

Dear readers,

An era came to an end in late September with the departure of our inspiring Executive and Founding Director, Klaus Töpfer. Here, we look back on his mammoth contribution to the establishment of the IASS and the cause of sustainability. The institute has been a hive of activity on many different fronts this autumn. In two interviews, we ask IASS researchers with first-hand knowledge of the respective negotiations about the state of play in the SDG process and in the preparations for the 2015 Paris Climate Conference in December. We also highlight the role of the IASS in recent German efforts to put oceans higher on the sustainability agenda and secure an effective international agreement to protect marine biodiversity. The latest updates on the institute's work on the Energiewende chart the progress being made towards the goal of 'Sustainable Energy for All' at home and abroad.

With best regards,
IASS Press & Communications team

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NEWS FROM THE IASS



Institute

Klaus Töpfer Bids Farewell: IASS Established as a Platform for Dialogue between Science and Society

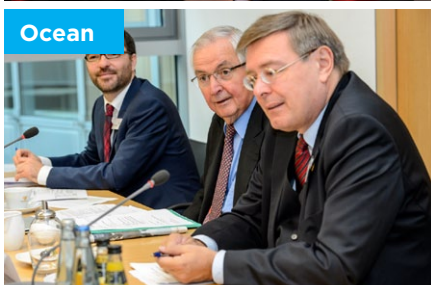
After nearly six years at the helm of the IASS, Klaus Töpfer bade farewell as its executive director on 30 September 2015. At a farewell party with institute staff Töpfer affirmed that the institute had managed to become established as an authority on a broad spectrum of current sustainability issues. In the process, it had embarked on new pathways at the interface of science, society and policy and attracted smart minds from around the world. **Read more...**



Climate

"The Prospects of Securing a New, Binding Agreement are Better than Ever."

Many hopes are pinned on the Climate Summit in Paris at the end of this year. IASS researcher Birgit Lode has been participating in the preparatory consultations among experts on climate law. We asked her a few questions about the current state of play. She explains why there are good grounds to be optimistic regarding the outcome of the Summit. **Read more...**



Ocean

"Humanity's Last Commons": On Course for an Agreement on the High Seas

Almost half of the oxygen we breathe comes from the sea. The oceans absorb more than a quarter of the CO₂ in the atmosphere and store more than 90 percent of the warmth. Through their regulation of the climate and the hydrologic and nutrient cycles, they play an important role in life on Earth. But marine biodiversity is threatened by expanding economic activities. Germany's contribution to protecting and sustainably using the biodiversity of the high seas was the theme of a National Dialogue on the High Seas organised by the IASS and the German Foreign Office in cooperation with the cluster of excellence "The Future Ocean" on 28 September in Berlin. **Read more...**

NEWS FROM THE IAASS

SDGs

The Latest from the SDG Process: Q&A with Ivonne Lobos Alva

The 17 SDGs were adopted by UN member states at the end of September. Our colleague Ivonne Lobos Alva was in New York for the negotiations and soaked up the atmosphere. In this interview, she looks ahead to the implementation process and suggests how the hurdles to realising the goals on the ground can be removed. She also highlights the ongoing contribution to this process by the IAASS. **Read more...**

Energiewende

“The Benefits Are Greater than the Costs”: The German Energiewende and Its International Impact

The German energy transition is an important stimulus for climate protection worldwide. This was the consensus of the expert panel discussion on “The German Energiewende as a Development Prospect in the 21st Century”, co-organised by the KfW bank group and the IAASS on 29 September in the KfW’s Berlin office. What has been the effect of this fundamental transition beyond the borders of Germany? And how can it serve as a model in other regions? These questions provided material for a lively debate among the international experts. **Read more...**

Water-Energy Nexus - Supplying Energy with Less Water: IAASS and Partners Discuss Technical Options and Political Prerequisites

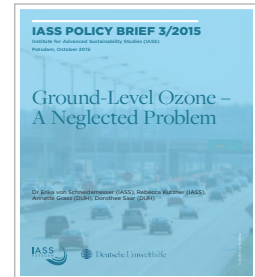
The water requirements of the energy sector are high. Given the increasing global demand for energy and the scarcity of water, there is an urgent need to decouple the energy supply from water usage. Wind energy and photovoltaic have a major role to play here. That was the conclusion of a side event at SAIREC 2015, a major conference on renewable energies that took place from 5 to 7 October in Cape Town. The side event was organised by the IAASS, Greenpeace Africa, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the World Bank’s Thirsty Energy Initiative. **Read more...**

Atmosphere

“Smoke” in the Fight against Air Pollution in the Himalayas: IAASS, ICIMOD and MaHa Sanchar Produce a Telefilm

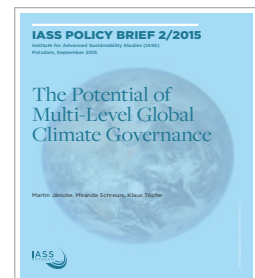
Air pollution is a serious environmental hazard in many parts of the world. In the Himalayas, it is having especially drastic effects on snow, glaciers and tourism as well as on human health. An estimated 30,000 Nepalese die every year due to air pollution. In an effort to raise awareness of this growing problem among the wider public in Nepal, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the IAASS joined forces with MaHa Sanchar – an organisation founded by the veteran comedy duo Madan Krishna Shrestha and Hari Bansha Acharya – to produce a telefilm as part of the joint IAASS/ICIMOD project “Sustainable Atmosphere for the Kathmandu Valley” (SusKat). “Dhuwa” (Smoke) premiered on 1 October in Kathmandu. **Read more...**

IASS PUBLICATIONS



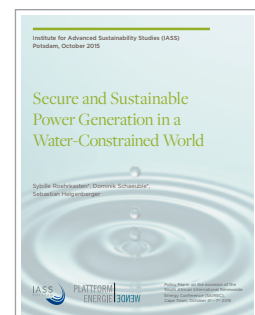
Ground-Level Ozone - A Neglected Problem.

Dr Erika von Schneidemesser (IASS), Rebecca Kutzner (IASS), Annette Grass (DUH), Dorothee Saar (DUH).



The Potential of Multi-Level Global Climate Governance.

