

A project by:



Supported by:



Federal Foreign Office

ENVIRONMENT CONFLICT AND COOPERATION

Newsletter Issue No. 4/2013



Focus on Climate Diplomacy

► Late Warnings for Warsaw – Haiyan and Its Companions

by Dennis Taenzler, adelphi

► Climate and Food Challenges in Bangladesh: a Perfect Storm?

Interview with Saleemul Huq, IIED (by Jacob Glass, NewSecurityBeat)

Regional Highlights

North America

► The Geopolitical Implications of U.S. Shale as a Global Resource

by Michael Zimmer and Elissa Welch with Seaira Christian-Daniels,
Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs at Ohio University

Sub-Saharan Africa

► New Approaches for Foreign Policy to Address Climate Change in Africa

by Laura Griestop and Lena Ruthner, adelphi

Asia

► What Needs to Happen Next on Air Pollution in China

by Li Shuo, ChinaDialogue

Topics

Climate, Water & Food Security: Two Views from South Asia

► Why Eastern Himalayan Countries Should Cooperate in Transboundary Water Resource Management

Interview with Golam Rasul, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (by Stephan Wolters, adelphi)

Tools

Upcoming Events

► Climate and Health Summit 2013

► Water-Food Security in Cambodia and the Vietnam Delta - Assessing Risk and Alternatives under an Altered Flow Regime

► Call for Session Proposals: Climate Engineering Conference 2014

Publications and Resources

► Harvesting Peace: Food Security, Conflict, and Cooperation

► Climate Diplomacy on Twitter

► Water Security, Risk and Society

► China's Environmental Crisis through the Lens

► Handbook on Climate Change and Human Security

► A Fair Compromise to Break the Climate Impasse: Video Interview with Marco Grasso

► The Politics of the Resource Curse: A Review

Legal Notice / Contact

Late Warnings for Warsaw – Haiyan and Its Companions

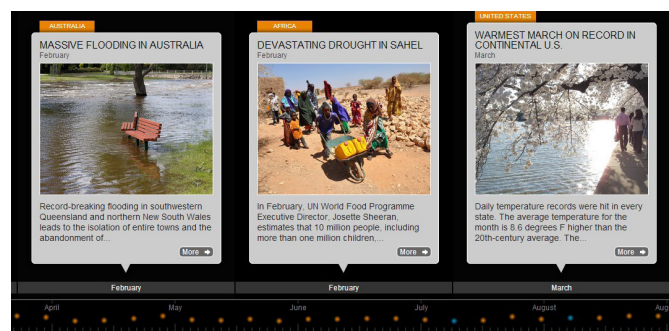
by Dennis Taenzler, adelphi

Haiyan wasn't actually on the 19th Conference of the Parties (COP) participants list which just started in Warsaw on 11 November. But due to the devastating and tragic impacts of the super-typhoon, Haiyan was omnipresent at the opening session of the COP and will most likely continue to be present until the end of the two week negotiations. Polish Environment Minister Marcin Korolec referred to the disaster in the Philippines as an „unforgettable, painful awakening.“

Of course, it is impossible to blame climate change for individual storms, but the Philippines are already confronted with some of the consequences of climate change including sea level rise. According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) parts of the Philippines witnessed a **rise of 35cm in average sea levels from 1950 to 2010, compared to a global average of 10cm**. Haiyan is a convincing illustration of the struggle between the international community and changing environments in already disaster-prone areas. In addition, the current situation in the affected region around the City of Tacloban – characterized by violence and instability – underlines the concerns on potential security risks associated with climate change. These were also part of the **G8 communique** released after the Lough Erne Summit in Northern Ireland this summer.

