



# Urbanization and Global Environmental Change

AN IHDP CORE PROJECT

The UGEC e-Newsletter  
Issue 8, April-June 2008

## WELCOME NOTE

Dear recipients of the UGEC e-Newsletter,

In this issue of UGEC e-News we are happy to announce a new avenue for communication on our main webpage, a weblog. This tool will help in the distribution of information in a quick and precise manner and open lines of communication to one another as well.

UGEC has added a new project associate, Paul Kirshen a civil and environmental engineering research professor at Tufts University. Additionally UGEC has endorsed a new scientific network established by UN-HABITAT, the Sustainable Urban Development Network (SUD-Net). We are very pleased to be members and partners in this innovative knowledge transfer network.

During this past quarter, we completed the "Urban Responses to Climate Change" workshop report and we are ready to share it with the wider UGEC community. A web link to the report can be found below.

We are also excited to announce formally a workshop on Forecasting the Magnitude, Location, and Form of Urban Growth. This workshop will focus on the utility of forecasting for urban planners, policy makers and stakeholders. A short report from the European Climate Forum by our project associate Urbano Fra Paleo is also included in this issue. We also hope that you will find interest in an update on the devastating events surrounding Cyclone Nargis that hit Myanmar in May.

Best regards,  
Michail Fragkias & Danielle Tomerlin

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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](mailto: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 EVENTS

### *UGEC Workshop “Forecasting the Magnitude, Location, and Form of Urban Growth” Spring 2009, Tempe, Arizona*

The planning stages of our next workshop are already underway. Questions to be discussed during the workshop include: What do we know about future urban landscapes across the world and how do they relate to other land uses? How will the magnitude and shape of urban areas affect and be affected by global environmental change?

The workshop will discuss the state of the art in urban growth forecasting and their utility for planners, policymakers, conservation agencies, and other stakeholders who have an interest in identifying the likely location, size, and shape of future urban growth and will facilitate a discus-

sion among users and developers of these data to assess the gap in needs. Invitations to this event will be circulated soon.

### *Completion of the Annual National Science Foundation Report*

After many weeks of gathering information and updates about UGEC SSC, Project Associates, and collaborations, we have completed our annual report to the National Science Foundation. It is full of great information about our accomplishments and the achievements of the SSC, Project Associates, and collaborations in the past and upcoming year. If you have an interest in our report, please contact us via email.

## UGEC ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *“Urban Responses to Climate Change” Workshop Report*

UGEC is please to announce the completion of the “Urban Responses to Climate Change” workshop report. You can download the report at the following webpage:

<http://www.ugec.org/tiki-index.php?page=ReportsNewsletters>

### *New Mechanism for News Distribution*

Starting in June, our new mechanism for news distribution is the UGEC weblog. You can access the most current UGEC information from our main web page, post information (contact Danielle Tomerlin for the establishment of relevant privileges) and reply to others around the world. We look forward to this new level of interaction and quicker information dissemination. Please check it out and let us know what you think!

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## New Project Associates



Dr. Paul H. Kirshen has become our newest Project Associate. He is currently a Research Professor for the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department and Tufts University and Co-Chair/Director for the Interdisciplinary Graduate

Program on Water: Systems, Science, and Society (WSSS) ([www.tufts.edu/water](http://www.tufts.edu/water)).

His recent publications include:

Ruth, M., Kirshen, P., and Coelho, D., Climate Change and Cities: Differential Impacts and Adaptation Options in Industrialized Countries in M. Ruth and M. Ibararan (eds.), *Differential Impacts of Climate Change*, Edward Elgar, Cheltenham, UK, in press.

Kirshen, P., Watson, C., Douglas, E., Gontz, A., Lee, J., and Tian, Y., Coastal Flooding in the Northeastern USA due to Climate Change, accepted by special issue of *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change*, 2007.

Kirshen, P., Ruth, M., and Anderson, W., Interdependencies of Urban Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Strategies: A Case Study of Metropolitan Boston USA, *Climatic Change*, 86:105-122, 2008.

Fernandes, A.M., Kirshen, P.H., Vogel, R., Optimal Siting of Regional Fecal Sludge Treatment Facilities: St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, *Journal of Water Resources Planning and Management*, 2008

## New Project Endorsements

### Sustainable Urban Development Network (SUD-net), UN-HABITAT

UGEK has endorsed the newly instituted UN-HABITAT sponsored network. SUD-Net is an innovative platform for knowledge transfer on

sustainable urban development among various stakeholders.

SUD-Net is linking research, technological and managerial knowledge to urban policy and decision-making, promotes new urban partnerships with the civil society and the private sector, and contributes to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and the HABITAT Agenda.

SUD-Net is a global network of partners to further develop an understanding and application of the principles of sustainable urbanization, at global, regional, national and city level.

