Resilient Cities 2011
2nd World Congress on Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change
Bonn, Germany, 3 - 5 June 2011

SESSION DESCRIPTION
Session description as of 31 May 2011

H2 Linking mitigation and adaptation
(Speed panel)
Date: Sunday, 5 June
Time: 14:30-16:00
Room: S25-26

Session language: English
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OBJECTIVE
While climate change mitigation has now been part of public discourse for a long time, the subject of adapting to climate change is a much more recent, yet growing, concern. The two issues share an obvious common denominator, climate change, but this session will focus on what else they have in common as well as what they do not. It will also seek to shed light on how efforts towards mitigation and adaptation interact – how they help or hurt one another.

This session brings together researchers, development specialists, academics and other experts to discuss the trade-offs or synergies between these two related issues, and to discuss specific examples of mitigation and adaptation measures taken by local governments around the world. Conflicting conclusions have been drawn by some members of the panel as to whether adaptation practices to date conflict with mitigation practices. This will be part of today’s discourse as well as a discussion about policies and projects that can deliver both adaptation and mitigation outcomes. Are there existing examples of this already implemented or are they still just theoretical?

As a “Speed Panel” session, this event is designed as a venue for advanced level presentations and discussions with the objective of fostering cutting edge knowledge dissemination and facilitating peer exchange among experts. It will feature seven short and to the point presentations followed by a discussion amongst the panelists leading finally to audience interaction.

METHODOLOGY
This “Speed Panel” session is a hybrid of presentation and panel discussion formats
- Introduction by facilitator. (5 minutes)
- The panelists will contribute individual thoughts and messages, each 5-6 min maximum. (30-40 min)
- The facilitator will pose several questions for debate to the panelists. (20 min)
- The facilitator will manage questions and comments among the panelists and between the audience and panelists. (20 minutes)
- The facilitator will provide concluding remarks. (5 minutes)

CONTRIBUTORS
Facilitator Luna Abu-Swaireh, Regional Programme Officer for Arab States, UNISDR, Cairo, Egypt
Panelist Elisabeth Hamin, Regional Planning, University of Massachusetts, United States
Space for adapting: Reconciling adaptation and mitigation in local climate change planning
Do adaptation practices conflict with mitigation—as they are actually being implemented, rather than just in theory? This presentation will draw upon research from fifteen municipal adaptation plans and will show how cities are choosing policies that either support or do not interfere with greenhouse gas mitigation. It appears that as adaptation is actually being practiced, the fear that cities must choose between mitigation and adaptive resilience is unfounded.

Elisabeth Hamin is an associate professor of Regional Planning and Program Director for the PhD in Regional Planning at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She teaches and researches in land use and climate change adaptation, and holds a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania in City and Regional Planning and a Master of Management from Northwestern University’s J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management.

Panelist  
Carlo Aall, Head of Climate Research, Western Norway Research Institute, Norway

The early experiences of local climate change adaptation in Norway compared with those of Local Agenda 21 and climate change mitigation

Norwegian experiences on Local Agenda 21, local climate change mitigation and local climate change adaptation are compared in this presentation. One conclusion drawn from these experiences is that climate change adaptation lacks the normative impetus for local action that Local Agenda 21 and climate change mitigation have had, thus making it harder to include climate change adaptation in serious policy making. Another conclusion is that climate change adaptation is framed in a way that can be contra productive to climate change mitigation. By focusing only on the local effects of local climate change, and not looking into possible local effects of climate change taking place in other countries, climate change vulnerability assessments in rich countries like Norway tend to conclude on far less dramatic consequences that what is up in the general debate on the effects of climate change. This may gain support for climate skepticism. A final conclusion is that both climate change mitigation and adaptation are factored very little into Norwegian policymaking at local, regional and national levels at this point.

Carlo Aall holds a master in Nature conservation from the Agricultural University of Norway (1987) and took his PhD at the University of Aalborg in 2002. He has been working at Western Norway Research Institute since 1990; since 1999 as head of the environment research group. Carlo previously worked as an environmental adviser in a small rural municipality in Norway and has since 1996 been involved in a farm restaurant specialising in organic and local food (www.henjatunet.no). Carlo has worked with a number of large research projects funded by the Norwegian Research Council as well as international EU financed projects on the issues of local climate policy and sustainable tourism.