Martin Jänicke (IASS), Miranda Schreurs (FU Berlin), Klaus Töpfer (IASS).



Secure and Sustainable Power Generation in a Water-Constrained World. Paper on the occasion of the South Africa International Renewable Energy Conference (SAIREC), Cape Town, 4-7 October 2015, Sybille Roehrkasten, Dominik Schaeuble and Sebastian Helgenberger (all IAASS).

NEWS FROM THE IASS

Summer School

Researching, Preventing and Dealing with Natural Disasters – Insights from the Potsdam Summer School

Humans are repeatedly confronted with natural disasters such as storms, floods, and heatwaves. Often the number of victims could have been reduced using current scientific knowledge and modern technology. How we can improve the ways we deal with natural hazards was the topic of the second international Potsdam Summer School on “Facing Natural Hazards”, which took place from 14 to 23 September. Forty young professionals from 28 countries came together with renowned experts from both academia and the field to discuss how climate change is increasing the frequency of natural disasters and our vulnerability to them, as well as effective disaster risk reduction and the importance of decision-making structures to increase resilience.

Read more...



Jumping for the camera: in the breaks between presentations and discussions, Summer School participants found time to make new friends and discover Potsdam.

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Institute

Klaus Töpfer Bids Farewell: IASS Established as a Platform for Dialogue between Science and Society



As a farewell gift, IASS staff sponsored the planting of a vine in Klaus Töpfer's name in a Potsdam vineyard.

© IASS/Corina Weber

In his thank-you speech, Scientific Director Mark Lawrence expressed his hope that he will continue to cooperate with the IASS founding director on the sustainable development agenda. "Nobody else has flown the flag for sustainability like Klaus Töpfer, and we can be sure that he will make further great contributions in the coming years," said Lawrence.

Klaus Töpfer shaped the development of the IASS from the very start. He was appointed founding and executive director in 2009 and officially assumed office in January 2010. In the start-up phase of the new institute he succeeded in winning Carlo Rubbia, Nobel Laureate in Physics, and the atmospheric scientist Mark Lawrence as scientific directors.

Töpfer studied economics in Frankfurt am Main and Münster. He was professor and Director of the Institute for Spatial Research and Planning at the University of Hanover from 1978 to 1979. He served as Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety from 1987 to 1994 and Federal Minister for Regional Planning, Building and Urban Development from 1994 to 1998. From 1998 to 2006 he was Executive Director of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Under Töpfer's guidance, the IASS grew in just a few years to an institute with a staff of 150 people from 40 different countries and made a name for itself on the national and international stages with its innovative approach to cooperation between representatives of sci-

ence, politics and society. Consistent with its founding mission, in its transdisciplinary research projects the institute uses available knowledge to develop solutions to sustainability challenges and transfers that knowledge into political and economic practice.

The IASS work on the Energiewende is particularly visible. By combining research on the Energiewende with Carlo Rubbia's outstanding work on energy technology, the IASS was able to amass unique expertise in this area, which contributed in no small part to the international recognition of German research and policy on energy.

With its work on soils, the IASS managed in a short time to raise awareness of the threat posed to this vital resource and work towards improving soil protection together with partners from academia, politics and civil society. It has also bridged the gap between science and action when it comes to better ocean governance, greater consideration of the cultural dimension of sustainability, and the analysis of capital market policies as real challenges for sustainability.

Scientific Director Mark Lawrence will assume the duties of IASS managing director from October 2015. In February 2016 risk researcher Ortwin Renn will join the IASS as the first of two new scientific directors. Renn is currently Professor of Environmental Sociology and Technology Assessment at the University of Stuttgart. In particular, he will continue the strategic dialogue at the interface of science and policy that has become a hallmark of the IASS under Klaus Töpfer. Renn is especially interested in evidence-based political consulting and social advice. The triumvirate of scientific directors should be in place by summer 2016 following the joint appointment of the third director with the University of Potsdam.

As the founding director of the IASS, Klaus Töpfer will remain connected to the institute. As a boss, colleague and person, he made a lasting impression on all members of staff. His lifelong personal and professional commitment to achieving sustainable development, the authenticity of his dedication to the cause, the recognition he has received across the globe, and his insatiable intellectual curiosity regarding the challenges of tomorrow, are unique. In his farewell speech, Töpfer encouraged IASS employees to "bring the same energy and commitment to future IASS efforts towards sustainability."

Klaus Töpfer's contribution to the establishment of the IASS will be officially acknowledged by Federal Minister Johanna Wanka, Brandenburg Science Minister Sabine Kunst and high-ranking representatives of academia, politics and society at an honorary symposium in Berlin on the evening of 11 November 2015.

If you are interested in attending the Honorary Symposium for Klaus Töpfer, please contact Aneta Galek:

aneta.galek@iass-potsdam.de

Climate

“The Prospects of Securing a New, Binding Agreement are Better than Ever.”



IASS Climate Law Expert
Dr Birgit Lode.

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How likely is it, in your opinion, that a global climate agreement will be adopted in Paris?

At the moment the prospects of securing a new, binding agreement are better than ever before. That agreement is meant to replace the Kyoto Protocol that is due to expire in 2020 and ensure that the two-degree limit is not exceeded.

The negotiation process within the Working Group established under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the COP17 in Durban (2011) seems promising. Just a few days ago, the Contact Group of this Working Group – the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, or ADP for short – presented a much leaner version of a possible agreement text. In contrast to the 90-page negotiation text of February of this year, it is just 31 pages long. French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius will officially head the negotiations at the Paris Climate Summit (COP21), which is fast approaching. Naturally enough, the French Environment Minister Ségolène Royal will also be in on the act, and the triumvirate will be completed by President François Hollande himself, who has made this matter a top priority without hesitation.

How strong is the international support for a climate agreement?

Among other things, Pope Francis' recently published encyclical Laudato si has lent significant support to this endeavour. It concludes that workable agreements are urgently needed. This is because local authorities are often not in a position to take effective measures. Far from coincidental, this intervention by Pope Francis in the decisive phase of the negotiation process was interpreted as a clear acknowledgement by the Catholic Church of the pressing need for action to tackle climate change effectively and deal responsibly with the climate as a public good.

The intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs), which have now been submitted by over 150 State Parties to the UNFCCC, are also helping to keep the overall mood buoyant. They encompass commitments by the world's main emitters of greenhouse gases – the USA and China – but also countries like Mexico, and take short-lived climate-forcing pollutants (SLCPS) like black carbon into consideration as well as the so-called Kyoto gases, above all CO₂ and methane. Furthermore, the submission of INDCs by countries like Mali clearly shows that even major national crises, fragile state structures and regional conflicts have not managed to push the issue of climate change, which is far more palpable there than it is here, off the political agenda.

So all things considered, I'm very confident that the way to a global climate agreement can be paved in Paris at the end of this year.

In the run-up to the conference the ADP prepared detailed decision papers on many issues. What, in your opinion, are the most important areas that need to be covered by any agreement? Is there any key issue you'd like to highlight?

It's essential that the new agreement reaches a consensus on further mitigation and adaptation measures as well as regulating the following matters: financing; technological development and transfer; support and capacity building; questions pertaining to transparency, the future timescale and further processes; and above all 'global stocktaking', i.e. how the new agreement is to be implemented. Ideally, the Paris Agreement will set down clear rules for how it is to be adhered to and, if necessary, enforced.

I very much hope that an overarching, long-term target will be enshrined in the new agreement. As well as being consistent with the objectives of the Convention, this should flesh them out. To do justice to

both developed countries and countries of the Global South, it might be a good idea to integrate a double long-term target into the agreement: a rigid and specific target for mitigation that is obligatory for EU member states and another target on long-term climate adaptation measures. The latter would signal to small island states in particular that mitigation is not enough and the issue of adaptation demands the same level of attention.

What legal status will the new Climate Agreement have?

On the one hand, the mandate given to the ADP in Durban in 2011 is clear: at COP21 a unanimous agreement – an “agreed outcome with legal force” as it is called in the original text – is supposed to be adopted. This is to come into force in 2020 and implementation can begin from that date. On the other hand, legal experts were for a long time divided on what this wording actually means.

What’s certain is that any legally binding ‘Paris Agreement’ must be seen in conjunction with the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. And it will not be enough to simply adapt the Kyoto Protocol. This is partly because the United States never ratified it and Canada reneged on its commitments in 2012. The fact that the Doha Amendment adopted at COP18 in Doha, Katar does not provide for any binding emissions reduction targets that extend beyond the year 2020 is another reason.

The question of whether the parties to the ‘Paris Agreement’ link it explicitly to the UNFCCC is of secondary importance, as is the matter of what the Agreement will be called. Be it ‘Paris Agreement’, ‘Paris Protocol’ or the more technical ‘Amendment’, in international law it’s all the same. All of these titles would be in keeping with a legally binding effect. And such an effect would also be given even if the agreement doesn’t just comprise legally binding provisions – which, by the way, is usually the case in international treaties. The only minimum requirement in this regard is the need for some connection to be made to the UNFCCC when adopting the Paris Agreement.

So, to sum up: based on the current negotiation text, we can assume that an agreement that binds all State Parties under international law will be adopted in Paris. This is likely to be flanked by a ‘COP Decision’ that will not be legally binding.

Further information:

■ **The UN Climate Change Conference in Paris: Q&A with Romulo Acurio Traverso;**
blog by Dr Falk Schmidt

■ **A Watershed Year for Climate Protection;**
blog by Prof. Klaus Töpfer

Ocean

“Humanity’s Last Commons”: On Course for an Agreement on the High Seas



Sebastian Unger, Klaus Töpfer (both IASS) and Pascal Hector (German Foreign Office) discuss Germany’s contribution to a legally binding agreement for better protection of the high seas.

© IASS/Piero Chiussi

It was the second dialogue in a series that seeks to further an exchange of ideas among representatives of ministries, science, industry and civil society. With a view to the start of the UN negotiation process in 2016, the focus of this Dialogue lay on open questions concerning the establishment of marine protected areas, carrying out environmental impact assessments, access to marine genetic resources, and equitable benefit-sharing between highly developed and less developed countries.

The IASS has been investigating possible options for improving the protection of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction since 2013. In addition to supporting the development of a new agreement under the UN Law of the Sea, the oceans team is also analysing strategies for the sustainable use of the oceans in the context of existing regional organisations as well as sectoral regulations, for example for fisheries or shipping, and ensuring that its findings feed into the international negotiation process.

“The fact that UN member states are following through on the promise they made to protect the oceans at the Rio+20 Summit just three years ago and have now embarked on a process towards an implementing agreement testifies to the huge importance of the high seas,” remarked IASS Executive Director Klaus Töpfer at the opening of the Dialogue. For Töpfer, the dialogue series with representatives of science, industry, politics and civil society contributes to achieving clarity on what capacities and concrete proposals Germany can bring to the international discussion in advance of meetings at European and international level.

Pascal Hector, Director International Law at the German Foreign Office, said it was “an important and historical breakthrough that the United Nations will next year begin negotiations within the framework of a Preparatory Committee on a new implementing agreement to supplement the Law of the Sea.” However, he did note that the lack of “coherent coordination” of the various institutions and measures presented UN member states with major challenges. For Hector, Germany’s contribution lies in listening carefully to all sides and developing creative proposals for compromises.

Nele Matz-Lück, Professor of Maritime Law at the University of Kiel, was positive in her assessment of the process towards an agreement on the high seas to date. She is optimistic that the UN Law of the Sea will be supplemented by an effective international instrument to protect marine biodiversity. But only if cooperation between various stakeholders is strengthened. She suggested that the path taken by the IASS and the Foreign Office in its dialogue series, where representatives of politics, science, industry and civil society engage with each other on an agreement for the high seas, should be institutionalised.

Karin Lochte, Director of the Alfred Wegener Institute - Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research and Chair of the IASS General Assembly, pointed out that there are still knowledge gaps in oceanography. While the coastal regions have been thoroughly researched, our knowledge regarding some aspects of the deep sea - e.g. its biodiversity - is only “rudimentary”: just 0.0001 per cent of the deep-sea floor has been explored, an area equivalent to the city of Bonn. Now is nevertheless the time to take action: “The oceans are humanity’s last commons. It’s important that we treat them well and ensure that our interventions in the oceans do not undermine the many different ecological functions they fulfil,” stressed Lochte. Marine research in Germany is well equipped to play an international role in the protection of the high seas.

