



SESSION DESCRIPTION

H4 Building joint resilience in metropolitan areas: Strengthening city-region linkages

Panel discussion

Date: Saturday, 31 May 2014

Time: 14:30-16:00

Rooms: S29-32

Language: English

Contact: Carmen Vogt

E-mail/web: carmen.vogt@giz.de / www.giz.de

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OBJECTIVE

The 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has projected that climate change will lead to a number of severe consequences for urban areas. Many of the world's large urban areas are located in high risk regions. Furthermore, due to high population density and concentration of economic assets, climate induced loss and damage is especially high in urban areas. Aside from big cities, accelerating urbanization in smaller cities is also a concern – particularly in regions which are not equipped to cope with climate events and disasters.

This vulnerability will become a defining theme of urban resilience and disaster risk in coming decades. Surrounding regions are valuable providers of biodiversity, natural resources – be it water, biofuel, fresh air or food - and bouncing back capacities, such as flood plains. It is therefore of particular importance that cities understand resiliency and pathways towards it in conjunction and cooperation with their surrounding areas and regions. In many cases, adequate platforms and governance arrangements for resilience measures in urban areas and city regions are not yet in place in order to bring relevant key stakeholders together; identify concrete fields of action; build climate scenarios and risk information; prioritize infrastructure investments; and provide concrete solutions for advancing resiliency in urban areas and metropolitan regions.

This session highlights the importance of climate resilience strategies in cities and metropolitan regions, offering concrete solutions on achieving such strategies. Dr. Cynthia Rosenzweig (NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, NY, USA), Anna Beswick (Programme Manager / "Adaption Scotland", GB), Dr. Ishrat Islam (Professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka, Bangladesh) and Michael Gruber (Senior Sector Economist, KfW Development Bank, Frankfurt, Germany) present experiences and action oriented research made in Bonn, Scotland (on a regional level), Bangladesh, and on a global scale as well as knowledge of Bonn-based actors and networks. Jürgen Nimptsch (Lord Mayor City of Bonn, Vice Chair of the World Mayors Council on Climate Change, Germany) will conclude the panel. Being a platform for debate on urban resilience, Bonn serves as a role model of the ISDR "Resilient Cities" campaign.



OUTCOMES

Participants will gain a better understanding of:

- Strategies, concrete action and achievements of climate resilience in Cities and Metropolitan Regions (MR);
- How to consider key players and the different fields of action, climate scenario examples and best practices for advancing resilience specifically in MR;
- Experiences from Europe and Asia with different implementation strategies (e.g. community involvement); and
- Existing solutions for resilience finance and how to close the gap between planning and finance.

METHODOLOGY

- The facilitator will open the session with a short introduction of himself and each speaker. **(5 minutes)**
- Key note: Enhancing Climate Resilience in Cities and Metropolitan regions **(10 minutes)**
- The other speakers will be given time to describe their work, showing maps or other illustrations as needed. **(3 x 10 minutes)**
- The remainder of the session will be organized around the guiding questions, with each panelist given time to respond to individual questions, and to respond to comments made by other panelists. **(15 minutes)**
- The facilitator will manage questions and answers from the audience. **(15 minutes)**
- Final comment by Lord Mayor, City of Bonn **(10 minutes)**
- The facilitator will conclude with closing remarks. **(5 minutes)**

Guiding questions for the panel:

1. How to start building resilience into urban development through critical investments in different contexts? What are similar and/or different experiences?
2. Do the challenges of implementing (metropolitan) resilience strategies differ between cities in the global North and South?
3. Which role can research institutes play in the implementation process in the cities / MR?

CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitator *Carmen Vogt, Senior Policy Advisor for Urban Development and Cities and Climate Change, Project Manager „Sustainable Development of Metropolitan Regions“, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Germany*

Keynote *Cynthia Rosenzweig, Senior Research Scientist, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies; Co-Director, Urban Climate Change Research Network (UCCRN), New York, USA*

Presenting on guidance for cities and metropolitan regions, especially those in developing countries, to enhance climate resilience.

This presentation answers the following questions:



- How do approaches of *urban* and *metropolitan* resilience differ; what is similar, what is different?
- What are concrete fields of action for building resilience at a metropolitan level?
- How do urban-rural linkages (geographic scope) influence resilience strategies?

Panelist *Michael Gruber, Senior Sector Economist, KFW Development Bank, Frankfurt am Main, Germany*

Presenting on financing mechanism for resilience infrastructure investments

This presentation answers the following questions:

- How to make decisions under uncertainty?
- How to focus insufficient resources considering climate change?
- How to close the gap between planning and finance; what solutions exist for resilience finance?

Panelist *Ishrat Islam, Professor, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka, Bangladesh*

Presenting on the challenges of resilient urban and regional planning in Bangladesh

This presentation answers the following questions:

- What are the experiences and practices in Bangladesh for adaptation / resilience strategies and measures at a metropolitan / city-regional level?
- What are the main challenges that cities face specifically in developing countries?

Panelist *Anna Beswick, Adaptation Scotland Manager, Sniffer, Edinburgh, UK*

Presenting on the example of a regional adaptation plan focussing on outcome and impact of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership since 2012

This presentation answers the following questions:

- What are the experiences with resilience strategies on a city and regional level so far? Which regional stakeholders have been involved?
- Examples of how to integrate resilience as part of new developments (wetland park on the city's urban fringe, 2014 Commonwealth Games Athletes Village)

Final statement *Jürgen Nimptsch, Lord Mayor, City of Bonn, Vice Chair of the World Mayors Council on Climate Change, Bonn, Germany*

From Science to Practice: Challenges and Solutions in European Cities and their Partner Cities

This presentation answers the following questions:

- How does the City of Bonn provide solutions for climate resilience?
- Highlighting concrete examples on climate resilience action (partnerships from local to global) and the importance of community involvement.