPC3)
November 17-19, 2008, Columbia University, New York

UGEC project members Roberto Sanchez-Rodriguez, Karen Seto and UGEC project asso-

ciate Sue Parnell participated in the IPC3 workshop at Columbia University.

Cities, as home to over half the world's people, are at the forefront of the climate change issue. Climate extremes exert stress on urban environments, through sea-level rise and storm surges affecting infrastructure, heat waves threatening the health of the elderly, the ill, and very young, and droughts and floods threatening water supplies. Though cities are vulnerable to the effects of climate change, they are also uniquely positioned to take a leadership role in both mitigating and adapting to it.

The International Panel on Climate Change in Cities (IPC3) Assessment Report is an activity of the Urban Climate Change Research Network (UCCRN), a coalition of researchers formed in 2007 at the time of the C40 Large Cities Climate Summit. The purpose of the IPC3 Assessment Report is to provide a process by which research and expert knowledge may contribute to the development and implementation of effective urban climate change policies and programs. Since responding to the complex challenges of climate change mitigation and adaptation requires a knowledge-based approach, the IPC3 Report will provide a tool for policymakers as they 'mainstream' responses to climate change in urban areas. The IPC3 Report will define both the 'state-of-the-knowledge' and the 'state-of-action in cities' and identify key areas for further research relevant to the needs of urban policymakers.

The process of creating the IPC3 Assessment Report will begin with a scoping activity to solicit the key questions that urban policy makers want answered and survey current 'hot' topics in urban climate change research. Based on the results of this activity, a set of targeted questions and a subject outline will be developed. UCCRN researchers from cities around the world will then work in groups to create a readily-accessible and focused report. The report will be thoroughly reviewed by researchers in relevant fields and policy makers for technical and relevant content.

More information is available at the UCCRN website: <http://www.uccrn.org/Site/Home.html>

FORTHCOMING

Cities at Risk: Building Adaptive Capacity for Climate Change in Asia's Coastal Megacities. 26-28 February 2009, Bangkok, Thailand

The East West Center (EWC) and the Global Change SysTem for Analysis Research and Training (START), together with a number of partners including WCRP, IHDP UGEC, LOICZ, and ICSU ROAP and with financial support from APN and ICSU, are collaborating to host a major workshop. The Cities at Risk workshop will bring together scientists, urban planners and officials, and representatives of disaster management and development agencies to review scientific findings and projections regarding climate-related risks (e.g., sea level rise, extreme climate events, intensification of storms and storm surges) for Asia's coastal megacities. Representatives of selected coastal cities will examine potential vulnerabilities and current coping mechanisms as well as means for improving networking and communication between urban planners/officials and the scientific community. Targeted cities include: Dhaka (Bangladesh), Shanghai and Hong Kong / Shenzhen / Guangzhou (China), Mumbai and Calcutta (India), Jakarta (Indonesia), Karachi (Pakistan), Manila (Philippines), Bangkok (Thailand), and Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam).

The workshop is expected to facilitate heightened awareness in official and academic communities of climate risks, vulnerabilities, and potential adaptation options in Asia's coastal megacities. Other key outcomes include increased integration of climate risk information with urban planning, development, and disaster management and consideration of future steps for developing adaptive management capacity throughout the region. In particular, it is expected to enhance urban officials' awareness of the need to take early action.

Workshop participants will work together to provide recommendations as to future priorities for policy-relevant research and science-based capacity building. Workshop recommendations will also include strategies for scientists, urban managers, and policymakers. Specific workshop outputs will include a workshop report that includes recommendations for follow-up activities, a monograph or special journal issue that includes selected workshop papers, and a policy brief based on workshop presentations, discussions, and recommendations.

***Climate Change Congress
Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges
and Decisions, Copenhagen, Denmark,
March 10-12 2009.***

We would like to bring to your attention the Conference on Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges, and Decisions organized by The International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU), an alliance of the world's ten leading research universities. The conference will take place next March 10-12, 2009 at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark. The Climate Change Congress takes place in the run-up to the United Nations Climate Conference (COP-15) in Copenhagen 2009.

An executive summary of the major findings/conclusions from Climate Change will be handed over to the participants at the COP15 in Copenhagen at the end of 2009. Thus this meeting provides a vehicle for passing emerging knowledge relevant for responding to the challenge of climate change on to participants at the COP15.

The focus of the IARU conference is to build consensus among the scientific community on key issues policy-makers should be aware during the negotiations of the COP 15. The main aim of the Congress is to provide a synthesis of existing and emerging scientific knowledge necessary in order to make enlightened societal decisions concerning application of mitigation and adaptation strategies in response to climate change.

