



Monday March 9, 2009
16:30 to 18:00

Lyon Convention Center
France

CITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Moderator

- **Cemil Giray Alyanak**, President of mondogragilis Group, France

Speakers

- **Jean-François Bach**, Permanent Secretary, Académie des Sciences, France
- **Claude Lorius**, Expert in Glaciology, Laboratoire de Glaciologie et Géophysique de l'Environnement, France
- **Rajendra Kumar Pachauri**, Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC-GIEC), 2007 Nobel Prize

Summary

- The purpose of this session is to discuss the challenges of tackling climate change in an urban environment.
- Ever since industrialisation has started over a hundred years ago, mankind has been consuming an ever increasing amount of fossil fuels and producing more and more goods. This has led to higher man made emissions such as green house gases and pollution.
- Human development is based on an urban centric model which has spread all over the world. The poorer watch the western way of life whilst starving in front of their televisions (as seen in Bangladesh).
- Such development has increased the average temperature by 0,7 °c during the 20th century (an increase similar to what occurred during the previous 12 000 years).
- This will lead to more precipitations, floods, cyclones, heat waves... The most affected cities will be those close to sea level specifically in Asia and the Mediterranean.
- Such climate changes will have medical consequences. The risks will vary according to countries mainly because of differences in social economic levels. Increased chronic pathologies will be more prominent in the northern richer countries whereas infectious diseases will spread in the poorer southern ones.
- Understanding climate change also requires more basic research. Exploration in Antarctica 20 years ago led to the linking of greenhouse gases to increased warming. Basic research must be carried out in Polar regions as they hold the history of past atmospheric changes.
- Up to now, very little has been done. Since the 1970's, green house gases have increased by over 70%. No efforts have been made. The battle for mitigating the risk of global warming must be won before 2015. If not, the increase in sea level



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will be significant (several meters) especially if the ice sheets melt at a higher than predicted rate.

- Preparation, infrastructure and information can help us deal with effects of moderate global warming such as infectious diseases. The real threat will arise more from unpredictable extreme weather disasters which will become more frequent.
- Cities can play a key role in mitigating the effects of climate change as 80% of emissions are associated with city activities. Changing people's lifestyles play an important role in mitigating strategies.
- Governments need reinforce these shifts in habits by :
 - Pushing towards a consumption model sensitive to climate impact (i.e. carbon taxes).
 - Changing the way activity is measured (i.e. GDP) as they are increasingly false measure of progress. Issues such as quality of life and impact on the environment must be taken into account.
- The global bailout is estimated at 2,7 trillion dollars. One wonders why governments cannot be found to shift ourselves towards a low carbon society.
- To kick start this revolution, it is important to rapidly focus first on the developed countries. Efforts must be placed on educating children, investing in public transport and making homes more efficient.

Quotes

"Climate change is about us. Think about your lives as city dwellers. Think of yourselves as the guilty ones"

Cemil Giray Alyanak

"The world is enough for everyone's needs not for everyone's greed."

Gandhi mentioned by Rajendra Kumar Pachauri

"Be the change you want to see in the world."

Gandhi mentioned by Rajendra Kumar Pachauri

"I feel pessimistic about the future."

Claude Lorius

"Polar ice sheets are the guardian of the future."

Claude Lorius

"I am more worried about unpredictable extreme weather accidents than infectious diseases."

Jean-François Bach



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"Do it quickly"

Claude Lorius

"We need a price on carbon so that consumers and industries move towards lower carbon products and services."

Cemil Giray Alyanak