SUD-Net aims at advising and supporting cities and towns by offering innovative approaches and solutions for urban, regional and national development planning that can only be created and implemented within a broader framework. Therefore, the network builds upon existing and new programmes and projects and thus has both a regional and global outreach. The overall aim is to contribute to livable, productive and inclusive cities, towns and villages through an ecologically sound growth that is people centric and embraces social harmony, economic vitality and environmental sustainability. You can learn about SUD-Net at: <http://www.sudnet.org/>

## OTHER EVENTS

### Upcoming International Events

#### **WCEH 2009 "Local Livelihoods and Global Challenges: Understanding Human Interaction With The Environment"**

August 4-8, 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark

The Call for Proposals and conference description is at <http://wceh2009.org/> Panel proposals are due March 31.

#### **RGS/IBG Annual International Conference 2008: 'Geographies that Matter'**

27-29 August 2008, London

<http://tinyurl.com/2d6q88>

#### **IHDP Open Meeting**

### **Postponed & Relocated**

For more information go to:

<http://www.openmeeting2008.org/>

### **World Urban Forum**

#### **Harmonious Urbanization: The Challenge of Balanced Territorial Development**

November 3-7<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Nanjing, China

For more information go to:

<http://www.unchs.org/categories.asp?catid=535>

### **UGEC Related Events**

#### **Synopsis Climate Change, Conflict and Cities (Pre-WUF)**

**Bangkok 30 October 2008**

Cities are growing and half of the world's population is living in urban areas. How the cities are composed and organized is also changing on account of the multi-layered and interdependent impacts. Cities are the focus of massive change, effected both internally by multicultural, multi-ideal, multi-ethnic, multifarious societies and externally by economic restructuring, mass migration and vulnerability to increasingly frequent natural and human-triggered disasters. This makes cities impossible to manage or plan with passive and formal governing tools alone. Therefore the level of complexity needs to be disentangled so that formal, informal, short term and long term solutions are able to impel.

Climate change is likely to result in rising sea levels and more intense and unpredictable weather patterns with storms, cyclones, and heat waves. The likely impacts on human settlements could potentially include increased costs of managing water resources, increased energy demand, more damage to infrastructure and housing, and increased insurance risk, more vector-borne and food-borne diseases and increased migration. Climate change and the potential conflicts over land, water, food and other resources that may arise from it in urban areas will have global consequences. Hence the way we view emergencies in human settlements today must be rethought.

Climate change has become a hot topic. But one thing that has not been adequately recognized in the debate is that most of the mitigation and adaptation measures will take decades to start having an effect, even if all of us start implementing these today. In reality, at the moment, we are still grappling with getting a 'buy-in' for the implementation. As such, the positive outcomes of these measures will not materialize for a long time, while the effects of climate change are happening now, in the form of more frequent and severe natural disasters and food crises. With sea level rise becoming a reality, people will start migrating, which can create conflicts over scarce land, water, food, jobs and services. This requires another look at the debate on climate change, cities and conflicts – with short-term, immediate actions and long-term perspectives.

We have set an ambitious objective for this workshop - to take an elevated role in the general discussions regarding climate change, cities and conflicts, through coming up with action-plans to deliver effective, long-term but quickly applicable solutions to challenge of climate change in human settlements.

We start by acknowledging that urban disaster mitigation and adaptation strategies to climate change will take decades to be implemented and to have an effect and those scarce resources in both mitigation and adaptation approaches will continue to stall the fight against climate change. At the same time, key differences between disasters and climate change-induced impacts require a more nuanced and flexible strategy to address the various vulnerable groups and locations.

The Climate Change, Conflict and Cities event is part of a three-day programme arranged by UN-HABITAT in collaboration with its partners immediately prior to the Fourth World Urban Forum, 3-7 November 2008 in Nanjing. The other sessions are:

- 28 October: Rethinking Emergencies (AKA Sustainable Relief and Reconstruction)
- 29 October: Urban Risk Reduction

On the 31 October the facilitators from the three events will meet to consolidate the out-

puts from the events which will be presented in the 'opening minds closing gaps' networking event in World Urban Forum 4 in Nanjing.

Objective of Session:

To envision both short-term and long-term palpable tools with great sustainable impact in reducing vulnerability in cities that is prone to conflicts and disasters caused by climate change.