Roberto Sanchez-Rodriguez (UGEC co-chair) is chairing a 3 hour session and poster series on "Adapting Urban Areas to Climate Change. This is an excellent opportunity for our community (urbanization and climate change) to be part of the contribution the international scientific community will make to the COP 15.

Please do not hesitate to contact Roberto (roberto.sanchez-rodriguez@ucr.edu) if you would like additional information about the conference session. The web site of the event is www.climatecongress.ku.dk.

Adapting Urban Areas to Climate Change

The bidirectional interactions between urban areas and climate change have fostered an impressive array of responses during recent years. A review of those responses shows diverse local initiatives in cities of industrialized countries, while only a few cities in poor countries have paid attention to climate change.

Urban responses to climate change focus often on mitigation and only a few cities have developed adaptive actions. Understanding the characteristics, extent, dynamics, and sustainability of those responses is necessary in assisting local urban communities to better address the challenges created by climate change. Many of those responses are fragmented and have not considered the interaction between adaptation to climate change and current challenges of urban growth, the potential conflict between mitigation and adaptation actions in urban areas, the consequences of adaptation on equity and opportunities for sustainability, or the negative consequences of such on other sectors. Well-intended fragmented actions create often only partial solution to complex problems such as adapting to climate change. Better understanding and improving current and future responses to climate change will prevent future problems and strengthen the operation of urban areas and the livelihoods of their inhabitants in the short and long-term. Climate change is not only an environmental problem; it is a major challenge for development. The wide ramification of

its consequences in urban areas also provide an opportunity to search for new way of understanding and conceptualizing local urban growth according to the new demands and conditions in the 21st century.

This session seeks to contribute to the design and implementation of adaptation to climate change in urban areas. The session seeks to attract oral presentations and posters addressing a broad range of issues: methodological and conceptual challenges in adaptation, the results of specific adaptive actions, social, economic, technical, and political challenges and opportunities in the design and implementation of adaptation, the relationship between vulnerability and adaptation to climate change and current urban problems, strategies to bridge the science and policy/practice behind adaptation, institutional challenges to promote, strengthen, and improve adaptation, and equity concerns in adaptation to climate change. The session invites scholars from poor and rich countries and seeks to extract insights and conclusions useful to decision-makers, the scientific community, the business sector, and local urban practitioners.

Cities and climate change: understanding urban responses to global environmental change - Session at the Royal Geographical Society/Institute of British Geographers Annual Conference, 26-28th August 2009, Manchester

The session is co-organized by UGEC project associates Harriet Bulkeley, Durham University, and Mark Pelling, Kings College London. It is co-sponsored by the Planning and Environment, Developing Areas and Climate Change Research Groups (PERG, DARG, CCRG),

“It is increasingly recognised that cities are critical sites in the response to climate change. As the Stern Review (2006: 457) made clear, given that “by some estimates, cities account for 78% of carbon emissions from human activities”, cities have a crucial role to play in reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. As the Review

also recognized, cities, and in particular large cities in the global south, are vulnerable to the risks of climate change. Too often, cities have been taken for granted as the backdrop against which the profound transformations of climate change will be played out. However, if we consider cities as “dense networks of interwoven sociospatial processes that are simultaneously local and global, human and physical, cultural and organic” (Swyngedouw and Heynen 2003: 899), it is clear that the very nature of urbanization is profoundly connected to climate change.

In this context, this session will reflect on the current state of the debate concerning the relation between urbanization and climate change. It will consider the ways in which conceptual debates concerning the nature of the urban (including, for example, on governance, urban political ecology, splintering urbanism, socio-technical transitions) can inform research on climate change and the city, and vice versa. Papers that seek to develop conceptual insights about the relation between climate change responses and the urban are encouraged, as are papers that offer new empirical insights into how climate change adaptation and mitigation are being addressed in cities in both the global south and north. Through bringing these bodies of work together, we seek to establish a productive dialogue about how we might understand the potential and limits for urban responses to the climate challenge. In particular, papers which address the following topics are welcome:

- Governing climate change in the city
- Urban political ecologies of climate change
- Climate change and urban socio-technical ‘transitions’
- Responding to climate change in global cities
- Urban adaptation and mitigation – synergies or conflicts?

Abstracts of 200 words should be submitted by 6th February 2009 to Harriet Bulkeley, Durham University (h.a.bulkeley@durham.ac.uk)

The Global Environmental Change and Human Security (GECHS) Synthesis Conference: Human Security in an Era of Global Change, Jun 22, 2009 - Jun 24, 2009, University of Oslo, Norway

The GECHS Synthesis Conference represents an opportunity to synthesize the results of 10 years of research on the human security theme and to gather researchers, policy makers and stakeholders from different fields to discuss the interactions between various processes of change and what they mean for human security. Over the years there has been a considerable evolution in the ways that both human security and global environmental change research have been framed and discussed. In terms of human security, the emphasis is increasingly on how individuals and communities can respond to an assortment of stresses and shocks to their social, environmental and human rights. In terms of global environmental change, perspectives from the social sciences and the humanities are increasingly seen as critical to understanding the causes and consequences of biophysical changes. One important component of the conference would be to reflect on how notions of human security are being transformed in the face of global environmental change. The findings of these developments will be linked to policies and practitioner activities. The conference will also serve as a forum for engaging young researchers and discussing future research agendas.

