

SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE ARAB REGION

Cairo, Egypt, 28th FEBRUARY - 2nd MARCH 2017



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1 BACKGROUND

Similarly to what is seen in other parts of the world, there are clear signs of the impacts of climate change in Arab countries. The region, which hosts a variety of ecosystems, already shows the signs of damages to the climate balance due to human-induced climate change.

According to the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), climate variability and extreme events have been affecting the Arab region in a variety of ways. Apart from increases in temperatures, trends such as erratic rainfalls and extended droughts have been negatively affecting agriculture and livestock production, leading to property losses and threatening livelihoods.

The above state of affairs illustrates the need for a better understanding of how climate change affects the Arab region, and for the identification of processes, methods and tools which may help the countries and the communities in the region to adapt. There is also a perceived need to showcase successful examples of how to cope with the social, economic and political problems posed by climate change in Arab countries, especially the ways of acting, production and consumption of communities and traditional populations.

It is against this background that the “**SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE ARAB REGION**” is being organized by the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), the Research and Transfer Centre “Applications of Life Sciences” of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany), Manchester Metropolitan University (UK), the International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP) and the Ministry of Environment in Egypt. The Symposium will be a truly interdisciplinary event, mobilizing scholars, social movements, practitioners and members of governmental agencies, undertaking research and/or executing climate change projects in Arab countries.

The “**SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE ARAB REGION**” will focus on “managing climate change in the Arab region”, meaning that it will serve the purpose of showcasing experiences from research, field projects and best practice to foster climate change adaptation among countries in the region, which may be useful or implemented elsewhere.

2 AIMS

Consistent with the need for more cross-sectoral interactions among the various stakeholders working in the field of climate change adaptation in the Arab region, the aims of the “**SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE ARAB REGION**” are as follows:

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- I. to provide research institutions, universities, NGOs, government agencies and enterprises from Arab countries with an opportunity to display and present their works in the field of climate change adaptation;
- II. to foster the exchange of information, ideas and experiences acquired in the execution of climate change adaptation projects, especially initiatives and good practice across the region;
- III. to discuss methodological approaches and experiences deriving from case studies and projects, which aim to show how climate change adaptation may be implemented in practice;
- IV. to network the participants and provide a platform so they can explore possibilities for cooperation.

Last but not least, a further aim of the event will be to document and disseminate the wealth of experiences available today. To this purpose, the **book "Climate Change Adaptation in the Arab Region: Case Studies and Best Practice"** will be published, with all accepted papers. This will be a further volume of the award-winning book series "Climate Change Management" published by Springer, which since its creation in 2008 has become the world's leading book series on climate change management. The decision of the editors as to which papers may be selected and undergo peer review for the book is final.

3 ORGANISERS

- Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE)
- Research and Transfer Centre "Applications of Life Sciences", Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany)
- Manchester Metropolitan University (UK)
- International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP)
- Ministry of Environment of the Arab Republic of Egypt

COOPERATING ORGANISATIONS

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- World Health Organisation (WHO)
- World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
- International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP)
- The Middle East Desalination Research Center (MEDRC)
- United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
- Desert Research Center in Egypt (DRC)

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- Egyptian Center of Excellence for Saline Agriculture (ECESA)
- West Asia-North Africa Institute (WANA)

PATRON OF THE SYMPOSIUM

- H. E. Minister of Environment of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Dr. Khaled Fahmy

CHAIR OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Professor Walter Leal, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany) and Manchester Metropolitan University (UK)

MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (in alphabetical order of first name)

- Dr. Ahmed Abdel Rehim, Regional Programme Manager, CEDARE, Egypt
- Dr. Amr Abdel Megeed, Regional Programme Manager, CEDARE, Egypt
- Dr. Ayman Rabi, Palestinian Hydrology Group, Palestine
- Prof. Chafic-Toumas Salame, Lebanese University, Lebanon
- Prof. Hassan M. El Shaer, Desert Research Center, Egypt
- Prof. Issam Srour, The American University of Beirut, Lebanon
- Dr. Jauad El Kharraz, Head of Research, The Middle East Desalination Research Center (MEDRC), Oman
- Prof. Lahcen Taiqui, Abdelmalek Essaadi University, Tetouan, Morocco
- Dr. Tarek Sadek, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) United Nations (UN)
- Associate Prof. Tarek Temraz, Marine Science Department, Suez Canal University, Egypt
- Prof. Waleed Zubari, Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain
- Prof. Youba Sokona, The Sahara and Sahel Observatory, Tunisia

