



NTS BULLETIN

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CLIMATE CHANGE SPECIAL

Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges and Decisions Copenhagen, 10-12 March 2009

An international scientific congress on climate change was hosted by the University of Copenhagen and organised in cooperation with nine other universities in the International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU). The congress gathered over 2,000 researchers from 80 countries to provide the most updated knowledge within a broad field of research on climate change in the run-up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15) in Copenhagen in November-December 2009.

The synthesis of existing and emerging science and technology knowledge as well as policy advances delivered at this congress will be compiled and handed over to the policy makers at the COP15 as a supplementary to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCCC) report. This supplementary report is intended to spur policymakers into making decisions concerning application of mitigation and adaptation strategies in response to climate change.

Participants at this meeting have noted that recent scientific findings on climate change are much more severe than what has been documented in the IPCC fourth assessment report on climate change in 2007. Experts suggest that sea levels could rise more than one metre by 2100 - much higher than previously forecasted - and thereby threaten the lives of 600 million people (about ten per cent of world's population). Lord Stern also stated that the estimated cost of inaction has risen by 50 per cent from risking up to 20 per cent of the world's wealth to risking a third of the world's wealth.

In addition to urging politicians to taking more action in addressing global warming, opinions and findings raised in this conference would also demonstrate -in part- the shortcomings of the IPCC report in effectively synergizing science and policy during the Budapest meeting in April 2007. This meeting in Copenhagen, therefore, only re-iterates scientists' opposition to diluting scientific projections.

Additional Info:

[Click here for more information about the congress.](#)

[Contentious Climate Conference OKs Report \(6 April 2007\), CBS News.](#)

[Sea level could rise more than a metre by 2100, say experts \(11 March 2009\), The Guardian.](#)

['More bad news' on climate change \(10 March 2009\), BBC News.](#)

[Lord Stern on global warming: It's even worse than I thought \(13 March 2009\), the Independent.](#)

MIGRATION

News

- London mayor renews migrant amnesty
- UK considers new immigration restrictions that limit availability of Tier 2 work permits for shortage occupations only
- Illegal immigrant population dips in the United States
- World Health Organisation-linked body lauds Philippine health-worker migration model
- Asian immigration growing fast in Australia: Census
- France proposes immigration deal with the Philippines to allow healthcare professionals to work in France
- Malaysia plans to send back 60 per cent of its foreign workers

Scholarly Articles

- **International Organisation of Migrants (IOM) published the Spring 2009 edition of 'Migration'.**

This issue includes an editorial on the effects of the current economic crisis on migration, and on initiatives to reduce xenophobia among other issues.

- **The UNDP published a report on the "HIV Vulnerabilities of Migrant Women: from Asia to the Arab States".**

The report details how migrant women are vulnerable to sexual exploitation and HIV/AIDS infection. The report is a joint project of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

INTERNAL CONFLICTS

General Reports

- **Somalia was declared 'The Most Dangerous Place in the World'**

"It is a state governed only by anarchy. It has known just six months of peace in the past two decades. Now, as the country's endless chaos threatens to engulf an entire region, the world again simply watches it burn reports."

Foreign Policy, March/April 2009

- **'Sierra Leone Rebels Guilty of Crimes against Humanity'**

Crimes of War Project, 26 February 2009

Trends in Internal Conflict

- **According to the latest instalment of ICG's CrisisWatch, four actual or potential conflict situations around the world deteriorated and two improved in February**

International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch N°67, 1 March 2009

Click here to download full report from the ICG website

Approach to conflict resolution

- **'A Model for a Whole-of-Problem Approach to Preventing Violent Conflict'**

Human Security Gateway, 1 March 2009

Click here to download full report from the HumanSecurityGateway.com website

- **'Thailand Rethinks Approach to Southern Insurgency'**

WorldPoliticsReview.com, 29 January 2009

Displacement

- **'Statelessness: An Analytical Framework for Prevention, Reduction and Protection'**

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 23 February 2009

Click here to download full report from the UNHCR website

- **'Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons'**

United Nations Human Rights Council, 9 February 2009

Click here to download the full report from the UNHCR website

On Responsibility to Protect (R2P)

- **'Burma's Crimes Against Humanity - A Test Case for the Responsibility to Protect'**

Human Security Gateway, 13 January 2009

Click here to view the document directly

- **'The Responsibility to protect and the Protection of Civilians: Asia-Pacific in the UN Security council'**

Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, 10 February 2009

Click here to download the document (pdf)

Additional online references

- **International Crisis Group (ICG)** - provides timely analyses of conflicts worldwide
- **The International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO)** releases academic research on questions relevant to the promotion of a more peaceful world
- **Uppsala University's Department of Peace and Conflict Research (DPCR)** - houses its own data collection program which provides freely accessible dataset
- **Conciliation Resources (CR)** - houses useful publications on various peace accords
- **Foreign Policy's 2008 The Failed States Index** - provides up-to-date compilation of failed states

TRANSNATIONAL CRIME: NARCOTICS AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

News and Reports

Transnational Narcotics Trade and Organized Crime

- The 2009 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR)

An annual report by the US Department of State to Congress prepared in accordance with the Foreign Assistance Act. It describes the efforts of key countries to attack all aspects of the international drug trade in the Calendar Year 2008.