Specifically the GECHS Synthesis Conference aims to:

- Synthesize the findings of 10 years of research on the relationship between human security and global environmental change;
- Discuss the interaction between various processes of change and what they mean for human security;
- Identify the relevance for policy and practitioner communities on the findings;

- Engage young researchers; and
- Identify future research agendas.

Deadline for abstract submission: January 31, 2009.

We would like to invite paper and poster abstracts that address the session topics listed below. The conference is structured around three broad themes and under each of these a number of session topics are listed. We would like to invite papers and posters that address one of the identified session topics. We would especially like to encourage young scholars to submit abstracts, in order to highlight up-and-coming research projects.

Conference Theme 1: Conceptualizing Human Security in an Era of Global Environmental Change

- Double Exposure: Interactions between Globalization and Global Environmental Change
- Ethics and Environmental Change
- Culture, Values, Worldviews and Global Change
- Global Environmental Change and Gender Perspectives
- Rethinking Human Security in a Changing Climate
- Food Security and Global Change

Conference Theme 2: Global Environmental Change and Implications for Human Security

- Water Scarcity and Governance
- Cities and Climate Change: Human Security Challenges
- Global Environmental Change, Migration and Conflicts
- Environmental Change, Poverty and the MDGs
- The Politics of Global Environmental Change: The Role of Power and Interests
- Global Environmental Change and Human Security in Coastal Urban Areas

Conference Theme 3: How to Increase Human Security in the Context of Global Environmental Change

- Sustainable Adaptation: From Theory to Practice
- Limits to Climate Change Adaptation
- Addressing Equity Dimensions of Environmental Change
- Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation and Human Security
- Environmental Change and Integral Theory
- Children and Future Generations
- Reducing Water Insecurity through Stakeholder Participation

Instructions for Abstract Submission can be found here: <http://www.iss.uio.no/gechs/call-papers/index.html>

UGEC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for Papers/Abstracts:

Call for Workshop Papers

The Economics of Land-Use Change: Advancing the Frontiers, Washington DC June 25– 26, 2009

Deadline for Abstract Submission: February 15, 2009

The pace and pattern of land-use change in the United States and elsewhere has compelled many communities to demand and implement new policies due to both the environmental and fiscal impacts associated with the increasing urban and suburban landscape as well as questions of food security and global climate change resulting from the loss of farm and forest land. In addition to concerns related to the total amount of resource lands lost, the location, distribution, and pattern of these land use changes determines the local government costs of providing infrastructure such as roads, schools, sewer, water and other public services;

the amount and type of nonpoint source pollution into water bodies; the loss of open space amenities; increased time commuting with associated air pollution and congestion; as well as ecological effects including hydrological disturbances and habitat fragmentation. Understanding the impacts of different land use patterns on numerous ecological services and the potential relationship between these patterns and potential government policies, have also gained in importance but are difficult to analyze given currently available modeling methods.

This highly focussed workshop seeks to bring together researchers at the forefront of theoretical, empirical, and policy aspects of economics focused on spatially explicit land use modeling. We expect to accept eight selected papers, resulting from this call for papers, as well as have three invited background presentations with a total of 20-25 participants. The three invited presentations will provide an overview of the state of the art in theoretical modeling (Elena

Irwin), empirical modeling (Jacqueline Geoghegan and Alexander Pfaff) and policy issues (Lori Lynch). In addition to the invited and selected paper presenters, other distinguished researchers in the field have been invited to attend the workshop, such as Nancy Bockstael and Kerry Smith and others, to be confirmed.

We invite submissions of two page abstracts for consideration for presentation as one of the eight selected papers for this workshop. Through generous support of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, travel expenses (lowest airfare and hotel accommodations) will be provided for one presenter of each of the selected papers. The workshop will be held at the Mathematical Association of America's Carriage House, just off of Dupont Circle in Washington D.C.

The goal of the conference organizers is to subsequently publish the invited and selected papers as a special issue of a peer-reviewed journal. Questions can be directed to either of the two workshop organizers: Jacqueline Geoghegan (jgeoghegan@clarku.edu) or Lori Lynch (llynch@arec.umd.edu). Submissions of two

page abstracts should be sent to Jacqueline Geoghegan by February 15, 2009.