Participants highlighted the following questions as central to the negotiation of an agreement:

- By what means (e.g. the establishment of marine protected areas) can the goals to protect biodiversity on the high seas be achieved?
- How can the benefits deriving from the use of marine genetic resources be distributed fairly among less developed and highly developed countries?
- How can the implementation of future regulations on the high seas be monitored and who is responsible for this?
- How should the future framework for international cooperation on protecting the high seas look and how can existing regional and sectoral instruments be combined with any new legal instruments?
- What role can science play here and should a kind of scientific advisory body be established that has a say on the use of the high seas?

One important outcome of the event was that the dialogue initiated by the IASS and the German Foreign Office to support the UN negotiation process will be continued in order to integrate the perspectives of science, NGOs and industry into the German position.

SDGs

The Latest from the SDG Process: Q&A with Ivonne Lobos Alva



The 17 SDGs were adopted by UN member states at the end of September. You were in New York for the negotiations – what was the atmosphere like?

The atmosphere was one of celebration and cooperation. The 25 September 2015 marked the culmination of over two years of negotiations where the international community discussed the most pressing social, environmental and economic issues. At the UN Summit, member states and major organisations made calls for joint action and urged everyone to start implementing the SDGs in order to achieve a more sustainable future by 2030. The universality of the agenda and the interlinked character of the goals were repeatedly highlighted to remind us that the SDGs apply to every country and they should be implemented as a package.

The SDGs extend to 2030 and offer a vision of a socially and ecologically more equitable world. But they are not legally binding – how can they be implemented at national level?

Some countries, organisations and networks of partners are already showing leadership in developing their own strategies for the implementation of Agenda 2030. For instance, Sweden's "Policy for Global Development" aims at enhancing policy coherence and making sustainable development the responsibility of all ministries. The "Law on Sustainable Development" of the Republic of Gabon seeks to define growth pathways that also sustain the environment. Ethiopia and Colombia have set up inter-ministerial committees and commissions to coherently implement sustainable development policies. Switzerland and Germany have national sustainability strategies that will guide the implementation of the SDGs.

Environmental engineer Ivonne Lobos Alva is a research associate at the IASS.

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ONE HECTARE on the move

Following the success of the ONE HECTARE installation at this year's Global Soil Week in Berlin, the IASS and partners are bringing the open-air, interactive exhibition to Dresden in October. It opened at Dresden's Old Market Square (Altmarkt) on 15 October and will run until 27 October.



© IASS

Fertile soils are the foundation of our modern society. The ONE HECTARE installation provides insights into how soils are used across the globe, highlighting their function and importance as a finite resource. Integrating elements from science, film and art, ONE HECTARE casts light on the dilemma of overuse and scarcity and gives us food for thought about our relationship to land and soils.

These are just some examples, but the majority of countries and organisations are only now starting to plan their strategies for what is coming after the September summit. There is a great deal of momentum that needs to be maintained to ensure countries put plans in motion to achieve the SDGs. One key requirement will be to engage a wide range of stakeholders in the discussions to increase the sense of accountability needed for the implementation phase.

What can science in general – and your project in particular – contribute to the implementation, follow-up and review of the SDGs?

There is so much to be done. This is a universal agenda for countries that are starting at very different levels of achievement. Science can play a key role in the development of technological and governance solutions and strategies that are context specific and support countries in the implementation, follow-up and review of the agenda. Now that the SDGs have been adopted, we are faced with the critical question of how to operationalise this ambitious agenda on the ground.

At the IASS, we develop and propose strategies to ensure that potential conflicts at the global and national level can be addressed and managed. For instance, an integrated approach to the implementation of the SDGs is necessary to ensure that progress on some goals does not hinder progress on others. So, for example, increasing agricultural production to produce more biomass for energy (SDG 7) should at the same time consider the protection of soil resources and avoid land degradation (SDG 15). This type of approach requires a crosscutting review of the goals at the global level, known as thematic reviews, under the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). An integrated approach at the national level will require dialogue and coordinated planning to implement the SDGs as a package. At the same time, a participatory and inclusive process to review the implementation of the agenda will allow for the integration of the perspectives and contributions of many stakeholders engaged in the themes covered by Agenda 2030.

To further contribute to these discussions, the IASS and its partners will be hosting a conference in May 2016 on the implementation of the SDGs in and by Germany with a focus on natural resources. We expect to gain insights into the translation of the agenda in the German context that can also be useful for other regions and countries.

Further information:

- **Sustainable Development Goals Must Recognise the Importance of Soils;**

blog by Jes Weigelt

- **SDGs: International Coalition Develops Indicator to Monitor Implementation of Secure Land Rights**

- **Advocacy Brief: Land Rights: An Essential Global Indicator for the Post-2015 SDGs**

Special Issue on “Soils in the Nexus”

The local, national and regional implementation of the SDGs faces major challenges. The Special Issue on “Soils in the Nexus”, which was recently published by IASS researchers, underlines that soils and land resources must be discussed in terms of their diverse interrelationships with humans and the environment in order to achieve the transformation to a sustainable society. Weigelt, J., Janetschek, H., Müller, A. und Töpfer, K. (2015): Soils in the Nexus. – *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, Volume 15.

- **Link**

Energiewende

“The Benefits Are Greater than the Costs”: The German Energiewende and Its Inter- national Impact



Participants in the podium discussion (from left to right): R. Andreas Kraemer, Rainer Baake, Melinda Crane, H ela Cheikhrouhou, Jairam Ramesh.

  KfW Bankengruppe/
Jan Zappner, Raum 11

Decisive for the rapid spread of renewable energies worldwide, suggested Reiner Baake, State Secretary of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, are the falling costs of wind and solar power. This drop in price, Baake noted, can be traced back to the longstanding support of the German government for renewable energy, including purchase obligations and feed-in tariffs. “The German electricity consumer paid for a learning curve that was very expensive, but significantly contributed to helping prices to sink around the world – it is perhaps Germany’s greatest contribution to climate protection.”