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- Dr. Jelena Barbir, International Climate Change Information Programme
- Dr. Omar Elbadawy, Regional Programme Manager, CEDARE, Egypt

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4 PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

Delegates attending the “**SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN ARAB COUNTRIES**” will come from a cross-sectoral range of areas. These are:

1. members of NGOs working with climate change;
2. researchers at universities and research centres;
3. teaching staff at universities;
4. representatives from companies;
5. representatives from UN and national development and aid agencies working with climate change adaptation and funding/ executing projects on the ground;
6. members of social movements;
7. project officers and consultants;
8. other people interested in the topic.

It is believed that this wide range of participants will help to outline the need for and the usefulness of integrated approaches towards climate change adaptation in Arab countries and hence contribute to the further consolidation of this thematic area.

5 STRUCTURE OF THE EVENT

The “**SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE ARAB REGION**” will be organised in two main strands:

Strand 1: the displays

Participating organisations will be able to put-up displays describing their works and projects and to distribute the relevant information to the participants. The displays will be the backbone of the event and will allow close, one-to-one contacts between the participants and the exhibitors.

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Strand 2: the presentations

A set of presentations, divided into five main themes will be organised, distributed over parallel sessions dealing with some of the issues of strategic value in the field of climate change adaptation. These are:

- Climate Change Adaptation in Light of the Paris Agreement
- Vulnerability Assessment and Resilience
- Adaptation National Action Plans
- Low Emission, Climate Resilient Strategies
- Climate Change & Community-based Adaptation
- Impacts of Climate Change on Rural and Urban Communities
- Climate Change Adaptation Technologies
- Mathematical Modeling for Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation (GCM/RCM)
- Education, Training and Awareness
- Monitoring, Early Warning Systems and Adaptation
- Crisis/Risk Management and Adaptation

The plenary and parallel sessions, as well as the social events, will provide participants with an outstanding opportunity to interact, network and learn about the latest ideas, projects and practices, mainstreaming climate change adaptation in the Arab region.

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6 TIME-TABLE

The “**SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE ARAB REGION**” will be held from 28th February to 2nd March 2017 in Cairo, Egypt. Cairo is one of major cities in the Arab region, and has many international connections. The schedule is as follows:

DAY 1 28 th February 2017	DAY 2 1 st March 2017
<p>Afternoon Arrival and set-up of displays</p> <p>Evening informal get-together of participants for informal chats and networking</p>	<p>All day Exhibition and visit to displays</p> <p>Morning Plenary and Sessions</p> <p>Afternoon Plenary and Sessions</p> <p>Evening Reception</p>
DAY 3 2 nd March 2017 (morning)	DAY 3 2 nd March 2017 (afternoon)
<p>Morning Plenary and Sessions</p> <p>Exhibition and visit to displays</p>	<p>Afternoon Plenary and Sessions</p> <p>Exhibition and visit to displays</p> <p>Round-table with key experts & Conclusions with the hand over of the Awards for the best papers</p>

In order to ensure an efficient use of the time, delegates are kindly asked to organise their travel in a way that allows them to arrive in Cairo in the course of 28th February 2017, and travel back on or after 3rd March 2017, so they can fully take part in the Symposium.

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7 DEADLINES

Deadline for submission of abstracts:	20 th June 2016
Deadline for submission of papers:	30 th September 2016
Deadline for the submission of revised papers:	30 th November 2016
Deadline for registrations:	30 th November 2016

Since the conference book is expected to be launched shortly after the event, the deadlines need to be followed.

