



Urbanization and Global Environmental Change

AN IHDP CORE PROJECT

The UGEC e-Newsletter
Issue 9

WELCOME NOTE

Dear readers of the UGEC e-Newsletter, many of you have probably already read our UGEC Viewpoints publication, the most recent workshop-related output from the project. It presents cases studies and commentary on the theme of urban responses to climate change authored by the participants of our workshop focusing on the Americas. You can find a web link to the publication in the next pages.

UGEC is sponsoring and participating in several workshops and conferences in the next few months. Relevant session descriptions and calls for papers and abstracts are included below. We are looking forward to your involvement and contributions to the variety of UGEC-related events.

In this issue also includes many announcements for international events, such as the World Urban Youth Forum, annual scientific meetings, as well as a short note on the global financial crisis and its implications for the forthcoming climate change talks and agenda.

We invite you to contact the UGEC project office if you have announcements of your own, or would like to become more involved in any of the events listed in this issue. UGEC seeks to serve the needs for communication and shared knowledge the realm of Urbanization and Global Environmental Change.

Best regards,
Michail Fragkias, October 2008

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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

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.

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

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.



U R B A N
R E S E A R C H
S Y M P O S I U M

**5th World Bank Urban
Research Symposium: Cities
and Climate Change: Re-
sponding to the Urgent
Agenda, Marseille, France.**

June 28-30, 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.

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

The Congress is rapidly approaching. Early Bird registration ends on November 10, 2008 so be sure to register right away for the best rates.

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 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. Here's his message to the UGEC community:

"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 congress is organized as a run-up of the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP 15) also to take place in Copenhagen at the end of 2009. 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. One theme of the congress focuses on the theme of 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. I would like to invite you to submit an abstract for an oral presentation or for a poster to the session on adapting urban areas to climate change under theme 4 in the program. While the original deadline for the submission of abstracts was September 1, 2008, the organizers still accept abstracts and registrations to fill up available places. Please submit your abstract and registration a.s.a.p. and not later than 1st of November, 2008."

Please do not hesitate to contact Roberto (roberto.sanchez-rodriguez@ucr.edu) if you would like additional information about the conference and how our community can participate in this event. 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.

World Urban Forum 4

Harmonious Urbanization: The Challenge of Balanced Territorial Development

November 3-7th, 2008, Nanjing, China

The UGEC project will be co-organizing with ENDA Tiers Monde a side-event at WUF4 titled 'South cities: Localizing global environmental change'.

Side-event description: "Burdened with many problems associated with growth, urban areas are increasingly subject to dramatic crises. This is especially true in poorer countries. These problems play an important role in the interactions between urban areas and global environmental change. These interactions create a diversity of impacts that can be grouped into two

broad categories: those originating in urban areas that have a negative effect on global environmental change, and global environmental changes that have negative effects on urban areas. This session is a space of policy dialogue among different actors in an effort to localize the climate change agenda."

If you plan to attend WUF4 and want to meet up with a member of the UGEC project please contact Cheikh Gueye at cheikh@enda.sn
For more information on the Forum visit: <http://www.unchc.org/categories.asp?catid=535>

UGEC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for Papers/Abstracts:

Urbanizing Western Africa Viewpoints Publication, Call for Papers

UGEC is currently looking for additions to its next publication of UGEC Viewpoints. The theme of the next issue is "Climate change resilience in an urbanizing Western Africa". The main questions to be addressed by authors include: How is climate change likely to affect cities and the livelihoods of urban residents? in Western Africa? How can the institutions of these cities better adapt to it (Do for example specific institutions or social networks help the cities to adapt?) What does climate change mean for Western Africa cities and their inhabitants? More generally, how do cities of different scale (from peri-urban to large cities) in Western Africa adapt to climate change?

Interested authors may submit shorth articles (1800 words maximum) of case studies to fragkias@asu.edu by October 30th.