Please contact David Simon for more information. [D.Simon@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:D.Simon@rhul.ac.uk)

**The Fifth Magrann Conference  
Climate Change In South Asia: Governance, Equity and Social Justice**  
April 16-17, 2009. Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

Call for Papers

Climate change presents significant challenges for South Asia. While climate change is a global phenomenon, mitigation and adaptation are regional in character. Residents of agricultural and resource dependent areas increasingly face threats to livelihoods due to alterations in precipitation and temperature, such as the disruption of the South Asian monsoon. Concurrently, within South Asia's dynamic and rapidly growing cities, the increasing frequency and magnitude of extreme climatic events may disrupt economic and social life. Although the effects of climate change on social and environmental systems are likely to be highly uneven (even between communities within South Asia), present trends in mitigation suggest that impoverished regions and populations may bear the brunt of these changes. This discrepancy is also evident in the ability to adapt and respond to climate change. Therefore, addressing climate change within the South Asian context will require new types of social institutions, cooperative responses and new forms of governance. In all cases, efforts to respond, mitigate, or adapt to climate change raise issues of equity and social justice, posing both challenges and opportunities for civil society.

We invite papers that address climate change issues within any country or region of South

Asia. Preference will be given in paper selection to those that connect their topic to one or more of the broad conference themes of governance, equity, and social justice. Potential topic areas for papers include \_but are not limited to\_:

- \* Legal, Political, and Economic Frameworks for Responding to Climate Change
- \* Cultural, Social and Gender Implications of Climate Change
- \* Natural Resources Management and Land Use Practices Under Climate Change
- \* Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in Cities and Urbanizing Regions
- \* Implications for Agriculture Under Changing Climatic and Hydrologic Regimes
- \* Technological Responses and Innovations

Papers are solicited from established scholars as well as recent PhDs and advanced graduate students. Partial support will be available to presenters to defray the costs of travel. Abstracts of 250 words or less should be sent to the conference organizers on or before September 15, 2008. Final papers (approximately 4,000-6,000 words) will be due by March 1, 2009.

For further information contact:

Conference Email: [magrconf@rutgers.edu](mailto:magrconf@rutgers.edu)

Conference Website: <http://magrann-conference.rutgers.edu/>

Conf. Organizers: Trevor Birkenholtz; Monalisa Chatterjee; Robin Leichenko; Martin Bunzl; Sumit Guha

Conference Sponsors: Department of Geography, Initiative on Climate and Social Policy, and Office of International Programs, Rutgers University

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

In March 2009, the University of Copenhagen will host an international research congress on climate change. The congress contributes to the preparation of the UN Climate Summit (COP-15) in December 2009.

The congress is organized in cooperation with the International Alliance of Research Universities, which consists of ten of the world's leading research universities, including the University of Copenhagen. (Please visit the congress website at: [www.climatecongress.ku.dk](http://www.climatecongress.ku.dk))



The Congress is the scientific forerunner for the COP, which takes place in Copenhagen later that year. The outcome of the congress will feed into this political event.

Several sessions present a considerable interest to the UGEC project. Please note that the deadline for submission of abstracts is September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008

### **European Climate Forum Annual Conference 2008 – Climate Change and the Cities of the Future**

UGEC's project Associate Dr. Urbano Fra Paleo participated in the European Climate Forum (ECF) invitation only conference held in Madrid on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of April, 2008.

Around 30 people attended this event, which took place at the main building of the University of Alcalá de Henares. The objective of the meeting was to facilitate the interaction among the members of the Forum and to broaden the geographical coverage of the European Climate Forum. Thus various scientists from Spain were invited to bring their perspective and discuss with the other participants.

Here is a short list of some of the presentations: Land use in Spain. Antonio Serrano. Secretary General for Land use. Ministry of the Environment; Climate change and the cities of the future. A major common challenge. Klaus Hasselmann, Director Max Planck Institute; The

increase of probabilities for natural risks. Peter Höpfe. GeoRisks Research Munich Re; Climate change and the role of architecture. Rosa Cervera. Architect; The fear of innovation and the need to overcome. Luis Pons, Polytechnic University of Catalunya; Climate change and the new economics, Eric Beinhocker, McKinsey Global Institute; The role of distributed energy in the cities of the future. Mario Baz, Sun Technics; An energy strategy to face out climate change. Antonio Cejalvo, Director General for Energy, Government of Valencia. The conference included parallel sessions on 'New ideas in urban architecture, energy and information technologies' and the 'New economics and new sociology helping a new urban design against climate change'.

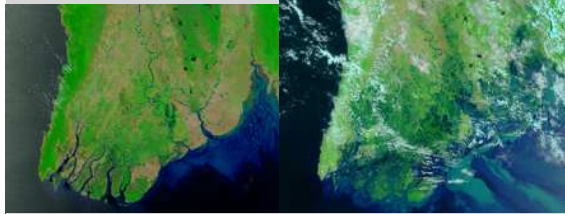
Some of the presentations are available on the ECF website at: <http://ecf.pik-potsdam.de/>

## **NEWSWORTHY**

### *An update on the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar*

Cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar on May 2-3, devastating the Irrawaddy River Delta and the country's largest city Yangon. Several important issues relevant to the UGEC research agenda have surfaced after the destruction left in the wake of the cyclone, many of which would not have been discovered otherwise. Obviously, the level of warning systems that Myanmar had in place were inadequate; the behavior of the ruling Junta has been described as inhumane; and the damage of the cyclone could have been reduced given the right precautions.