8 FEES AND CHARGES

A discounted fee of €250 (professionals) or €125 (for students) plus 19% VAT, will be charged to those who register until 30th September 2016 (early bird registration). After that, delegates will need to pay the full fee of €300 and €150 respectively (plus 19% VAT). The fee includes lunches and coffee breaks on 1st and 2nd March 2017, as well as the evening reception on 1st March 2017. Furthermore, the fee includes a **on-line copy of the book "Climate Change Adaptation in the Arab Region: Case Studies and Best Practice"**, to be made available to the participants.

Organisations or individuals not able to pay this fee should contact the Secretariat so that it may be reduced in special cases. Interested people and organisations are encouraged to register by completing the application form provided. **This is a self-funded event and the organisers are unable to pay any travel or accommodation costs** of any kind. They are however happy to issue letters of invitation to support delegates to request funding for their participation.

9 REGISTRATION AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Registrations are now open and are possible until the 30th November 2016. Regrettably, logistical limitations mean that registrations after the deadline will not be possible. Since the space for displays and the time for presentations is limited, **delegates are advised to register as soon as possible**. The organisers will notify any interested delegate or organisation in case there are any limitations with time for presentations or space for displays. Registered delegates will then receive further details on the payment of the fees and updated information on the preparations for the event. The decision as to which papers will be accepted for presentation will be taken by the Chairpersons, following consultation with the organising committee.

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Participants registering to the event will do so under the condition that they will cover their own travel, accommodation and incidental costs (e.g. visa fees) related to their trip to Cairo.

This is a self-funded event and the organisers are unable to pay any travel or accommodation costs of any kind. Letters of invitation to enter Egypt can only be sent to bona fide, registered delegates, who have paid their fees and need a document to show their employers. For cancellations of registrations up to 45 days before the event, a 50% refund may be made. For cancellations afterwards, no refunds will be possible. Registrations are now open and may be made on-line at: <http://www.haw-hamburg.de/en/ftz-als/veranstaltungen/Cairo>

10 CONTACT POINTS

All questions related to scientific inputs and strategic partnerships, as well as the book, should be sent to:

Walter Leal (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DEd, DLitt, FSB, FRGS, FLS)

Professor of Environment and Technology

Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany) and Manchester Metropolitan University (UK)

E-mail: info@iccip.net

and/ or

Amr Abdel Meguid (BSc, MSc, PhD)

Regional Programme Manager, Environmental Governance Programme

Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE)

E-mail: amegeed@cedare.int

All questions related to abstracts and registrations should be sent to:

Dr. Jelena Barbir

International Climate Change Information Programme

E-mail: jelena@barbir.com.es

All questions related to logistics and invitations to enter Egypt should be sent to:

Dr. Omar Elbadawy, Regional Programme Manager, CEDARE, Egypt

E-mail: elbadawy@cedare.int



11 HOW TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT

An abstract should be up to 200 words, it should describe the rationale and aims of the paper, and some of its results. General descriptions of broad contexts should be avoided. The full contact details about the author(s) need to be provided. Abstracts should be written in the third person and not in the first or second one (e.g. I, me, or my paper). Please see below a sample abstract. Authors whose abstracts have been accepted, will receive further details about how to submit their full papers, and further logistical information. Please send your abstract to Dr. Jelena Barbir, jelena@barbir.com.es).

SAMPLE ABSTRACT

Promoting Climate Change Adaptation in Developing Countries: breaking misconceptions and addressing information needs

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Abstract

The impacts of climate change to natural ecosystems, infrastructure and livelihood, means that the implementation of climate change adaptation strategies in developing countries has become a pressing issue. Among other factors, the undertaking of adaptation strategies is made difficult by the general lack of awareness and spread misconceptions about the real impacts of climate change which, in turn, slow down the execution of the adaptation initiatives needed, and which may ameliorate them.

This paper presents an analysis about the misconceptions related to the implementation of climate change adaptation strategies, and describes the most widespread ones, as well as their implications. A special emphasis is given to the problems and barriers caused by misinformation, which – in turn- prevent the promotion of adaptation initiatives at local level. Finally, some concrete steps which may be taken in order to break the misconceptions and foster a more systematic view of adaptation strategies, are outlined. Experiences gathered in this paper will be useful to people and organisations interested in the different levels of responses given to climate changes threats, and on some of the tools which may be used to encourage specific action to adapt to changing climate conditions.