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UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY
UNU-EHS
Institute for Environment
and Human Security

HABITAT-III Side Event **“Climate change and urban disaster resilience”**

The One UN Pavilion, Room B
Thursday, 20 October 2016, from 8.30 am until 11.30 am

Lead organizers:

UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO),
United Nations University (UNU),
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Other partners:

UN-HABITAT, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), World Health Organization (WHO), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), International Association for Urban Climate (IAUC), Urban Climate Change Research Network (UCCRN), Future Earth

Description of the event:

Disaster risk in cities is on the rise due to the intersection of two global megatrends: urbanization and climate change. The side event aims at providing a state-of-the-art overview and reflection on knowledge based solutions for improving urban resilience and reducing urban risks from natural and climatic hazards. Combining science, practice and policy-makers, the session will offer answers to three main questions of urban sustainability:

- Which future trends in urban risk are to be expected, particularly in countries with rapid urbanization and high exposure to natural and climatic hazards?
- Which opportunities do exist to harness the social and economic development potential of urbanization for the long-term mitigation of risk and the facilitation of sustainable adaptation?
- How can – and should – long-term and proactive risk reduction in the city be guided by different adaptation paradigms of resistance, resilience and/or transformation?

This integrated, solution driven side event proposed by UNESCO, UNU and WMO will:

- Address needs, gaps, and a way forward to develop city-tailored guidelines for integrated knowledge tools to build resilient urban communities from natural and climatic hazards;
- Establish national, regional and international partnerships;
- Transfer knowledge via sharing experiences of good practices and innovation.

Focal points for contacts:

Prof. Alexander Baklanov, WMO <abaklanov@wmo.int>,
Dr. Matthias Garschagen, UNU <garschagen@ehs.unu.edu>,
Dr. Alexandros Makarigakis, UNESCO <a.makarigakis@unesco.org>,
Mr. Soichiro Yasukawa, UNESCO <s.yasukawa@unesco.org>

Part 1 (08:30 to 10:00 am):

Climate Change and Urban Disaster Resilience: Current and Future Challenges

Introduction by the moderator: identification of key questions, etc. (5-10 min)

Moderator: Mr. Filiep Decorte (UN-HABITAT)

Urbanization and climate change: Evolving risks from two colliding mega-trends (10 min)

Speaker: Dr. Matthias Garschagen (UNU-EHS)

Disaster Resilient Architecture (10 min)

Speaker: Mr. Soichiro Yasukawa (UNESCO - DRR)

Synthesis of the IPCC 5th Assessment WGII chapter on urban adaptation (10 min)

Speaker: Prof. David Satterthwaite (IPCC, IIED)

Integrated approach for urban weather, climate, environment and water systems: from research to urban information service (10 min)

Speaker: Prof. Gregory Carmichael (WMO, University of Iowa)

Panel discussion (40 min)

Panelists: the above mentioned speakers and
Dr. Koko Warner (UNFCCC),
Dr. Patricia Romero-Lankao (UCCRN, NCAR),
Dr. James Voogt (Western University, Canada, President of IAUC),
Prof. Edgar Armando Peña Figueroa (Universidad de El Salvador)

Part 2 (10:00 to 11:30 am):

Urban Disaster and Climate Risk: Solutions and Ways Forward

Introduction by the moderator (5 min)

Moderator: Dr. Alexandros Makarigakis (UNESCO)

Best practices in megacities: benefit of climate-smart cities (30 min)

Urban Integrated Services and Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems: WMO practices and an experience from Shanghai

Speaker: Prof. Alexander Baklanov (WMO) and
Dr. Zhenlin Chen (Shanghai Meteorological Service)

Lessons Learned from Air Quality Management in Mexico City

Speaker: Dr. Luisa Molina (Molina Center and WMO GURME SAG)

Climate resilient urban planning for high density Asian cities - an experience from Hong Kong

Speaker: Prof. Edward Ng (Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Flashlights: Urban risk reduction solutions from selected projects and programs (30 min)

Speakers: Dr. Shona Paterson (Future Earth Coasts),
Ass. Prof. Shagun Mehrotra (UCCRN) and
Prof. Edgar Armando Peña Figueroa (Universidad de El Salvador)

- Panel discussion (20 min)

Panelists: the above mentioned speakers,
Prof. Gangwoong Lee (WISE/KMA)

- Concluding remarks by the moderators (5 min)