

The 3rd German-South African Research Lecture Series 2009 presents:

The Science and Ethics of Global Warming

- Facing Future Challenges: Consequences and Opportunities -

DATE: 27 August, 2009
TIME: 16:30 for 17:00
VENUE: University of Cape Town, Middle Campus
Wilfred & Jules Kramer Law Building, Lecture Theatre 3

SPEAKERS:

Prof. Hans von Storch Director Institute of Coastal Research GKSS
Geesthacht/Germany
Prof. George S. Philander University of Cape Town and Princeton University,
Director African Centre for Climate and Earth System
Science (ACCESS), Cape Town

PANEL DISCUSSION:

Dr. Pedro M.S. Monteiro Head of Ocean Systems and Climate Research Group,
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
Prof. Anthony Black School of Economics, University of Cape Town
Dr. Neville Sweijd Coasts and Oceans Competence Area, CSIR

References:

<http://coast.gkss.de/staff/storch> (Professor Hans von Storch)

<http://www.uct.ac.za/dailynews/archives/?id=6541> (Professor S. George Philander)

<http://www.blackpast.org/?q=aah/philander-s-george-1942>

Please find further information below:

Dear Sir or Madam

The world is facing severe challenges with regards to the effects of the so called "Global Warming". The already ongoing dramatic change of our natural environment has driven scientists worldwide for recent decades to scrutinize why and how climatic shifts are happening and theories have been piled up to predict, adapt to and mitigate these changes.

Besides environmental impacts, however, there is also an immense social and political dimension to the effects of Global Warming. The rich and the poor will likewise be effected by its outcomes. But unlike the wealthy nations, the developing countries lack the capacity for comprehensive mitigation approaches. Moreover, measures for ecological sustainability may be viewed as contradictory to economic growth as, arguably, the basis of better living standards.

This two-part lecture will address the question of how the dramatic climatic challenges can be levelled and look at opportunities for future mitigation approaches.

Prof Hans von Storch will address the political, social and cultural dimension of science dealing with global warming. While the scientist relies on his expertise when analyzing and describing the actual phenomena of climate change, he is facing a political question whose answers depend on values and thus culture when being asked for strategies of handling the multi-facetted problem. Prof von Storch's of reflexion of policies related to climate change sets forth from the concept of the global "Honest Broker", as developed by Roger Pielke jr.

The need and opportunities for social change deriving from the climate change will further be addressed by Prof S. George Philander, who is convinced that it can be an effective vehicle for promoting basic and scientific education especially in the developing parts of the globe. A guiding principle of this process is to find a balance between our responsibilities to future generations and our obligations towards those who are in need today. He further insistentlly vows for an African Centre of Excellence with regards to climate research to provide the continent with a strong scientific voice of its own. Prof. Philander just joined UCT after spending decades of successful work at Harvard and Princeton University.

In the following panel discussion including Anthony Black, an UCT economist, and Pedro Monteiro and Newille Sweijd of CSIR Stellenbosch, the particular South African perspective will be reviewed.

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), is facilitating this year's German – South African Research Lecture Series during spring 2009 at five South African universities. The main objectives of this lecture series are to promote research co-operation between the two countries and to showcase best practise examples in science and technology. The talks will address researchers, academics, postgraduate students, administrators as well as the interested public.

The opener out of 5 talks of the 3rd German-South African Research Lecture Series 2009 will take place on Aug 27 at the University of Cape Town. The event contains of two brief impulse lectures and a following broad panel discussion, dealing with the particular South African situation. Topics of the other talks will include flood resilience,

accelerator based science, photonic detection technology, and immunology with regards to the impact on HIV&Aids to Sothern Africa (tba). Representatives of leading South African research institutions as well as from the private sector are kindly invited to the series of lectures.

Please find further information regarding the event on August 27 in Cape Town attached. Media coverage is most welcome; please feel free to contact the DAAD Information Centre Johannesburg for more details!
The DAAD will be pleased to welcome you to this event.

Yours sincerely,

Lukas Kaiser

Project Coordinator

For DAAD Information Centre Johannesburg

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