



## International Workshop on **The Social Dimension of Adaptation to Climate Change** 18<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Palazzo Querini Stampalia, Venice – Italy

### **Background and Objective of the Workshop**

Even if world governments soon agree to adopt measures to stabilize GHG concentrations in the atmosphere by the end of the century, the projected residual increase in global warming will considerably alter climate worldwide. Adaptation is thus needed to respond optimally to the new challenging environment.

Adaptation will in part occur autonomously, with individuals and societies switching to new technologies and new practices, and in part will require the planning, coordination and funding of governments. In both cases individuals and society at large, including government, will need to adopt new technologies, planning tools, styles of life and behaviours. The success of adaptation will largely depend on the extent to which individuals and societies will be willing to accept change. Cultural habits and customs together with a low capacity to learn and adopt new technologies may slow down adaptation, especially in more vulnerable developing countries. Rigidity and lack of farsighted approach at governmental level might reduce adaptation capacity, also in developed countries. Without social and cultural norms that embrace change and innovation adaptation will be slow and the transition to a new climate might be costly and in some cases disruptive.

The objective of this workshop is to consider theories, pilot studies and cases to increase our understanding of factors, barriers or drivers conditioning the social and behavioural dimension of adaptation to climate change.

### **Contents and Topics of the Workshop**

Three main topics will be considered:

- The social and behavioural dimension as key factors to adapt to climate change;
- The flexibility of social systems in adapting to climate (institutional and social capability, multistakeholder engagement, including governments, Ngos, the private sector, communities, and individuals.)
- The learning capacity as a means to overcome behavioural and social constraints to changing technologies (development and adoption of new technologies).

The workshop is structured around three main sessions, each composed by at most four papers in order to provide enough time for a in depth presentation of each participant's research.



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## DAY 1: Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010

8:45-9:15 *Registration*

9:15-9:30 **WELCOME ADDRESS**

**Carlo CARRARO**, *Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Italy*

9:30-13:00 **SESSION 1: Social and Behavioural Change to Adapt to Climate Change**  
Chair: Ian BURTON

9:30-10:15 **Brian FAGAN**, *Archeologist*  
Lesson of a Thousand Years Ago: an Archaeologist Looks at Ancient Climate Change

10:15-11:00 **Irene LORENZONI**, *University of East Anglia, UK and IPCC WG II*  
The Social and Behavioural Limits to Adaptation to Climate Change

11:00-11:30 *Coffee Break*

11:30-12:15 **Chris HIGH**, *The Open University, UK*  
Social Learning in the Context of Adaptation to Climate Change

12:15-13:00 **Discussion**  
Introduction by: Emanuele MASSETTI, *Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Italy*

13:00-14:00 *Lunch*

14:00-18:15 **SESSION 2: Reshaping Social Systems to Adapt to Climate Change**  
Chair: Irene LORENZONI

14:00-14:45 **Shardul AGRAWALA**, *OECD, Paris*  
The Impact of Climate Change on Social Systems in Developing Countries

14:45-15:30 **Ian BURTON**, *University of Toronto, Canada*  
The Future of Adaptation After Copenhagen

15:30-16:00 *Coffee Break*

16:00-16:45 **Maarten K. VAN AALST**, *Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre, The Netherlands and The World Bank*  
Community Based Risk Management

16:45-17:30 **Stephane HALLEGATTE**, *CIREN and Meteo France, France*  
City Level Adaptation Strategies

17:30-18:15 **Discussion**  
Introduction by: Nanki KAUR, *International Institute for Environment and Development, UK*



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## DAY 2: Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010

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| 9:00-13:15 | <b>SESSION 3: Learning to Adapt: Overcoming Behavioural and Social Constraints to Adopt New Technologies</b><br>Chair: Maarten K. VAN AALST |
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9:00-9:45      **Nanki KAUR**, *International Institute for Environment and Development, UK*  
The Role of Community-Based Learning for Technological Adoption

9:45-10:30    **Rasmus HELTBERG**, *The World Bank, USA*  
Addressing Human Vulnerability to Climate Change

10:30-11:00   *Coffee Break*

11:00-11:45   **Fredrick CARLSSON**, *University of Gothenburg, Sweden*  
Risk Sharing and Coordination Among Farmers to Adapt to Climate Change

11:45-12:30   **Wolfgang LUTZ**, *IIASA, Austria*  
Improving Education as Key to Enhancing Adaptive Capacity in Developing Countries

**12:30-13:15**   **Discussion and conclusions**  
Introduction by: Stephane HALLEGATTE, *CIREN and Meteo France, France*

13:15-14:15   *Lunch*