R. Andreas Kraemer from the IAASS went even further and suggested that the benefits of renewable energies and the Energiewende are still being underestimated. He argued that there is no longer any economic reason to invest in coal because by now renewables are less expensive overall.

Jairam Ramesh, former Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change in India, disagreed: the energy demands of his country are simply too great; India cannot at present afford to completely abandon an important energy source. “We are 16 Germanys. And we have to provide an additional 15 gigawatt hours every year because our population is growing and our economy is growing. Trying to manage this using only renewable energy would be nothing but romanticism.” Nevertheless Ramesh, who is currently a Distinguished Senior Fellow at the IAASS, affirmed that Germany is an important pioneer in this matter. “If an industrial nation like Germany with 80 million inhabitants is capable of making this transition, it sends a very important signal.”

The Executive Director of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), H la Cheikhrouhou, also saw Germany as having a leading role, because it is capable of developing the best technological solutions, which can then be employed elsewhere in the world. During the discussion Cheikhrouhou also emphasised the importance of regional electricity markets and interconnectors for an efficient electricity supply. The fund that has been created as part of the UN negotiations is a key instrument for supporting the climate protection efforts of poorer countries and helping them to adapt to climate change.

Unlike their opinions on coal, the panel experts agreed in their verdict of the scandal over Volkswagen's manipulation of emissions tests. These events will not cause long-term damage to Germany's reputation as a pioneer in climate protection, they concluded. It is even possible that the scandal could become a "Fukushima of the automobile industry" (as Ramesh put it) and give it a crucial push towards electromobility.

In his opening of the panel discussion, KfW Executive Board Member Norbert Kloppenburg emphasised that the KfW is considered an important driver of the Energiewende - both in Germany and abroad - and that it will continue to play this role in the future. As part of their "Energy Turnaround Action Plan" the development bank has already pledged 60 billion euro in Germany since 2012 and 9 billion euro around the world between 2010 and 2014 for renewable energy and energy efficiency. "We are helping to sponsor this process," Kloppenburg said, "which is probably the greatest transformation since the beginning of industrialisation."

Source: KfW

Energiewende

Water-Energy Nexus – Supplying Energy with Less Water: IASS and Partners Discuss Technical Options and Political Prerequisites



The water requirements of photovoltaic are low.

© istock/dlewis33

At the beginning of the side event, Sybille Röhrkasten from the IASS quoted some numbers that highlight the urgent need to take action: 1.2 billion people worldwide live in regions that are affected by water scarcity. The UN estimates that in 2030 we will be unable to meet about 40 percent of the demand for water if do not radically change our water consumption habits in the meantime. But there's little sign of that happening: according to estimates of the International Energy Agency (IEA), the water withdrawals of the energy sector are set to increase by 85 percent by 2035. "These trends pose important risks to energy security that affect both renewable and non-renewable energy technologies," said Röhrkasten.

Insights into the situation in South Africa were provided by Adrian Stone, an engineer who works for the World Bank's Thirsty Energy Initiative and the Energy Research Centre at Cape Town University. Stone explained that like many developing countries, South Africa is struggling with the problem of rapidly increasing energy demand due to economic growth. As it stands, this demand can hardly be met due to the country's aging infrastructure, and water scarcity is just exacerbating the problem. Tania Rödiger-Vorwerk from the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development warned that the increased competition for scarce water resources could spark social conflicts.

Melita Steele from Greenpeace Africa said that the decisions currently being made on South Africa's future energy supply have major implications for water availability, poverty alleviation, job creation, electricity generation and energy access. She pointed out that coal mines are currently operating without valid water-use licenses and new coal-fired power stations are being approved without a country-wide analysis of future water availability. This could result in severe water shortages. As Steele emphasised, "There are alternatives to coal, but there are no alternatives to water."

But there is also a turn towards renewable energy sources in South Africa. As Dominik Schäuble of the Transdisciplinary Panel on Energy Change at the IASS stressed, this is good news not just for greenhouse gas emissions but also for water consumption: "Wind power and photovoltaic require far less water than coal and nuclear power. By investing in water-resilient renewable energy sources, countries with a growing energy demand can avoid water risks without increasing their greenhouse gas emissions. Rabia Ferrouki from IRENA highlighted that water savings were a strong economic argument in favour of renewables.

With the side event at SAIREC, the IASS wanted to place water higher on the international energy policy agenda. While the water-energy nexus is a much-discussed topic among water experts, the energy sector has not yet paid it adequate attention. A paper on the side event casts light on the challenge of supplying energy in a world with limited water resources and points to possible solutions.

Link:

■ **Secure and Sustainable Power Generation in a Water-Constrained World. Paper on the occasion of the South Africa International Renewable Energy Conference (SAIREC), Cape Town, 4-7 October 2015,** Sybille Roehrkasten, Dominik Schaeuble and Sebastian Helgenberger (all IASS).

Atmosphere

“Smoke” in the Fight against Air Pollution in the Himalayas: IASS, ICIMOD and MaHa Sanchar Produce a Telefilm



“Dhuwa” (Smoke) deals with the subject of air pollution in the Himalaya Region in a humorous and informative way. (film still)

■ [Watch “Dhuwa” on YouTube](#)

The film informs viewers about the main sources of air pollution, such as vehicles, the brick industry and open fires, describes its devastating effects on human health and the climate, and points to simple measures individuals can take to reduce it. But it does so in a humorous way that is sure to appeal to a broad Nepali audience. Madan Krishna Shrestha and Hari Bansha Acharya, both household names in Nepal, star as two middle-aged men who are blissfully ignorant of their personal contribution to air pollution until they both land in hospital. The film is interlaced with animated sequences, in which two parrots, voiced by the two comedians, set out to spread their newly acquired knowledge about air pollution.

Last week’s premiere in Kathmandu was attended by both comedians and over 250 invited distinguished guests from Nepalese government agencies, including the National Planning Commission and the Ministry of the Science, Technology and Environment, as well as representatives of academia, industry, associations, international agencies, the media, and the IASS and ICIMOD. At the premiere, Hari Bansha Acharya and Madan Krishna Shrestha walked the audience through their experience of producing the film, admitting that making a telefilm on such a “dry subject” was a challenge when people are “used to watching romantic and action-packed films.”

