



Cities and Climate Change Science Conference co-sponsored by IPCC 5 – 7 March 2018

1. Background and Objectives

The role of cities and human settlements in the Paris Agreement was discussed at COP22 (November 2016, Marrakesh). Beforehand, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) decided to hold a major scientific conference (October 2016, Bangkok) to further develop the scientific understanding of climate change and cities, in support of the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Cities and Climate Change Science Conference, to be held in March 2018, aims to bring together representatives from the academia, research organisations and agencies; concerned member states of the United Nations; city and regional governments; and urban and climate change practitioners, to:

- identify key research and knowledge gaps related to cities and climate change;
- inspire global and regional research that will lead to peer-reviewed publications and scientific reports; and
- stimulate research in Cities and Climate Change over the IPCC 6th Assessment Report (AR6) cycle.

The Conference is expected to catalyse a generation of new data and research on climate impacts and solutions at local level. Its outcomes will inform the upcoming IPCC reports and ultimately support cities and citizens to build low-carbon, climate-resilient and sustainable cities.

A diverse group of urban and scientific organizations comprises co-organizers of this Conference, identified as #CitiesIPCC - C40, Cities Alliance, ICLEI, Future Earth, SDSN, UCLG, UN-Habitat, UN Environment and WCRP.

2. Progress

The overall process is guided directly by the co-chairs of three Working Groups of IPCC, emphasizing the nature of this event as a scientific conference. A Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) has been nominated to lead the overall process (strategy, vision, conference programme, etc.), working closely with an Organizing Committee (OC) in charge of communications, logistical arrangements and workplans for implementation. A management group (co-led by the host city) will look after budgeting and fundraising.

[An open call to host the conference](#) was launched on 10 November 2016 during the COP22. The

selection process was facilitated by the C40 Secretariat until the finalization in the 3rd week of March. Applications from 10 cities received – showing good regional balance, high level of interest by cities worldwide, and the good audience of the consortium of co-organizers. By the representatives of #CitiesIPCC, The selected city is to be announced shortly, that offers significant commitment by the municipal government toward the event, through the detailed and high-quality proposal to ensure the success. Other information relating to the Conference logistics (e.g. conference web site) are also expected with rapid development as of May 2017 after the official announcement.

The selection process for the SSC members was facilitated by the Future Earth Secretariat early April. The SSC members are selected based on their personal capacity in the areas of climate science (physical and social), urban planning and related areas, in consideration of disciplines, geographical and gender balance. The SSC includes representatives of the three IPCC Working Groups, and will be supported by the conference partners, Future Earth and WCRP.

3. Timeline, Expected Outcome and Challenges

The conference provides an exceptional opportunity to develop in-depth links between scientific and urban communities, particularly to contemplate possible developments for urban-focused climate information backed by clear and robust physical scientific analyses. The development of this new scientific knowledge is done in response to a need identified by decision-makers at the international level, namely IPCC member countries, and is of direct relevance to UNFCCC member countries and programme of work. In addition, the strong partnership between the scientific community, the urban community (including local governments) and IPCC to organise this generation of knowledge is unique and innovative and as represents a fantastic potential for not only generating new knowledge but also a use of this knowledge by a broad range of societal and decision makers' actors.

Recalling a brief discussion at the previous JSC session (April 2016), WCRP welcomes this timely initiative, and takes the opportunity to become a prominent partner for urban agenda in support of credible research leading toward reliable climate and environmental services for urban community. WCRP will work closely with other #CitiesIPCC co-organizations through the work of SSC and OC.

4. To participate in the Conference:

The Conference web site, to provide all information on the Conference at each step, will shortly be active at the address: <http://www.citiesipcc.org>.

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