However, Haiyan is only a late warning. After all, earlier

warning over the last few years have demanded a targeted, powerful climate diplomatic effort – especially for the COP caravan from Warsaw, through Lima, to Paris in 2015. A **timeline** of extreme events that occurred in 2012 indicates not only the number but also global distribution of storms, but also floods and droughts. The list for the first two months of the year includes flooding and landslides in Southeast Brazil, 50 major wildfires in Chile, Europe's worst cold snap in a quarter century, massive flooding in Australia, and devastating drought in the Sahel. These extreme events resulted in injury, death, and millions of people at risk of food insecurity and other threats to human security. In addition, more scientific evidence was published in 2012 on the contribution of climate change to extreme wea-



WRI Extreme Weather & Climate Events Timeline

ther events like heat waves, high temperatures, and heavy precipitation. As the special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change summarized, climate extremes can - in combination with social vulnerabilities and exposure to risks - produce climate-related disasters: "The main message from the report is that we know enough to make good decisions about managing the risks of climate-related disasters. Sometimes we take advantage of this knowledge, but many times we do not," **stated Chris Field, Co-Chair of IPCC's Working Group II**.

In other words, there have been plenty of early warning signs highlighting how important an ambitious climate agreement is – not only with respect to the overall target

and timetables for emission reductions, but also to strengthen climate change resilience through financial

and technical assistance. More concretely, for the COP 19 negotiators it is a matter of credibility to present results on the "loss and damage" agenda. Saleemul Huq, director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development in Bangladesh, outlined in a **recent blog post** how different South and North narratives are on this agenda item: industrialized countries may frame "loss and damage" in terms of "liability and compensation" – whereas a southern perspective on this issue is dominated by the notion of climate injustice and a lack of implementation of the polluter pays principle. Overcoming such gaps in Warsaw will be of crucial importance – too many early warnings have been ignored in recent years.

The Geopolitical Implications of U.S. Shale as a Global Resource

by Michael Zimmer and Elissa Welch with Seaira Christian-Daniels,

The Voinovich School at Ohio University

The past decade has seen substantial change in the U.S. natural gas and oil industry. Since 2000, rapid growth in the production of natural gas, oil and liquids from shale formations in North America has dramatically altered the national and global energy market landscape. Shale energy is providing national economic and security benefits as the U.S. has raced to become the second largest global energy supplier.

Countries that have shale resources will help determine power relationships and alter the energy landscape that previously dominated the 20th century. The transport of shale gas in liquid form across oceans “increases the preciousness of geography, rather than decreases it,” according to **Robert D. Kaplan**, chief geopolitical analyst at Stratfor Global Intelligence. Capital, technology, legal system infrastructure, geology and property ownership support will also determine the timing of widespread international development, but for now, the U.S. will enjoy almost a decade’s head start over global competition.

Shale energy will limit the need for expensive imports of LNG into the U.S., reducing the trade deficit and helping strengthen the U.S. economy. LNG supplies from the U.S. will be diverted to European and Asian buyers, presenting consumers in Europe with a supply alternative to Russian pipeline sources as they plan ahead. In the March 18, 2013, issue of **Inside FERC**, Chloe Hang notes that oil-linked prices are likely to dominate global LNG markets in the near term

“The world will be smaller because of unconventional gas extraction technology, but that only increases the preciousness of geography”

with growth in short-term or spot trading. The change in pricing terms signals a **major paradigm shift** for global energy economics. For example, because of competition, Russia has begun accepting lower prices for its natural gas and is now allowing a portion of its sales in Europe to be indexed to spot natural gas markets, or regional market hubs, rather

