

Storm surges: global in character, but regionally fragmented perceived.

A map of the risks related to short term coastal flooding related to heavy storms, i.e, storm surges, shows that the phenomenon is really a global phenomenon. However, when discussing dynamics, risks, and adaptation as well a future perspectives as well as aggravating local factors, the situation is mostly perceived as a regional or even local phenomenon.

In the talk the different manifestations of storm surges, mainly at mid latitudes and in the tropics are discussed; the historical perceptions of such events are touched upon, projection for the future presented and issues of management and adaptation discussed.

The presentation draws strongly on the results of the "Storm surge conference 2010", which takes place in Hamburg two weeks earlier, namely 13-17 September 2010.