Penn Institute for Urban Research and University of Pennsylvania Press.

RECENT UGEC PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

- Boucher, A. and Seto, K. C. (in press) "Methods and Challenges for Using High-Temporal Resolution Data for Monitoring Urban Growth," in *Global Mapping of Human Settlements: Experiences, Data Sets, and Prospects*," Gamba, P., and Herold, M., eds. Taylor and Francis Press.
- Douglass, M., Ho, K.C. and Ooi, G.L., (eds.), (2008) *Globalisation, the City and Civil Society in Pacific Asia*, London: Routledge.
- Kraas, Frauke (2008): *Megacities as Global Risk Areas*. In: Marzluff, J. et al. (eds.): *Urban Ecology. An International Perspective on the Interaction between Humans and Nature*. New York: 583-596.
- Marcotullio, Peter J., Ademola K. Braimoh and Takashi Onishi, (2008). The impact of urbanization on soils in A. K. Braimoh and P. L. G. Vlek (Eds.), *Land Use and Soil Resources*, Springer Publishers, pp. 201-250.
- Marcotullio, Peter J., and Niels B. Schulz (2008). Urbanization, increasing wealth and energy transitions: Comparing experiences between the USA, Japan and rapidly developing Asia Pacific economies, in Peter Droege (Ed.) *Urban Energy Transition*, Elsevier Limited, pp. 55-89.
- Seto, K. C. (in press) "Global Urban Issues: A Primer," in *Global Mapping of Human Settlements: Experiences, Data Sets, and Prospects*," Gamba, P., and Herold, M., eds. Taylor and Francis Press.
- Seto, K. C. (in press) "Monitoring urban growth and its environmental impacts using remote-sensing: Examples from China and India," in *Global Urbanization in the 21st Century*, Birch, E., and Wachter, S., eds.

Journal Articles

- Güneralp, B., and Seto, K. C. (in press) "Environmental impacts of urban growth from an integrated dynamic perspective: A case study of Shenzhen, South China," *Global Environmental Change*.
- Hand, L., and J.M. Shepherd, (in press). An investigation of warm season spatial rainfall variability in Oklahoma City: Possible linkages to urbanization and prevailing wind. *Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology*
- Kirshen, P., Ruth, M. and W. Anderson, (2008) Interdependencies of urban climate change impacts and adaptation strategies: a case study of Metropolitan Boston USA, *Climatic Change*, Volume 86, Numbers 1-2, January, 105-122
- Kirshen, P., Watson C., Douglas, E., Gontz, A., Lee, J, and Tian, Y, (2008), Coastal flooding in the Northeastern United States due to climate change, *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change*, Volume 13, Numbers 5-6, (June), 437-451
- Leichenko, Robin and Solecki, William (2008), Consumption, Inequity, and Environmental Justice: The Making of New Metropolitan Landscapes in Developing Countries, *Society and Natural Resources*, Volume 21, Number 7, August 2008 , pp. 611-624(14)
- Liu, W. G. and Seto, K. C. (2008) "Using the ART-MMAP neural network to model and predict urban growth: a spatio-temporal data mining approach," *Environment and Planning B* 35(2) 296 - 317.
- Shem, W. and M. Shepherd (in press) On the impact of urbanization on summertime thunderstorms in Atlanta: Two numerical model case studies, *Atmospheric Research*
- Shepherd, J.M., W.M. Carter, M. Manyin, D. Messen, and S. Burian, (in review) The impact of urbanization on current and future coastal convection: A case study for Houston, *Environment and Planning B*.

OTHER EVENTS

Upcoming International Events

The 7th International Conference on Urban Climate (ICUC-7), Yokohama, Japan, June 29 – July 3, 2009

Dr. Manabu Kanda, ICUC-7 Local Organizer and Dr. Matthias Roth, President of IAUC invite scholars to the International Association for Urban Climate (IAUC) Seventh International Conference on Urban Climate (ICUC-7) to be held in Yokohama, Japan from June 29 to July 3, 2009. From the conference website: <http://www.ide.titech.ac.jp/~icuc7/>

“ICUC-7 is the continuation of a series of similar conferences starting in Kyoto, Japan in 1989, followed by those in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 1993, Essen, Germany in 1996, Sydney, Australia in 1999, Lodz, Poland in 2003, and Göteborg, Sweden in 2006. The success of this series helped to create a cohesive international community of urban climatologists.

The aims of the conference remain as before, to provide an international forum where the world's urban climatologists can meet to showcase and discuss modern developments in research, and the application of climatic knowledge to the design of better cities. ICUC-7 wishes to cater to the interests of a diverse community of meteorologists, climatologists, hydrologists, ecologists, engineers, architects and planners and others interested in these topics. On behalf of the organisers we are honoured to invite you to attend the Seventh International Conference on Urban Climate in Yokohama, Japan in 2009.”

