



Urbanization and Global Environmental Change

AN IHDP CORE PROJECT

November 2009

E-Newsletter

Issue 12

Welcome Note...

Dear Readers,

Thank you for all your comments regarding our new e-Newsletter format that we introduced in our last issue. We hope that this format will continue to be user-friendly while easily providing you with new information.

In this issue we include many upcoming events that take place well into 2010 like the 5th WUF, including updates on our own International UGEC Science & Practice Conference.

We've also added a large call for papers under the Announcements section; information about two new projects that have just received UGEC endorsement; and new related initiatives we'd like to bring to your attention. Recent UGEC publications and job opportunities are also advertized here. We hope you enjoy the read!

On a sad note, we must regrettably inform you that one of our own UGEC SSC members, Ooi-Giok Ling, passed away last month after losing her battle with cancer. We've dedicated a portion of this issue in her remembrance.

- Corrie Griffith and Michail Fragkias, UGEC Project Office

EVENTS

Recent

[Low Carbon Cities 45th ISOCARP International Congress](#) *Porto, Portugal* *October 18-22, 2009*

The International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) Congress brought together planners from over 57 countries to share current research and to learn from one another the successful cases of cities and regions responding to climate change. The Congress came at an opportune time – during the lead-up to the COP 15 which will attempt to redefine the Kyoto Protocol this December. Recognizing the huge role of cities in affecting and being affected by climate change, the Congress focused greatly on the role of spatial planning and effective city management to move forward towards a low-carbon future. During the conclusion of the Congress, the General Rapporteur Chris Gossop identified seven ingredients for making this happen. One outcome of the Congress is [Review 05](#), a 250 page book on the topic of Low Carbon Cities. This contains numerous global and local case studies of low carbon approaches. More on the conclusions and outcomes to the conference can be viewed in detail at the conference website (click on the link above).



Forthcoming

2009

[SENSE-Research School for Socio-Economic and Natural Sciences of the Environment Symposium," Climate Proofing Cities"/ Amsterdam Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change](#) *Amsterdam/Volendam, Netherlands* *December 1-4, 2009*

2010

[Chatham House International Conference: The Future of Cities](#) *London, UK* *February 8-9, 2010*



[World Urban Forum 5, The Right to the City – Bridging the Urban Divide](#) *Rio de Janeiro, Brazil* *March 22-26, 2010*

[ICLEI Resilient Cities 2010, 1st World Congress on Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change](#)

Bonn, Germany
May 28-30, 2010

[World Cities Summit: Livable and Sustainable Cities for the Future](#) *Singapore* *June 28-30, 2010*

UPDATE

1st International UGEC Science & Practice Conference 15-17 October 2010 Arizona State University

The planning of the conference is underway and we've been busy! The 1st International UGEC Science and Practice Conference will work back to back with the [Global Land Project \(GLP\) Open Science Meeting](#). GLP is a joint research project for land systems for the [International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme \(IGBP\)](#) and the [International Human Dimensions Programme \(IHDP\)](#).

The event will be open to scientists, policymakers and the general public and will provide a comprehensive perspective of current knowledge of the dynamic and complex interactions between urbanization and global environmental change. The two programs will conjoin on Sunday October 17th, so that together we can focus jointly on themes surrounding the urban, land, and climate change interface.

As a first step in the planning process, we've established our [UGEC International Science & Planning Committee \(ISPC\)](#) that will assist with organizing and overseeing the whole conference; reviewing abstracts; and chairing plenary panels and parallel sessions. To review the ISPC participants and their bios please click on the link just above.

