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Autumn School in Peyresq

The Society

The Integrated Assessment Society is a not-for-profit entity created to promote the community of inter-disciplinary and disciplinary scientists, analysts and practitioners who develop and use integrated assessment. The goals of the society are to nurture this community, to promote the development of IA and to encourage its wise application.

Integrated Assessment Defined

Integrated Assessment (IA) can be defined as the interdisciplinary process of integrating knowledge from various disciplines and stakeholder groups in order to evaluate a problem situation from a variety of perspectives and provide support for its solution. IA supports learning and decision processes and helps to identify desirable and possible options for addressing the problem. It therefore builds on two major methodological pillars: approaches to integrating knowledge about a problem domain, and understanding policy and decision making processes. IA has been developed to address issues of acid rain, climate change, land degradation, water and air quality management, forest and fisheries management and public health.

Feature

Adaptive management: learning to manage by managing to learn in Peyresq, France

Caroline van Bers, Institute of Environmental Systems Research

At the end of September this year, 25 young researchers primarily from Europe, but also from as far away as South Africa, Sri Lanka and Australia, traveled to the remote village of Peyresq in the French Alps to learn more about adaptive river basin management. The Autumn School was sponsored by the EU-funded NeWater project (New Approaches to Uncertainty in Water Management) and co-hosted by the Global Water System Project (GWSP's goal is to improve understanding of the global water system and inform policy about present and emerging challenges). The programme was developed for an audience of mostly PhD students and postdoctoral researchers working in a variety of fields related to adaptive water management for a range of international institutes and universities. They participated in nine intensive days of lectures, discussion, and exercises under the guidance of instructors from the NeWater and GWSP partnerships representing expertise in a wide range of disciplines and a diversity of organizations.

The premise underlying the NeWater project is that sustainable management of water resources cannot be realized unless current water management regimes undergo a transition towards more adaptive water management. To cope with uncertainties, adaptive management is needed involving a systematic process for improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of implemented management strategies. One of the more specific aims of the project is the training of practitioners and young researchers in concepts and state-of-the art approaches and methods for adaptive management and integrated water resources management, using the expertise and research results available in the NeWater project and the complementary GWSP.

The autumn school programme set out to facilitate an understanding of the following:

- What is adaptive management and how can adaptation in resource management take place?
- What is Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and how is it practiced?
- What is the role of Adaptive Management in IWRM?
- What are the potential performance indicators for adaptive water management?
- How can we make a transition to adaptive river basin management

Participants were introduced to the concepts followed by immersion in a variety of methods and tools contributing to adaptive water management. Topics included: resilience and adaptive capacity; water policy mechanisms for adaptive management; uncertainty analysis; vulnerability assessment; governance regimes; participation methods and social learning; group model building; information gathering and monitoring systems; and integrating economics into IWRM. The programme was rounded off with an introduction to transitions management which is the theme of next year's summer school. The topics were addressed with extensive reference to NeWater case studies including the Orange, Nile, Rhine, Elbe, Guadiana, Tisza, and Amudarya river basin. An important element of the learning process for the participants was the application of the concepts and methods to a case study. For this, they formed four case study groups – one for each of four river basins – and carried out an assessment of the performance of the water management regime in the basin in order to cope with water management challenges as a base for planning purposes. The Autumn School programme and session presentations are available at www.newater.info/everyone/2153.

This year's summer school has formed the foundation for two

subsequent summer schools in this series, which TIAS will also join as a co-host. The 2007 summer school to be held in the Black Forest of Germany will focus on making the transition to adaptive management regimes, with topics including, among others, barriers to change, learning processes to facilitate change, transitions management theory and strategies, and the role the European Water Framework Directive in transitions management. The final summer school in 2008 will present the results of the NeWater project including:

- A conceptual framework for understanding water systems and management regimes
- A methodology for analysing and assessing vulnerability, adaptive capacity, management strategies
- A conceptual framework for understanding the transition to adaptive management regimes
- A methodology for the participatory assessment and the implementation of transformation processes

Furthermore, the course materials generated by the NeWater-GWSP summer schools contribute to a new curriculum in Adaptive River Basin Management to be made available as downloadable modules to interested university instructors. More information about the NeWater project can be found www.newater.info and the Global Water System Project at www.gwsp.org.