Deadline for abstract submission has been extended. (New deadline: January 23, 2009). Please submit your abstract through the JTB online submission system. The web link can be found on the conference website: <http://www.ide.titech.ac.jp/~icuc7/>

International Conference “Megacities: Risk, Vulnerability and Sustainable development”, Leipzig, Germany, September 7th-10th, 2009.

Hilde Feldmann, on behalf of the Organizing Committee, sent us the following message:

“We cordially invite you to contribute to the International Conference “Megacities: Risk, Vulnerability and Sustainable development”. The event will take place in Leipzig, Germany, on September 7th-10th, 2009.

Megacities worldwide are an outstanding feature of urbanization. They are both culprits and victims of dramatic global change processes. In this context, the conference organizers invite interdisciplinary contributions from all fields of urban research worldwide such as: land use, social polarization, security, energy, water and sanitation, waste, mobility and transportation, information and communication, infrastructure, air quality, health, food supply, economic productivity, climate, ecology.

The contributions should address these topics with respect to the following essential questions:

- What does sustainable development mean for megacities?
- What risks are associated with the trend towards mega-urbanization and what are the driving forces behind it?
- How can the transformation of the complex risk habitat megacity be described and analysed appropriately?
- How vulnerable is the mega-urban system and how are risks distributed across cities and social groups?
- On the other hand, what opportunities for sustainable development do megacities offer?
- What strategies can steer the urban system towards sustainable development and what institutional and organizational preconditions need to be in place for effective implementation of these strategies?
- How can the interrelation of megacities with their hinterland and

with global change processes be assessed and conceptualized?

Contributions are expected to present interdisciplinary research that connects to any of the three main themes *Risk, Vulnerability and Sustainable development*.

For more information on themes, conference fee, etc., please see the attached flyer and consult the conference homepage (www.megacity-conference2009.ufz.de).

Sessions and submission of contributions for:

- a. Thematic sessions with the presentation of individual contributions,
- b. Poster sessions in the central hall of the venue and
- c. Young researchers sessions with individual contributions from ongoing PhD work, chaired by a senior colleague.

Submission of contributions for thematic sessions (a.) is welcomed either in the form of an individual paper or a proposal for an entire session including chair, up to three individual presenters and a discussant (optional).

Submittal forms for individual abstracts, sessions, posters and young researchers workshop can be downloaded from the conference

Homepage. Please note that the conference language will be English. Deadline for abstract submission is March 30, 2009. Please send your abstract using the official submittal forms until March 30 per e-mail to the conference secretary:

F&U confirm, Leipzig, Germany

e-mail: megacity.2009@fu-confirm.de

phone: +49 341 235 2264

fax: +49 341 235 2782

Authors will receive notification of acceptance in May 2009.

<http://www.urs2009.net/>

The topic for the 5th Urban Research Symposium is *Cities and Climate Change: Responding to the Urgent Agenda*. At a time when climate change is a major priority for the international community, this Symposium aims at pushing forward the research agenda on climate change from a city's perspective. Specifically, the main questions will be structured around the impacts of city and urban growth on climate change; measuring and anticipating the consequences of climate change on urban quality of life, city assets, and local and national economies; and assessing alternatives to increase the resilience of cities and related costs and incentives required for successful implementation.

The Symposium is structured around five broad research clusters which represent the most relevant issues faced by cities and peri-urban areas on climate change.

Cluster 1: Science and Indicators of Climate Change and Related Impacts: Understanding and measuring how cities impact, and are impacted by, climate change.

Cluster 2: Infrastructure, Built Environment, and Energy Efficiency: Planning efficiently and effectively to increase the resilience of cities.

Cluster 3: Role of Institutions, Governance, and Urban Planning: Improving management, coordination, and planning of cities to meet climate change challenges.

Cluster 4: Incentive policies, economics and finance: Understanding how and why cities respond to climate change.

Cluster 5: Social aspects of climate change: Understanding and reducing vulnerability of urban populations to climate change.



**5th World Bank Urban
Research Symposium: Cities
and Climate Change:
Responding to the Urgent
Agenda, Marseille, France.
June 28-30, 2009**

China and Global Climate Change: Reconciling International Fairness and Protection of the Atmospheric Commons, 18-19 June 2009, Lingnan University, Hong Kong, China
<http://www.ln.edu.hk/caps/conference.php>

The Centre for Asian Pacific Studies and the Environmental Studies Programme at Lingnan University, Hong Kong, are jointly organizing a conference on 'China and Global Climate Change'. The conference will address the problem of how to reconcile China's growing greenhouse gas emissions with the Chinese government's unwillingness to join binding international commitments to reduce those emissions.

