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Hochschule für Angewandte
Wissenschaften Hamburg
Hamburg University of Applied Sciences



WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON
CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION



Coimbra, Portugal, 6-8 September 2017



2nd WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION (WSCCA- 2017)

Coimbra, Portugal, 6-8 September 2017

/// BACKGROUND

Climate change is among the major challenges of modern times. As the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the COP 24 recommendations call for action not only from government, but also from various stakeholders.

Apart from the knowledge offered by modelling and forecasts which allows us to understand the problem and how it develops in the future, we need to know more about approaches, methods and tools, which may help us to cope with the social, economic and political problems posed by climate change now. In other words, we need to speed up developments in the field of climate change adaptation.

It is against this background that the “**2nd World Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation**” is being organised. The event is a joint initiative by the University of Coimbra (Portugal), the Research and Transfer Centre “Applications of Life Sciences” of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany) and the Baltic University Programme in Uppsala (Sweden), in cooperation with the International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP) and the United Nations University initiative “Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development” (RCE). The Symposium will be a truly interdisciplinary event, covering some of the key areas in the field of climate change adaptation.

The “**2nd World Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation**” will be held in Coimbra, Portugal. Coimbra is one of the country’s major cities, situated around 206km (125 miles) north of Lisbon and about 125km (76 miles) south from Porto from where many international connections are available. It will focus on “integrative approaches to implement climate change adaptation”, and will contribute to the further development of this fast-growing field.

/// AIMS

Consistent with the need for more cross-sectoral interactions among the various stakeholders working in the field of climate change adaptation, the aims of the “**2nd World Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation**” are as follows:

- i. to provide research institutions, universities, NGOs and enterprises all around the world with an opportunity to display and present their works in the field of climate change adaptation;
- ii. to foster the exchange of information, ideas and experiences acquired in the execution of climate change adaptation projects, especially successful initiatives and good practice;
- iii. to discuss methodological approaches and experiences deriving from case studies and projects, which aim to show how the principles of climate change adaptation may be implemented in practice;
- iv. to network the participants and provide a platform so they can explore possibilities for cooperation.

Last but not least, an additional aim of the event will be to document and disseminate the wealth of experiences on climate change adaptation available today across the world. To this purpose, **the book “Theory and Practice of Climate Adaptation” will be published, with all accepted papers.** This will be a further volume of the award-winning book series “Climate Change Management” published by Springer, which since its creation in 2008 has become the world’s leading book series on climate change management.

In addition, **a set of papers selected by the coordination team** will be published in a special issue of the **International Journal of Climate Change Strategies and Management** (a fully indexed journal, also at ISI /Thomson Reuters). The decision of the editors as to which papers may be selected -and undergo peer review- for the book and for the special issue of the journal, is final.

/// PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

Delegates attending the **“2nd World Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation”** will come from a cross-sectoral range of areas, from both industrialised and developing countries. They are:

- i. officials at city, regional and national levels concerned with climate change
- ii. members of NGOs working with climate change;
- iii. researchers at universities and research centres;
- iv. teaching staff at universities;
- v. representatives from companies;
- vi. representatives from development agencies working with climate change adaptation and executing projects on the ground;
- vii. project officers and consultants;
- viii. other people interested in the field.

The participation of doctoral students is warmly encouraged and supervisors/advisers are kindly requested to facilitate their participation. The sort of international exposure and the rich content of this Symposium will be beneficial to their work, and their careers.

It is believed that this wide range of participants will help to outline the need for and the usefulness of integrated approaches towards climate change adaptation and, hence contribute to the further consolidation of this thematic area.

/// STRUCTURE OF THE EVENT

The **“2nd World Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation”** is organised in two main strands:

Strand 1: the displays

Participants and organisations will be able to put-up **displays and videos** describing their works and projects, and to distribute the relevant information to the participants. The displays will be the backbone of the event and will allow close, one-to-one contacts between the participants and the exhibitors. The videos may document projects and initiatives on the ground.

Strand 2: the presentations

A set of presentations, divided into six main themes will be organised, distributed over parallel sessions dealing with some of the issues of strategic value in the field of climate change adaptation. These are:

- Session 1) ***Climate Literacy, Information and Communication***
- Session 2) ***Technological approaches to Climate Change Adaptation/Innovative Approaches towards Low Carbon Economics***
- Session 3) ***Food Security and Climate Change: Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change***
- Session 4) ***Climate Change and Health***
- Session 5) ***Climate Change Adaptation, Resilience Extreme Events/Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management***
- Session 6) ***Climate Change Policy and Governance***
- Session 7) ***Implementing Climate Change Adaptation in Communities, Cities, Countries and via Outreach Programmes***
- Session 8) ***Socio-Cultural Dimensions of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation***
- Session 9) ***Climate Change Refugees and Environment Migrants***

A final session, to be held on Friday, will close the event and will lead to an Award being given to the best papers.

/// TIME-TABLE

The schedule of the “2nd World Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation” is as follows:

WEDNESDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2017 (morning)	WEDNESDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2017 (afternoon)
Morning: Arrival and set-up of displays	14:00-17:00- Plenary Session Evening: Reception
THURSDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2017	FRIDAY, 8th SEPTEMBER 2017
All day: Exhibition and visit to displays Morning: Plenary and Sessions Afternoon: Plenary and Sessions Evening: Reception at Coimbra City Hall	All day: Exhibition and visit to displays Morning: Plenary and Sessions, Round-table with key experts & Conclusions Afternoon: Round table: The Future of Climate Change Adaptation 15:00- Final Session and hand over of the Best Paper Awards

In order to ensure an efficient use of the time, delegates are kindly asked to organise their travel in a way that allows them to arrive in Coimbra in the course of Wednesday the 6th September 2017 at the latest, and travel back on or after the 8th September 2017, so they can fully take part in the Symposium.