The Cyclone, according to the Associated Press, had 120 mile an hour winds, caused 12 foot high waves, and destroyed the Irrawaddy Delta River region 25 miles inland. This was a very densely populated low-lying region, and was home to over 1.5 million people. The death toll has risen to over 84,500 people; another approximately 54,000 people are still missing.



NASA's Terra satellite captured this image of the Burma coast on April 15, 2008, and May 5<sup>th</sup> after Tropical Cyclone Nargis flooded the region.

**Credit:** NASA/MODIS Rapid Response Team

Although the causes of the cyclone's intensity is debated among climate scientists, everyone agrees that the damage could have been less tragic. The best defenses these areas have against violent storms are the mangroves along the coastal shoreline. Unfortunately, Myanmar only had scattered areas of mangroves left, due to the deforestation associated with shrimp farms and rice paddies.

The area will be forever affected by this storm. Not only has one-and-a-half million people lost their homes, but much of the 40% of livestock this country had is now gone together with the grazing areas. The higher salt concentrations in the soil will also affect the regions ability to plant and farm, leaving the area crippled.

The tragic death toll could have been reduced through several measures. Other than the lacking protection due to mangroves fragmentation, Myanmar also had no early warning systems in place, such as cyclone and severe weather sirens. They had no formal radar system that could help officials determine the severity of the storm, the location, height, or surge points. They had no established evacuation routes while existing roads and related infrastructure were in bad condition. Additionally, when local officials were finally notified of the approaching storm, they refused to warn the surrounding villages.

The country is governed by a military junta that responsible for the decisions to not warn the local people about the cyclone. The government claims that there was no way to effectively warn or evacuate the people. According to the Associated Press, the junta also claims that the villagers would have refused to leave their homes

and the distance was too great for people to travel to safety.

After the devastating effects of the cyclone, many countries offered to provide aid and to be engaged in relief efforts. The Junta initially refused most of the efforts, and confiscated all food and supplies provided by other countries and the United Nations. They are refusing to grant visas to rescue workers, have restricted flights and supply drops to existing relief organizations already established in Myanmar before the cyclone, and have stopped almost all aid in most affected areas.

The military leaders were warned that if the aid did not start to flow in quickly, up to 1 million people are vulnerable to deadly diseases due to the lack of clean water and sanitary services, not to mention starvation and dehydration.

By May 23<sup>rd</sup>, and after negotiations with the UN, aid workers were allowed in the country, irrespective of their nationality but several aid efforts have been denied. Myanmar had many challenges before this major cyclone hit, and now more than ever, this vulnerable area is in great need of assistance.

## IHDP NEWS AND EVENTS

### **IHDP Open Meeting has been Relocated and Postponed**

Please find below the official announcement from the IHDP on the postponement of the Open Meeting:

“IHDP regrets to announce that the 7th Open Meeting, planned for 15-19 October 2008 in New Delhi, will be relocated and postponed.

One of the main goals of a large international scientific conference like the Open Meeting is to bring together a significant number of scholars, including early career and developing country colleagues, from around the world. The Executive Committee has concluded that given very significant and unexpected increases in the costs of holding the meeting, this basic ambition was in danger and that an alternative venue

needed to be sought. We understand that this will come as a great disappointment to the many scholars who were preparing to come to the OM. We share this sense of disappointment.

The Executive Committee remains committed to holding the OM within a reasonably short term. We are currently assessing a number of alternative venues and dates, and expect the OM to be relocated to or near our headquarters in Europe, in the spring of 2009. We will make an announcement about the new date and venue no later than July 1st 2008.

We would like to make an assurance that all panel, paper and poster acceptances for the OM'08 remain valid. When a new venue and dates have been confirmed, all participants will receive full information about scheduling. We recognize the disruption that this will cause for some of you and are committed to facilitating your access to the new meeting location. We are convinced that with this measure, we will be able to ensure that the 7th IHDP Open Meeting will become a full success and provide an important forum for the Human Dimensions Research Community.

We should also state that the International Human Dimensions Workshops (IHDW) will still be held at New Delhi in October as planned. For further queries please contact IHDP Secretariat.

Thank you for your understanding.  
Oran Young, Chair IHDP SC  
Sander van der Leeuw, Treasurer IHDP  
Andreas Rechkemmer, Executive Director, IHDP, the 7th Open Meeting Conference Team.”

### **IHDP Science Policy Dialogue on Energy, Sustainability and Societal Change**

19-20 June 2008, Santa Barbara California  
The International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP) hosted *Energy, Sustainability and Societal*

*Change*, its 2nd annual Science Policy Dialogue. This workshop opened a dialogue among leading scholars in the field of energy, high-level government officials from around the world, prominent journalists, members of the business community and other stakeholders on the relationship between energy requirements, resources, security and the human behavioural patterns needed to move societies globally towards sustainability.

