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KlimaCampus Kolloquium

Robert J. Nicholls

Climate change and sea-level rise: impact and adaptation on the coast

Global mean sea-level rise is resulting in a range of impacts including increased flood risk and submergence, salinisation of surface and ground waters, and morphological change, such as erosion and wetland loss. The potential human and ecosystem impacts in the 21st Century are significant but uncertain. Actual impacts will depend on a range of change factors in addition to the amount of sea-level rise and climate change, including a number of factors which are human-controlled such as coastal land use and management approaches.

Despite concerns about sea-level rise since the 1980s, most countries are only beginning to consider sea level in coastal planning at the present time. There is a need to develop adaptation plans for coastal areas, especially the most needy such as small island states, deltas and coastal cities. The following research would assist in identifying such areas and improve climate policy formulation for coastal areas.

Robert J. Nicholls from the University of Southampton (UK), is invited by Detlef Stammer, Universität Hamburg/CEN.

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