

CASPI: NEWS

Climate Adaptation - Science and Policy Initiative

July 2007



Save the Planet...

Opportunities

July has seen CASPI complete a major Expression of Interest and respond to two Requests for Quote, as well as the organisation of two seminars for August (and other activities, either too secret or too numerous to list 🍌).

EOI for the ACCA

As noted in the June newsletter, following on from the COAG announcement for a new national research centre, the Australian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation, we have developed an Expression of Interest in conjunction with the Department of Sustainability and the Environment, together with input from Monash University and RMIT University. It has been signed by the three Vice Chancellors and, with a letter from Premier Steve Bracks, has been forwarded to the Prime Minister. Completion of this document is a significant achievement.

Garnaut Review RFQs

Following on from our presentation to Professor Ross Garnaut on the range of climate change research capabilities located here in Victoria at the end of May, CASPI has responded to two RFQs for reports that will form contributions to the Garnaut Review. One is on the science of climate change, the other on the environmental impacts of climate change. In addition, an RFQ has been sent to Dr Beth Webster of the Melbourne Institute which is concerned with discount rates.

Seminar details are on page 3.



*Its the only place
that has chocolate.*

University Climate Consortium

Discussions are continuing for the University of Melbourne to join the recently formed Climate Research Consortium, which is an agreement between the Australian National University, University of New South Wales and Monash University announced in May 2007. CASPI is actively negotiating Melbourne's involvement following a meeting with our counterparts from the other universities in early June.



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Courtesy: Nicholson (www.nicholsoncartoons.com.au)

CASPI & APRU - more details

The Association of Asia Pacific Rim Universities is a consortium of 37 research intensive universities across the Pacific Rim, including the University of Melbourne.

The inaugural APRU World Institute (AWI) workshop (www.apru.com/awi/workshops.htm) was hosted by the University of California San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography from April 4 to 6, 2007, with a focus on sustainable cities and climate change. Some 40 senior researchers attended including Nobel prize winner Prof Mario Molina, and IPCC lead author Prof Richard Somerville. Professor Jim Falk attended as the representative for the University of Melbourne.

The participants agreed that Climate Change should be an ongoing theme for AWI and a proposal titled as the "AWI Climate 2030 Project" was then submitted by the University of Melbourne and approved by the AWI Governing Board. The project involves developing research collaboration between key research institutes in member universities to address key issues of Climate Change such as energy, food and water issues of the Pacific Rim.

This project will be jointly directed by Prof Jim Falk and Prof Lisa Schaffer, Executive Director of the UC Revelle Program on Climate Change and Policy at the SCRIPS Institute for Oceanography, The University of California at San Diego.

The first meeting, a teleconference, took place on 18th July and has decided to focus on recruiting key universities to participate in an initial one year project as a preliminary to seeking major external funding. The initial project will seek to clarify some key policy relevant 'myths' about climate change in conjunction with administrators in some selected cities. It is intended that the project run across China, the US, Australia, and some key Asian centres. Further discussion of the project directions is being developed within CASPI.



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Seminars

Dispelling the myths about climate change science

This is an opportunity to hear from leading climate scientists at the University on the reality of climate change. This lunch time seminar will have three presentations with question time and a concluding panel discussion. The speakers will be:

Professor David Karoly, who has recently joined the School of Earth Sciences as a Federation Fellow. He brings considerable expertise and experience to this important subject. As a member of the core writing team for the IPCC AR4 Synthesis Report he is in touch with the most recent and authoritative information.

Professor Ian Enting, a Professorial Research Fellow who has extensive experience in modelling complex systems including the carbon cycle and greenhouse gas stabilisation targets.

Associate Professor Kevin Walsh, a Reader in Meteorology with expertise in tropical cyclones, their intensity and inter-annual variability.

Friday 17 August, 12:30 - 2:00pm
Harold White theatre, Arts Centre
The University of Melbourne
http://www.caspi.unimelb.edu.au/e_climate.php

Health Symposium

CASPI has organised a symposium on "The Challenge of Climate Change for Health in Rural and Regional Victoria" to consider what will the impact of climate change be on the well-being of people in rural and regional Victoria. How should this be affecting future policy and research agendas? These questions will be addressed by experts from universities, government and community organisations.

Speakers include the Minister for Health, the Honourable Bronwyn Pike, Professor David Karoly and

Professor Steven Leeder. A full program and list of speakers is available on the web site, along with the registration form.

Wednesday August 22, 8.30am - 5.00pm
Graduate House, The University of Melbourne
http://www.caspi.unimelb.edu.au/e_health.php

Human Rights and Climate Change

The Human Rights Forum (Faculty of Law) will be holding an exploratory workshop on issues relating to climate change and human rights on Thursday 23 August at 4.-00-5.30pm in Room 920 of the Melbourne Law School. Members of the University are invited to submit proposals for brief (5 minute) informal presentations on work that they are undertaking on issues relating to this theme. The aim of this exploratory workshop is to canvas the range of work that is currently being undertaken on climate change and human rights and discuss the issues that are raised by this topic. The workshop also aims to stimulate discussion on the way in which the human rights implications of climate change can be further explored.

Further details:
http://www.caspi.unimelb.edu.au/e_law.php



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Related Sites

ACSIS: www.acsis.unimelb.edu.au

VEIL: www.ecoinnovationlab.com
www.sustainablemelbourne.com
www.sustainablecities.com



Events

- * 3 July - George Monbiot -What Australia Should do to Stop the Planet Burning.
- * 3 July - Institute of Australian Geographers
- * 17 Aug - Dispelling the myths about climate change science
- * 22 Aug - The Challenge of Climate Change for Health in Rural & Regional Victoria - CASPI
- * 23 Aug - Workshop on Human Rights and Climate Change - Law Faculty
- * 19-23 September - Conference on Spatial Information Theory - COSIT

Details: www.caspi.unimelb.edu.au

Please forward any comments, suggestions, and information about related events to:

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