From the 19th to the 20th of June, 2008, an international group of approximately 40 experts convened in Santa Barbara, California, to engage in a collaborative exploration of the issues related to energy, prompting a fruitful dialogue about this topic of mounting global importance. Held at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, Energy, Sustainability and Societal Change was hosted by Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, Dean of the Bren School and member of the IHDP Scientific Committee, and co-organized by Oran R. Young, Co-Director of the Bren School's Programme on Governance for Sustainable Development and IHDP Chair.

Energy is crucial for individual well-being and societal prosperity, though access to energy is often not equally distributed and energy systems are often not sustainable. The Energy, Sustainability and Societal Change workshop showcased ground-breaking science in this regard, informed decision makers, and, in return, obtained thought-provoking responses during the dialogue for future research. The IHDP Science Policy Workshop Series provides a productive environment to discuss with and to learn from each other. Hence, much time was devoted to exchanging ideas and interacting with the different groups of participants with the aim of building new understandings and partnerships. The Energy, Sustainability and Societal Change workshop built upon current public awareness about this theme and the far-reaching expertise of IHDP's network and partner organisations, particularly focusing on the human dimensions of energy. Issues such as the behavioural patterns and lifestyles that lead



to either efficient or inefficient energy uses, the barriers to cleaner and more efficient energy production and potential energy-related conflicts were explored. Contributions provided by the participants on various energy sub-themes, both from science and practice, served not only to motivate analysis from a variety of angles but also to deconstruct widespread prejudices and myths related to energy. The workshop was aimed to shed a different light on well-known phenomena, paving the way for new understandings and innovative solutions while explicitly addressing the implementation gap of already existing technological or conducive policy options.

### **IHDP Has a New Website**

IHDP is happy to present the new IHDP website (<http://www.ihdp.unu.edu>). As you may notice, some sections are still under construction. Please take the time to look it over and send your suggestions or comments to Lou Smith at IHDP.

## **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SSC Member and Project Associate Updates**

Many of our SSC Members and Project Associates have sent their current publications, meeting attendance, and research information to our project. We have added over 80 new publications to our online database by our members and look forward to much more this year. Our congratulations go out to our members for such a successful and productive 2007-2008 academic year.

A few examples of newly listed publications include:

- Betsill, M. and Bulkeley, H. (eds) (2007) Cities and climate change, *Local Environment*, 12 (5)
- Fragkias, M., and Seto, K. C. 2007 "Modeling urban growth in data-sparse environments: A new approach," *Environment and Planning B* 34(5): 858-883.
- Grimmond CSB 2007: Urbanization and global environmental change: Local effects of urban

warming, *The Geographical Journal*, 173, 83-88.

- Kraas, F. (2007). "Megacities and global change: key priorities (Urbanization and global environmental change: 21st century challenges)." *The Geographical Journal* 173(1): 79.
- Lampis, Andrea. 'Vulnerabilidad y Protección Social en Colombia: Estudios de Caso en Bogotá, Cali y Manizales', en Zorro, C. (comp.), *El Desarrollo: Perspectivas y Dimensiones – Aportes Interdisciplinarios*, Bogotá: Urano. (2007)
- 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.
- Ooi, G.L., (2008) 'Civil Society, Civic Space and the City' in Douglass, M., Ho, K.C. and Ooi, G.L., (eds.), *Globalisation, the City and Civil Society in Pacific Asia*, London: Routledge
- Pelling M, High C, Dearing J, Smith D (2008) Shadow spaces for social learning: a relational understanding of adaptive capacity to climate change within organisations *Environment and Planning A* 40 (4), 867-884
- Seto, K. C. 2007 "The Transformation of South China," in *Our Changing Planet: A View from Space*, King, M., Williams, R. G., and Partington, K., eds. Cambridge University Press.
- Reynolds, S., Burian, S., Shepherd, J.M., and Manyin, M. (2008) Chapter 7: Urban induced rainfall modifications on urban hydrologic response. In: *Reliable modeling of urban water systems*, Edited by W. James et al., Computational Hydraulics International, Guelph, Ontario, CA, pp. 99-122.
- Simon, D. (2007). "Urbanisation and global environmental change: new intergenerational challenges." *International Journal of Green Economics* 1(3/4): 299-306.
- A few examples of participations in panels and workshops:
- Aggarwal, Rimjhim. "Unsustainable Pathways: Role of Technological Lock-ins, Poverty, and