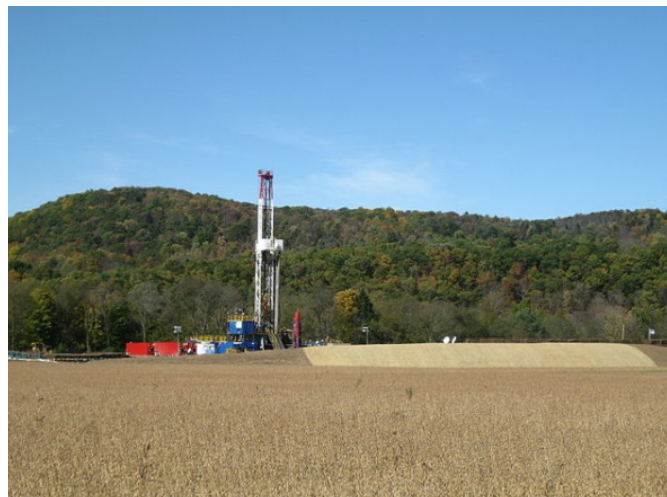


Photo by Ruhrfisch / Wikimedia

than global oil prices. Shale gas development will have significant geopolitical ramifications and influence U.S. energy and foreign policy in part by:

- Decreasing U.S. interests in the Middle East and freeing U.S. military resources for other possible threats from unstable regions.
- Increasing domestic LNG supply and opening U.S. export markets to Europe for coal, efficiency and clean tech products—provided from U.S. manufacturers with proven results—offering export value to the European Union.
- Shifting from uncertain oil supplies to a greater use of natural gas without increasing the power of large natural gas resource holders such as Russia, Iran and Venezuela.
- Changing international relationships with countries that may have a higher demand for LNG imports such as post-Fukushima Japan.

Domestically, shale-producing states have already created jobs and improved infrastructure development in the U.S. To continue this momentum, the United States will need to adopt policies that ensure shale gas development can proceed steadily and predictably with sound environmental

oversight for the long term while also attracting capital, maintaining existing resources (or securing new resources) for manufacturing, and ensuring benefits to the local

communities whose landscapes and economies are now the agents of global change.

To read more about how U.S. shale development is affecting geopolitical relationships worldwide, read the full post [here](#).

Regional Highlights: Sub-Saharan Africa

New Approaches for Foreign Policy to Address Climate Change in Africa

by Laura Griestop and Lena Ruthner, adelphi



Photo by adelphi

Regional high-level experts and decision-makers met in Addis Ababa on 24 October 2013 to identify new policy approaches to address the challenges from climate change to Africa, in particular regarding food, energy, water and migration. The policy dialogue took place at the United Nations Conference Centre, Addis Ababa (UNCC-AA) and was jointly organised by the Berlin-based international think-tank [adelphi](#), the [African Institute for Security Studies \(ISS\)](#) and the [African Climate Policy Centre \(ACPC\)](#), in cooperation with and supported by the German Federal Foreign Office and the German Embassy in Addis Ababa.

“Climate Diplomacy efforts can create enabling conditions, build confidence and support negotiations.”

“Africa’s climate is changing; the continent is getting warmer, with serious environmental and socio-economic consequences,” said Alfred Omenya, Associate Professor at the Technical University Kenya. The impacts of climate change on the African continent will be significant and widespread. More variable precipitation levels, increased temperatures and severe droughts, floods and other natural disasters are

forecast for vast sub-regions in the continent. This will have enormous implications for water, food and energy security and affect trade and agriculture. Climate change is therefore one of the biggest challenges, threatening to destabilize countries with low adaptation capacities and to compromise advances in safeguarding human security.

In response to the challenges identified, new ways to integrate climate change into national, regional and international policies were discussed. Important recommendations that were developed include:

- the enhancement of knowledge and reliable data necessary to understand and predict climate change impacts on resource security in the region,
- awareness raising, knowledge and capacity building at the level of governments, institutions and populations,
- the strengthening of regional conflict resolution mechanisms and early warning systems (e.g. through the building and strengthening of transboundary river management commissions).

Participants agreed that climate change has an impact on global economic development and human well-being, emphasizing the necessity for a new profile of [Climate Diplomacy](#). Diplomatic efforts in this context can create enabling conditions, build confidence and support negotiations. Instruments should include enhanced development cooperation, conflict prevention, humanitarian assistance, and targeted financial support for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

What Needs to Happen Next on Air Pollution in China

by Li Shuo, ChinaDialogue



Photo by Tom Spender / Flickr

“Golden Week” was anything but golden for Beijingers as the city was once again blanketed by heavy haze. The air quality index climbed above 400 during the October national holiday period, a level more than 10 times higher than the country’s ambient air quality standard. For Beijing, it is indeed depressing to know that it is only a matter of time (and unfavourable weather patterns) until the next round of haze hits. What should we see handled differently this winter to prevent a repeat of last year?

