

Special Call for Abstracts & Sessions

4th International Disaster and Risk Conference IDRC Davos 2012

"Integrative Risk Management in a Changing World - Pathways to a Resilient Society"

26 -30 August 2012 | Davos, Switzerland

The Global Risk Forum GRF Davos and the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society Munich jointly invite for the submission of abstracts for two special topics to be presented at the 4th International Disaster and Risk Conference IDRC Davos 2012 from 26-30 August 2012 in Davos, Switzerland.

The two special topics are:

- **Risk, Society and Culture**
- **Climates of Migration: Disaster - Environment - Human Mobility**

We solicit contributions – ranging from individual (paper) abstracts via session proposals to workshops and side events – from the humanities, cultural and social sciences. We aim to highlight the historical, cultural, ethical and other humanities' perspectives, as well as from those of the social sciences.

You are cordially invited to submit an abstract for a(n)

- oral presentation
- poster presentation
- session
- workshop

within the thematic realm of the following two special conference themes:

1. RISK, SOCIETY AND CULTURE

Today's global risks are multifold, highly complex and characterized by a great level of interdependency and uncertainty. Whether natural disasters and extreme events, climate change and other environmental changes, technological, energy or economic and financial risks – the risk landscape is changing rapidly and has become a truly global issue at the very core of society. Thus the global risk discourse has penetrated all academic and professional disciplines as well as all levels of social and societal affairs. Therefore, a broader and at the same time more in-depth perspective from the humanities, cultural and social sciences is much needed and will no doubt bring the international risk community, both researchers and practitioners, a great deal further in addressing those aspects.

2. CLIMATES OF MIGRATION: DISASTER, ENVIRONMENT, AND HUMAN MOBILITY

A world-wide increase in disasters, climate change and environmental degradation, poverty and fragile statehood are too often resulting in humanitarian crises and lead to a dramatic shift in changing mobility patterns and forced migration. Moreover, changing mobility patterns occur within the contexts of labour migration and erosion of human security. Political instruments so far have failed to really tackle these issues although there is a widely accepted need for effective and sustainable global

governance of forced migration, displacement and mobility – especially due to disaster, climate change and environmental risks. This situation suggests that the issue has not yet fully met the attention of society at large, and has not been fully understood from an inter- and trans-disciplinary perspective. Especially the historical, cultural, ethical and other humanities' contributions, together with those from the social sciences are urgently needed to move this problematique and its discourse to the next frontier – and closer to well-informed decision making.

More information about the Abstract Submission and the International Disaster and Risk Conference IDRC Davos 2012 can be found here (link to: http://www.idrc.info/pages_new.php/Call-for-Abstracts/873/1/831/) .

Ready to submit?

Please submit your abstract (max. 300 words) describing the goal, content and findings of your presentation, workshop or session via our online [conference management tool](#): **(please mention “risk, society and culture” or “climates of migration” as keywords)**



Deadline for the submission of abstracts: 30 April 2012

The best papers will be published in the [International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction](#).

Oral presentations

Oral contributions will be part of thematic sessions with duration of 90minutes. Each parallel session will contain ca. 4 speakers and opportunity for in depth discussion. Contributions accepted for oral presentations will be invited to submit an extended paper of max. 3 pages for the electronic conference proceedings.

Poster presentations

Posters will be presented during special poster sessions. Authors will be asked to be available for discussion during the poster sessions. The poster will be on display to all conference participants before and after the poster sessions take place.

Sessions and Workshops

IDRC Davos 2012 offers the opportunity to host and organize 90 minute sessions and/or workshops. Organizers of sessions/ workshops are responsible for the content, the moderation and the speakers of the session/ workshop. If you would like to apply for organizing and hosting a session and/or workshop, please submit your description (maximum 800 words) including: Background - Objectives - Aims & Outcomes.

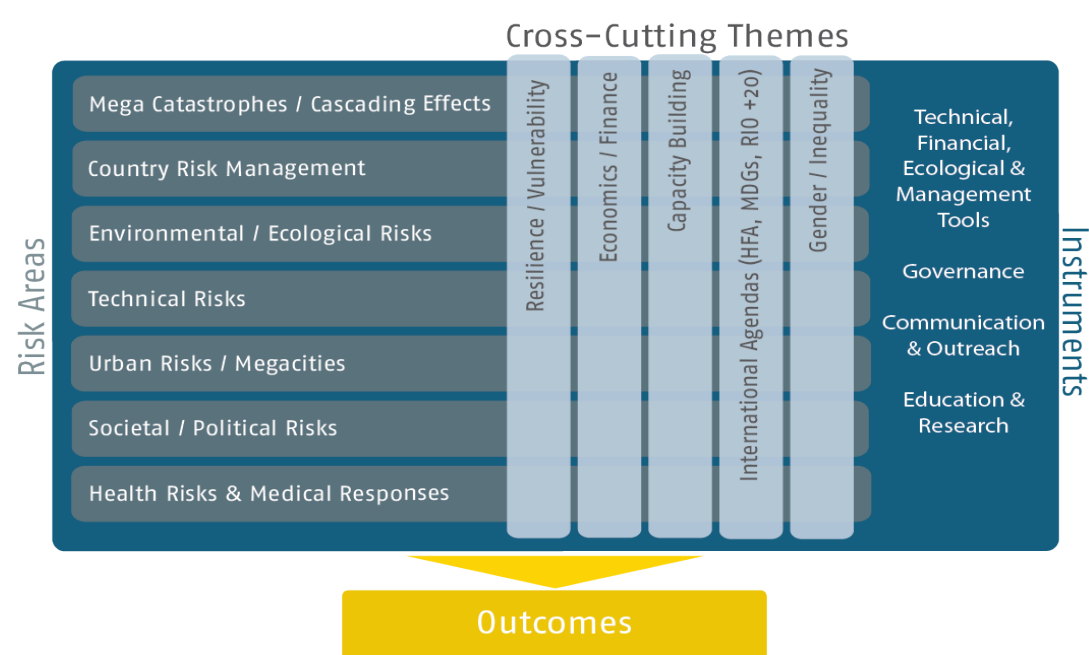
Pre- or post conference events

IDRC Davos 2012 gathers around 1000 participants. In order to benefit from the expertise and the variety of people present in Davos, pre- and post conference events offer the opportunity for in depth working groups or other events without the restriction of 90 minute time slots. If you would like to apply for hosting a 1 or 2 day event before or after the IDRC Davos 2012, please contact Marc Stal at [marc.stal\(at\)grforum\(dot\)org](mailto:marc.stal(at)grforum(dot)org).

Featured Themes, Topics, Tools, Methodologies and Frameworks

The complex and multi faceted nature of risks demands an **innovative, holistic and problem oriented approach to risk and disaster management**. The IDRC Davos 2012 theme “Integrative Risk Management in a changing world” will further establish and develop the approach to integrative risk analysis and management to globally increase resilience and reduce vulnerability. In this context, the thematic areas of “Risk and society, Risk governance, Risk culture” are of crucial importance as we strive for further integration of disciplines, perspectives and solutions. The afore-mentioned areas, along with the special theme of “climates of migration” will be discussed in connection with and relation to vulnerability and resilience, disaster prevention, preparedness and response, extreme events, climate change adaptation, cascading risks, health impacts, capacity building, education, communication and training, economics of disaster and others.

The following matrix is an overview of selected risk areas, important cross-cutting themes and instruments for applicable solutions:



For further information please visit:

<http://idrc.info/>