

ETIAtalks Panel Discussion on “Natural Disaster Prevention”

Friday, 13th October, 7pm,

Festsaal Diplomatische Akademie Wien, Favoritenstraße 15a 1040 Vienna

In the name of ETIAtalks, We thank you for agreeing to contribute to our Panel Discussion on Natural Disaster Prevention on Friday, 13th October, 2017, 7pm.

In the following you will find general information on the topic, information on all of the speakers on the panel as well as the moderator, and details on the discussion and the questions asked.

Please contact us if any of the details on your person are missing that you would like to have incorporated. We will then immediately update the information on our website. Furthermore, if there is a specific issue you want to discuss within the overarching topic of Natural Disaster Prevention, please let us know and we will add this to the list of questions for our moderator.

We would kindly ask you to arrive at the venue latest at 6:30pm to enable us to introduce all of the speakers and the moderator and to personally brief you on the event.

The Panel Discussion will be held in English.

ETIAtalks is a committee organizing a series of panel discussions initiated by students of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna and the Technical University of Vienna`s Continuing Education Center. It serves as a forum to explore and discuss issues of current relevance in the fields of the environment, energy, climate change and related technologies on national, regional and international scales. In this sense, ETIAtalks seeks to connect leading scholars and practitioners across multiple sectors and to provide a dynamic and interactive platform.

Avalanches, floods, earthquakes, storms and extreme weather are unfortunately not unknown natural disasters that (re)occur on an increasing level in Austria. Against the background of climate change and global warming, the discussion on how to prevent or - in the disastrous occurrence of such an event - how to manage natural disaster situations, is as pressing one as ever.

Therefore this first panel discussion on "**Natural Disaster Prevention**" should highlight Austria`s efforts towards disaster control and natural disaster prevention on the occasion of the International Day on Natural Disaster Prevention.

The Talk will be moderated by: **Magdalena Meergraf**
Journalist The GAP, Monopol, Biorama, Kurier Health Extra

Participating Panel Experts:

- **Priv. Doz. Dr. Mag. Christoph Matulla:** Senior Scientist, Head of Climate Impact Group within the Climate Research Unit, Climate Modeling ZAMG, Meteorological Service of Austria
Senior Lecturer: University of Natural Resources Vienna, University of Vienna, University Salzburg, University Graz
 - http://www.zamg.ac.at/docs/wir_ueber_uns/cv/cv_matulla_christoph.pdf
 - <https://www.zamg.ac.at/cms/de/produkte/klima/buecher-karten-cds/buecher>
 - <https://www.zamg.ac.at/cms/de/aktuell/news/krisensystem-fuer-naturkatastrophen-startet-italien-und-oesterreich-leiten-europaeisches-pilotprojekt-aristotle>
- **Priv. Doz. DI Dr. Florian Rudolf-Miklau:** Head of Department Torrent & Avalanche Barriers, Austrian Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management; Mountain Risk Engineering, University of Natural Resources Vienna.
 - <http://www.boku.ac.at/personen/person/AC9D8CAF2A6EB48F/>
 - http://www.wienerzeitung.at/themen_channel/literatur/buecher_aktuell/242426_Rudolf-Miklau-Florian-Naturgefahren-Management-in-Oesterreich.html
 - <https://www.bmlfuw.gv.at/forst/wildbach-lawinenverbauung/organisation-kontakt/LeitungTeam.html>
- **Dr. Eberhard Faust:** Munich Reinsurance Company, leading expert on global risk solutions regarding natural hazards, Head of Research Climate Risks and Natural Hazards Geo Risks Research/Corporate Climate Center - academic background in geoecology/environmental sciences and Protestant theology
 - <https://www.munichre.com/en/homepage/index.html>
 - <https://www.munichre.com/topics-online/en/2014/07/portrait>
- **Dr. Susanne Hanger-Kopp:** ETH Zürich, Climate Protection & - adaptation, EU climate adaptation policy; IIASA Research Scholar Risk and Resilience
 - <http://www.iiasa.ac.at/web/home/research/researchPrograms/RISK/Susanne-Hanger.en.html>
 - https://www.science.apa.at/rubrik/natur_und_technik/Flutschaeden_In_Oesterreich_fehlen_Anreize_zur_Risikoreduktion/SCI_20170821_SCI39391351437709076

Structure of the Evening and the Panel Discussion:

- Pre-Panel discussion:
 - In private: greeting and introduction of Speakers and Moderator and short briefing on the discussion by ETIAtalks heads
- Short introduction of ETIAtalks by Julia Kraft, introduction of the Moderator (5min)
- Moderator introduces the experts and asks the speakers for a short introductory statement (5min)
- Introductory statements of max. 5 minutes per Speaker on their work and the topic (20min)

- Question round with Moderator and Speakers (45min)
- Question round with Audience and Speakers (30min)
- Closing round with closing statements of max 3 minutes per Speaker
- Moderator closes the Discussion
 - Opening of Buffet, informal conversations with experts, audience, etc
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1- Round of introduction (per speaker 3 minutes) on questions like:

- What is a “natural disaster” and are there “typical” natural disasters that occur in Austria and Europe? Are they becoming “more atypical or also international” (eg. tornado in Schwechat in July)?
- How is your work linked with natural disaster prevention?
- How has natural disaster prevention changed through the effects of climate change?
- If the experts wish to have images to underline their explanations, these can be included by the organizers in a PowerPoint presentation. But please keep these images brief.

