

Welcome to Gniezno 2009

Climate Change and Human Rights



Students from around the Baltic Sea Region are meeting November in Gniezno, Poland, for an upfront dialogue on how climate change affects human rights globally and in the Baltic Sea Region. The aim is to turn the trend from climate change, strained ecosystems and global poverty and contribute to a future that is attractive, sustainable and fair.

The threat of climate change has brought global attention to the fact that human activities are altering our environment in catastrophic and irreversible ways, and the interrelated challenges of climate change, strained ecosystems and persistently high levels of global poverty are rapidly becoming the defining issues of our time.

While people around our planet are already suffering the impacts from climate change, we need to remember that climate change is fundamentally a generational issue. The young generation of today, and the generations to come, will pay the highest price if we fail to respond properly. The up-and-coming generation also has the energy and the creative ideas we need in order to move forward towards a future that is attractive, sustainable and fair.

At the November 2009 conference in Gniezno, we will discuss how climate change affects human rights and wellbeing in the Baltic Sea Region and in other parts of the world. From that understanding we will discuss opportunities for us to meet the challenge of climate change in a way that preserves human rights and allows for poor people to improve their lives.

Programme and outcomes

The conference programme mixes lectures that present the latest science and best practices with workshops where conference participants actively work with the conference themes. The work at this conference builds on the results from the BUP Students' conferences in November 2008 (Szczecin, Poland) and April 2009 (Rogów, Poland). The conference work will lead to a greater understanding on how climate change and the transition to a low-carbon economy affects human rights in the Baltic Sea Region – and how the countries in the Baltic Sea Region can meet these challenges in the best way possible. An important focus for the conference is the COP 15 in Copenhagen in December 2009 and how students in the Baltic Sea Region can contribute to that process.

Contents of this folder

Please read this document carefully: it contains important information about the preparations for the conference:

- Conference programme
- List of literature for conference preparations
- Preparatory assignment

About the conference | November 14–18, 2009, students from the whole Baltic Sea Region will meet in Gniezno, Poland at the Baltic University Programme Student's conference on 'Climate Change and Human Rights'. The conference is hosted and co-financed by the Adam Mickiewicz University, co-financed by the Swedish Institute and is the third major conference in the BrightClimateFuture

initiative, that the BUP is organizing to give a voice to the up-and-coming generation of the BSR. It aims towards fresh, new ideas on how to move forward towards a future that is attractive, sustainable and fair. The process is leading up to the international climate negotiations COP15 in Copenhagen in December 2009.



Programme

14 Nov Saturday

15.00 *Bus departure from Poznan to Gniezno*

Opening session

17.00–19.30 Conference opening

20.00 *Dinner*

15 Nov Sunday

08.30–09.00 *Breakfast*

09.00–09.15 Introduction to the themes of the day

Session 1 **Setting the Context: Planetary Boundaries and the Global Policy Process**

09.15–10.30 Planetary Boundaries and the State of the Planet

Lars Rydén, Professor, CSD Uppsala, Uppsala University

10.30–11.00 *Coffee break*

11.00–13.00 Group work and discussion

13.00–14.00 *Lunch*

14.00–15.00 Climate Change and Developments in Poland and Eastern Europe

Prof. Piotr Tryjanowski, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

15.00–16.00 Discussion and questions

Prof. Piotr Tryjanowski, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

16.00–16.30 *Coffee break*

16.30–18.00 Workshop: Fighting Poverty, Saving the Planet

Jakob Grandin, CSD Uppsala, Uppsala University.

19.00 *Dinner and disco*

16 Nov Monday

08.30–09.00 *Breakfast*

09.00–09.15 Introduction to the themes of the day

Session 2 **Climate Change and Human Rights in the Baltic Sea Region**

09.15–11.00 Climate Change and Human Rights

Katarzyna Snyder, Center for International Relations, Warsaw, Poland

11.00–11.30 *Coffee break*

11.30–12.00 Climate Capabilities

Dr. David Olsson Kronlid, Uppsala University

“The only solution to climate change is a rapid move toward a low-carbon global economy. This must be done urgently, efficiently, and with great determination, so that adaptation remains possible..”
–Commission on Climate Change and Development

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”
–Margaret Mead

Session 2	Climate Change and Human Rights (continued)
12.00–13.00	Panel Discussion on Climate Change and Human Rights
13.00–14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00–17.00	Workshop: Climate Change and Human Rights in the BSR
17.00–17.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
17.30–19.00	Panel discussion on workshop results
20.00	<i>Dinner and social activities</i>