The first and most influential response would be to accelerate the process of scaling back coal consumption. Back in September, the Chinese State Council issued its **most comprehensive plan** to tackle air pollution to date. Controlling coal consumption is a feature element of this document. Combined with commitments from the provincial areas of Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, and Shandong, China aims to reduce coal consumption from these four provinces by 83 million tonnes by 2017 – the first time in history that the government has mandated negative growth targets for coal.

However, the exact roadmap of the reduction is unclear. There are already numerous precedents where Chinese officials have outlined ambitious targets only to later face difficulties in fulfilling them. The last minute hustling by provinces to try to achieve energy intensity targets in 2009 is the most prominent case in point.

Apart from coal, an emergency plan for severe air pollution days would also help. Leaked information has suggested that Beijing will implement an “odd-even” vehicle ban for

heavily polluted days similar to the one imposed for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. This is a scheme where cars are only allowed on the roads on alternate days depending on their odd or even plate numbers. Its imposition would effectively bring half of Beijing’s six million vehicles off the road on a given day.

A third element that we need is more in-depth research into the causes and sources of air pollution, as well as a thorough scientific assessment of its health impacts. No authoritative scientific source has confirmed where **Beijing’s pollutants** come from. Whilst there has been a shift in attention to neighbouring provinces such as Hebei, local emissions originating from Beijing and its suburbs should not be ignored.

“Back in September, the Chinese State Council issued its most comprehensive plan to tackle air pollution to date. Controlling coal consumption is a feature element of this document.”

Two new projects led by the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) – one seeking to map out PM emissions sources in key regions, the other attempting to establish a nationwide monitoring network of the health impacts of haze – are late but urgently needed. The success of these projects is tied heavily to the extent to which the MEP is willing to design an inclusive process, improve data access, and maximize the impact of the research.

Last but not least, a compliance system needs to be enforced. By linking air pollution with the cadre performance review, the State Council’s action plan is no doubt a step in the right direction, but follow-up checks on how this unfolds in practice are essential. In governing air pollution, the government needs to act more responsively by disclosing the consequences of failing to meet targets. Taking these elements together, it seems like the toolkit to guarantee us a blue sky is already in the government’s back pocket.

This article originally appeared on [ChinaDialogue](#). Please read the [full length version](#).

Why Eastern Himalayan Countries Should Cooperate in Trans-boundary Water Resource Management

Interview with Golam Rasul, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
by Stephan Wolters, adelphi

In the Eastern Himalayas, 700 million people depend on the erratic water supplies from the river system of Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna. How can regional cooperation improve water security and livelihoods in the region? The ECC editorial team has talked to Golam Rasul, Theme Leader for Livelihoods at the [International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development \(ICIMOD\)](#) in Nepal. He is author of a [recent paper](#) on opportunities for cooperation in transboundary water resource management in the Eastern Himalayas.



Photo by ICIMOD

ECC: Why is improved transboundary water cooperation in the Eastern Himalayas so urgently needed, and what are the potential benefits?

From their origin in the Himalayas until they reach the Bay of Bengal, the Ganges, the Brahmaputra, also known as Yarlung Tsangpo in China and Jamuna in Bangladesh, and the Meghna (GBM) river systems connect China, India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh hydrologically, economically, and environmentally and provide water, energy, food, and livelihoods to millions of people. These river systems have enormous potential in terms of water, energy, irrigation, navigation, and transportation.