Panelist  
Purnomo Sidi, PAKLIM – GIZ, Indonesia

Integrated climate action: Linking mitigation and adaptation to make Indonesian cities resilient

By 2025 it is expected that a total of more than 60 percent of Indonesia’s population will live in metropolitan areas, which will be accompanied by a significant increase in disaster vulnerability. Thus a strategy for adaptation to- as well as mitigation of- climate change is essential, yet national, regional and local administrations in Indonesia have hardly started systematically planning and implementing effective GHG mitigation strategies and adaptation measures. To overcome these deficiencies the Indonesian-German Programme on Policy Advice for Environment and Climate Change (PAKLIM) jointly with ICLEI Oceania developed an operational framework for an Integrated Climate Action plan linking mitigation and adaptation. This framework of an Integrated Climate Action plan to support Indonesian cities in systematically addressing both mitigation and adaptation at local level will be presented. Findings of the application of the first cycle of an Integrated Climate Action plan to establish tailor-made integrated city climate strategies are reviewed.

Purnomo Sidi is currently working with the Indonesian-German cooperation programme policy advice on environment and climate change being responsible for the development of an integrated climate strategy for several cities on Java focusing on adaptation.
Panelist Vincent Viguié, PhD, CIRED, France

Scenarios for Paris development in the twenty-first century: An exercise on the prospective impact of a carbon tax

Climate change adds new and unprecedented challenges to urban planning. Urban transport, land-use, and housing policies are increasingly recognized as major tools for climate change mitigation. At the same time, due to their high concentration in population and economic activity, cities are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts, and their vulnerability is greatly determined by city structure. Using urban planning as a tool for mitigation and adaptation is made extremely difficult by the high inertia of the structure of a city’s built environment.

This presentation highlights a study using an integrated model designed to explore possible evolutions of the Paris urban agglomeration under certain scenarios between the years 2010 and 2100. The model is based on the classical economic theory, which intends to explain the spatial distribution of land and real estate values, dwelling surfaces, population density and buildings heights and density. A validation over the 1900-2010 period shows that the model reproduces fairly faithfully the available data and captures the main determinants of city shape evolution, suggesting that this tool can be used to inform policy decisions on adaptation and mitigation measures for the city.

Vincent Viguié is Research Fellow at CIRED and Ponts Paristech. He is working on adaptation issues in urban areas, and on city growth modelling. His interests also involve economics of adaptation to climate change and prospective simulation.

Panelist Angela Jain, Senior Research Fellow, Nexus Institute, Germany

Sustainable urban transport = resilient urban transport? Discussing planning options on the example of Hyderabad/ India

Can sustainable and resilient urban transport be seen as equivalent? Public transport systems are implemented because they meet the demands of sustainability. The question posed in this presentation is whether public transport systems can be considered as resilient solutions as well? Public transport infrastructure in developing economies (e.g. India) is considered less developed and in worse shape than in most European countries. Often, they are deficient, not reliable and of dubious quality and such encourage the increase of (motorized) private transport. On the other hand, these low-tech solutions make the transport system at large more resilient. What needs to be taken into account in planning transport systems which have the ability to withstand, recover and adapt to extreme events?

Centrally organized and network-based public transport is more vulnerable than individual transport by 2-, 3- or 4-wheelers, feet and bike. Such diverse transport systems might be more resilient in the face of disaster. Moreover, experience with everyday semi-catastrophes users and drivers are much better equipped for dealing with exceptional circumstances.

Angela Jain (PhD) studied spatial planning and performs research on participation, civil society and sustainable city development. At Nexus Institute, Berlin, she currently works in the Indo-German project “Sustainable Megacity Hyderabad.”

Panelist Annemie Wyckmans, Associate Professor, NTNU, Norway

Towards a resilient architecture: The case of Brøset, Trondheim, Norway

This presentation will report on the progress made in the development of the 35-hectare Brøset site in Trondheim into a neighborhood enabling low-emission lifestyles. The project aims to create a synergy between transport and land use, energy, consumption and waste, and climate adaptation. Various pathways exist to reduce the environmental impact of the built environment and adapt it to future climatic conditions. This transition towards a more sustainable and resilient architecture requires a balance between eco-efficiency, architectural quality and quality of life at the building, neighborhood and urban level.

Miss Wyckmans is an associate professor. She is an architect with 12 years of experience in interdisciplinary and cross-institutional education, research and development related to zero emission built environments, a.o. the Brøset project.