The mixture of plenary and parallel sessions, as well as the social events, will provide participants with an outstanding opportunity to interact, network and learn about the latest ideas, projects and practices aimed at mainstreaming climate change adaptation, worldwide.

/// DEADLINES

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 25th February 2017

Deadline for submission of papers: 30th April 2017

Deadline for the submission of revised papers: 30th June 2017

Deadline for registrations: 30th June 2017

Since the conference book is expected to be launched shortly after the event, the deadlines need to be followed.

/// FEES AND CHARGES

A discounted fee of € 350 (plus 19% VAT) will be charged to delegates who register until 30th January 2017 (early bird registration). After that, delegates will need to pay the full fee of € 400 (plus 19% VAT). The reduced fee for MSc/PhD students is € 200. The fee includes **free lunches and coffee breaks on 7-8 September 2017 and free electronic access to the relevant volume of the book “Theory and Practice of Climate Adaptation”**, expected to be launched soon after the Symposium.

The fees may be reduced according to specific cases. Please contact the Secretariat for further information. Interested people and organisations are encouraged to register by completing the application form provided. **This is a self-funded event and the organisers are unable to pay any travel or accommodation costs** of any kind. They are however happy to issue letters of invitation to support delegates to request funding for their participation.

/// ORGANISERS

- University of Coimbra, Portugal
- Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Research and Transfer Centre “Applications of Life Sciences”, RCE Hamburg and Region, Germany
- International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP)

/// NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

- UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
- UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- World Health Organisation (WHO)
- World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
- International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP)
- Urban Climate Change Research Network (UCCRN)
- International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
- International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)
- Baltic University Programme (BUP)
- The World Conservation Union (IUCN)

/// SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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- Prof. Ulisses Azeiteiro, Department of Biology, University of Aveiro, Portugal
- Prof. Fátima Alves, Centre for Functional Ecology, University of Coimbra and Universidade Aberta, Portugal

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- Prof. Javier Aliaga, Catholic University of Bolivia, Bolivia
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- Prof. Nicholas Otienoh Oguge, University of Nairobi, Kenya
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- Prof. Joost Platje, University of Opole, Poland
- Prof. Diana-Mihaela Pociovalisteanu, Constantin Brancusi University, Romania
- Prof. Osvaldo Quelhas, Fluminense Federal University, Brazil
- Dr. Karuturi Rao, ICRISAT, Ethiopia
- Prof. Julia Seixas, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal
- Prof. Michael Shilin, Russian State Hydrometeorological University, Russia
- Prof. Anirudh Singh, University of the South Pacific, Fiji
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- Prof. Luis Velazquez, University of Sonora, Mexico
- Prof. Menas Wuta, University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe
- Prof Ana Pinto Moura, GreenUP/CITAB-UP and Universidade Aberta, Portugal

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- Dr. Sara Leston, Centre For Functional Ecology, University of Coimbra
- MSc. Miguel Ferreira, Centre For Functional Ecology, University of Coimbra

/// CONTACT POINT FOR SCIENTIFIC INPUTS, STRATEGIC COOPERATION AND GUIDANCE ON PUBLICATION

All questions related to scientific inputs and strategic partnerships should be sent to:

Walter Leal (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DEd, DLitt, FSB, FRGS, FLS)
Professor of Environment and Technology
School of Science and the Environment
E-mail: w.leal@mmu.ac.uk

All questions related to the book, should be sent to:

Ulisses Miranda Azeiteiro ulisses@ua.pt; and Fátima Alves fatimaa@uab.pt

All questions related to abstracts, should be sent to:

Donzília Manuela Pinto Donzilia.Pinto@uab.pt

/// CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATOR AND CONTACT POINT FOR FURTHER DETAILS

All questions related to registrations should be sent to:

Dr. Mihaela Sima
Institute of Geography
Romanian Academy
E-mail: simamik@yahoo.com

/// HOW TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT

The submitted abstract should not exceed 200 words; it should describe the rationale and aims of the paper and some of its results. General descriptions of broad contexts should be avoided. The full contact details about the author(s) need to be provided. Abstracts should be written in the third person and not in the first or second one (e.g. I, me, or my paper). Please see below a sample abstract. Authors, whose abstracts have been accepted, will receive further details about how to submit their full papers, and further logistical information.

SAMPLE ABSTRACT

(PLEASE SEND YOUR ABSTRACT EXACTLY WITH THE FORMAT BELOW TO:

Promoting Climate Change Adaptation in Developing Countries: breaking misconceptions and addressing information needs

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Abstract

The impacts of climate change to natural ecosystems, infrastructure and livelihood, means that the implementation of climate change adaptation strategies in developing countries has become a pressing issue. Among other factors, the undertaking of adaptation strategies is made difficult by the general lack of awareness and spread misconceptions about the real impacts of climate change which, in turn, slow down the execution of the adaptation initiatives needed, and which may ameliorate them.

This paper presents an analysis about the misconceptions related to the implementation of climate change adaptation strategies, and describes the most widespread ones, as well as their implications. A special emphasis is given to the problems and barriers caused by misinformation, which – in turn- prevent the promotion of adaptation initiatives at local level. Finally, some concrete steps which may be taken in order to break the misconceptions and foster a more systematic view of adaptation strategies, are outlined. Experiences gathered in this paper will be useful to people and organizations interested in the different levels of responses given to climate changes threats, and on some of the tools which may be used to encourage specific action to adapt to changing climate conditions