



Youth Summit on **Climate Change** and its impact on cities

November 24–25 2005
Switzerland



Climate change is the most severe problem we are facing today

Sir David King, Chief Scientific Advisor to the UK Government

In the climate debate there are two groups of key players: the scientists, who research meticulously and report their findings to other specialists in the field, and the decision-makers, who feel that economic and political implications need to be at the centre of the debate.

Scientists are naturally cautious in their research findings, not least because clear-cut and indisputably reliable results are elusive in science and will be subjected to peer criticism. Decision-makers, on the other hand, have to rely on research results they are given, which are rarely unequivocal.

The focus of the British Council Summit on Climate Change and its Impact on Cities is to initiate meaningful communication between today's scientists and tomorrow's decision-makers. Idealistic? Perhaps. We believe it is not only necessary, it is achievable.

To start this process, the British Council is organising a pre-summit. Young Swiss and UK scientists will meet in Switzerland and will be joined by guest scientists from California and Bangladesh. They will be mainly postdocs,

working in different scientific fields related to climate change. They will also receive training in running workshops. They will then be expected to facilitate workshops in the youth summit, which will start immediately after the scientists' meeting. The co-ordinator of the UK scientists is the National Centre for Oceanography at the University of Southampton while the Swiss scientists will be co-ordinated by ProClim, the Swiss forum for climate and global change issues.

The Youth Summit will be a conference turned on its head. The young scientists will work with a large group of tomorrow's decision makers from Switzerland and the UK, in small closed workshops and will then, together with the participants, make presentations on the final day to today's decision-makers.

Objectives

- To highlight best practice and emphasise solutions and opportunities
- To facilitate dialogue between scientists and political and economic stakeholders on climate change issues and the scenarios for cities
- To promote international research collaboration to the mutual benefit of the UK and Swiss science communities

Patrons of the Youth Summit

Sir David King
State Secretary Charles Kleiber

Venue

Berne

Summit participants

young people from Switzerland and the UK:

- from the business world
- from political groups
- from the media

facilitators: young scientists

Structure

- Workshops covering fields related to climate change will be facilitated by young scientists working in the field of atmospheric sciences, the environment, geography, etc (doctoral candidates and post-docs) from the UK, Switzerland, California and Bangladesh
- The participants will present the outcome of the meeting to Swiss and political and business leaders and the media on the final day

Sustainability

The British Council will undertake to ensure that the network which is created at the Youth Summit is sustained and developed in the coming years. We will do this by offering a programme of events designed expressly for this purpose.

Partners will include

- British Embassy Berne
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Myclimate, which offers climate protection projects to compensate for CO2 emissions
- ProClim, the Swiss forum for climate and global change issues
- NCCR, The Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research on Climate

Climate Change exhibition

The British Council exhibition on climate change, NorthSouthEastWest, will be shown in digital format, on a large plasma screen, at Zurich and Berne railway stations during the event. It will also be shown for one week during the summer. This part of the project will be funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

For more information, please contact

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The purpose of the British Council is to build mutually beneficial relationships between people in the UK and other countries and to increase appreciation of the UK's creative ideas and achievements.

This work is driven by our strong belief in internationalism, a commitment to professionalism and an enthusiasm for creativity. These qualities, coupled with our integrity and our conviction that cultural relations can help individuals and the world community to thrive, make the British Council a good partner and a special place to work.



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Bern



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