

IPCC Side Event at COP 21
Monday, 30 November, 2015, 18.30-20.00

From science to solutions: uses and strategies of IPCC communications for a climate-changing world

With increasing calls for the IPCC to make its work more accessible, this side event will look at possibilities for the IPCC, working alone or with partners, to reach stakeholders from business to adaptation practitioners in LDCs more effectively while maintaining its scientific rigour and objectivity.

The IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) is the biggest and most comprehensive assessment undertaken of the science relating to climate change, its impacts and likely risks, and options for tackling it. As well as underpinning many national and subnational climate policies, it is a key input into the negotiations at COP21 for a new agreement on climate change. Yet many people – from policymakers to members of the public – complain that IPCC products are hard to read and not user-friendly.

At this side event the IPCC will discuss how to make its products more accessible and more actionable, in the light of the needs of its principal stakeholders, for instance the adaptation strategies of developing countries and the requirements of business. The Chair of the IPCC will outline the challenges faced by the IPCC in communicating its complex yet vital products and the steps that have been taken to improve communications. A science communications expert will look beyond the style of reports and press materials to discuss how organizations such as the IPCC can engage more effectively with their stakeholders' values. Leaders from developing countries and cities will outline their adaptation priorities and explain how they want the IPCC to help them access its products. A business leaders and a representative of the UNFCCC Adaptation Committee will discuss their requirements and responsibilities. Perspectives will also be sought from the audience.

The discussion will look at possible solutions that address the impact of climate change regionally and globally and support adaptation projects in regions threatened by climate change. This side event will provide guidance to the IPCC as it prepares to start work on the Sixth Assessment Report and reviews its communications strategy.

Panel (in order of speaking):

- Hoesung Lee, Chair of the IPCC
- Paul Lussier, Director, Science Communications with Impact Network, Yale University
- HE Agostinho do Rosário, Prime Minister, Republic of Mozambique
- Ulrich Sumptoh, Mayor of Port Vila, Vanuatu
- Celia Blauel, Deputy Mayor, City of Paris
- Ali Shareef, Member, UNFCCC Adaptation Committee
- Keith Tuffley, CEO, The B Team Business Leadership Initiative
- *Moderated by Jonathan Lynn, Head of Communications, IPCC*

[Panellists will speak for 5-7 minutes each]