The GBM is the third largest river system in the world in terms of freshwater flow volume after the Amazon and the Congo. Its huge potential, however, has remained largely underutilized. As a result, the region, one of the poorest in the world, is facing increasing water stress, severe floods and droughts, energy crises, food insecurity, persistent poverty and vulnerability. About 20% of the population in the Eastern Himalayan region lacks access to safe drinking

water, and per capita energy consumption in this region is among the lowest in the world. Moreover, recurrent floods and droughts have devastated economies and threatened food security across the region.

The countries of the Eastern Himalayas depend heavily on water from the GBM river system to [produce enough food for their growing populations](#), provide access to energy for the rural poor, ensure human health, and support environmental protection. Different countries of the region depend on each other for flood management, hydropower development, irrigation, navigation, and the augmentation of dry season flow. For example, floods originating in Nepal affect Bihar in India; a glacial lake outburst flood in China can affect hydropower stations in Nepal; erosion in one country deposits sediment in another country; and hydropower potential lies in one country, while its market lies in another country. These interdependencies necessitate the collaborative development of water resources in this region.

ECC: What kind of cooperation is needed in this regard?

Regional cooperation using a [river basin approach](#) can bring additional economic, environmental, social, and political benefits through multi-purpose river projects, which help by storing monsoon water, mitigating the effects of floods and droughts, augmenting dry season river flows, expanding irrigation and navigation facilities, generating hydropower, and enhancing energy and environmental security.

Storing even a fraction of the huge flow of monsoon water in Himalayan rivers to generate hydroelectricity could provide flood control and irrigation benefits and accelerate economic growth and poverty alleviation. Regional cooperation can unleash the potentials of industrial growth and economic development and improve water, energy, food, and livelihood security of millions of people in the region.

“Storing even a fraction of the huge flow of monsoon water to generate hydroelectricity could provide flood control and irrigation benefits and accelerate economic growth.”

ECC: Given these significant advantages of water cooperation, why does it seem so difficult to achieve? What are the main obstacles?

Despite huge potential, the collaborative development of shared water resources in the Eastern Himalayan region has remained sub-optimal. The most important reason for this is that water resource management is viewed primarily from a national perspective, with an over-emphasis on sharing water rather than expanding its benefits through joint development. Within this perspective, water negotiation is often seen as a 'zero-sum game' in which gains for one country mean losses for another, and decisions are often unilateral and fragmented.



Photo by ICIMOD

ECC: How could that be changed?

This situation could be improved through the sharing of reliable data and information and the exchange of information among the countries, which can show clearly the benefits of cooperation and cost of non-cooperation. In the absence of proper information, different groups interpret issues from different perspectives, which often fuels suspicion among the co-riparian countries and hinders cooperation. Primary steps to getting past obstacles to the cooperative development of shared water resources in the region are overcoming the nationalistic perspective, providing sound knowledge and information, and engaging diverse stakeholders.

ECC: Given these significant advantages of water cooperation, why does it seem so difficult to achieve? What are the main obstacles?

Although there are challenges, new driving forces for regional cooperation are emerging that include civil society,

NGOs, and scientific communities. Civil society organizations and other non-state actors are actively working to make transboundary water governance and negotiations more inclusive and to create space for civil society and scientific communities. There is a growing realization and demand for the collaborative development of shared water resources to ensure food, water, energy, and livelihood security for an ever-growing population, protecting the environment, promoting socioeconomic development, and alleviating poverty in all of the countries in the region.

“Water resource management is viewed primarily from a national perspective, with an over-emphasis on sharing water rather than expanding its benefits through joint development.”

There has been a positive shift in the region towards cooperative water management. Though slow, efforts are ongoing to resolve differences over water issues. The policy environment in the region is becoming more favourable, and the physical and institutional basis for energy cooperation is growing. Cooperation between Bhutan and India on hydropower development is a good example in this regard. Thus, good entry points could be sharing data and information and undertaking joint research to provide an objective basis for negotiation and the collaborative development of shared water resources in the region.