17 Nov **Tuesday**

08.30–09.00	<i>Breakfast</i>
09.00–09.15	Introduction to the themes of the day

Session 3	Strategy: Copenhagen and beyond
09.15–10.45	The Global Climate Policy Process: Copenhagen and beyond <i>Christine Jakobsson, Director, Baltic University Programme</i>
10.45–12.00	Workshop: strategy
12.00–15.30	<i>Lunch and excursion to Gniezno</i>
15.30–17.30	Workshop: strategy (continued)
17.30–18.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
	Concluding session
18.00–19.30	Conference ending
20.00	<i>Dinner and social activities</i>

18 Nov **Wednesday**

08.30–09.00	<i>Breakfast</i>
10.00	<i>Departure for Poznan</i>

Preparatory assignment

The conference is completely dependent on your active participation in workshops and discussions. In order to come prepared to contribute to this dialogue we all need to do some homework before heading to the conference. Please read the texts, answer the questions and bring your notes to the conference. We will use them in our conference work.

“If you are neutral in a situation of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.”
–Desmond Tutu

Literature

Please read the following texts and make yourself familiar with their main themes and conclusions:

- Report from BUP Students’ conference in Szczecin 2008, *Towards an Attractive, Sustainable and Fair Future: The up-and-coming generation’s voice on climate change*. Baltic University Programme, 2008. (Attached.)
- The declarations on Climate Change and Education for Sustainable Development that were adopted by the BUP Students’ Parliament at the conference in Rogów in April 2009.(Attached.)
- Ekman, Wijkman & Rockström, *Grasping the Climate Crisis*. Tällberg Foundation, 2009. (Attached, and available online at <http://www.tallbergfoundation.org/>)
- Rockström, et. al. (2009) “A safe operating space for humanity”, *Nature*, vol. 461, September 2009
- The introduction chapter (pages 1–15) of Humphreys & Archer (2008) *Climate Change and Human Rights: A Rough Guide*. Versoix: International Council on Human Rights Policy.

Climate Capabilities | During the workshop on “Climate Change and Human Rights in the BSR”, we will use the concept of *Climate Capabilities* to investigate how people in the Baltic Sea Region are affected by climate change and the transition to a low-carbon economy. Climate Capabilities was developed by David Olsson Kronlid at Uppsala University to broaden our understanding of how climate change impacts human well-being. Climate Capabilities is based on the Capabilities Approach, which was developed by the acclaimed economist Amartya Sen and

others, in an attempt at getting a nuanced understanding of poverty and well-being. Rather than looking at one or a few indicators (such as GDP per capita), it examines the *capability* of a person to sustain important functions that are important to her or him (such as life, shelter, knowledge and beauty, work and play, friendship, and mobility). Key concepts are *capabilities*, *functionings* and *transformation factors*.

There are many good articles on the Capabilities Approach available online.

“Attending to human rights also mean recognizing that as we take steps to address climate change, we must not do so at the cost of the most vulnerable.”
–Mary Robinsson

Instructions - please bring your answers to the conference

1. Please read the conference preparatory literature and make yourself familiar with their main themes and conclusions.
2. Do some research and briefly answer the following questions about the situation in your country:
 - What are the main sources of energy in your country?
 - Which sectors in your country (for example transports, industry, food production, housing or electricity) are responsible for the largest emissions of greenhouse gases?
 - How high are the per capita emissions of carbon dioxide in your country?
 - How do you perceive the public opinion on climate change in your country? Do people regard it as a problem?
 - How do politicians in your country tackle the climate issue? Do they see it as a key problem that needs to be addressed in a serious manner? If so: how?
 - Are there any organizations working with climate change or sustainability in general in your country, and what is their stand on climate change?
3. Summarize your country’s agenda for the COP15 meeting in Copenhagen (if it has one) in maximum 300 words.
4. During the Monday workshop “Climate Change and Human Rights in the BSR,” we will investigate how human rights and well-being are affected by the transition of the Baltic Sea Region to a low-carbon economy. To come prepared for that important discussion, briefly describe how you think the following dimensions of *your life* might be affected by climate change and the transition to a low-carbon economy:
 - a. *Life*. Your ability to maintain life itself, your health and your safety.
 - b. *Work and play*. Your ability work and play, both to support yourself and others and to be satisfied with yourself and what you do. Ability to uphold your sense of self-worth.
 - c. *Mobility*. Your ability to be mobile, geographically as well as socially and existentially – to be able to move freely, but not to be forced to move somewhere else (due to, for example, unemployment or environmental destruction).



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