RECENT UGEC PUBLICATIONS

Urban Responses to Climate Change Workshop Publication

UGEC Viewpoints (2008-8) Focus: Urban Responses to Climate Change in the Americas

- Introduction to the Issue, Roberto Sanchez- Rodriguez, William Solecki, Michail Fragkias
- Global Environmental Change and the Sustainable Use of Space in “Second Half” Cities, George Martine
- Urban Issues, Concerns and Responses to Climate Change in the Cities of the Americas: The View of the IPCC AR4, Monirul Mirza
- How Cities in Low- and Middle- Income Nations have Begun to Respond to the Challenges of Climate Change, Patricia Romero Lankao
- All Climate Change is Local, George Martin
- The Responses of Urban Areas to Climate Change: Perspectives on Energy Efficiency in Megacities of Latin America, Ricardo Jordan
- Urbanization and Global Climate Change: The Case of Bogotá- Colombia, Andrea Lampis
- Total Urban Water Management in São Paulo, Brazil: A Case Study of Ongoing Experiences on Applied Research and Public Policy, Ricardo Silva Toledo

To read the full articles, please visit:

<http://www.ugec.org/docs/UGECAugust08.pdf>

OTHER EVENTS

Upcoming International Events

Youth on the Road to WUF4 World Urban Youth Forum Nanjing, China

“Youth are not just leaders of tomorrow, but also of today.”

Anna Tibaijuka, UN-HABITAT Executive Director, International Youth Day statement, 2008



In the past five years the world has realized that for important global milestones such as the Millennium Development Goals to be achieved young people

must be engaged as leaders and partners. With young people making up the vast majority of the populations of many developing countries the opportunity to capitalize on this demographic "youth bulge" is immediate. The World Bank in its most recent World Development Report 2007: Development and the Next Generation stated that "the situation of young people today presents the world with an unprecedented opportunity to accelerate growth and reduce poverty".

UN HABITAT has been a global leader in supporting positive youth action, both through policy, research and practice. In order to recognize and support the leadership undertaken by youth globally, UN HABITAT has promoted the concept of youth led development, that being development which is driven by young people in partnership with adults and mentors.

Following the first WUYF, UN HABITAT launched the [Global Partnership Initiative for Urban Youth Development](#), which supports key programs such as the One stop Youth Resource Centres and the We are the Future Centres. The second WUYF in Vancouver focused on profiling youth led projects and programs, and developing policy which supports such programs.

This years World Urban Youth Forum (WUYF), to be held in Nanjing, China, will focus not only on celebrating youth led development, but also supporting youth led development through the launch of the Opportunities Fund for Youth Led Development.

The WUYF dialogue sessions will reflect the different funding areas of the Opportunities Fund such as entrepreneurship, peacebuilding and climate change. With the majority of youth in the world living in poorer countries there is a risk that youth from these countries won't be able to attend. For this reason we encourage civil society, the private sector and government to support youth to attend the WUYF and the WUF and become partners in the Opportunities Fund.

Annual Meeting of the Alliance for Global Sustainability "Urban Futures: the Challenge of Sustainability"

ETH Zurich, Switzerland, 26-29 January 2009

The Alliance for Global Sustainability (TheAGS) is a partnership of four scientific and technological universities - the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, The University of Tokyo, Chalmers University of Technology, and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, and their associated partners. It was formed in 1997 in the conviction that closer collaboration amongst some of the world's leading research institutions will lead to faster progress towards sustainability. <http://www.theags.org>

The AGS is sponsoring the participation costs for ten participants from developing countries to attend the Annual Meeting 2009. The sponsorship will cover travel and accommodation (Sunday 25 January to Thursday 29 January) to a maximum of Swiss Francs 2000 (roughly USD 1800 or Euro 1250). The conference fee will be waived. Accepted participants will be requested to present a poster. Deadline for application is 18 October 2008.

The AGS Annual Meeting 2009 is devoted to the challenges of sustainability posed by the dramatic growth in the world's urban population. The main conference themes are: Pathways to sustainable energy systems, transforming the building stock for sustainability, pro-poor urban futures in developing countries, urban environment and ecological footprint, challenges for business and politics, happiness, mobility and society, size, shape and the sustainability of cities, visions of future cities, universities as models for a sustainable society, open access publishing in the service of sustainability

Call for Posters:

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

Grants:

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

Deadline for submission of poster abstracts is 1 December 2008.

Deadline for registration is 15 December 2008.

Contact: agsam2009@ethz.ch

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

American Meteorological Society (AMS) 89th Annual Meeting

January 11-15, 2009. *Urban Weather and Climate: Now and the Future.*

<http://www.ametsoc.org/MEET/annual/index.htm>
|

Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, March 22-27,

Las Vegas, Nevada

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

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

August 4-8, 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark

<http://wceh2009.org/>

The Fifth Magrann Conference Climate Change In South Asia: Governance, Equity and Social Justice, April 16-17, 2009.