News

Global Environmental Assessments: Information and Influence

Edited by Ronald B. Mitchell, William C. Clark, David W. Cash, and Nancy M. Dickson. 2006. MIT Press.

In the context of the TIAS-GWSP Workshop on Global Assessments next May in Washington, the editors wish to share a summary of this newly released book reprinted from MIT Press website: <http://mitpress.mit.edu>

A comparative analysis of global environmental assessments shows the importance of policy salience, scientific credibility, and social and political legitimacy in determining the influence of scientific assessments on global environmental policy.

Knowledge about environmental problems has expanded rapidly in recent decades, as have the number and variety of processes for making large-scale scientific assessments of those problems and their possible solutions. Yet too often scientific information has not been transformed into effective and appropriate policies to protect the global environment. In this book, scholars use a comparative analytic framework and supporting case studies to evaluate the impact of environmental assessments, looking at how, and under what conditions, global environmental assessments influence political and economic decision makers. They find that global environmental assessments are more likely to be influential if the process is perceived not only as scientifically credible but also as salient to policy concerns and as generated through legitimate means. The studies show that although the content of the assessment clearly matters, its influence is often determined more by the process that generated it and by external factors affecting the receptiveness of different audiences. Assessments that involve ongoing interactions among scientists, stakeholders, and policymakers prove particularly likely to influence behaviors. The diverse case studies — ranging from global assessments of climate change and acid precipitation to assessments of sea-level rise in Maine and Hawaii and climate forecasting in Zimbabwe — embed their findings in contemporary theoretical frameworks while remaining informed by pragmatic policy considerations.

Global Environmental Accord: Strategies for Sustainability and Institutional Innovation Series

September 2006 • 6 x 9 • 352 pp. • (11 illus.)

£17.95 • paper • 0-262-63336-1 • 978-0-262-63336-9

£39.95 • cloth • 0-262-13468-3 • 978-0-262-13468-2

Germany prepares to adapt to climate change

(Reprinted with permission: END Daily, Europe's Environmental News Service, 18/10/06/ <http://www.endseuropedaily.com>)

Germany's environment ministry and environment agency have launched a new "competence centre" on climate change that will closely monitor its effects and support adaptation efforts.

European governments are beginning to focus more on adaptation as climate change is seen increasingly as something actually happening, not just a theoretical future problem. The European commission is due to issue a discussion paper on EU-wide adaptation priorities before the end of the year.

According to the agency, the centre will "link up all technical knowledge about climate change" while keeping decision-makers and the German public informed about its effects.

The agency also said the centre would suggest measures on how to adapt to the effects of climate change and help implement those already planned. It cited better flood protection, planting of crops and trees that can withstand higher temperatures and less precipitation, and a new health warning system for heatwaves.

The centre's launch comes amid new predictions by climate experts that average temperatures in Germany will rise 2-3 degrees Celsius by 2100. Even an increase at the lower end of this range would entail very significant environmental changes.

"We have to start adapting to climate change now so as to not be overwhelmed by its economic and social consequences later," observed German environment minister Sigmar Gabriel. He spoke at a workshop on Tuesday where the competence centre was unveiled.

For more information:

http://www.bmu.de/english/climate/press_statements_speeches/pm/38139.php

Events

13 - 15 March 2007. **Carbon Market Insights 2007**. (Keynote Speaker: Al Gore). Copenhagen, Denmark.

<http://www.pointcarbon.com/>

12 - 14 March 2007. **International Conference on Water and Flood Management (ICWFM)**, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

<http://teacher.buet.ac.bd/icwfm/index.htm>

31 March - 1 April, 2007. **Science & Technology in Society: An International Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Conference**.

American Association for the Advancement of Science Headquarters, Washington, DC.

For more information: www.stglobal.org

Abstract **Deadline**: January 16, 2007.

07 May – 11 May 2007. Joint Event by International Water Association (IWA) and The Integrated Assessment Society & Global Water System Project, Washington, DC.

7–9 May, 2007. International Water Association **WATERMATEX**. The 7th International Symposium on **Systems Analysis and Integrated Assessment in Water Management**. www.WATERMATEX.org

9 - 11 May, 2007. The Integrated Assessment Society. **Global Assessments: Bridging Scales and Linking to Policy.**

www.tias-web.info

Deadline for session abstracts: 31 December 2006.

