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 Hans von Storch /D

The Third Nordic International Conference on Climate Change Adaptation will be held at Hotel Scandic Sydhavnen in Copenhagen. The venue is centrally located with respect to Copenhagen Airport, and Copenhagen Central Train Station is just 4 minutes away by rail.



SCANDIC SYDHAVN

Sydhavn Plads 15
 2450 Copenhagen SV
 Denmark



ADAPTING TO CHANGE: FROM RESEARCH TO DECISION-MAKING

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 CLIMATE, IMPACTS & ADAPTATION



COPENHAGEN, DENMARK
 25-27 AUGUST 2014



Following the highly successful conferences in Stockholm (2010) and Helsinki (2012) we hereby announce the Third Nordic International Conference on Climate Change Adaptation in Copenhagen in 2014.

As highlighted in consecutive reports from the IPCC, there is overwhelming scientific evidence that anthropogenic climate change is taking place and the chances are high that future climate is going to change even more than what has already been realized. Impacts of changes over recent decades are likewise visible throughout the Nordic region, manifested e.g. through observed changes in the hydrological cycle, reductions in sea ice cover, lengthening growing seasons and the occurrence and strength of heavy rain events.



Adaptation to these changes is already high on the agenda in the Nordic and international societies. However, science is providing new information on changes and their consequences, which calls for a wider dialogue to enable adjustments of already initiated adaptation plans as well as providing the baseline knowledge for future initiatives.

IPCC AR5; So NOW WHAT?

By April 2014, the IPCC will have released its three Working Group Reports, which contribute to its Fifth Assessment (AR5). A final contribution to the AR5, the IPCC Synthesis Report, will be approved here in Copenhagen later in 2014. Some of the new knowledge that could be invaluable for informing climate change adaptation includes information on:

Climate predictability, observations and attribution of changing climate and impacts, emergent risks and key vulnerabilities, impacts on human and natural systems, sectoral and regional adaptation, adaptation and mitigation linkages, dealing with uncertainty, climate sensitivity

MAINSTREAMING

Mainstreaming implementation strategies may well be the key for adapting to a changing climate. Facilitating adaptation decision-making and implementation of social and technical adaptation options involves both the private and public sectors and will require bridging the gaps of different disciplines and areas. Innovation is also likely to be an important driver for adaptation. Some of the key issues in this theme include:

Adaptation and the private sector, policy development and implementation, towards best practices, assessment of impact response risks and opportunities climate & weather services, in safety technology, in education/public information, etc., embracing uncertainties, cross-cutting issues in adaptation

LIMITS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Adaptation strategies have limitations but will also provide new opportunities. Defining and implementing strategies aiming at optimizing adaptation to a changing climate in a flexible, sustainable and timely manner is highly relevant. Important factors influencing the implementation of adaptation are:

Limits to technologies, time scales of interest / urgency for adaptation, adaptive implementation of policies and measures, robust decision-making strategies, economic incentives and costs of adaptation, balancing physical uncertainty and societal development, smart adaptation, building resilience, shift of paradigms

LOW PROBABILITY / HIGH IMPACT EVENTS

There is general acknowledgement of the potential importance of climate change impacts on businesses and operations, in particular when it comes to low-probability, high-impact events like storms or floods. Yet incorporating this knowledge into today's adaptation plans are severely impeded by e.g. a limited understanding of the uncertainties and a poor understanding of how to translate climate information into value chains for different sectors. Examples of issues in this theme are:

Risk aversion and societal preferences as a driver of adaptation, the cost of no-action, risk management as a decision-making tool, extreme climate events, high-end emission scenarios, managing concurrent hazards



TIME TABLE

Deadline for submission of abstracts: Jan 15, 2014
Conference registration start: Feb 15, 2014
Deadline for early bird registration: Apr 15, 2014