However, it is never basin-wide due to long-standing political instability. Existing bilateral agreements tend to be narrow as they centre on water allocation, with an emphasis on infrastructure development and use. Water quality issues are not addressed in these agreements. The problem is that the riparian countries are more intent on dividing the region's water resources than on sharing them. Both on the level of discourse and agreements, the focus lies on the quantity of available water rather than on the potential benefits derived from its shared use. ICIMOD, with its partners, is working to provide credible information and knowledge through its different research programmes such as Regional Flood Information Systems (HKH-HYCOS) programme funded by the Government of Finland and Koshi Basin Programme funded by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

ECC: Thank you very much for this interview.

Climate and Food Challenges in Bangladesh: a Perfect Storm?

Interview with Saleemul Huq, International Institute for Environment and Development
by Jacob Glass, NewSecurityBeat

When it comes to climate change vulnerability, it sometimes seems as if all eyes are on Bangladesh. NewSecurityBeat's Jacob Glass has interviewed Saleemul Huq, senior fellow at the [International Institute for Environment and Development](#) in London, former executive director of the [Bangladesh Center for Advanced Studies](#), and lead author of two chapters on adaptation and sustainable development in the IPCC's [third](#) and [fourth](#) assessment reports.



Photo by IIED

NSB: What have been the observable effects of climate change in Bangladesh?

Bangladesh has a lot of problems with salinity intrusion in the coastal areas. It has drought in the northwestern part of the country; it has floods in the central part; it suffers from cyclones; and is a rapidly urbanizing country. It's difficult to say these are definitely happening because of climate change, but one can say that they will be exacerbated by climate change. It is early days yet, and most of the climatic impacts are in the future, rather than at the moment.

NSB: Bangladesh is one of the [most densely populated countries](#) in the world and yet relies heavily on subsistence agriculture. How has food production kept up with the growing population thus far?

There have been a lot of modifications made to the rice varieties to make them more resistant and able to be used more effectively following floods, droughts, or salinity changes. Our research scientists have also developed short-duration rice strains so that if farms are flooded, they can be replanted and still produce a crop.

NSB: Do you think food diversification makes Bangladesh more resilient to environmental changes?

Absolutely. The basic strategy on food has to be diversification. Agricultural diversification is one strategy for becoming more resilient, so you don't put all your eggs in one basket with one simple crop. A transition from a dependence on rice to more fish is needed. Fish is an important source of protein and commercial employment for people, and that is growing very, very fast.

NSB: How does aquaculture factor into Bangladesh's production of food? What is the nature of the growing aquaculture sector?

From a nutritional aspect, fish has become a significant source of protein for the diet of almost all Bangladeshis. First, there is the coastal belt where shrimp farming is occurring. This generally tends to be large-scale, commercial production for export. The growing of shrimp in saline conditions has become an adaptation to the condition of salinity in those areas, and has become a significant export market for the country. It has generated export earnings and employment.



Photo by Amir Jina / Flickr

The second success story is just simple freshwater **aqua-culture** in ponds, mostly on homesteads. These are mostly small-scale operations, where people have acquired knowledge and technology for getting fingerlings (baby fish), growing fingerlings, and then selling them in the market. This has grown very fast.

NSB: What are some of the negative aspects related to the expansion of coastal belt, commercial-scale shrimp farms?

The main negative aspect is that in order to grow shrimp, they actually have to allow saltwater to come in. So it comes inside the shrimp farm, but it also affects the surrounding areas, and the surrounding vegetation dies.

“Bangladeshis are vulnerable, but they are also extremely resilient, and that resilience is what will help us tackle these adverse conditions that climate change is bringing to us and overcome them in the long run.”

Socially, what also happens is that the owners of these large farmers tend to be rich people coming from the city. They are not local people. They employ a few people to guard their land and bring the guards in from outside. So they don't actually generate employment locally, and the local people's land becomes saline and it becomes difficult for them to live and survive there. There has been quite a lot

of social unrest between people who used to live in these areas and the owners of the shrimp farms.

NSB: What are some of your hopes and fears, looking ahead to Bangladesh's environmental challenges in the years ahead?