Since the start of international negotiations on climate change in the 1980s, the Chinese government has refused to be bound by commitments to limit its pollution of the atmosphere. This refusal is based on the historical responsibility of the world's wealthy countries for past emissions and China's status as a developing country. President Hu Jintao recently reaffirmed that China will not commit to mandatory emissions-reduction targets before the world's wealthy countries take the lead in addressing global climate change. He has also called on affluent countries to pay for emissions limitations in China and other developing countries.

Alongside these Chinese concerns about justice and historical responsibility is the new reality that China has become the largest national source of pollution causing climate change. Without China's involvement, notably limitations in its future greenhouse gas emissions, international efforts to mitigate global warming substantially are unlikely to succeed. This comes against the backdrop of increasing concerns among atmospheric scientists that global warming is happening more quickly than predicted, that climate change will be more severe than anticipated, and that the poorest countries and people of the world will experience monumental suffering in coming decades as a consequence.

This conference seeks to assess how China's longstanding concerns about international fairness and justice can be squared against the pressing need for an effective international regime that limits greenhouse gas emissions – including those from China.

Conference themes and questions:

Major conference themes include (1) Practical Considerations, including the latest findings on greenhouse gas emissions and climate change impacts related to China's role; (2) Ethical Considerations, including questions of fairness, justice and human rights related to climate change and China's role; and (3) Political Considerations, including issues related to the domestic and international politics of climate change, the international climate change negotiations, and the political significance in other countries of China's climate change diplomacy and policies.

We aim to address these and others questions related to China and global climate change:

-Is there any common ground between China's concern with development and international justice, on one hand, and growing greenhouse gas emissions and the worsening problem of climate change, on the other?

-What must the developed countries do to persuade the Chinese government to commit to greenhouse gas limitations, and eventually reductions, in the future? How can they facilitate those limitations?

-Does China's newfound wealth undermine the argument that it should not be required to limit its greenhouse gas emissions? What ethical arguments bolster or bring into question China's reluctance to restrain emissions?

-How do the adverse impacts of climate change for China's poorest people, and indeed for poor people throughout the developing world, affect China's obligations? Does China have obligations to poorer countries just as wealthier countries have obligations to China?

-How significant is it, practically, ethically and politically, that China is going down the same fossil-fuel development path as the West just as scientists are warning of the severe consequences of doing so?

Does it matter that China's economic emergence has occurred against the backdrop of improving climate science, whereas the West was historically unaware that its development path was unsustainable?

-Should China's new wealthy classes be allowed to hide behind China's developing-country status to avoid lifestyle changes increasingly

demanded of most people, including poor ones, in the world's developed countries?

-How is the failure of Western governments to implement major cuts in greenhouse gases a political issue in China? Do China's positions on climate change make it more difficult for developed-country governments to persuade their constituents to accept the major cuts in greenhouse gas emissions that will be required to address climate change?

-Are workable and affordable technical solutions available to allow China to take a different development path so that its people can enjoy the fruits of modernity without causing monumental harm to the global environment? How can the West encourage and support those solutions?

-Given that China and the United States are the largest national sources of greenhouse gas pollution, albeit with very different capabilities and historical responsibilities, how might they work together to protect the atmospheric commons?

Invitation to participate:

We invite paper proposals from individuals wishing to present papers at the Hong Kong conference (see below).

We welcome participation by scholars (including advanced postgraduate students) and practitioners of global environmental policy, climate change politics, environmental and energy policy, sustainable development, international relations, environmental foreign policy, China studies and related fields.

In conjunction with the conference meeting in Hong Kong, we intend to introduce a 'virtual' aspect for participants who wish to participate from outside Hong Kong. Individuals interested in participating online are also encouraged to submit paper proposals (see below).

All papers will be eligible for publication in the conference proceedings. A selection of papers will be invited for inclusion in a peer-reviewed book and potentially in a special issue of a scholarly journal.

Paper proposals

Please send the following information via email to CAPS@LN.edu.hk no later than 31 January 2009: Name / Paper Title / Paper Abstract (up

to 300 words) / Institution / Position / Email Address / Postal Address / Fax Number/ Telephone Number.

Please indicate whether the paper is for presentation at the Hong Kong meeting or through online participation.

We will inform authors of accepted abstracts by 28 February 2009.

Further details of the conference will be forthcoming.

Annual Meeting of the Alliance for Global Sustainability "Urban Futures: the Challenge of Sustainability" ETH Zurich, Switzerland, 26-29 January 2009

<http://www.cces.ethz.ch/agsam2009/>

The meeting is organised jointly with the Competence Center Environment and Sustainability of the ETH Domain (CCES).

This conference offers a forum for all those concerned about our urban future, from academia, industry and public administration. The programme includes keynotes, panel discussions, workshops, posters, and an exhibition.