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

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

NEWSWORTHY

Financial crisis and fears of derailment of climate change action

The current global financial crisis gave rise to several reports with warnings of a possible weakening of the attention placed on issues of climate change in the international community. Several reporters have already raised the issues of reduced chances for a U.S. climate legislation; China's special representative for climate change talks suggested that "As far as the Copenhagen process is concerned, my personal assessment is unfortunately fairly pessimistic". (<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSTRE4951P720081006>)

Carbonpositive reports for example that (<http://www.carbonpositive.net/viewarticle.aspx?articleID=1269>): “UN climate chief Yvo de Boer expressed his fear that the financial crisis might undermine international action on climate change - where a new global climate accord was considered too hard in the current financial environment and the process due to be finalised in Copenhagen in a year went into limbo.”

IPCC chairman, Rajendra Pachauri suggested in a recent Reuters interview that “I’m absolutely sure that climate change will be the last thing people will think about at this point in time.” But he urged the world community to use the economic downturn as an opportunity to rapidly develop alternative sources of energy. He expressed confidence that the next U.S. president will do more to fight climate change than the Bush administration...”

(<http://e360.yale.edu/content/digest.msp?id=1510>)

As the dark clouds gather over global climate talks, the UGEC community should amplify the message of a need of good urban governance, local action and the continuing of efforts on urban responses to climate change. During the difficult times of an economic downturn, good urban governance can take advantage of a thorough awareness of the nexus of relationships and opportunities for strategic interaction between all actors and stakeholders existing in the sphere of urban and environmental policy, further promoting mitigation and adaptation actions.

A report on the recent Atlantic hurricane season

Hurricanes have been playing havoc along coastlines for centuries; however, global warming could be the cause for increasing damage and casualties. Sea levels are rising and will continue to rise as oceans warm and glaciers melt. This elevation in sea level creates higher storm surges, even from minor storms, and increases coastal flooding causing subsequent storm damage along coastlines. Additionally, heavy rains

can extend hundreds of miles inland, increasing flooding, damage, and vulnerabilities.

Recent scientific evidence suggests a link between the destructive power or intensity of hurricanes and higher ocean temperatures, driven in large part by global warming. With rapid population growth in coastal regions placing many more people and structures in the path of these tropical cyclones there is a much greater risk of casualties, property damage, and financial hardship when these storms make landfall.⁽¹⁾



On August 25, Hurricane Gustav formed out of a tropical wave, and the National Hurricane Center designated it Tropical Depression number 7 of the Atlantic Hurricane 2008 Season. Hurricane Gustav was the second major hurri-

cane of 2008 to cause damage to the Atlantic Coasts. It finally dissipated on September 4th, 2008. Winds rose to 150 mph and did an estimated \$20 billion USD in damage to the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. This hurricane also caused 120 direct and indirect deaths.

Many factors influence tropical cyclone behavior; once the wind speed increases past 74 miles per hour, its designation changes to Hurricane. As warm, moist air rises, it lowers air pressure at sea level and draws surrounding air inward and upward in a rotating pattern. As the water vapor-laden air spirals in and rises to higher altitudes, it cools and releases heat as it condenses to rain. This cycle of evaporation and condensation brings the ocean's heat energy into the vortex, powering the storm. To decrease the storm or stop it, the storm must move over cooler ocean waters, get blown down by higher wind patters, or get fueled by dry air and land diminishing the strength of the vortex.

The primary reason that these storm patterns are increasing is due to human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels and the clearing of forests, which have significantly elevated carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels in the atmosphere. These emissions work to warm the air and oceans and increase the fuel needed to elevate a tropical cyclone. The world's oceans have absorbed about 20 times as much heat as the atmosphere over the past half-century, leading to higher temperatures not only in surface waters but also down to substantial depths, this heating expands and raises the ocean levels in addition to melting glaciers.

Scientists have looked at potential correlations between ocean temperatures and tropical cyclone trends worldwide over the past several decades. A 2005 study published in the journal *Nature* examined the duration and maximum wind speeds of each tropical cyclone that formed over the last 30 years and found that their destructive power has increased around 70 percent in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.⁽²⁾ Researchers in a 2006 study (published in *Science*) found, upon reanalyzing early storm track records with modern techniques, that a few category 4 and 5 tropical cyclones may have previously been underestimated.⁽³⁾

Researchers have also examined the potential future storm trends. Model simulations show that a one percent annual increase of atmospheric CO₂ concentrations over the next 80 years would produce more intense storms, and rainfall would increase an average of 18 percent compared with present-day conditions.⁽⁴⁾

Given the loss of life and the huge costs of rebuilding after hurricanes, it is essential to do whatever possible to avoid dangerous warming and protect coastal communities for present and future generations. This effort will require a combination of aggressive emission reduction efforts, improved building codes, and the restoration of wetlands, dunes, and barrier islands that can serve as a buffer against rising sea levels and hazardous storm surges.