The fear is that climate change will exacerbate already existing risks for food shortages, damage crops, and increase rural to urban migration. These are trends that are already happening and are likely to be adversely affected by climate change.

The other side of that coin is more hopeful. As a country, Bangladesh is very aware of this problem. From the government, down to civil society, to our researchers, we are now taking steps to deal with it. We are not sitting idle. We are fighting. We are coming up with solutions. Bangladeshis in general are a very, very resilient people, so my hope and faith lies in that resilience and our ability to overcome adversity.

That is the story here – the resilience, not the vulnerability. Bangladeshis are vulnerable, but they are also extremely resilient, and that resilience is what will help us tackle these adverse conditions that climate change is bringing to us and overcome them in the long run.

For more insights on vulnerability and resilience in Bangladesh, please read the full interview on [NewSecurityBeat](#).



Photo by Giulio Napolitano / FAO

Upcoming Events

Warsaw, Poland (16 November 2013)

Climate and Health Summit 2013

The global health community, including policy makers, experts and civil society representatives, is invited to join the [Climate and Health Summit 2013](#) that will be held during the UNFCCC COP 19 negotiations in Warsaw, Poland. In Durban, where the Summit took place for the first time during the COP 17, participants issued a [Health Sector Call to Action](#) underlining the health impacts of climate change and measures needed to mitigate them. The event is organised by [Health and Environment Alliance \(HEAL\)](#), the local European partner of the [Global Climate and Health Alliance](#).

Call for Session Proposals (6 December 2013)

Climate Engineering Conference 2014

The [Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies \(IASS\)](#) is now accepting [proposals for sessions](#) of the Climate Engineering Conference 2014 that is to take place on 18-21 August in Berlin, Germany. Proposals by one or several collaborating session conveners can be submitted, discussing the issue from technical, ethical, and social standpoints. This thematic variety is matched by the broad participant target group (decision makers, researchers, NGO representatives etc.) reflecting the complexity of climate engineering as a topic.

Phnom Penh, Cambodia (2-3 December 2013)

Can Tho, Vietnam (5-6 December 2013)

Water-Food Security in Cambodia and the Vietnam Delta - Assessing Risk and Alternatives under an Altered Flow Regime

The Mekong River is a transboundary watercourse of outstanding importance for agriculture, fisheries and culture, but it is also increasingly seen as a hydropower source. The dams built by China have already affected the system, while further construction plans ([nine dams in Laos PDR, two in Cambodia](#)) point to the fact that pressure on the river's resources is likely to grow. The need to examine policy options and opportunities for cooperation is reflected in these [two workshops](#), following the initial event "[Food Security in the Mekong - The Water, Food and Energy Nexus Revisited](#)" organised in March 2013, Thailand. They are primarily directed at local stakeholders. The events are organised by the Mekong Delta Development Institute of Can Tho University, the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI), and the Shared Waters Partnership (SWP) of UNDP and SIWI.



Photo by think4photo / Shutterstock

Publications and Resources

Harvesting Peace: Food Security, Conflict, and Cooperation



The [latest ECSP report](#) investigates links of food security and conflict, and draws conclusions for U.S. development cooperation. The publication was launched in September 2013 at an event featuring the author of the report Emmy Simmons as well as UN and USAID officials. The report launch video, participants' podcasts and a photo gallery are [available online](#).

Climate Diplomacy on Twitter



Photo by Schmei / Wikimedia

[Climate Diplomacy](#) news is now on Twitter: Follow us [@Climate-Diplo](#) to receive instant updates on related trending articles, interesting events and the latest publications.

The tweets will inform about innovative foreign policy approaches to the global challenge of climate change.