8 - 10 May 2007. **Sustainable Neighbourhood – from Lisbon to Leipzig through Research (L2L): A conference on research for sustainable development in Europe.** German EU Council Presidency 2007. Leipzig, Germany.

For more information: www.fona.de/L2L

20 - 24 May 2007. **SETAC Europe 17th Annual Meeting. Theme: multiple stressors for the environment and human health - present and future challenges and perspectives.** Porto, Portugal. More information: <http://www.setacmeeting.org/porto/>

21 - 24 May 2007. **REBECCA: Relationships between ecological and chemical status of surface waters.** Conference, Oslo, Norway. <http://www.environment.fi/syke/rebecca>

24 - 26 May 2007. **Earth System Governance: Theories and Strategies for Sustainability,** Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. www.2007amsterdamconference.org/

4 - 6 June 2007. **21st European Conference on Modelling and Simulation ECMS 2007,** Prague (CZ). Deadline for full paper submission is February 13th, 2007. <http://www.scs-europe.net/conf/ecms2007/index.html>

1 - 5 July 2007. **21st Annual Conference of the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB).** Port Elizabeth, South Africa. www.conbio.org/2007 Call for Papers and Posters: Deadline for abstracts: 8 January 2007.

3 - 6 September 2007. 8th conference of the European Sociological Association: **Conflict, Citizenship and Civil Society.** Glasgow, UK. <http://www.esa8thconference.com/> Call for Papers for the sessions of the Research Network **Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty**, Deadline 15th February 2007.

3 - 6 September 2007. **10th International River Symposium & International Conference on Environmental Flows,** Brisbane, Australia. Deadline for all abstracts 31 January 2007. <http://www.riversymposium.com/index.php?page=Symposium2007>

12 - 15 Nov. 2007. **"First International Conference on Adaptive and Integrated Water Management: Coping with complexity and uncertainty"** (CAIWA 2007). Basel, Switzerland. For more information: <http://www.usf.uos.de/projects/caiwa/index.htm>

Openings

The European Marie-Curie Research Training Network announces 3 positions for Post-Docs from July 2007 to January 2010 in **"Multi-level Governance of Natural Resources: Tools and Processes for Water and Biodiversity Governance in Europe"**, in various European research institutions. www.governat.eu. Deadline for applications is 15 April 2007.

Ph.D. student position in **Ecotoxicology.** Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (EAWAG), Dübendorf, and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zürich, (ETH Zürich) Department of Environmental Science. More information: www.eawag.ch.

International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) near Vienna, Austria, hosts a selected group of graduate students, primarily doctoral, from around the world in its **Young Scientists Summer Program (YSSP).** These students work closely with IIASA's senior scientists on projects within the Institute's three theme areas of **Natural Resources & Environment, Population & Society, and Energy & Technology.** IIASA and its National Member Organizations provide airfare and a modest living allowance for most applicants who are selected to participate. Applications deadline: 15 Jan. 2007. Programme Dates: 4 June-31 August 2007. More information:

<http://www.iiasa.ac.at/Admin/YSP/>

Postdoctoral Associate and PhD Positions. A postdoctoral associate and two PhD students are sought to join an interdisciplinary team that integrates ecology and economics for studying forested landscapes. This integrated project takes a systems approach to examine **ecological and economic effects of forest management** on both public and private lands in a large region of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

<http://www.csis.msu.edu/positions.htm>

Courses

New England Complex Systems Institute Announcement: Two Week Winter School: Jan 8 - 19, 2007. Week 1: **Complex Physical, Biological and Social Systems.** Week 2: **Modeling, Networks & Evolution of Complex Systems.** MIT, Cambridge, Mass, USA. <http://necsi.org/education/twoweek/winter07.html>

15 - 16 Feb, 2007. NeWater-TIAS Training Course: **Cognitive Mapping and Group Model Building.** Osnabrueck, Germany. For more information see www.tias-web.info under *Courses*.