(Report by Danielle Tomerlin)

- (1). Pielke Jr., R. and C.W. Landsea. 1998. Normalized hurricane damage in the United States: 1925-95. *Weather and Forecasting, American Meteorological Society* 13:621-631.
- (2). Emanuel, K. 2005. Increasing destructiveness of tropical cyclones over the past 30 years. *Nature* 436:686-688.
- (3). Landsea, D.W., B.A. Harper, K. Hoarau, and J.A. Knaff. 2006. Can we detect trends in extreme tropical cyclones? *Science* 313:452-454.
- (4). Knutson T.R., and R.E. Tuleya. 2004. Impact of CO₂-induced warming on simulated hurricane intensity and precipitation: Sensitivity to the choice of climate model and convective parameterization. *Journal of Climate* 17: 3477-3495.

IHDP NEWS AND EVENTS

Second Call for Papers for the IHDP Open Meeting 2009

Now Open, Deadline: 31 October 2008

IHDP is happy to announce that it is opening a second call for papers for the 7th Open Meeting 2009 in Bonn, Germany (<http://195.37.118.7/>).

The call is now open and will close 31 October 2008. This call builds largely on the results of the first call, after which specific themes for new contributions were identified.

This call is particularly addressed toward new applicants, who are invited to submit their papers and posters for consideration to be included in the Open Meeting 2009. Those who have already submitted to the first call are also invited to submit one more paper or poster for consideration.

The call for sessions is officially closed. New sessions may be considered on a case-by-case basis. For more information on sessions contact Falk Schmidt (schmidt@ihdp.unu.edu)

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for Papers: Special Session on “Urbanization and Environment”, AAG Meeting, Las Vegas, March 22-27, 2009

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 quality 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.

Please send your paper title, PIN, and abstract no later than *October 10, Friday* (please note that this is earlier than the AAG deadline) to one of the following co-organizers: Qihao Weng: qweng@indstate.edu (Primary contact) or Dale Quattrochi dale.quattrochi@nasa.gov

New Earthscan Publication

August 20 marked a new Earthscan publication. It is essentially a more technical version of the UNFPA's 2007 State of the World Report entitled "Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth". The Earthscan book brings together updated versions of the papers that were used to prepare that Report. The title of the book is *The New Global Frontier: Urbanization, Poverty and Environment in the 21st Century*, edited by George Martine, Gordon McGranahan, Mark Montgomery and Rogelio Fernandez-Castilla. Earthscan, London. 2008

Internal Displacement to Urban Areas: the Tufts - IDMC Profiling Study

By Karen Jacobsen in collaboration with the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Geneva: We are pleased to share with you three studies conducted by the Feinstein International Center (<http://fic.tufts.edu/>) in collaboration with the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Geneva.

The need for better understanding of the number and situation of internally displaced people (IDPs) in urban centres led IDMC to commission the Feinstein International Center at Tufts University to develop and test an urban IDP profiling methodology. The resulting Tufts-IDMC Profiling Study aims to help organizations that promote the rights of IDPs in conflict-

affected countries to collect and analyze information on people displaced into cities.

The study had three main objectives:

- To develop research tools to be used for profiling urban IDPs, and to make population estimates;
- To generate comparative data on IDPs and non-IDPs in urban areas, including demographic and livelihood characteristics, access to services, return intentions, and whether the assistance and protection needs of IDPs differ from that of non-IDPs.
- To use the data to work with governments and humanitarian organizations to develop programs and advocacy strategies that assist IDPs and protect their rights.

The project took place from 2006-2008, in three urban locations: Khartoum, Sudan; Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire; and Santa Marta, Colombia.

Surveys were conducted in each city, and the resulting case studies and information on the methodology used can be found at: <http://www.internal-displacement.org/>

Case Study 1: Khartoum, Sudan

Case Study 2: Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

Case Study 3: Santa Marta, Colombia

<https://wikis.uit.tufts.edu/confluence/display/FIC/Feinstein+International+Center>

Job Opportunities

Climate Impacts & Vulnerabilities

Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research

We are seeking to fill 5 junior (PhD candidates), 1 senior, and 1 scientific administrator position. Positions will contribute to the development of a *Global Climate Impact and Adaptation Information System* embedded in a project to be carried out in close cooperation with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ). Targeted countries in this context are India, China, Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, South-Africa and Tunisia. All positions require the willingness to work on climate change issues from a developing country perspective and for

international travel. Teamwork, enthusiasm, flexibility, innovation, and excellent spoken and writing skills in English are prerequisite. Working knowledge in Spanish, French or Portuguese is an additional asset.

