

7-10 JULY 2015

PARIS, FRANCE

OUR COMMON FUTURE UNDER CLIMATE CHANGE

International Scientific Conference

July 7th 0900 hrs, Paris, France - A major international science conference begins in Paris Tuesday to table the latest thinking on managing climate change and avoiding its worst impacts.

With almost 2000 academics from nearly 100 countries, Our Common Future under Climate Change (CFCC15) is the largest forum for the scientific community to come together ahead of the 21st UN Conference of the Parties (COP21) summit in Paris in December. During COP21 governments are expected to formalise a new global agreement to curb greenhouse gas emissions beyond 2020.

The CFCC15 Conference comes nine months after publication of the biggest-ever report by scientists for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which concluded that governments can keep climate change in check at manageable costs but will have to cut greenhouse gas emissions to zero to limit risks of irreversible damage.

The four-day science meeting to be held at UNESCO and Université Pierre et Marie Curie in Paris, will update latest knowledge on climate changes and effects, as well as the different options societies have to respond.

“This conference is deliberately solutions-focused. There are a wide variety of evidence-based solutions available that are economically attractive and scaleable, to both contain, and cope with, climate change and its effects on our societies. It is not scientists’ role to tell governments what to do in December, but to illuminate the choices – each with different levels of cost and risk,” said Chris Field, Chair of the CFCC15 Scientific Committee and head of the US Carnegie Institution’s Department of Global Ecology.

CFCC15 will explore the latest scientific understanding of all dimensions of climate-change management, from sustainable economic models and social attitudes, to coastal protection projects and renewables innovation.

Chair of the Organising Committee Hervé Le Treut, Professor of Climatology at Paris’ Université Pierre et Marie Curie (UPMC) which is co-hosting the science conference with UNESCO, adds:

“Climate science is evolving, from identifying changes underway and modeling future shifts and risks, to defining and refining the understanding we need to reduce those risks. It is complex, but the extraordinary array of expertise at the conference shows that scientists are engaged, and collaborating more than ever, in helping to advance solutions to the related challenges that are fair, and beyond reach – especially for less-developed countries.”

Our Common Future under Climate Change concludes on Friday 10th July with a high-level political closing session attended by senior French government representatives as well as the lead negotiators for the UN treaty process.

For more details and to arrange interviews, contact Jeremy Zuber and Charlotte Smith at media@commonfuture-paris2015.org + 33 6 32 37 79 88 / +33 6 79 66 82 55

The searchable CFCC15 programme, blogs and newsletter can be found here: <http://www.commonfuture-paris2015.org/>

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Editors Notes:

Our Common Future under Climate change conference is organized under the umbrella of [ICSU](#), [Future Earth](#), [UNESCO](#) and major French research institutions, with the support of the French Government. <http://www.commonfuture-paris2015.org/Partnerships.htm>

The Conference will cover different themes each day:**Day 1 - Tuesday July 6th: State of Knowledge on Climate Change**

Bringing together the latest knowledge from both natural and social sciences, this day addresses the cross-cutting issues related to observed changes in the climate system. It explores drivers and impacts, including GHG emissions, climate variability, extreme events, highlighting both advances and gaps in knowledge across sectors and regions. Key topics include:

- Latest analysis of data on global emissions peaking: For the first time global GHG emissions were lower in 2014 than in the previous year, with no economic recession. Was it an accident or is a new trend? Latest data from OECD and China
- What is the future of climate change science? How will different disciplines work more closely together to measure progress and inform policy choice?
- New findings on how the global ocean is being impacted under climate change – and predictions for the future under a 2 degree scenario

Day 2 - Wednesday July 8th: Landscapes of Our Common Future

Looking at future scenarios in the context of the climate change, this day explores possible impacts across and between systems and sectors both in the medium (2030-2050) and long term (2070 and beyond). An emphasis is placed on examining risks and uncertainties, thresholds and tipping points. Highlight sessions include:

- How close is China to a point of major structural transition? Analysis of the most recent trends, and its pathway ahead
- Assessment of intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) to a 2015 international climate agreement – different methodologies discussed.
- Tipping points: possible breakthroughs in predicting when an Earth system may be approaching abrupt, irreversible non-linear change

Day 3 - Thursday July 9th: Responding to Climate Change Challenges

This day addresses mitigation and adaptation options, highlighting scientific and technological breakthroughs and discussing barriers, trade-offs, co-benefits, risks and feedbacks, with local and regional case studies. Highlight sessions include:

- The future of food and water demand and supply under climate change
- Prospects on mitigation for leading African economies
- Game changing energy technologies coming on stream
- Negative emissions, including BECCS: impacts and limitations.

Final Day - Friday July 10th: Collective Action and Transformative Solutions

This final day explores transformative solutions to climate change across a range of disciplines, sectors and stakeholders that encompass technological, institutional, economic and social change.

- The path to de-carbonisation in India, Brazil and Asia
- Joseph Stiglitz on bridging the carbon gap in a time of financial crises
- The emergence of new structures for global governance: will 'bottom up' actually work?

The CFCC15 as well as advancing scientific dialogue on climate change solutions, also reinforces the science society dialogue through 78 side events. These take place worldwide between June 1st and July 15th, organized by artists, business, media, NGOs, public policymakers, public agencies, international organizations, and scientists. The side events strengthen the dialogue between scientists and stakeholders on major issues including education, cities, finance, food security, water, health and media. <http://www.commonfuture-paris2015.org/Programme/Side-Events.htm>