Volume I covers drug and chemical control activities. Volume II covers money laundering and financial crimes.

- Opium Poppy Cultivation in Southeast Asia, December 2008.

Southeast Asia's production of opium decreased from 50 per cent of the world's total production in 1990 to just 5 per cent in 2008.

- Task Forces on Strengthening Multilateral Security Capacity, International Peace Institute, Blue Paper, No. 2, 2009

- **'The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols'**

Adopted by General Assembly resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000, this is the main international instrument in the fight against transnational organized crime.

Human Trafficking

- **Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, February 2009**

This report, by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), is based on data gathered from 155 countries and offers the first global assessment of the scope of human trafficking and what is being done to fight it.

Click here to download the full report from the UNODC website

- **Trafficking in Persons Reports, 2008**

This report is an annual publication by the US State Department and is a major source of reference with regard to human trafficking.

Click here to download the full report from the US State Department website

- **ASEAN Plan Of Action To Combat Transnational Crime**

One of the fundamental principles of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as enshrined in the Bangkok Declaration of 8 August 1967 was "strengthening the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community of Southeast Asian Nations."...

Click here for the full document

WATER SECURITY

Announcements

- **United Nations International World Water Day, 22 March 2009**

International World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

An international day to celebrate freshwater was recommended at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The United Nations General Assembly responded by designating 22 March 1993 as the first World Water Day.

This year's theme is Sharing Waters Sharing Opportunities with the focus on transboundary waters. World Water Day campaign materials outline key issues related to transboundary waters.

source: United Nations - Water

- **International Decade for Action, The Water for Life Decade, 2005 – 2015**

The United Nations General Assembly, in December 2003, proclaimed the years 2005 to 2015 as the International Decade for Action 'Water for Life'. The primary goal of the 'Water for Life' Decade is to promote efforts to fulfill international commitments made on water and water-related issues by 2015.

source: United Nations - Water

Conferences, Seminars, Symposiums

- **5th World Water Forum**

The world's largest water event. 16-22 March 2009 in Istanbul, Turkey.

- **3rd Children's World Water Forum**

12-17 March 2009 in Istanbul, Turkey.

- **Water for Food Conference**

9 to 11 June 2009 in Colombo, Sri Lanka

- **World Water Week**

16-22 August 2009, Stockholm, Sweden. Hosted and organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), the World Water Week in Stockholm has been the annual focal point for the planet's water issues since 1991. In 2009, the theme will be 'Accessing Water for the Common Good' with a special focus on transboundary waters.

- **The First Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 5th World Water Forum**

27 June 2009, Singapore

LATEST PUBLICATIONS

International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

- **IWMI Working Paper 132**

Institutional Settings and Livelihood Strategies in the Blue Nile Basin: Implications for Upstream/Downstream Linkages

- **IWMI Research Report 127**

Drivers and Characteristics of Waste Water Agriculture in Developing Countries: Results from a Global Assessment

- **IWMI Research Report 126**

Climate Change Impacts on Hydrology and Water Resources of the Upper Blue Nile River Basin, Ethiopia

[Click here for the above reports](#)

United Nations

- **Transboundary Waters: Sharing Benefits, Sharing Responsibilities.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Conferences

- **Durban Review Conference**

20-24 April 2009, Geneva

The conference will evaluate progress towards the goals set by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in Durban, South Africa, in 2001.

- **6th Global Conference on War: Virtual War and Human Security**

1-3 May 2009, Budapest, Hungary

- **4th Viennese Conference on South-East Asia: National and Transnational Crises and Conflicts in South-East Asia**

19-20 June 2009, Vienna, Austria

The conference examines national and transnational crises and conflicts in South East Asia which have threatened both socio-economic development and nation-building in the region.

- **5th World Water Forum. The world's largest water event**

16-22 March 2009, Istanbul, Turkey

A stepping stone towards global collaboration on water problems, the Forum offers the water community and policy-and-decision-makers from all over the world the unique opportunity to come together to create links, debate and attempts to find solutions to achieve water security.

About Us

The Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies is a research centre of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Please visit the Centre's website at www.rsis.edu.sg/nts/home.html, for more information or email us at NTS_Centre@ntu.edu.sg.