Together with the ISPC we are working to finalize the conference concept note including the conference structure and schedule. Most importantly, we are working on

[National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility \(NCCARF\) - 2010 International Climate Change Adaptation Conference](#)

*Queensland, Australia
June 29 - July 1, 2010*

[IOA - Institute for Asian and Oriental Studies: 21. European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies \(ECMSAS\)](#)

*Bonn, Germany
July 26-29, 2010*

[The International Society for Ecological Economics 11th Biennial Conference, "Advancing Sustainability in a Time of Crises"](#)

*Bremen/Oldenburg, Germany
August 22-25, 2010*

[1st International UGEC Science & Practice Conference](#)

*Tempe, Arizona, USA
October 15-17, 2010*

[Global Land Project \(GLP\) Open Science Meeting](#)

*Tempe, Arizona, USA
October 17-19, 2010*

[PLUREL: Peri-urban Land Use Relationships – Strategies and Sustainability Assessment Tools for Urban – Rural Linkages](#)

*Copenhagen, Denmark
October 18-21, 2010*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It is with great sadness that we are announcing the loss of Ooi Giok Ling. Dr. Ooi Giok Ling passed away on October 5, 2009. Ling was an energetic member of the UGEC Scientific Steering Committee since the start of the project. Among her many accomplishments, she was Adjunct Professorial Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies at the School of Public Policy of the National University of Singapore and President of the Southeast Asian Geography Association.



Frauke Kraas, another member of our Scientific Steering Committee, sent us this note: "Giok-Ling was one of the most brilliant Asian geographers I know, vivid, experienced, responsible, innovative and wonderfully human! I will not forget her neither our good days we spent in Singapore!"

Her research and publications have been on urban studies and the environment, ethnic relations and health care delivery. She leaves us with a rich scholarly output which includes works such as "Sustainability and Cities: Concept and Assessment" in 2005 and "World Cities: Achieving Livability and Vibrancy", published this year (http://www.spp.nus.edu.sg/ips/Pub_world_cities.aspx). Other recent publications include the "Future of Space – Planning, Space and Society" in 2004 and "Beyond the Port City – Development and Identity in 21st Century Singapore", also in 2004. She held a Ph.D. from the Australian National University in Canberra.

Her home institute circulated a special newsletter announcing her passing which can be found here: http://www.spp.nus.edu.sg/ips/docs/enewsletter/Nov2009/OGL_enews_mt_301009.pdf

We are all shocked and saddened by Ling's passing. We shall all miss her very much and we offer our deepest condolences to her loved ones during this difficult time.

Call for Papers

The [International Society for Ecological Economics 11th Biennial Conference, "Advancing Sustainability in a Time of Crises"](#) is extending their call for abstracts until November 30, 2009.

determining the quantity of sessions and topics that will best address the most salient ugeg problems/questions emerging within both the research and practitioner communities.

We have also been in close communication with the GLP to organize our overlapping day which will take place on Sunday October 17th. The day will carry on the theme of "Sustainable Land Systems in the Era of Urbanization and Climate Change" and we envision two plenary sessions coupled to open sessions on the topics of "urban linkages to peri-urban and distant land uses, climate change implications" and "sustaining desert cities under climate change". The themes that these linkages bring forward are becoming more prominent in global change and climate change science as suggested by major agenda-setting reports (recent and forthcoming) internationally.

Our new conference website is now live and we expect a call for abstracts to open by next month. We will soon be updating the website with more detail regarding the call for abstracts and how to submit as well as more general conference information and logistics. We ask that you please revisit the website periodically for more updates: www.ugec2010.org

TWO NEW RELATED INITIATIVES

[AdaptNet](#) (ISSN: 1836-2478) is [RMIT University Global Cities Research Institute's Climate Change Adaptation Program](#) network focused on urban climate change adaptation. It is produced in partnership with [Nautilus Institute](#). This decentralized network creates a set of common knowledge and

The conference will take place in Oldenburg and Bremen, Germany from August 22 – 25, 2010. More information on the conference and this second call can be accessed [here](#).

The [European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies \(ECMSAS\)](#) has been an important platform and indicator of contemporary trends in South Asian studies worldwide. The 21. ECMSAS will take place July 26-29, 2010 at the University of Bonn in Bonn, Germany and will host 44 panels, covering a broad range of research subjects.

Scholars and students from any field of research related to the South Asian region are invited to participate. Anyone interested to present her or his research to an academic public should please click the "Panels" button on the left of the homepage (link is above) to find out where their specialization might fit into. Young researchers are particularly invited to join the conference and present their findings to the academic public.

