



# IHDP Open Meeting 2009

7th International  
Science Conference on the  
Human Dimensions of  
Global Environmental Change

26-30 April 2009  
World Conference Center Bonn  
UN Campus  
Bonn, Germany

## The Social Challenges of Global Change

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Time: Thursday 30 April 14:00 - 15:30

## Climate Change, Earth System Impacts, and Human Dimensions: Challenges and Opportunities

Organized by WCRP, IGBP, IHDP

Convenors: Oran Young, University of California Santa Barbara, Chair of IHDP Scientific Committee

Panelists: V.Ramaswamy, NOAA, Frans Berkhout, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, Dora Fazekas, Climate Strategies, UK, IGBP representative (tba), Paty Romero Lankao (tbc)

Venue: World Conference Center Bonn, Plenary

Climate variations and change, and their impacts on Earth Systems are of increasingly serious concern to human society. Advancements in climate and Earth System sciences reveal that anomalies in key variables such as temperature, rainfall, and sea-level, are causing increased stress on the world's terrestrial and marine ecosystems. The threat of rapid climate change and the potential for abrupt change and extremes represent one of the most pressing challenges confronting humanity. The 4th Assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded that warming of the globe is unequivocal, with most of the observed increase in global-mean surface temperature since the mid-20th century attributable to human-influenced greenhouse gas emissions. On every inhabited continent, there is unambiguous evidence of warming, with accompanying implications for biology, ecology and human populations. There is an unprecedented need now for timely and authoritative science-based information on future climate change and the anticipated impacts on Earth Systems. These results will provide crucial inputs into assessments of vulnerabilities and decision-making processes concerning human dimensions and its structural components. In turn, these will allow an effective management of the risks and opportunities arising due to climate change.