Publications and Resources

Water Security, Risk and Society

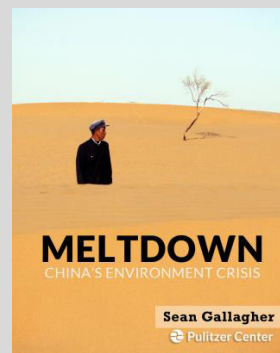


Photo by Abenaa / iStock

The [publication](#) documents the outcomes of the [conference on Water Security, Risk and Society](#) organised by the University of Oxford Water Network in April 2012. The scientific contributions to this volume, some of them based on case studies from different world

regions, analyse both water security challenges and responses, also providing insights into the link between policy and interdisciplinary research in the field. These efforts leave no doubt that water risks will significantly influence global and national agendas in the near future.

China's Environmental Crisis through the Lens



Supported by grants from the [Pulitzer Center of Crisis Reporting](#), photojournalist Sean Gallagher has published "[Meltdown. China's Environment Crisis](#)". Using impressive photos, Gallagher reports on the alarming state of forests, wetlands, desertification and the Tibetan Plateau. New Security Beat [interviewed the author](#) on the background, motivation and experiences of his journalistic research in China.

Handbook on Climate Change and Human Security



Photo by 501room / Shutterstock

The recently published "[Handbook on Climate Change and Human Security](#)" gives a broad overview of the research field. It clarifies the interrelations of the two topics included in its title, provides examples from Latin

America and the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, the Arctic and Africa, further discussing policy actions needed to ensure human security. The Handbook was edited by Michael R. Redclift and Marco Grasso, and published by Edward Elgar.

The Politics of the Resource Curse: A Review



Photo by Northfoto / Shutterstock

How does resource wealth affect democracy, the quality of government institutions, and the incidence of violent conflict? Michael L. Ross from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) has [reviewed the resource curse literature](#).

Ross identifies several harmful effects of oil wealth: it makes authoritarian regimes more durable, increases certain types of corruption, and is associated with the onset of violent conflict in low and middle income countries under certain conditions.

A Fair Compromise to Break the Climate Impasse: Video Interview with Marco Grasso



Marco Grasso from the University of Milan-Bicocca and Timmons Roberts from The Brookings Institution propose a four-step approach involving the Major Economies Forum to overcome the current stalemate in international climate negotiations.

In a video interview with the [ECC Platform](#), Marco Grasso summarizes the proposed approach and talks about ethical reasons for the stalemate. The Brookings Policy Paper "A Fair Compromise to Break the Climate Impasse" can be accessed [online](#).

Legal Notice / Contact

The newsletter „Environment, Conflict, and Cooperation“ is published several times a year. To subscribe or unsubscribe, please click [here](#).

The newsletter is supported by a grant from the German Federal Foreign Office.

Disclaimer:

adelphi research recommends visiting the websites linked to this newsletter. Following a judgment by the Hamburg Regional Court (Landgericht), we must, however, dissociate ourselves from the design and content of all linked pages in order to prevent any compensation claims.

The newsletter is published by adelphi in cooperation with its partner organizations:

adelphi is a leading think tank for policy analysis and strategy consulting. We offer creative solutions and services on global environment and development challenges for policy, business and civil society communities. Our projects contribute to sustaining natural life systems and fostering sustainable enterprises.

Institute for Security Studies (ISS): As a leading African human security research institute, the Institute for Security Studies works towards a stable and peaceful Africa characterized by sustainable development, human rights, the rule of law, democracy and collaborative security.

The Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs at Ohio University: Comprised of faculty and professional staff members who work in multidisciplinary project groups, the School integrates scholarship, learning, and practice to solve environmental and energy problems.

Contact:

Publisher: Dennis Taenzler
adelphi research gGmbH
Caspar-Theyss-Strasse 14a
D - 14193 Berlin Germany
Phone +49-30-89 000 68 0 Fax +49-30-89 000 68 10
www.adelphi.de

Editorial team:

Paola Adriázola, Clementine Burnley, Alexander Carius, Kerstin Fritzsche, Laura Griestop, Daria Ivleva, Annika Kramer, Lukas Ruettinger, Marc Schuetz, Dennis Taenzler, Stephan Wolters. Editing support by Anya Malhotra.