UGEC members Benjamin Etzold and Markus Keck are the conveners for [Panel 39 "Megacities in South Asia as Arenas of Risks and Resilience"](#). Carsten Butsch, Dr. Saravanan V.S., and Patrick Sakdapolrak will be leading [Panel 38 "Human Health in Urban and Peri-Urban South Asia"](#). Abstracts for these panels and all others will be accepted through December 01, 2009.

The [2010 International Climate Change Adaptation Conference – "Climate Adaptation Futures: Preparing for the Unavoidable Impacts of Climate Change"](#), is co-hosted by Australia's National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) and the CSIRO Climate Adaptation Flagship. The conference is unique in that it is one of the first international forums to focus solely on climate impacts and adaptation. Scientists and decision makers from developed and developing countries are invited to share research approaches, methods and results and to explore the way forward in a world where adaptation actions are increasingly necessary. The conference will take place from June 29 - July 1, 2010.

There are two sessions that bring ugeg-related themes into focus. The first is *Adaptation and the Community*, chaired by UGEC Project Associate Lisa Schipper of the Stockholm Environment Institute and Coleen Vogel from the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. The session seeks to expand notions of community-based adaptation to include a wider focus and renewed attention to the meaning of the word "community". The second session, *Adapting to Climate Change in Cities*, chaired by Shaqun Mehrotra of Columbia University and Cynthia Rosenzweig from the Goddard Institute for Space Studies will explore risk assessment, differential impacts of adaptation mechanisms, and their limitations in a spectrum of developmental conditions that challenge the major cities of the world.

This call for abstracts is now open and will continue through Monday January 18, 2010. Please visit the weblink above and click Sessions/Abstracts on the left-hand side to get more information regarding this process.

The [PLUREL conference "Peri-urban Land Use Relationships – Strategies and Sustainability Assessment Tools for Urban – Rural Linkages"](#) is organized jointly by the PLUREL project; ASEM 4th Symposium on Urban Forestry; Landscape Tomorrow; Danish Association of Landscape Ecologists; and the Danish Architecture Centre. The conference will take place October 18-21, 2010 at the University of Copenhagen and is the final event of the PLUREL project: PERI-URBAN LAND USE RELATIONSHIPS - STRATEGIES AND SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT TOOLS FOR URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES funded by the European Commission's sixth Framework Programme for research (EC FP6 036921).

Abstracts for oral and/or poster presentations (max 400 words) should be submitted online to one of the twelve session topics. Please use the link for abstract upload on the conference website (the website link is above). Abstracts will be reviewed by the Scientific Committee on clarity, appropriateness of the topic, methodology, originality and contribution to the field of research. The deadline for abstract submission is March 1st, 2010. Click [here](#) to review the call for papers.

reference points for participants in the network; it offers information, analysis, and methodology to undertake urban climate change adaptive policy research and analysis. AdaptNet highlights best practice and demonstration projects. It focuses on cities in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region, but acknowledges the global network of cities.

AdaptNet produces a free weekly e-bulletin that includes 5 recent reports related to urban climate change adaptation and information on one adaptation conference. It also publishes analytic papers, critiques and explanations of climate change adaptation practice to support the development of creative thinking in relation to urban climate change adaptation challenges and to facilitate an open exchange of views and ideas. To receive their e-bulletins please click [here](#) to join.

IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. It supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world and brings governments, non-government organizations, United Nations agencies, companies and local communities together to develop and implement policy, laws and best practice. The **IUCN Urban Initiative** is a portal to Web pages describing initiatives of IUCN and its member organizations related to carrying out an IUCN resolution calling for more attention to be paid to the many interconnections among nature, urban places, and urban people.

All UGEC related initiatives can be viewed on the right side bar of the homepage.

The **International Journal of Urban Sustainable Development** is a medium for research that seeks to understand the complex challenges facing urban areas. This journal is fully peer reviewed, publishing original research and review papers, also think pieces and position papers from scholars of various disciplines and practitioners. The goal is to connect and learn from the views and experiences of developed, developing and transition countries. Authors from developing and transition countries are strongly encouraged to submit their work. Click on the link above to find out more.



