

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

UNEP Vienna Office
Ev-K2-CNR Committee
Padua University
With the collaboration of EURAC Research

Objectives

To underline the important role of mountains as indicators of climate change and to demonstrate that the impact of global warming on the ecosystem services provided by mountains is relevant to anyone.

Patronage



Presidenza
della Repubblica



Ministero dell'Ambiente e della
Tutela del Territorio e del Mare



Ministero degli
Affari Esteri



Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri
Affari Regionali e Autonomie Locali



COOPERAZIONE
ITALIANA



Regione
Veneto



Provincia di Padova
Assessorato all'Ambiente



Comune
di Padova

Framework



Mountain Partnership



planetearth
Earth Sciences for Society



11 December
International
MOUNTAIN DAY



SHARE
EVEREST08
THE GLOBAL WARMING SENSOR



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CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

Ev-K2-CNR Committee

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Padova
17-18
April 2008

Padua University Palazzo Bo Via 8 Febbraio, 2
- Aula Magna "Galileo Galilei" April 17, 2008
- Aula "Archivio Storico" April 18, 2008

International Conference
"Mountains as early
indicators of climate change"



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Motivation, Background, Scientific fields

The UN General Assembly in this year resolution on sustainable development of mountains regions states that “that mountains provide early indications of global climate change”.

The alpine glaciers, high altitude lakes, the upper tree line, the biodiversity and the vegetation in general present in the mountains are precise and sensible indicators of climate change.

The vulnerability of other ecosystems (mainly the coral reef) is well known to the public as it is well publicized. What is not so evident is that mountains are very sensible to small changes in temperature and can then provide an early indicator of climate change.

Moreover, mountain ecosystem services (such as water purification and climate regulation) extend beyond their geographical boundaries and affect all continental mainlands. Climate change effects are not limited to the mountains. In fact an earlier and shortened snow-melt period, with rapid water release and downstream floods which, in combination with reduced glacier extent, could cause water shortage during the growing season is of importance also of non/mountains community.

A lack of snow cover exposes plants and animals to frost and influences water supply in spring as well as it is connected with avalanches, rock fall, fire, and wind and herbivore damage.

The General Assembly resolution “Encourages also the scientific community, national governments and inter-governmental organizations to collaborate with mountain communities to jointly study and address the negative effects of global climate change on mountain environments” and this conference aims to raise awareness on the importance of mountains for the global ecosystem”.



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Thursday 17 April

Palazzo Bo Aula Magna “Galileo Galilei”

INAUGURAL SESSION 15.30-18.00

Opening Remarks

Vincenzo Milanese	Rector Padova University
Christophe Bouvier	Director UNEP ROE
Agostino Da Polenza	EV-K2-CNR Committee
Guido Sacconi	Member of the EU Parliament – President Commission on Climate Change
Isolde Coppola	Regional Ministry for Cooperation – Veneto Region
Oscar De Bona	Regional Ministry for Mountains – Veneto Region
Roberto Marcato	Province of Padova
Flavio Zanonato	Major of Padova
Corrado Clini	Director General Italian Ministry of Environment
Alain Giorgio Economides	Director General Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Opening Lesson

Dr. R.K. Pachauri	(India) Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - Director General of the Tata Energy Research Institute
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Friday 18 April

Palazzo Bo Aula “Archivio Storico”

SESSION 1 9.00-12.30

9.00	John Jack Shroder	Himalayan Glacier Changes and Global Change Anomalies
9.30	Georg Kaser	(Austria) Department of Geography - University of Innsbruck
10.00	Richard Armstrong	Climate change and snow cover and glaciers
10.30	COFFEE BREAK	
11.00	Riccardo Valentini	Global change and ecosystem services: an outlook on forests and mountain regions
11.30	Sandro Fuzzi	Atmospheric composition change and climate in high mountain areas
12.00	Shardul Agrawala	Principal Economist, Climate Change OECD Environment Directorate

12.30 Session 1 Conclusions

13.00 BUFFET

14.30

SESSION 2 14.30-17.00

14.30	Sergio Castellari	(Italy) Centro Euro-Mediterraneo per i Cambiamenti Climatici (CMCC) e Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV) – Italian IPCC Contact point
15.00	Jordi Catalan	Lakes as witnesses of Global Change in Mountains
15.30	Christian Körner	(Switzerland) Institute of Botany, University of Basel
16.00	Martin Beniston	Climatic Change and Impacts on the Alpine Environment
16.30	Session 2 Conclusions	

Notes: The meeting will be in English. Simultaneous translation (Italian-English) is foreseen for the afternoon of April 17. Scientific presentation will last 30 minutes, discussion included (approx. 25 min. presentation + 5 min. question and discussion)