The AGS recognizes the educational, practical and symbolic value of universities setting an example as models for a sustainable society.

Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada, March 22-27, 2009

UGEC has endorsed the special session on 'Urbanization and Environment', a session co-organized by Qihao Weng, Indiana State University, and Dale Quattrochi, a Senior Research Scientist with the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center:

"Urbanization is one of the most profound examples of human modification of the Earth. Alteration of the landscape through urbanization involves the transformation of the radiative, thermal, moisture, and aerodynamic characteristics of the Earth surface. As humans alter the character of the natural landscape in the urbanization process, they influence regional air qual-

ity characteristics, energy exchanges, local, mesoscale, and even larger scale climate. Urban development is usually associated with significant changes of vegetation in terms of nature, abundance, pattern, and biodiversity, and results in the creation of non-evaporating, non-transpiring surfaces, called impervious surfaces (comprised of concrete, asphalt, stone, metal, etc.). Modifications in climate and land cover inevitably alter the moisture characteristics in the urban areas. It becomes known that the process of urbanization has a considerable hydrological impact on the nature of runoff and other hydrological characteristics, delivering pollutants to rivers, and controlling rates of erosion. On the other hand, urbanization, as a major type of land use change, is a product of interactions between the biophysical forces and the human driving forces, and should be considered in a particular social, economic, political, and cultural context. Changes in land use can have strong impacts on local, regional, and even global environments; environmental changes, in turn, may have feedback effects on land covers, land uses, and human driving forces. This series of interactions forms a core research area in human-environment interactions. In the special session, we invite both theoretical and empirical studies that examine urbanization and its effects on the environment. Potential topics may include but not limited to the following:

- Urbanization as a land cover transformation;
- Urbanization as a land use change;
- Environmental impacts of urbanization on climate and air quality;
- Environmental impacts of urbanization on hydrology;
- Environmental impacts of urbanization on biota;
- Urbanization and sustainability;
- Urbanization and environmental impacts in the particular social, economic, political, and cultural context.

<http://www.aag.org/annualmeetings/2009/index.htm>

IHDP NEWS AND EVENTS

IHDP Open Meeting 2009

A message from the Open Meeting Conference team: "We would like to inform you that the registration for the 7th International Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change, the IHDP Open Meeting 2009, is now open with special discount rates for early registrations, students and participants from developing countries.

Registration for the Open Meeting is a competitive process. First priority will go to accepted presenters at the conference. Depending on the number of abstracts submitted and space restrictions at the conference venue, registration may be limited to a first-come, first-serve basis. For these reasons, it is recommended that you secure your place at the Open Meeting as early as possible.

Please note that the Early Bird Registration ends on 31 January, 2009. You can find the list of registration fees on the pdf. document attached to this email.

For more information about how to register to participate in the IHDP Open Meeting 2009, please refer to www.openmeeting2009.org or send us an email to openmeeting@ihdp.unu.edu

We are looking forward to meeting you in Bonn in April 2009!"

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

2009 Global Sustainability Summer School, Santa Fe Institute, Santa Fe, New Mexico, July 12 to July 25, 2009

The Santa Fe Institute and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory are pleased to announce

a new program on Global Sustainability, to be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA. Co-directors are Doug Arent, Director, Strategic Energy Analysis, National Renewable Energy Laboratory; J. Doyne Farmer, Professor, Santa Fe Institute; and John Schellnhuber, Professor and Director, Potsdam Institute.

This intensive two-week program explores global sustainability from many perspectives with particular focus on problems posed by climate change. With enrollment limited to 30 participants, the school will include graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, junior and senior faculty, and individuals from the private sector.

<http://www.santafe.edu/education/schools-global-sustainability.php>

Job Opportunities

Urban Transitions and Climate Change Research Associate, Department of Geography, Durham University

The Department of Geography at Durham University wishes to appoint a full time Postdoctoral Research Associate to work on the research project Urban Transitions: climate change, global cities and the transformation of socio-technical systems, awarded to Dr. Harriet Bulkeley by the ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council) Climate Change Leadership Fellowship scheme. The aims of the Fellowship are to advance conceptual approaches for understanding urban socio-technical systems and their response to climate change, to develop the evidence base on the climate change 'experiments' taking place in global cities, and consider the socio-environmental justice implications of these developments. The successful candidate will join Dr. Bulkeley and two graduate students on the project, and will be responsible for key aspects of the day to day organisation and conduct of the project. We

anticipate that this two and a half year fixed term appointment will start on 1st April 2009.

