

# CALL FOR PAPERS

*A very visible truth.  
Climate change at the coast*

Venue: Julian Hodge Building, University Cardiff, Cardiff, Wales  
Date: **Provisional date** June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2007

**CoastNet and Cardiff University are organising this conference under the EU Interreg Programme COREPOINT**

## Aims of the conference

“An inconvenient truth”(Gore 2006) “Climate change is ... the greatest and widest ranging market failure ever seen (Stern 2006) “doing nothing is not an option “ (Hansen, EU Commission 2006). “The issue of climate change respects no border” (Bush 2001) “The fundamental debate is [whether it is] man-made or natural” (Bush 2006). “I’d like to see the politics move faster” (Miliband, BBC 2007)

**These are just some views and statements currently surrounding the issue of climate change. But for many living in coastal regions the truth is far from “inconvenient” it can be catastrophic.**

Climate change is a complex issue and its impacts and implications remain uncertain. As a result, efforts to raise its profile both in the national and international agenda has been slow (Lowe *et al* 2005 Tyndall Centre). This has not been helped by different academic viewpoints, political agendas and a variety of conflicting messages.

Nowhere is the effect of climate change more visible than on the coast. Sea level rise, increased storm activity and flooding, erosion and the devastating hurricanes are all indicative of a changing climate. The evidence is there but many questions are still unanswered. One fact remains ... we cannot stop it in the short term. For coastal managers climate change creates many dilemmas in terms of adaptation strategies, appropriate risk management policies and mitigation measures. For example is offsetting and emission reduction the most efficient way of mitigating the effects and should this be through renewables and habitat creation projects? There is currently some doubt on the efficacy of such projects.

The Stern review concluded that ‘the benefits of strong early action considerably outweigh the costs’. Therefore it is essential that there is a greater understanding of coastal systems in relation to the impacts of climate change in order to develop strategies and policies that will make a difference.

This conference focuses on climate change and the coast. It will explore the latest thinking throughout Europe and internationally (at the national, regional and local level ) on changing coastal systems, adaptation strategies and mechanisms, risk management through emerging planning policy, future thinking, and mitigation opportunities..

Invited speakers include Ministers of State, politicians, media personalities and international experts. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to take part in an ‘Any Questions’ type debate with a panel of experts.

## DRAFT Programme

**9.30 – 10.00 am**      **Registration and refreshments**

**10.00 – 10.10**      **Ministerial Opening and Address**

**10.10 – 10.30**      **Keynote speaker – Climate Change and the Coast**

### **Session 1**      **Strategies and policies**

**10.30 – 12.30**      This session will focus on strategic decisions and issues of climate change on the coast throughout the world. Papers with an international and EU dimension. Presentations **may** cover the following areas:

- Does the coast need a special focus in climate change policy
- What are the challenges for coastal regions in responding the climate change
- The translation of international policy agreements in terms of the coastal situation
- What does the EU climate change policy mean for coastal areas
- What are the specific challenges to different coastal sectors e.g. shipping, energy in relation to adapting to climate change

**12.30 – 13.30**

**Lunch**-----

**13.30 – 14.15 HOT ISSUES PANEL** – with local, national and international experts from Government, the media and national and international organisations, answering and debating questions from the audience

4.15 – 14.45

Networking and Refreshments

This time will include an activity designed to provide a futures focus and vision

### **Session 2**      **Good practice, adaptation and mitigation**

**14.45 – 16.30**      **Local and Regional Good practice** - This session will focus on examples of Good practice in relation to adaptation to climate change on the coast. In particular the will be presentations which describe relevant work in the Severn Estuary area or good practice in comparable areas (Nationally and EU) which may be applicable to issues in the Severn Estuary area.

*(key words: good practice, adaptive mechanisms, e.g. energy structures, predictive models, social justice, renewables etc)*

**16.30 – 17.15**

Close OR drinks reception (sponsored ) to be confirmed

*A very visible truth.*  
*Climate change at the coast*

Venue: Julian Hodge Building, University Cardiff, Cardiff, Wales  
Date: **Provisional date** June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2007

**PLEASE NOTE THAT EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR THIS CONFERENCE.**

To submit a paper abstract ( maximum 500 words) or to enquire about exhibition space please complete the form below and return to [Theresa.redding@coastnet.org.uk](mailto:Theresa.redding@coastnet.org.uk),

Postal address: *CoastNet, The Gatehouse, Rowhedge Wharf, High Street, Rowhedge, Essex CO5 7ET*  
Fax: *01206 728644*

**LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS - Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2007**

Name/Title (Dr./Professor etc):
Position with company/job title:
Company/Organisation:
Address
Email
Tel
Fax

**Title:**

**Authors(s)**

**Abstract/(or space required):**  
(Continue on another page if required)