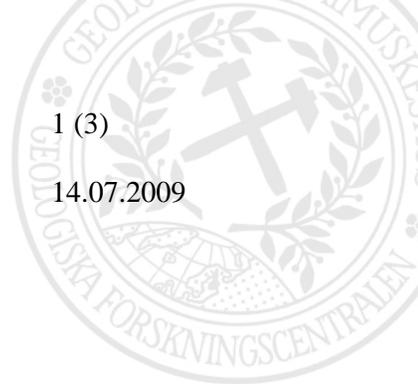


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PROPOSAL

IUGS GEM WORKING GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Outline: Climate change adaptation is nowadays recognized as equally important as climate change mitigation (e.g. EU White Paper on Climate Change Adaptation). There is a strong demand for scientists to communicate potential impacts of climate change and to seek for strategies and measures to adapt to those. Several projects have developed adaptation strategies at local level, some of which have already been implemented (e.g. www.astra-project.org, www.baltcica.org). On regional level, assessments on understanding vulnerabilities to climate change focus on regional development and economic issues (e.g. www.espon-climate.eu). The proposed GEM working group on climate change adaptation shall communicate the results achieved in project activities to a broader international audience.

Work plan: The working group shall focus on two major fields of activities: Workshops and publications.

1.) Workshops: To kick start the working group (WG) activities shall be co-financed as joint ventures with already planned workshops and lectures. The other part of the financing are in-kind contributions from the research institutions where WG members are employed (e.g. working hours, travel allowances). The lectures and workshops planned for 2009/10 are also to promote the work of the WG and to seek for potential new GEM members (see workshop and lecture list in Annex I).

2.) Publications:

Two books are currently planned with Wiley Blackwell, one on local climate change adaptation practices in the Baltic Sea Region and one on climate change vulnerabilities in Europe (both books co-edited by Philipp Schmidt-Thomé). The books are mainly intended to display the results of the projects mentioned above. The WG contributions to these books are proposed chapters with international perspectives. These chapters shall enhance the quality of the books by both giving authors from overseas the chance to publish their results in publications that display successful climate change adaptation practices and policies, and to raise interest among an international audience.

The book publications are foreseen for the year 2011/2012. The call for contributions to the book is currently open within the projects and will be extended to external contributions in fall 2009.

Financing: At the start of the WG the operation will be based on raising awareness on the group by using readily co-financed workshops and lectures. Once a working group reference list becomes visible the workshops shall start funding proper working group workshops that are not necessarily attached to other ongoing events. A general rule of thumb shall be to hold workshops mainly in combination with other events to keep need for external funding as low as possible. Additional meetings of the working group are not foreseen, but could occur, e.g. in conjunction with a workshop or a larger international event (e.g.



IGC). The communication within the working group shall function via email and telephone. Meetings can be held along with workshops, but general attendance of all members of the working group is not essential. There are already proposals on co-funded workshops from several research institutes in Latin America.

The financial statement will, in case of workshops and publications produced by co-financing of ongoing projects, state the part of the activities that were specifically contributed by other sources that project funds. External funding, e.g. UNESCO, will be reported in respective detail.

Membership:

Proposed chair of the WG is Philipp Schmidt-Thomé. Several potential candidates for the working group have already been identified. The working group is certainly also open for GEM officers to participate. Once external experts are appointed the potential to extend the WG membership towards GEM officer or executive will be assessed. First contacts have been made to potential members in Spain, Brazil, Chile, the Philippines and Malaysia.

At the start of the WG the main aim is to find appropriate scientists to cooperate to the book publications, and to participate in the organization of workshops. As an outline, the participation in the working group will not be funded from any external source but has to be financed by each participant. Funding is only possible for travel expenses. Once members are familiarized with GEM and cooperation works well, potential GEM officers candidate will be proposed.

Schedule: Start the working group is in 2009. It would function until the books are published, with the potential to extend the work upon demand (to be reviewed).

Communication: The communication would follow a 2-way strategy: one is to use workshops and lectures; and the second one is to publish the most important results in scientific books. A website is installed under the GEM www portal. The communication of the working group will be financed via ongoing project activities and workshops.

Reporting: The working group will report regularly to the GEM annual report, including the amount and location of workshops, the raised (co-)funding as well as the status of the envisaged publications.

Annex I

Proposed workshops and lectures for the IUGS GEM working group on climate change adaptation:

- UN Habitat Course on sustainable cities, Nairobi, Kenya, August 2009
- CCOP annual meeting thematic session on environmental geosciences, Vung tau, Vietnam, October 2009. Potentially there would be room for a workshop in Vietnam which could foster both potential future cooperation (including external funding), as well as a start up for the GEM working group
- Lectures on natural hazards, climate change and planning at the University of Helsinki
- A workshop and lectures on the climate change adaptation in Putrajaya, Malaysia, December 2009
- Lectures on climate change adaptation for planning at the University of Luxembourg (March 2010)
- Lectures on natural hazards and climate change adaptation for regional development (Alicante, Spain (April 2010)
- Workshop in conjunction with the annual GEM meeting to be held in SE Asia (October 2010)
- Others still to be scheduled and confirmed.