- Debt Traps,” paper presented at the Resilience, Adaptation and Transformation in Turbulent Times International Science and Policy Conference in Stockholm, Sweden, April 2008.
- Bulkeley, H. Urban climate governance at the crossroads, international workshop Urban Securities: Climate Change at the Crossroads, Columbia University and Fondazione Adriano Olivetti, Rome, February 2008
- Grimmond, CSB. Surface-Atmosphere Exchanges in Urban Areas: Measurements and Modelling, The Institute for Integrative and Multidisciplinary Earth Studies (TIIMES), NCAR, 14 May 2008
- Lampis, Andrea. July 2008: Poster paper: ‘Climate change risk-prone marine-related livelihoods in Tumaco, Pacific Coast (Colombia)’, International Symposium on ‘Coping with Global Change in Marine Social-Ecological Systems’, FAO/GLOBEC (Rome, Italy).
- Marcotullio, Peter J. Sustainable Urban Futures public seminar, Invited speaker, sponsored by the United Nations University, Institute of Advanced Studies, Yokohama, Japan (16 January 2008)
- Ooi, G.L. and Kog, Y.C. ISEAS Seminar on ‘Post-Bali UN Climate Change Conference: What Lies Ahead?’ Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, 16 January, 2008. [invited] ‘Carbon Footprints of Urban Growth – Can Planners Help?’
- Parnell, Susan. 2008: Embracing the city region as an alternative entry point into the post apartheid urban policy agenda, South African Urban Workshop, National Treasury and World Bank, Innovation Centre, Pretoria
- Pelling, M. Opening statement on Urbanisation and climate change at the Humanitarian Futures workshop, King’s College London, 12 October 2007
- Seto, Karen. United Nations University, “Sustainable Urban Futures Workshop,” to conceptualize urban challenges and related policies for the UNU’s New Sustainable Urban Futures Programme, United Nations, New York. 2007
- Shepherd, J.M., M. Manyin, and D. Messen, 2007: Projected regional climate changes in 2025 Houston due to urban growth, 2<sup>nd</sup> ICA Workshop on Geospatial Analysis and Modeling, Athens (Session Chair: Urban Modeling)
- Simon, David. UN-Habitat Expert Group on Cities and Climate Change, Nairobi, 22-23 November 2007.
- Tiwari, Prakash. COST Strategic International Workshop on Global Change & Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions, Innsbruck, Austria, 2008.

A special thanks to those involved in helping complete our NSF reports by sending your personal and project updates. The above list was a small sample of the activities being completed by our UGEC Members and Associates. If you are interested in joining this exceptional group, please visit our “get involved” webpage, or contact the UGEC IPO.

#### *Endorsed Project Updates*

##### ***Human security and local governance: Negotiating environmental risk management under rapid urbanization in the Yucatan (Mexican Caribbean)***

Mark Pelling from King’s College London sent the following update for his project:

In the first stage, the project is focusing in collaborating with local partners in the Mexican Caribbean. In liaison with a local NGO the project promoted the celebration of the First Forum on Climate Change Challenges of Playa del Carmen. The forum was held at the Technological Institute of the Mayan Riviera and was attended by about 150 people, including the general secretary of the municipal government and representatives from the private sector and local NGOs.

The Project gave a presentation on the challenges posed by climate change to the Mexican Caribbean. They have also been participating in the public consultations for the Urban Development Plan of the Municipality of Solidaridad. In Tulum, they are carrying out fieldwork research in collaboration with a project funded by

the Wenner Gren Foundation and coordinated by Brook Thomas (University of Massachusetts Amherst), Valeria Cuevas (University of Quintana Roo), and Magali Daltabuit (National Autonomous University of Mexico). The project also attended the workshop 'Environment dimensions of sustainable development and Disasters mitigation' organized by the Origins of Quintana Roo Foundation and held in Tulum (24-28 September 2007). In this workshop they contacted with disaster specialists from the Cuban Environmental Agency and they are now organizing a course about the challenges of climate change in Sabana-Camaguey (Cuba) funded by the UNEP. The project has also been invited to give a course in FLACSO-Guatemala about systems analysis and global environmental change (June 16-19).

A member of the project was invited by Harvard University to attend the Sackler Colloquium on Linking Knowledge with Action for Sustainable Development held in the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C

(3-4 April 2008). The project is preparing a special issue of the Proceedings of the American Academy of Sciences coordinated by Bill Clark (Harvard University) on Knowledge Systems for Sustainable Development

Link: [http://www.ugec.org/tiki-index.php?page=EndProj\\_Pelling](http://www.ugec.org/tiki-index.php?page=EndProj_Pelling)

***Global environmental change and urban land-use change in peri-urban areas: a case study of Taipei-Taoyuan area.***

Dr. Shu-Li Huang from the Graduate Institute of Urban Planning in National Taipei University, has the following updates for his project:

- Lee, Chun-Lin, Huang, Shu-Li, and Chan, Shih-Liang, 2008. Biophysical and system approaches for simulating land use change. *Landscape and Urban Planning* (paper forthcoming).
- Huang, Shu-Li, Wang, Szu-Hua, and Budd, William. *Sprawl in Taipei's peri-urban zone: Response to spatial planning and implication for adapting global environmental change.* *Landscape and Urban Planning* (paper in review).