New Project Endorsements

Two new applications for UGEC project endorsement have just recently been accepted. Both projects add new perspectives and bring a greater depth to the UGEC research network. The first project, **Collaborative Research on Sustainable Urban Water Quality Management in Southeast Asian Countries: Analysis of the Current Status (comparative study) and Development of a Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development**, is led by Dr. Suthipong Sthiannopkao Gwangju, Research Assistant Professor at the Institute of Science and Technology (GIST), 500-712, Gwangju, Republic of Korea. The purpose of the 2 year project is to establish a Centre of Excellence in the field of sustainable urban water quality management in Southeast Asian countries and is composed of three main parts including scientific research, database development, and the implementation of a strategic plan through capacity building programs.

The second, **Urban Vulnerability to Climate Change: A System Dynamics Analysis**, is led by Dr. Sharon Harlan, Associate Professor of Sociology in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change at Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona; and Dr. G. Darrel Jenerette, Assistant Professor in the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences, University of California-Riverside. This project investigates the causes of variation in heat-related human vulnerability within the metropolitan region of Phoenix, Arizona, which has a naturally hot and arid climate. The research will explain the character of complex urban heat "risksapes," assess the vulnerability of people in different neighborhoods to heat-related health hazards and identify the causes of variation of vulnerability within cities.

IHDP NEWS & EVENTS

On October 30th, the **International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP)** announced the appointment of **Dr. Anantha Kumar Duraipappah** as its new Executive Director. As an internationally experienced environmental-development economist, Dr. Duraipappah has served as the Chief of the Ecosystem Services and Economics Unit with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi, Kenya and has held senior positions in multiple development and academic organizations, such as the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) in Winnipeg, Canada, and the Institute for Environmental Studies at Vrije University in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Dr. Duraipappah will assume his new position in January 2010.



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next issue of *UGEC Viewpoints* is beginning to take shape. Thank you to all who offered their abstracts. Much like the last issue, the theme was left open so as to highlight the diversity of research currently being undertaken within the UGEC community. You will see that many of the contributions focus strongly on adaptation challenges and strategies occurring at a variety of scales: within the municipality and at the state, national, and regional levels. Articles will also address

ABOUT US

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 expand 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>).

MEMBERS OF THE UGEC (SSC)

Karen Seto, Ph.D.
(Co-Chair)

Yale University

Roberto Sánchez-Rodríguez, Ph.D. (Co-Chair)

responses to climate change and how these responses can be incorporated into policy with a particular emphasis on the challenges of urban water distribution and management. The following are the contributing authors for this upcoming issue: [Andrea Lampis](#), Universidad de los Andes; [Darryn McEvoy](#), Climate Change Adaptation, School of Civil, Environmental, and Chemical Engineering at RMIT University; [Dirk Heinrichs](#), Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ; [Jose Lobo](#), School of Human Evolution & Social Change, Arizona State University; [Martin Doevevspeck](#), Department of Geography Centre for Natural Risks and Development Bayreuth (ZENEb), University of Bayreuth; [Richard Dawson](#), Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research; [Thomas Sick Nielsen](#), PLUREL project; [Yangfan Li](#), State Key Laboratory of Pollution Control and Resources Reuse, School of the Environment, Nanjing University; and [J. Marshall Shepherd](#), Department of Geography/ Atmospheric Sciences, University of Georgia. We hope to have the newsletter available for our readers by then end of January 2010.

David Simon, UGEC Scientific Steering Committee member and Head of the Development Geography Department at the Royal Holloway University of London participated in a panel discussion on *The Agenda*, Press TV's flagship current affairs program. This broadcast features four panellists that discuss the subject of water and whether or not it is a cause of conflict between nation states. The discussion touches upon key topics of water use, the geo-political boundaries of water, equity issues, and the implications of climate change on water availability in arid regions. Click here to watch the podcast: ["Water: Will It Be the Cause of Future Conflicts?"](#)

[UN-HABITAT's e-Debate on Inclusive Sustainable Urbanization](#)

The main objective of the e-Debate in preparation for Dialogue 6 at the World Urban Forum 5 in Rio de Janeiro (22-26, March 2010) is to unfold the linkages between environmental sustainability and social inclusiveness as pillars of the right to the city approach. The Dialogue aims to develop better understanding about ways to address the impacts of climate change, social inequality and vulnerability, spatial segregation and inadequate housing. The debate on Inclusive Sustainable Urbanization will be moderated by David Simon, member of the UGEC Scientific Steering Committee and Head of the Development Geography Department at the Royal Holloway University of London. This is a fantastic opportunity for the UGEC community to participate. The dialogue will remain open through November 23rd. The direct link to the forum is accessible [here](#).

