
INVITATION

“How Risk reduction and insurance strengthen the Adaptation Package in a Copenhagen Agreement”

Date: Thursday, September 24, 2009
Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Topic: Risk reduction, insurance, & adaptation
Venue: Simon Wiesenthal Center - New York Tolerance Center, Screening Room, 226 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017 (between 2nd and 3rd Avenues)

Introduction

Development gains are increasingly at risk from a number of pressures, including climate change. In specific areas around the globe, weather-related extreme events are already being observed in greater intensity and frequency, resulting in drought, floods and tropical storms. Losses from climate-related hazards are rising and currently account for about 100 billion dollars per year. Changes in the climate threaten to undermine the resilience of poorer countries and their citizens to absorb loss and recover from disaster impacts. The decisive question today is which strategies we should follow to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have committed themselves to considering the special needs and concerns of developing countries resulting from the adverse effects of climate change in the area of insurance. Many governments and organizations are exploring how disaster risk reduction and risk sharing approaches might help countries particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts adapt. A central concern, and the focus of this panel, is how to make such measures accessible and affordable to vulnerable developing countries in order to support them in their efforts to reduce risk and adapt to climate change.

Objectives

The MCII session on Climate Insurance aims to raise awareness of insurance-related mechanisms that can help manage the impacts of climate change. MCII’s session introduces innovative climate insurance mechanisms for developing countries as part of climate change adaptation.

The session offers cohesive information on opportunities, challenges, and considerations for climate-related insurance tools as part of adaptation to global warming.

Presentations will provide a point of departure for concrete discussions on:

1. **Innovative climate insurance mechanisms**, including compensation – based schemes for developing countries to manage climate change impacts
2. **Challenges and opportunities** for using insurance-related mechanisms, barriers that need to be overcome if insurance options are to become more viable
3. **Concrete next steps** to further explore and implement climate-related insurance mechanisms

The session seeks to build a network among organizations and initiatives for insurance-related approaches, and to identify pilot projects for the application of insurance-related solutions. Finally, it should facilitate discussion of how to promote loss reduction measures in connection with climate-related events.

Panel Program (next page)

In the hope that you accept this invitation, please confirm your participation replying to Ms. Naiyi Zhu (nzhu@unu.edu) by September 22, 2009.

Panel Program (next page)

Moderated by:

Jean-Marc Coicaud

Director of the United Nations University (UNU) Office at the United Nations in New York

Speakers:

Thomas Loster

Chairman of Munich Re Foundation

Koko Warner

Head of the Environmental Migration, Social Vulnerability, and Adaptation Section at the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), Founder and Executive Board Member Munich Climate Insurance Initiative

Simon Young

Chief Executive Officer, Caribbean Risk Managers Ltd

Yannick Glemarec

Director of the Environment Finance Group at UNDP

Molly Hellmuth

Director, Climate and Society Publication Secretariat, IRI Columbia University

A note about the Munich Climate Insurance Initiative (MCII): The Munich Climate Insurance Initiative (MCII) was launched by in April 2005 in response to the growing realization that insurance-related solutions can play a role in adaptation to climate change, as advocated in the Framework Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. This initiative brings together insurers, experts on climate change and adaptation, NGOs, and policy researchers intent on finding solutions to the risks posed by climate change. MCII provides a forum and gathering point for insurance-related expertise on climate change impact issues. MCII is hosted at the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS). Visit MCII's website at www.climate-insurance.org .

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