Closing Date for Applications: January 31 2009

Contact for informal enquiries:

Dr Harriet Bulkeley

0191 334 1940

h.a.bulkeley@durham.ac.uk

Further details are available at:
http://www.jobs.ac.uk/jobs/YB303/ESRC_Urban_Transitions_Research_Associate/

Science Communicator for the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme

Applications are invited for the position of Science Communicator for the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP). IGBP is an international research programme that provides scientific knowledge about the Earth System in response to the challenges of global sustainability. Its 9-person Secretariat is hosted by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm.

The Science Communicator will direct the communications efforts of IGBP, including internal communications amongst IGBP projects and project scientists, and outward communications with the wider science community, the education sector, policy makers, the media and the public. A key function of the Science Communicator is to assist IGBP in generating and communicating impartial, policy-relevant science, through a wide range of products and processes (e.g., Global Change Newsletter, email bulletin, website, annual report, press releases, etc.). The Science Communicator will oversee a small communications team. See <http://www.igbp.net/page.php?pid=451> for full description of position and qualifications, and IGBP Comms Strategy document.

Appointment initially for 3-year period. **To apply** send: CV, supporting statement <500 words, contact information for 3 references, and 3 examples of work that reflect your communication ability, to: Charlotte Boss-Wilson at

Admin@IGBP.kva.se. Review of applications will begin 30 January 2009.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, Center for Environmental Studies, Brown University

The Center for Environmental Studies at Brown University invites applications for a Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies for a three-year, non-tenure track, non-renewable position, starting July 1, 2009. We especially seek a candidate who has expertise in teaching in one of the following areas: food and agriculture, energy and transportation, and natural resources (especially water). Depending on the candidate's qualifications, they may be asked to teach the introductory environmental studies course and/or introductory environmental science course; experience in one or both of those courses will be a helpful addition to the candidate's qualifications. The course load is three courses per year, and the position entails supervising 5-7 senior theses and MA theses. Applicants must have a Ph.D. in a relevant discipline, at time of commencing work. Full consideration will be given to applications received by January 15, 2009. Applicants should send a letter of application, curriculum vitae, and have three letters of recommendation sent. Send materials by email attachment to Patricia-Ann_Caton@brown.edu, as well as hard copy to Phil Brown, Interim Director, Center for Environmental Studies, Box 1943, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912. For further information, please write to Phil_Brown@brown.edu. Brown University is an EEO/AA employer. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply.

Postdoctoral Scholar / Research Scholar in Sustainability, Sustainable Futures Institute, Michigan Technological University

A postdoctoral position is available immediately for a highly motivated individual with an interest in *green engineering and sustainability*. The posi-

tion is housed in the Sustainable Futures Institute (SFI) at Michigan Tech. The successful candidate will work with graduate scholars and other personnel participating in the SFI (www.sfi.mtu.edu). The successful candidate will be knowledgeable about sustainability principles, have excellent communication skills, and have authored publications related to green engineering and/or sustainability; a Ph.D. in Civil, Environmental, Chemical, Mechanical, Industrial, Manufacturing, or Materials Engineering, or a related discipline is a requirement for the position.

The successful candidate will be involved in the preparation of proposals and papers, serve as a mentor to graduate students, and assist with all activities of the SFI research program. The post-doctoral scholar is expected to contribute to ongoing research in areas such as:

- Material recycling and reuse options for sustainability,
- Environmentally benign design and manufacturing,
- Green chemistry and chemical processing,
- Reducing the footprint of the built environment,
- Life-cycle assessment,
- Environmental and economic issues associated with the processing and use of engineering materials, and
- Development of software tools to integrate economic, environmental, and societal aspects for sustainability.

Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. To apply for the position, please submit a curriculum vitae and names/contact information for three references, and two relevant publications to:

Qiong Zhang, Ph.D.

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Operations Manager of the Sustainable Futures Institute

email: qiong@mtu.edu

Applications will be considered until the position is filled.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Urbanization and Global Environmental Change (UGEC) project is a science project that targets the generation of new knowledge on the bi-directional interactions and feedback loops between urban areas and global environmental change at local, regional and global levels. It follows a



multi-disciplinary approach and utilizes an innovative framework for the comprehensive understanding of the driving and resulting economic, political, cultural, social and physical processes. An important feature of this core project is the explicit commitment to translate abstract knowledge about GEC into local decision-making contexts. The project is expected to provide a platform for close interaction between practitioners, political decision-makers and researchers and targets a stronger coordination and collaboration between academics, political decision-makers and practitioners working on urban and environmental issues. The UGEC project is currently engaged in ongoing efforts to expanding its regional and thematic networks.

Our website provides links to the UGEC Science Plan, information on how researchers can join our network as project associates, and how research projects and agencies can get their projects endorsed by UGEC (<http://www.ugec.org>). You can assist us in achieving our goals by forwarding the email linking to the e-Newsletter to any potentially interested party.

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