David Molden, Director General of ICIMOD, praised the successful collaboration of ICIMOD and the IASS with MaHa Sanchar, where scientists and artists worked together to highlight the important environ-

mental issues of the region. For Maheswar Rupakheti, Group Leader of SusKat at the IASS, the telefilm conveys its messages in a very effective way because it considers local specifics, including Nepalese culture. The 40-minute long telefilm will be aired on Nepal Television soon and will be made available to the public via various online platforms. The IASS is also planning to screen the film in Berlin or Potsdam in the near future.

In addition to the research undertaken by the SusKat project, the activities of the IASS in the Himalaya region include its participation in an Asia Regional Assessment on Short-Lived Climate-forcing Pollutants (SLCPs), which is coordinated by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC). The Assessment will identify technical measures, policy options and institutional arrangements that bring the largest health, climate and development benefits to countries in Asia. A first meeting of the Asia Assessment authors is scheduled to take place on 24–25 November 2015 in Bangkok. Furthermore, as one of the lead partners of the CCAC's brick production initiative, the IASS is actively supporting the reconstruction of brick factories that were badly damaged by a massive 7.8-magnitude earthquake in April using cleaner technologies and practices. The IASS project 'Environmental Law and Institutions for Air, Climate, and Sustainability' (ELIAS) also collaborates closely with SusKat on the implementation of scientific findings.

Further information:

- Research project: **“Sustainable Atmosphere for the Kathmandu Valley” (SusKat)**, headed by **Maheswar Rupakheti**
- Research project: **“Environmental Law and Institutions for Air, Climate, and Sustainability” (ELIAS)**, headed by **Birgit Lode**, who also coordinates the IASS work with the CCAC
- **Asia Regional Assessment on Short-Lived Climate-forcing Pollutants (SLCPs)**, coordinated by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)
- **A Science Perspective on the Volkswagen Emissions Scandal**; blog by Erika von Schneidemesser

Summer School

Researching, Preventing and Dealing with Natural Disasters – Insights from the Potsdam Summer School



The Potsdam Summer School offered talks about different aspects of natural hazards and interactive formats such as workshops and role playing exercises.

© IASS/David Ausserhofer

“It was particularly important for us to both enable participants to take deep dives into disciplinary aspects and to create a platform for looking at natural hazards from diverse perspectives,” Mark Lawrence, scientific director of the IAASS, explained. The summer school alternated between presentations and workshops and creative activities such as role playing.

Many of the presentations examined how different natural hazards arise and to what degree they can be predicted. A lively discussion arose around the question of how natural phenomena turn into concrete risks for humans. In the opinion of many of the participants, there is too little awareness of the fact that natural hazards only become disasters as a result of the actions of humans – for example, surface sealing or diverting rivers. David Alexander, Professor for Risk and Disaster Reduction at University College London, considered the consequences of corruption for the implementation of preventive measures. Corruption often leads to the elite in a region profiting from disaster prevention measures at the cost of less privileged groups. For example, more affluent parts of a city may be protected from flood risks by diverting waterways through other areas.

Disaster risk reduction was also the topic of a public talk by risk researcher Ortwin Renn, Professor of Environmental Sociology and Technology Assessment at the University of Stuttgart and director designate of the IAASS, which took place as part of the Summer School.

In the Hans Otto Theatre in Potsdam he emphasised that many of the most severe effects of natural hazards could be prevented with appropriate preventive measures. However, both politicians and the general public lack the will to invest the necessary sums of money in preparation for a catastrophe that might never happen. "If precautions are successful, the disaster never happens; and because there is an absence of visible damages, people wonder why it was necessary to spend so much money in advance," Renn explained. In addition, people often incorrectly assess the degree of risk posed by natural hazards. After a flood, for example, they move back to the same location, believing that it will not affect them a second time. Natural hazards are seen as cyclical events, while other types of disasters are thought to be randomly distributed.

Summer School participants also intensely debated how decision-making structures can be created that would provide more resilience in the face of natural hazards. Also of interest was the question of how to strengthen local aid organisations in particularly high-risk areas. After earthquakes, for example, most people are rescued within the first 24 hours, long before organisations such as the International Red Cross are able to make it to the scene. This topic is also difficult because the aid-giving countries have no vested interest in altering the underlying situation, one participant suggested: these countries see their engagement as an opportunity to assert a geopolitical influence. In general, researchers need to pay more attention to whose interests are served or threatened by various natural hazards, Summer School participants agreed.

Particularly rewarding was a practical exercise in creating evacuation strategies after an earthquake. Guided by Harald Spahn, project manager in Indonesia of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the participants were divided into groups and given a map of Bali, upon which they sketched their evacuation plans. Each group presented their plans and received feedback from the other participants. Afterwards Spahn described how the evacuation in Bali after the major earthquake in 2011 had actually been organised.

Another Potsdam Summer School on a topic of great importance for society will take place next year. In addition to the IASS, organisers include the University of Potsdam, the Helmholtz Centre Potsdam - GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences, the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research (AWI), and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK). The City of Potsdam supports the event as a partner.

Further information:

■ **The Theory and Practice of Disaster Risk Reduction: Q&A with Nina Köksalan**; blog by Bianca Schröder

■ **"Many Causes of Natural Disasters are Political and Social": Q&A with David Alexander**; blog by Bianca Schröder

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Selected publications by IASS researchers in peer-reviewed journals (3rd quarter of 2015).

■ IASS Publications

Beekmann, M., Prévôt, A. S. H., Drewnick, F., Sciare, J., Pandis, S. N., Denier van der Gon, H. A. C., Crippa, M., Freutel, F., Poulain, L., Gherzi, V., Rodriguez, E., Beirle, S., Zotter, P., von der Weiden-Reinmüller, S.-L., Bressi, M., Fountoukis, C., Petetin, H., Szidat, S., Schneider, J., Rosso, A., El Haddad, I., Megaritis, A., Zhang, Q. J., Michoud, V., Slowik, J. G., Moukhtar, S., Kolmonen, P., Stohl, A., Eckhardt, S., Borbon, A., Gros, V., Marchand, N., Jaffrezo, J. L., Schwarzenboeck, A., Colomb, A., Wiedensohler, A., Borrmann, S., Lawrence, M. G., Baklanov, A., Baltensperger, U. (2015): In situ, satellite measurement and model evidence on the dominant regional contribution to fine particulate matter levels in the Paris megacity. – *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, 15, pp. 9577–9591.

