



Young Scientists' Summit on **Climate Change**



and its impact on cities

November 20-25 2005
Switzerland

Climate change is the most severe problem we are facing today

Sir David King, Chief Scientific Advisor to the UK Government

In the climate debate there are two groups of key players: the scientists, who research meticulously and report their findings to other specialists in the field, and the decision-makers, who feel that economic and political implications need to be at the centre of the debate.

The British Council Switzerland and partners are organising an exciting two-part summit for outstanding UK and Swiss young scientists (Post-docs, final year PhDs) to brain-storm across a wide field of disciplines about the impact and threat of Earth's climate change on cities and about approaches to plan ahead and adapt.

We invite applications from a deliberately wide field of subject areas to encourage thinking "outside the box", including, for example, natural scientists, engineers, economists, architects, journalists, urban planners and architects, socio-economists, insurance experts, and specialists in international law.

You will have the unique opportunity to
• share and discuss your expertise with other young experts,

• to prepare a briefing manifesto for future leaders and current key players in society's decision making bodies, and

• to be trained by professional practitioners in new ways of presenting complex information, in how to mediate discussion groups, and in communicating effectively with journalists.

The "product" of the summit's first part is envisaged to be a manifesto. Invited participants will then lead discussion and workshop sessions during the second part, the Youth Summit, together with a group of young future decision makers. The results will then be presented to today's high-profile leaders during an event at the Stade de Suisse in Bern.

The Young Scientists' part of the summit will take place in the attractive Möschberg seminar hotel near Bern, Switzerland, to be followed by the Youth Summit in Bern. Invited guests will have their travel and accommodation paid for. Applicants for this unique opportunity will be selected competitively, with approximately 10 invitations from the UK and 10 from Switzerland. A small number of additional participants are expected from the US and Bangladesh/India.

- Application deadline: 31 August 2005
- Candidate selection: September 2005
- Young Scientists' Summit:
20–25 November 2005
- Youth Summit:
24–25 November 2005

Objectives

- To be trained by professional practitioners in how to mediate discussion groups, and how to communicate effectively with the media.
- To share and discuss your expertise with other young experts (Post-docs, final year PhD candidates, and young business professionals)
- To put your expertise at the disposal of "future leaders" by preparing a manifesto of observations and action items, and by leading a workshop with young future key players.
- To facilitate dialogue between scientists and political and economic stakeholders on climate change issues and the scenarios for cities
- To promote international research collaboration to the mutual benefit of the UK and Swiss science communities

Patrons of the Youth Summit

Sir David King
State Secretary Charles Kleiber

Organisers

- British Council, Switzerland:
Caroline Morrissey & Per Atteslander
- ProClim:
Christoph Ritz & Esther Thalmann
- National Oceanography Centre,
Southampton: Heiko Pälike
- British Embassy Berne

Young Scientists' Summit participants

- young experts from the UK and Switzerland
- post-docs
- final year PhD students
- young professionals from related businesses

Structure

- Workshops and cross-disciplinary brainstorming sessions covering fields related to climate change and its impact on cities will be combined with training sessions from experienced practitioners to prepare young scientists for facilitating the Youth Summit.
- Participants will prepare a manifesto that sets out the results of the first part of the summit, which will form the basis for discussions with "future leaders".
- On the final day, the participants will present the outcome of the meeting to Swiss and UK political and business leaders and the media.

Venues

Möschberg conference centre, near Berne,
Stade de Suisse, Berne

Sustainability

The British Council will ensure that the network and contacts that are created during the summits are sustained and developed in the future. The organisers will ensure that the event is organised in a climate neutral way with the help of myclimate.

Climate Change Exhibition

The British Council exhibition on climate change, NorthSouthEastWest, will be shown in digital format on a large plasma screen at Zürich and Berne railway stations during the event. This part of the project is funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

How to apply

Participants will be selected competitively, with the understanding that those who are chosen will be able to arrive on 19 November and stay in Switzerland until 25 November.

To apply, please email britishcouncil@britishcouncil.ch by the application deadline (31 August 2005). Please include your contact details, your CV, and a covering letter stating the expertise you expect to bring to the network, and the benefits you hope to gain. Final-year PhD students should also provide a statement of support from their supervisor. If selected, travel costs, subsistence and accommodation will be provided.

For more information, please contact

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The purpose of the British Council is to build mutually beneficial relationships between people in the UK and other countries and to increase appreciation of the UK's creative ideas and achievements.

This work is driven by our strong belief in internationalism, a commitment to professionalism and an enthusiasm for creativity. These qualities, coupled with our integrity and our conviction that cultural relations can help individuals and the world community to thrive, make the British Council a good partner and a special place to work.

ORGANISERS & SPONSORS



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ProClim –
Forum for Climate and Global Change
Platform of the Swiss Academy of Sciences



National Oceanography
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NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL



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