All positions are open from October 1st 2008 (subject to final acceptance). Applications will be evaluated on an ongoing basis until the positions are filled. *Applications, including curriculum vitae, a letter describing relevant experience and interests, and the name and address of two referees should be sent to:*

Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Schellnhuber
Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research
P.O. Box 60 12 03 14412 Potsdam, Germany

For further information about the posts, contact Dr. Jürgen Kropp (kropp@pik-potsdam.de, +49-331-2882526). General information about PIK can be found at www.pik-potsdam.de.

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 visit: <http://www.asu.edu/hr/applicant.html>

Distinguished Chair, Environment & Natural Resources, University of Wyoming

The University of Wyoming invites applications and nominations for the newly created Wyoming Excellence/Spicer Distinguished Chair in

Environment and Natural Resources. UW seeks an individual with an exceptional record of teaching and/or equivalent practitioner experience, public outreach and scholarship in environment and natural resources management and policy, with an emphasis on conflict resolution and collaborative processes. The successful applicant will be expected to establish a strong, funded research program, as well as teach at the graduate and undergraduate levels. The Chair will provide leadership and vision for interdisciplinary curricula at the graduate and undergraduate levels. An earned Ph.D. or another terminal degree is required. The review of applications will begin on October 1, 2008 and will continue until the position is filled. For more information:

<http://chronicle.com/jobs/id.php?id=0000568423-01&pg=s&cc=>

Two Tenure-Track Faculty Positions: Environmental Planning and Geographic Information Systems and Sustainable Development and Environmental Social Sciences, University of Illinois at Springfield

The Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies Department in the College of Public Affairs and Administration seeks applications for two tenure-track positions at the level of Assistant Professor, beginning August 15, 2009. Candidates must have a Ph.D. in an appropriate field, evidence of research potential and the ability to teach undergraduate and graduate courses. *Assistant Professor in Environmental Planning and Geographic Information Systems Laboratory Director:* Applicants must have a Ph.D. in environmental planning, land use planning, geography, or a related discipline. The successful candidate must be able to teach environmental and land use planning, fundamental and advanced geographic information systems, and environmental physical geography, conduct research in her/his specialization, and manage the resources and research of the GIS laboratory. *Assistant Professor in Sustainable Development and Environmental Social Sciences:* Applicants must have a Ph.D. in sustainable development, environmental anthropology, environmental sociology, environmental economics or a related discipline. The

successful candidate must be able to teach environmental social sciences and humanities, sustainable development, environmental ethics, cultural ecology, environmental economics, and conduct research in her/his specialization. Send a letter of application, statement of teaching philosophy and research interest, vita, unofficial undergraduate and graduate transcripts, and the names and contact information of at least three references to: Search Committee, Department of Environmental Studies, University of Illinois at Springfield, One University Plaza, Springfield, Illinois 62703. Review of applications will begin October 13, 2008 and continue until the position is filled. The University of Illinois at Springfield is an Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Persons with disabilities, women, minorities, and veterans are encouraged to apply.

Assistant Director, Office of Sustainability, Yale University

Yale University is seeking an Assistant Director of the Office of Sustainability to support the day to day management of the office while providing leadership and vision to Yale's sustainability goals and objectives. The successful candidate will be responsible for fostering strategic faculty, staff and student partnerships across the institution that lead to the implementation of sustainability best practices across campus. A Master's degree in a related field and four years of professional experience, or an equivalent combination of experience and education is required. [For more information...](#)

University of California, Santa Cruz, Environmental Studies- Associate to Full Professor - Political Economy of Environmental Change in the Global South

Salary: Unspecified

Date posted: 8/14/2008

The Department of Environmental Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz seeks a social scientist for a senior position in the Political Economy of Environmental Change in the Global South. This person will be a strategic senior hire, preferably at the Full Professor level

and, as such, will anchor several future recruitments throughout the Social Sciences Division in the area of Environment and Development. Outstanding senior Associate Professors are welcome to apply. Applicants should demonstrate excellence in teaching and research on the processes of, and responses to, environmental change in resource-based or agricultural communities. Successful candidates should have demonstrated ability to communicate and collaborate across natural and social science disciplinary boundaries in order to solve environmental problems. Candidates should be able to relate local-scale environmental challenges, innovations, and practices to regional, national, and international policies and circumstances. Position available on July 1, 2009. For more information at: <http://apo.ucsc.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.

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