12 - 23 March, 2007. **Graduate Spring Seminar in Methodology (GSSM).** University of Bremen, Germany. http://www.gsss.uni-bremen.de/index.php?site=news_and_events_workshops

18 - 24 May, 2007. **SENSE Summer School: Understanding Global Environmental Change: Processes, Compartments and Interactions.** SENSE Research School for Socio-Economic and Natural Sciences of the Environment. Wageningen, Netherlands. Deadline for applications: 15 Jan. 2007. <http://www.sense.nl/courses/265.html>

22 - 27 July, 2007. 4th International Summer School Energy and the Environment - **Bridging the Divide in Global Climate Policy: Strategies for Enhanced Participation and Integration** <http://www.sun.ceu.hu/3Courses/courses.php>

Websites

IWRM.net: a European-wide exchange Network for improving dissemination of Integrated Water Resources management Research outcomes: <http://www.oieau.fr/eranet/>

International Network of Basin Organisations: <http://www.riob.org/friobang.htm>

International Conference on the Implementation of the Water Framework Directive: http://www.inbo-news.org/euro-riob/megeve2006_a.htm

A **Virtual Resource Centre on Green Accounting**. UNEP-Economics and Trade Branch. The Centre provides a searchable database for a wide range of materials and internet links related to **integrated environmental and economic accounting**. The database includes a compilation of key documents from governments, academic institutions, international organizations, non-governmental organisations and individuals on selected topics relating to green accounting, environmental statistics and indicators. For more information:
http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/VRC_index.php

Modelkey Project Models for Assessing and Forecasting the Impact of Environmental Key Pollutants on Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems and Biodiversity. <http://www.modelkey.org/>

New Publications

Books and Reports

Ângela Guimarães Pereira, Sofia Guedes Vaz and Sylvia Tognetti (eds). 2006. **Interfaces between Science and Society**. Greenleaf Publishing. To order: www.greenleaf-publishing.com

Ronald B. Mitchell, William C. Clark, David W. Cash, and Nancy M. Dickson (eds). 2006. **Global Environmental Assessments: Information and Influence**. Global Environmental Accord: Strategies for Sustainability and Institutional Innovation series. MIT Press. Cambridge. USA. (see book summary of this issue of TIAS Quarterly)

Stem Review Report on the **Economics of Climate Change** may be downloaded: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews/stem_review_economics_climate_change/stem_review_report.cfm

Global Human Development Report (HDR) 2006, "**Beyond Scarcity: Power, Poverty and the Global Water Crisis**". <http://hdr.undp.org/hdr2006/report.cfm>

Michael Lockwood, Graeme Worboys and Ashish Kothari (eds). 2006. **Managing Protected Areas: A Global Guide**. Earthscan Publications.

Hermann Scheer. 2006. **Energy Autonomy: The Economic, Social and Technological Case for Renewable Energy**. Earthscan Publications.

Kirstin Dow and Thomas E Downing. 2006. **The Atlas of Climate Change: Mapping the World's Greatest Challenges**. Earthscan Atlas Series. Earthscan Publications.

Operational Manual for Integrated Policymaking for Sustainable Development. Forthcoming in Spring 2007. Prepared by UNEP-Economics and Trade Branch, in collaboration with the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. For more information, contact: fulai.sheng@unep.ch

Newsletters

Water Sanitation and Health Newsletter. World Health Organisation. To subscribe send a mail to LISTSERV@who.int with text "subscribe WATERSANITATION" in body of message.

ENDS Europe DAILY: Europe's Environmental News Service. <http://www.endseuropedaily.com/>

New **European Water Partnership Newsletter** on EWP activities. To receive this newsletter contact: h.riedstra@ewp.eu or visit the website: www.ewp.eu

UNESCO Water Portal Newsletter: to subscribe contact mcardenas@unesco.org

Human Dimension in Water Management Newsletter, 9th Ed. <http://www.harmonicop.info/>

Call for Submissions

Journal Submissions

The journal "Integrated Assessment" is seeking submissions for upcoming issues. Prospective authors may visit the website www.iaonline.org for more details on manuscript submissions.

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For book reviews, please contact

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Articles & News Items

Members of the IA community are invited to submit feature articles and/or news items (events, publications, job openings) for publication in future issues of the TIAS Quarterly. Features that appear in this newsletter will also be published in the "Perspectives" section of the IA journal. For more information, please contact Caroline van Bers:

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