- "Workshop on Comparative Study on Ecological Development of Chinese Coastal Cities" participation during May 6-17. This workshop is organized by Prof. Wang Rulong of Chinese Academy of Science as a part of the SCOPE project of *Ecopolis development to meet the challenge of global environmental change*. Field trips are arranged for Guangzhou, Shenjun, Shanghai, Tienjin, and Beijing.
- 2008 International Conference of Southeast Asian Geographer Association (SEAGA) June 3-6, 2008. Manila. Title of paper presentation: Biophysical valuation of ecosystem service change due to peri-urbanization (By: Shu-Li Huang, Yu-Hwa Chen, and Szu-Hwa Wang) Meeting Attendance
- Organizing the "International Forum of GEC and Land Use Change in Peri-Urban Area: Dialogue and Experience of Asian Cities", which will be held in National Taipei University, Taipei, Taiwan, November 29, 2008. More information on the Forum can be found below:  
<http://web.ntpu.edu.tw/~shuli/PUGEC.htm>

If you are interested in getting your project endorsed by UGEC, please visit the new and improved webpage "Get your project endorsed" or contact the UGEC IPO. In outstanding cases, we will consider providing "letters of support" for projects that seek funding through international funding agencies. We are always looking to expand UGEC networks and regions.

**Call for Papers -Forthcoming special issue of journal *Population and Environment***

"Population and Climate Change" Guest Editor: Fred Meyerson, University of Rhode Island  
Deadline: September 15, 2008

Population and demographic patterns are linked to many aspects of climate science and policy, including greenhouse gas emissions trends, mitigation opportunities, and adaptation strategies. Population growth and changes in geographic, age, income, economic and consumption distribution are critical influences on climate. In addi-

tion, increasing demands for food, fuel, forest cover, and other land uses affect policy options available for the reduction and mitigation of emissions. However, scientific understanding of these associations remains underdeveloped.

For this special issue, we seek a range of papers that examine the linkages between human population and climate change at various scales (global, regional, national, household) and lead to improved understanding and theory. We encourage contributions based on quantitative as well as qualitative data, including projection-based papers, as well as those that focus on population policy and analysis.

Population and Environment publishes research articles (both full-length and research briefs), commentary and reviews related to the reciprocal links between population, natural resources, and the natural environment, with the purpose of deepening scientific and policy dialogue in this often complex area. The coverage is multidisciplinary, spanning a range of social, policy, life, and natural sciences. Work at all scales, local to global, is presented as are both theoretical and empirical contributions.

Please submit a letter of interest, including a 1-paragraph overview of topic of inquiry by August 1st to Fred Meyerson at [fmeyerson@uri.edu](mailto:fmeyerson@uri.edu). Earlier inquiries are welcome. Completed manuscripts are due September 15, 2008 and should be formatted in accordance with Population and Environment guidelines. Link:

<http://tinyurl.com/3I99ke>

### *Job Opportunities*

#### **Postdoctoral Research Associate Position**

The Central Arizona–Phoenix Long-Term Ecological Research (CAP LTER) project at Arizona State University's Global Institute of Sustainability is seeking a Postdoctoral Research Associate in Geography, Public Policy, Planning, Urban Studies, Environmental Studies, or related disciplines. An earned Ph.D. within three years or less from the time of appointment is required along with experience with GIS and spatial analysis and demonstrated research experience in either coupled human-natural systems, human

and political ecology, urban growth, urban environmental policies, or land-use policies. Also desired is experience with qualitative and quantitative research methods as well as interdisciplinary research training and a record of research publication. Position begins October 2008 and is for one year with the possibility of renewal for an additional year. Send cover letter explaining interest in the position and relevant expertise; *curriculum vitae*; the name, phone number, and e-mail addresses of three references; and publication copies (no more than three) to Marcia Nation, CAP LTER Project Manager, Global Institute of Sustainability, PO Box 875402, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287-5402 [marcia.nation@asu.edu](mailto:marcia.nation@asu.edu). Materials due July 30, 2008. For inquiries, please contact Marcia Nation at 480-965-7951 or by e-mail. Position contingent upon funding. AA/EOE.

