

United Nations

MEDIA ADVISORY

Media Briefing: “A conversation on climate change and COP21 with Prof. Thomas Stocker, University of Bern, Switzerland”

What: The United Nations Information Centre and the Swiss Embassy cordially invite you to an interactive conversation on climate change and on COP21 with Prof. Thomas Stocker, University of Bern, Switzerland, co-chair IPCC WGI. This session aims at providing media representatives with solid knowledge on climate change and on the process of COP21.

When: Wednesday, 9 September 2015, 12:00 – 13:00 (lunch to follow)

Where: UNIC, ILO Building, G-5/2, Near State Bank of Pakistan, Islamabad

RSVP: not later than 17:00 hrs on 8th September by email: info.islamabad@unic.org

Please note that for security reasons only registered participants will be admitted to the session.

BIOGRAPHY

Thomas Stocker was born in Zürich, Switzerland and obtained a PhD in Natural Sciences at ETH Zürich in 1987. He has held research positions at University College London, McGill University (Montreal), Columbia University (New York) and at the University of Hawai'i (Honolulu). Since 1993 he is Professor of Climate and Environmental Physics at the University of Bern. His research encompasses the development of climate models of intermediate complexity, modelling past and future climate change and the reconstruction of the chemical composition of precipitation and greenhouse gas concentrations based on ice cores from Greenland and Antarctica.

Thomas Stocker has published over 200 peer-reviewed papers in the area of climate dynamics and paleoclimate modelling and reconstruction. He was awarded a Dr Honoris Causa of the University of Versailles (France) in 2006 and the Hans Oeschger Medal of the European Geosciences Union in 2009. In 2012 he was elected Fellow of the American Geophysical Union. Thomas Stocker served as a Coordinating Lead Author in the Third and Fourth Assessment Reports of the IPCC and was elected Co-Chair of Working Group I for the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report in 2008.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is one of the major global challenges of the 21st century. The adverse impacts of climate change are affecting all countries, especially developing countries, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, rising sea levels, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, further threatening food security, water, energy and health, and more broadly efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development.

According to the Climate Change Vulnerability Index, Pakistan is one of the countries most affected by climate change. Much of its vulnerability is due to its geographic, demographic and climatic conditions. Pakistan will face tremendous costs in terms of water, food and energy security as a consequence of climate change.

COP21

In 2015, France will be hosting and presiding the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21), otherwise known as “Paris 2015” from November 30th to December 11th.

The main aim of the conference is to achieve a universal, legally binding agreement on combating climate change, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2°C. All states will have to communicate their "contributions" – the efforts they intend to undertake to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions – before the Paris Conference, for them to be assessed during the first half of 2015. The agreement will enter into force in 2020.