■ Doi

Chen, P., Kang, S., Li, C., Rupakheti, M., Yan, F., Li, Q., Ji, Z., Zhang, Q., Luo, W., Sillanpää, M. (2015): Characteristics and sources of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in atmospheric aerosols in the Kathmandu Valley, Nepal. – *Science of the Total Environment*, 538, pp. 86–92.

■ Doi

Coates, J., Butler, T. M. (2015): A comparison of chemical mechanisms using Tagged Ozone Production Potential (TOPP) analysis. – *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, 15, pp.8795–8808.

■ Doi

Cordingley, J. E., Snyder, K. A., Rosendahl, J., Kizito, F., Bossio, D. (2015): Thinking outside the plot: addressing low adoption of sustainable land management in sub-Saharan Africa. – *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 15, pp. 35–40.

■ Doi

Folberth, G. A., Butler, T. M., Collins, W. J., Rumbold, S. T. (2015): Megacities and climate change – A brief overview. – *Environmental Pollution*, 203, pp. 235–242.

■ Doi

Karlberg, L., Hoff, H., Flores-López, F., Götz, A., Matuschke, I. (2015): Tackling biomass scarcity—from vicious to virtuous cycles in sub-Saharan Africa. – *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 15, pp. 1–8.

■ Doi

Kuik, F., Lauer, A., Beukes, J. P., Van Zyl, P. G., Josipovic, M., Vakkari, V., Laakso, L., Feig, G. T. (2015): The anthropogenic contribution to atmospheric black carbon concentrations in southern Africa: a WRF-Chem modeling study. – *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, 15, pp. 8809–8830.

■ Doi

Martinez-Val, J. M., Rubbia, C., Sait, H. H., Abbas, R., Muñoz-Antón, J. (2015): A coherent integration of design choices for advancing in solar thermal power. – *Solar Energy*, 119, pp. 474–485.

■ Doi

Monks, P. S., Archibald, A. T., Colette, A., Cooper, O., Coyle, M., Derwent, R., Fowler, D., Granier, C., Law, K. S., Mills, G. E., Stevenson, D. S., Tarasova, O., Thouret, V., von Schneidemesser, E., Sommariva, R., Wild, O., Williams, M. L. (2015): Tropospheric ozone and its precursors from the urban to the global scale from air quality to short-lived climate forcer. – *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, 15, 15, pp. 8889 – 8973.

■ **Doi**

Montanarella, L., Lobos Alva, I. (2015): Putting soils on the agenda: the three Rio Conventions and the post-2015 development agenda. – *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 15, pp. 41–48.

■ **Doi**

Müller, A., Janetschek, H., Weigelt, J. (2015): Towards a governance heuristic for sustainable development. – *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 15, pp. 49–56.

■ **Doi**

Negassa, W. C., Price, R. F., Basir, A., Snapp, S. S., Kravchenko, A. (2015): Cover crop and tillage systems effect on soil CO₂ and N₂O fluxes in contrasting topographic positions. – *Soil and Tillage Research*, 154, pp. 64 – 74.

■ **Doi**

Otero Felipe, N., Mohino, E., Gaetani, M. (2015 online): Decadal prediction of Sahel rainfall using dynamics-based indices. – *Climate Dynamics*.

■ **Doi**

Ryder, C. L., McQuaid, J. B., Flamant, C., Rosenberg, P. D., Washington, R., Brindley, H. E., Highwood, E. J., Marsham, J. H., Parker, D. J., Todd, M. C., Banks, J. R., Brooke, J. K., Engelstaedter, S., Estelles, V., Formenti, P., Garcia-Carreras, L., Kocha, C., Marenco, F., Sodemann, H., Allen, C. J. T., Bourdon, A., Bart, M., Cavazos Guerra, C., Chevaillier, S., Crosier, J., Darbyshire, E., Dean, A. R., Dorsey, J. R., Kent, J., O’Sullivan, D., Schepanski, K., Szpek, K., Trembath, J., Woolley, A. (2015): Advances in understanding mineral dust and boundary layer processes over the Sahara from Fennec aircraft observations. – *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, 15, pp. 8479 – 8520.

■ **Doi**

Weigelt, J., Müller, A., Janetschek, H., Töpfer, K. (2015): Land and soil governance towards a transformational post-2015 Development Agenda: an overview. – *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 15, pp. 57 – 65.

■ **Doi**

NEW PROJECTS

Green-Win

The Green-Win (Green growth and win-win strategies for sustainable climate action) project was launched on 1 September 2015. Green-Win is expected to identify win-win strategies and strategies for green growth, particularly in the area of climate change mitigation and adaptation. To this end, the project partners in the Green-Win Consortium will identify business models in three concrete sectors (coastal management, energy poverty in rural areas, energy efficiency in cities) and in three to five specific countries and report their findings to the IASS. It will then fall to the IASS to critically assess these business models and estimate the global investment requirements of such projects. The Consortium Leader of the project is Dr Jochen Hinkel from the Global Climate Forum.

AMA – A Mindset for the Anthropocene

Alongside their everyday work (and mainly part-time), a group of IASS researchers have recently been exchanging ideas on the question of how inner transformation processes can contribute to sustainability – and, conversely, on the question of how societal transformations can enrich not just the ‘outside world’ but also people’s ‘inner lives’. In particular, they are considering psychological, spiritual and religious aspects like mindfulness and compassion, which have been highlighted by the Dalai Lama in his latest appeal and by the Pope in the new encyclical *Laudato Si*. In addition, they are exploring ways and means of embodying and reinforcing such qualities, such as meditation and prayer.

