

Media Briefing

Wednesday June 22nd 2011 in Lima, Peru

The media briefing will take place at **2 p.m. Lima time** (GMT-5) in the Peruvian Ministry of External Affairs. In order to join the press conference by phone, please contact Ms Rockaya Aidara, IPCC Press Officer at raidara@wmo.int or by phone at +41 22 730 8120

Joint IPCC WGI/WGII/WGIII Expert Meeting on Geoengineering

Prof. Ottmar Edenhofer, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Co - Chair WG III, IPCC
Prof. Christopher Field, Carnegie Institution for Science, Co - Chair WG II, IPCC
Prof. Ramon Pichs - Madruga, Centro de Investigaciones de la Economía, Co - Chair WG III, IPCC
Prof. Thomas Stocker, University of Bern, Co - Chair WG I, IPCC
Assoc. Prof. Eduardo Calvo, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, IPCC Bureau member

This media briefing provides information about the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the occasion of the Joint IPCC WGI/WGII/WGIII Expert Meeting on Geoengineering being held in Lima, Peru, from June 20 to 22, 2011.

In 2008, IPCC member governments decided to produce a Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) that reviews and assesses scientific, technical, and socio-economic information relevant to the understanding of the risks of and responses to climate change. The scientific work of the IPCC is organised in three Working Groups (WGs): WGI covers the “Physical Science Basis of Climate Change”, WGII covers “Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability” and WGIII covers “Mitigation of Climate Change”. Each WG contributes one volume to the AR5. The WGs jointly integrate their key findings into a Synthesis Report. The IPCC Plenary approved the outlines of all three WG contributions to the AR5 at its 31st session in October 2009. The aim is to release the AR5 in 2013-2014.

In the IPCC’s Fourth Assessment Report published in 2007, geoengineering was covered only briefly in the WGIII contribution. For the WG contributions to the AR5, geoengineering is included as a topic in the outlines approved by all IPCC member governments. A subsequent proposal to hold a joint IPCC Expert Meeting on Geoengineering was submitted by the Co-Chairs of WGs I, II and III and accepted by the IPCC Plenary at its 32nd session in October 2010. IPCC Expert Meetings support the broader IPCC assessment process. They provide a platform for exchange and discussion among experts from different disciplines on a variety of new and/or cross-cutting topics.

At this Expert Meeting in Lima, experts from all over the world will discuss the topic of geoengineering, including how to deliver an integrated high-quality and balanced assessment of the scientific knowledge on geoengineering within the broader context of climate-relevant issues covered by the AR5. The assessment will be based on scientific, technical and socioeconomic information.

A robust and comprehensive assessment of the scientific literature on geoengineering needs to take into account the possible adverse impacts over short and long time frames. At this Expert Meeting the scientific basis of geoengineering, its impacts and response options will be discussed and key knowledge gaps will be identified. The meeting is an important step towards a coordinated and consistent treatment of geoengineering within and across the contributions of all three IPCC WGs to the AR5.

Meeting participants were selected, following the IPCC practice, from a slate of names suggested by a Scientific Steering Group and the IPCC WG Bureaux with additional proposals by IPCC member governments. They represent a broad array of relevant expertise from the natural and social sciences coming from all regions of the world. Participants include authors of the AR5 as well as other renowned experts. The meeting output does not constitute itself an assessment but will serve as input to the AR5 assessment process.

The AR5 assessment will be carried out in strict compliance with the “Principles Governing the IPCC Work” that require it to be a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent assessment that is policy relevant without being policy prescriptive. The WGI/WGII/WGIII Co-Chairs consider this IPCC Expert Meeting as a starting point of a careful and balanced assessment of geoengineering in the AR5.

Further information about the IPCC

- The IPCC is the leading body for the assessment of climate change, established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme.
- The three IPCC Working Groups assess the physical science basis of climate change (WGI); climate change impacts, adaptation and vulnerability (WGII) and the mitigation of climate change (WGIII).
- The IPCC assessment process is designed to ensure consideration of all relevant scientific information from established journals with robust peer review processes, or from other sources which have undergone robust and independent peer review.
- The entire report writing process of the IPCC is subjected to extensive and repeated review by experts as well as by governments.
- Please see the IPCC AR5 Brochure and the WGI/WGII/WGIII web sites for further details.
 - www.ipcc-wg1.unibe.ch
 - www.ipcc-wg2.gov
 - www-ipcc-wg3.de