#### **Four Julie Ann Wrigley Chairs of Sustainability**

We are pleased to announce the establishment of four Julie Ann Wrigley chairs of sustainability. We seek intellectual leaders from all sectors with unusual vision, intellectual breadth, and practical experience to lead us in these endeavors. Each will identify and promote practical solutions to sustainability by building on Arizona State University's portfolio, catalyzing new transdisciplinary research on sustainability, and forging solution-oriented partnerships among academia, business, government and other stakeholders. We welcome applications of internationally recognized leaders in the realms of sustainable business practices, renewable energy systems, global environmental change, and complex system dynamics for these distinguished professorships:

--The Julie Ann Wrigley Chair in Sustainable Business Practices will advance both theoretical and practical frameworks for businesses of all scales to incorporate sustainability principles in their operations, supply chains, product development, manufacturing, and distribution systems.

--The Julie Ann Wrigley Chair in Renewable Energy Systems will advance the research and practical applications related to renewable energy technologies and designing innovative, yet practical, solutions to the renewable-energy challenge.

--The Julie Ann Wrigley Chair in Global Environmental Change will advance both the theoretical and practical frameworks for addressing the social, economic, and environmental consequences of urbanization with special attention to the interactions of cause and impacts of climate change with these processes.

--The Julie Ann Wrigley Chair in Complex Systems Dynamics will advance both theoretical and practical frameworks for addressing sustainability challenges and integrated solution options through conceptual modeling of human-environment interactions as interdependent complex systems. For more information contact: Dr. Jonathan Fink, Global Institute of Sustainability, Arizona State University, PO Box 873211, Tempe, AZ 85287-3211 or email at [linda.kuiper@asu.edu](mailto:linda.kuiper@asu.edu).

### **Assistant Professor of Climate Change and Global Solutions, Arizona State University**

Arizona State University is inviting applications for an Assistant Professor of Climate Change and Global Solutions. Applicants should demonstrate exceptional potential for transdisciplinary research on the activities and impacts of globally engaged institutions with regard to climate change. They should have thorough knowledge of theories of the structures and operations of such institutions in complex social, political, cultural, and technical environments, and of the major aspects of climate policy. The appointee will develop courses on climate change and environmental governance for the SGS undergraduate Environment track, and collaborate with other relevant units at ASU, such as the School of Sustainability. A Ph.D. or equivalent degree in a relevant field is required. The position is open until filled. For more [information...](#)

### **Postdoctoral Fellow at NCAR**

Brian O'Neill at NCAR sent us the following announcement:

“Postdoctoral Fellow Position at NCAR

Basic Function of Job:

Initiates individual research and participates in group research efforts using a global, regionally-disaggregated economic model as an element of an integrated assessment modeling framework for addressing questions related to climate change. Responsible for the further development and application of the model, as well as associated data analysis, including use of the Global Trade and Analysis Project (GTAP) database.

Duties:

--Contribute to one or more areas of interest within an existing integrated assessment modeling effort. Current areas include the effects on greenhouse gas emissions of demographic change such as population growth/decline, aging, and urbanization; methods of modeling land use change; methods of accounting for uncertainty in integrated assessment modeling; more detailed accounting for energy and food sectors; modeling energy transitions in developing countries; linking economic and geophysical models; and modeling of emissions of non-CO<sub>2</sub> gases and aerosols.

--Contribute to further development of integrated assessment modeling framework, which currently includes an economic model (PET-Population-Environment-Technology model), a demographic projection model, and a carbon cycle/climate model (ISAM - Integrated Science Assessment Model).

--Participate in research development with internal and external collaborators across disciplines.

--Communicate research results through publication in peer-reviewed journals, meeting proceedings, and presentations at scientific meetings.”

Further details and instructions for applying can be found at

[http://www.fin.ucar.edu/hr/careers/uco.cfm?do=jobDetailExt&job\\_ID=1078](http://www.fin.ucar.edu/hr/careers/uco.cfm?do=jobDetailExt&job_ID=1078). Brian's website at NCAR is at

<http://www.isse.ucar.edu/staff/oneill/>. For more background on recent work related to the areas of interest for this postdoc opportunity, see the website of the Population and Climate Change Program at IIASA

<http://www.iiasa.ac.at/Research/PCC/index.html>, particularly its project on Demography and Emissions. That program is winding down over the next year, but some elements of it will continue to be pursued at NCAR.

For more information contact: Brian O'Neill  
Institute for the Study of Society and Environment (ISSE) National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), [boneill@ucar.edu](mailto:boneill@ucar.edu)

## 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 this e-Newsletter to any potentially interested party.

## SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you have been forwarded this e-Newsletter by email and would like to subscribe directly to the list, please send an email to [LISTSERV@LISTS.ASU.EDU](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTS.ASU.EDU) with the text (command) "SUB UGEC-L" at the message body. If you believe you were added on this list by mistake or wish to not receive email from the UGEC project, you can unsubscribe by sending an email to [LISTSERV@LISTS.ASU.EDU](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTS.ASU.EDU) with the command "SIGNOFF UGEC-L" at the message body or by sending a message to the list owner, Michail Fragkias at [fragkias@asu.edu](mailto:fragkias@asu.edu)

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