



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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Early Bird Registration

BONN, October 2008.

The registration for the 7th International Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change, the IHDP Open Meeting 2009, that will take place in Bonn on 26-30 April 2009, is now open until 31 January, 2009, with special discount rates for early registrations, students and participants from developing countries.

The importance of the Human Dimensions of Global Change

There is more and more emphasis on the role of human beings as actors in global environmental change – an insight just recently acknowledged by the IPCC's 4th Assessment Report. But peoples' actions do not only alter the climate and their physical environments: human beings define their environment, both natural and social; and human beings define what an "environmental problem" is, and what a "solution" for such a problem, should look like.

The increased understanding of the challenges we are currently facing has shifted the focus in yet another way, from understanding the dynamics of global change to using that understanding to devise ways to meet the challenges that we see emerge.

This has pushed the global environmental change scientific community to pay more attention to the relationship between climate change science and policy, to include more use-inspired and policy-relevant research,

and to improve communication with government, business, NGO's and the civil society at large.

These research trends invite us to move human beings and their societies from the periphery ("the human dimensions of global environmental change") to the center of our perspective on global environmental change, and to focus on societal dynamics as both the root of many environmental problems and the potential solution to them.

Four Major Challenges

The social challenges of global change will be addressed in the IHDP Open Meeting 2009 by scientists from all existing disciplines, from social and natural sciences, and by decision-makers, all working together in new ways to deal with a set of issues that transcends individual groups of disciplines. Ultimately, a coherent effort of the world population will be needed to address the emergent consequences of our continual modification of the global environmental systems.

1. How do we deal with demographic challenges?
2. How do we deal with limitations of resources and ecosystem services?
3. How do we establish social cohesion while increasing equity at various levels?
4. How do we adapt institutions to address global environmental change?



How to Register for the IHDP Open Meeting 2009

Early Bird registration for the IHDP Open Meeting 2009 will be open until 31 January, 2009. For more information about how to register to participate in this major conference about the human dimensions of climate change, please refer to www.openmeeting2009.org or send us an email to openmeeting@ihdp.unu.edu

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