

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND PREPARATION FOR COP 21 (PARIS 2016)

EXPRESSION OF INTERESTS AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

INTRODUCTION

Climate change as a global phenomenon impacts on all sectors of human activities globally and requires fresh investment pathways. Currently the situation demands continuous investment on research, documentation and dissemination of knowledge on climate change impact levels, trends, and adaptation and mitigation measures. This task has been spearheaded by national and international institutions with varying magnitude of commitments and expertise.

United Nations Framework on Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) established working groups to facilitate its functioning. The most reputable working group under the auspices of the UNFCCC that has spearheaded research and dissemination of information on climate change for sustainable development is the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which has researched and published a series of reports which changed global discourse on and consequent activities towards climate change. The institution is also playing a key role in human capacity-building on issues relating to climate change. IPCC continues to inform and build capacity on climate change and especially supports the developing countries to acquire knowledge of climate science, establish adaptation and mitigation measures and assist in developing scenarios regarding climate change impacts.

The UNFCCC convenes annual conference to take stock and deliberate on new findings relating to global climate. The 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the UNFCCC and the 11th Meeting of the Parties to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol (CMP 11) is expected to take place from 30 November - 11 December 2015 at Ile-De-France in Paris, France. The objective of the UNFCCC COP21/CMP11 conference is to achieve, for the first time in over 20 years of UN negotiations, a binding global climate agreement on curbing carbon emissions with a binding effect from 2020.

It is at this point that the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Nairobi created links with IPCC through the Distinguished Scholar and Nobel Peace Laureate and internationally renowned climatologist and agricultural geographer. Professor Richard Samson Odingo. Professor Odingo, who served as Vice-President of IPCC for many years, is also one of the pioneers of geography at the University of Nairobi, then, a constituent college of the University of East Africa, before becoming a fully fledged university in 1970. Professor Odingo continues to serve the University of Nairobi and specifically the Department in mentoring young academic staff, supervising doctoral students and other postgraduate students. His distinguished and exemplary service to Kenya and the rest of the Africa on climate change and sustainable development is unparalleled. For this reason, the Conference is supported by the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Nairobi on honour of Professor Odingo.

The objectives of the proposed climate change and sustainable development conference are to:

- 1. share results of research on climate science and its application to sustainable development of the African countries;**
- 2. strengthen regional cooperation on trans-boundary consequences of climate change;**
- 3. build capacity of researchers, policy makers and political leadership on adaptation and mitigation measures; and**
- 4. promote the green economy based on public and private collaborations in Africa and other developing countries, showcase current solutions to climate change at national and local levels, and advocate the right positive narratives for governments, business and financiers in preparation for COP21/CMP11.**

In view of the foregoing and the honour that Professor Odingo is owed, the proceedings of this International Scientific Conference shall be published as a legacy to his contributions to national and global capacity-building in the area of climate change and national development.

The International Scientific Conference on various aspects of climate change and sustainable development is planned to achieve the aspirations and goals that Professor Odingo has imbued to his students and colleagues in varying

measures. The conference will create a level ground to his admirers, peers and students – many of who have worked closely with him both nationally and globally to participate in this memorable gesture.

International Scientific Conference Organization

The proposed theme for the planned International Scientific Conference is: *Climate Change in national and regional sustainable development.*

The proposed sub-themes for the conference are as follow:

1. Climate science and climate models
2. Innovative adaptation, mitigation strategies and value chain analysis
3. Impact on regional cooperation (conflicts, security, etc)
4. Climate change and food, water and environment
5. Climate change and impact on household dynamics, population, health and human settlement.
6. Gender dimensions of climate change

There shall be keynote addresses, paper presentations and panel discussions for all the six sub-themes. Each sub theme will be coordinated by an institutional convener. Conveners and reviewers of presentations may request primary data to be provided during scientific paper reviews.

International Scientific Conference Organizing Committee

In order to access high quality research the International Scientific Conference Organizing Committee consisting of five (5) members have been selected to reach out to science fraternity. The Committee has identified conveners and keynote speakers who will be invited to contribute to the conference. The conference venue will be announced at a later date.

The International Scientific Conference Organizing Committee has proposed a conference work-plan as indicated below:

- The first announcement for the conference and call for abstracts in mid-January 2015
- The second announcements will be on the 27th February 2015.
- Deadline for submission of abstracts on or before 30th April 2015

- Selection of the accepted abstracts and notification to authors before May 30th 2015
- Submission of full written paper on or before June 30th 2015.
- The conference date is 28th to 30th September 2015.

Conference Tours

The Organizing Committee plans to present to the delegates a menu of budget conference tours. During the Second Announcement, the tours will be presented and delegates will be given the opportunity to choose the tours that they wish to join from this menu.

For expression of interest and/or more Information, contact

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