2- Individual question session on the panel (selection of the following questions):

Dr. Matulla:

- You work in the ZAMG (Zentralanstalt für Meteorologie und Geodynamik) - the central Meteorological Service of Austria, and have edited works on the effects of climate change in Austria, did the nature of natural disasters in Austria change through climate change? How?
- Did the prevention efforts change with these findings?
- In light of current natural disasters, such as hurricane Irma, or the earthquakes in Mexico of unprecedented gravity: Is climate change really increasing the frequency and gravity of natural disasters?
- How has the frequency and gravity of natural disasters evolved in the last decades and how is it projected to evolve in the future? Do we face a catastrophic future?
- The ZAMG, together with the Italian National Institute for Geophysics and Volcanology coordinates the ongoing EU project ARISTOTLE (“All Risk Integrated System Towards the Holistic Early-Warning”), which aims at improving the information flow between national expert institutions and the European Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC). Can you elaborate a bit on Austria’s leading role?
- ZAMG cooperates with the impact community, how? What measures are taken on the political side? Have recommendations to the government been accepted and implemented?

Dr. Rudolf-Miklau:

- Can you briefly explain the institutional setting concerning the management and prevention of natural disasters in Austria and Europe?
- You have written a manual on the management of natural disasters, what is essential to do for each and everyone to reduce potential risks?
- How are municipalities and or even individuals integrated in the risk reduction strategies?
- Increasing populations need more living space, could this be an additional challenge to natural disaster prevention? As an example: the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management's website states that only 38% of Austria's landscape is permanently habitable.

Dr. Faust:

- Though you have an academic qualification in protestant theology, I am sure you would not argue that natural disasters are punishments from God. But are they completely man-made?
- Can global natural disasters be distinguished from "regional" catastrophes, or are those interlinked, for instance through global warming?
- Are global solutions available for natural disaster prevention or mitigation, what are they?
- What are typical risk solutions that you advise your clients with regards to natural disasters?

Dr. Hanger-Kopp:

- What must absolutely be included in effective risk assessment and reduction of natural disasters and are there any best practices that you can name? (Recent publication of a comparative study on "Insurance, public assistance and household flood risk reduction: A comparative study of Austria, England and Romania", <http://pure.iiasa.ac.at/14737/>)
- Can you give some examples of "alternative climate mitigation pathways and associated risks" that you examine in the Horizon 2020 project TRANSrisk?
- One of your projects at IIASA currently is "FARM" which addresses questions of drought risk management in agriculture in Europe and Austria. In light of mudslides and or floods, how serious is Austria threatened by droughts? Will this change in the future?
- Internationally, how would you assess Austria's efforts towards disaster prevention and mitigation?
- You do research on the governance of climate change and regional development in a multi-jurisdictional context: What is the role of politics, on a national or international (e.g. EU) level, in guaranteeing justice, fairness, and efficiency in the disaster prevention processes, regarding early warning, awareness raising, public acceptance of prevention measures, policies, etc.?

3- Q & A with Audience - Session, Information:

- Questioners from the audience state their name and organization they come from and direct the Question either to the entire panel or to a specific speaker.
- Those Questions are either answered directly or collected and then answered.

4- Last round and closing statements:

- How will natural disasters change in the future and how do we have to prepare/react on that?
- Can natural disasters be prevented or just managed?
- How could cooperation between Researchers, Academia, Politics, Insurance, etc improve to ensure effective natural disaster prevention?

After the moderator closes the discussion we invite the experts and the audience to a **buffet and wine** to end the evening in informal discussions with persons present. Approximately 80-100 interested persons will follow the discussion. We currently expect heads of departments of OSCE, IAEA, UNIDO, Ambassadors, Akademia, etc to participate in the event.

Finally, with your consent we would take **pictures** of the event and **stream** the discussion live on Facebook and our website. Would that be acceptable for you?

Please kindly give your written **consent** in your responding email accepting the publishing of pictures and the live streaming of the panel discussion of the ETIAtalk Panel Discussion on the 13th of October 2017 starting from 7pm at the Diplomatische Akademie Wien by accepting the following:

“By participating in events at the Diplomatische Akademie Wien you agree to the use of all film, image and sound rights by the organiser. Especially, you agree to a live stream of the panel discussion on the DA’s Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/DiplomaticAcademyVienna/>”

In the name of ETIAtalks we thank you very much for your participation in our event and in helping us make this discussion a success by bringing your expertise to this discussion on a very current issue.

With best regards,

Valerie Hengl, Sarah König, Julia Kraft, Birgit Van Duyvenbode
Heads of ETIAtalks

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