Related Publications

Dr. Christopher Kennedy, Associate Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Toronto is one of several scholars who authored "[Green House Gas Emissions for Global Cities](#)", just recently published in *Environmental Science & Technology* in August 2009. The article provides some interesting insight into the urban metabolism, uncovering how and why urban greenhouse gas emissions differ in cities. In a comparison of ten cities, the authors gauge the total emissions for each city by using two distinct measures: those that occur only within the borders of the cities and a broader measure including the upstream lifecycle emission for fuels used in the cities. This study has the potential to not only help cities better understand the nature of their emissions but how to reduce them as well.

Project Associates & Endorsements

We are continually looking for projects to endorse and interested members of the community to become UGEC project associates in order to enhance and expand our network of scholars and practitioners. Please click [here](#) to learn more about these opportunities.

New Publications by UGEC Project Affiliates

Adger W.N., Hug S., Brown K., Conway D., Hulme M. (2009). Adaptation to Climate Change in the Developing World In *Earthscan Reader in Adaptation to Climate Change*, (eds) L. Schipper and I. Burton, 295-311. London: Earthscan.

Calvo-Iglesias M.S., Fra-Paleo U., Diaz-Varela R.A. (2009). Changes in Farming System and Population as Drivers of Land Cover and Landscape Dynamics: The Case of Enclosed and Semi-Openfield Systems in Northern Galicia (Spain). *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 90(3-4), 168-177.

University of California, Riverside

Frauke Kraas, Ph.D.

University of Cologne

David Simon, Ph.D.

Royal Holloway

University of London

William Solecki, Ph.D.

Hunter College of the City

University of New York

Xue Desheng, Ph.D.

Sun Yat-sen (Zhongshan)

University

Ooi Giok Ling, Ph.D.

National Institute of Education

Nanyang Technological

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Lautze J. & Kirshen P. (2009). Water Allocation, Climate Change, and Sustainable Water Use in Israel/Palestine: The Palestinian Position, *Water International*, 34(2), 189–203.

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Roncoli C., Jost C., Kirshen P., Sanon M., Ingram K., Woodin M., Somé L., Ouattara F., Sanfo B., Sia C., Yaka P., and Hoogenboom G. (2009). From Accessing to Assessing Forecasts: An End-to-End Study of Participatory Forecast Dissemination in Burkina Faso (West Africa). *Climatic Change*, 92(3-4), 433-460.

Sanchez–Rodriguez R. (2009). Learning to Adapt to Climate Change in Urban Areas. A Review of Recent Contributions. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 1(2), 201–206. DOI 10.1016/j.cosust.2009.10.005

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Seto K.C. & Shepherd J.M. (2009). Global Urban Land-Use Trends and Climate Impacts. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* 1(1), 89-95.

Shepherd J.M. & Mote T.L. (2009). Urban Effects on Rainfall Variability: Potential Implications for Georgia's Water Supply. *Proceedings of the 2009 Georgia Water Resources Conference (Peer Reviewed)*. 6 pp.

Tjandradewi B.I. & Marcotullio P.J. (2009). City-to-City Networks: Asian Perspectives on Key Elements and Areas for Success. *Habitat International*, 33(2), 165-172.

Zhou Y. & Shepherd J.M. (2009). Atlanta's Urban Heat Island Under Extreme Heat Conditions. *Natural Hazards*. DOI 10.1007/s11069-009-9406-z

[\(...more\)](#)

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[Postdoctoral Research Opportunity – Climate Change, Adaptation, Natural Resource Management, Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences \(CIRES\)](#), University of Colorado and the US Forest Service - Fort Collins, Colorado, USA

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