Ecological Guardrails for Deep-Sea Mining

On 1 October 2015 the Ocean Governance research programme at the IASS began work on the R&D project “Ecological Guardrails for Deep-Sea Mining” on behalf of and with the German Environmental Protection Agency (UBA). The aim is to advise UBA on ecological and legal matters in connection with the development of strict regulations for deep-sea mining in the immediate vicinity and also indirectly in waters under national jurisdiction. The project strives for the implementation of modern environmental standards such as strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments and adaptive management. It is grounded in analyses of existing and prospective regulations from a legal and conservation point of view.

For further information,
contact

■ **Dr Armin Haas**

For more information,
contact

■ **Dr Thomas Bruhn**

■ **“The Dependence of Sustainability on the Degree of Fear and Aspiration”: Q&A with David Mitchell; blog by Thomas Bruhn**

For more information,
contact

■ **Sebastian Unger**

IASS PEOPLE

Carolyn Anthes from the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF) is a research fellow at the IASS from mid-September to mid-December of this year. She is supporting the Global Soil Forum with her research at the interface of human rights and land governance, paying particular attention to the question of how the *Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests* can help to promote human rights in the agricultural sector.

Dr Keerthi Kiran Bandru joined the IASS as a research associate in September 2015 to work on the Indian case study of the project “Soil Protection and Rehabilitation for Food Security”. Prior to that, he wrote his PhD on the role of citizen participation in the enforcement of environmental regulation in India at Humboldt University, Berlin. After completing his MSc in Environmental Science at Osmania University, Hyderabad, India, he worked for the Centre for Environmental Education and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in India.

Susanne Bellinghausen, an architect and co-founder of the rOg_agency for open culture & critical transformation, is a research fellow at the IASS Global Soil Forum from September to November 2015. She works on the Critical Dialogues Series: New

Urban Agenda ‘on the ground’ and the corresponding LAB.

Katja Carson joined the IASS as its new Head of Administration on 1 September 2015. After completing a diploma in Business Administration in Reutlingen, she went on to gain a BA in European Business Administration in London. Carson also holds an MBA from Henley Management College in the UK. She can look back on over 25 years in leadership and management positions, most recently as Interim Head of Global Finance (Greenpeace International) and Organisational Director (Greenpeace New Zealand, 2009–2014) with overall responsibility for administration.

Dr Edouard Cottin-Euziol joined the IASS in September 2015. Prior to that he taught macroeconomics and the history of economic theories for six years at Limoges University, where he also gained his PhD in 2013. Cottin-Euziol is particularly interested in how the real economy is controlled by the credit mechanism, and the macroeconomic consequences of that. At the IASS, he will focus on developing alternative scenarios for the future global financial system, together with Dr Armin Haas, co-lead of the Economics & Culture Programme.

Dr Carole Durussel joined the Ocean Governance team as a research associate in August

2015. The marine environmental scientist completed her PhD in marine law at the University of Wollongong in Australia in July 2015. Prior to starting her PhD, she worked for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). As a member of the Ocean Governance team, she will concentrate on the global and regional governance of the oceans, paying particular attention to marine areas beyond national jurisdiction and the protection and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in these areas.

Daniela Eskelson will join the Economics & Culture team in October 2015. In addition to a degree in business administration, she holds a Masters in Finance from CEMA University in Buenos Aires. In her PhD she compares the risk/return profile of sustainable financial investments with that of the market as a whole. Ms Eskelson will work for the Green-Win project.

Boris Gotchev is currently working as a research fellow for the Transdisciplinary Panel on Energy Change (TPEC). His research focusses on business and financing models with civic participation and policy frameworks for the energy transition in Germany and beyond. Prior to taking up this position, Gotchev gathered experience on international best prac-

tice for the energy transition to renewables as a project scientist at TPEC. As a consultant for the World Bank, he is also contributing to a global report on the readiness for investment in sustainable energy, covering renewable energy, energy efficiency and cross-cutting power sector issues.

Thomas Jarosch joined the IASS as its new Head of IT Services on 1 August 2015. He studied communications technology and has worked for over thirty years in IT. In his last job, he was head of IT for a private hospital association. Prior to that, he worked as an IT project manager, among other things for a local utility and a municipal housing industry company.

Dr Aurelia Lupascu joined the Air Quality in the context of Global Change (AQGC) team in September 2015. She is working with our modelling team on a project on source apportionment. Aurelia completed her PhD in atmospheric sciences at the Blaise Pascal University in Clermont-Ferrand, France. Prior to joining the IASS she worked at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in the United States, where she carried out research on the characteristics of particulate matter.

Dr Zoe Lucia Lüthi returned to the IASS in July as a research fellow for the AMA (A Mindset for the Anthropocene) project. She completed a Masters in Environ-

mental Science at the University of Bern. In 2010 she moved to Nepal, where she worked as a climate advisor for the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and carried out field research in Nepal and Bhutan. She recently defended her PhD on the theme of air pollution in the Himalaya region and the Tibetan Highlands at the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (ITPCAS) in Peking. During her years in Asia, Dr Lüthi developed a keen interest in meditation, which she uses to gain insights that go beyond the approach of the natural sciences and feed into her efforts towards sustainability.

Dr Franz Mauelshagen joined the IASS as a senior fellow in August 2015. He gained an MA in philosophy, history and law from the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms University in Bonn and a PhD in history from the University of Zurich. Mauelshagen's work focuses on the Anthropocene and looks at the implications that this idea has for our understanding of global (environmental) history and modernity and its place in the history of great transformations.

Dr Janna Shackeroff joined the IASS in September 2015 as a senior fellow on the Ocean Governance team. Dr Shackeroff will focus on innovations in ocean governance and management in order to help countries and regions make tangible progress

in ocean governance and the implementation of the global Sustainable Development Goals. She recently worked at the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), where she led its initiative on coral reef ecosystem management and government-to-government partnerships in the science and governance of oceans, coasts, weather and climate around the global tropics. With her international experience in coastal and protected area management and her insights into small-scale fisheries and indigenous and local knowledge, Dr Shackeroff brings expertise in ocean science, policy, practice and conservation to the IASS.

Stefanie Schmidt joined the Ocean Governance team as a research associate in August 2015. She holds an MSc in aquatic resource management. Her work is focussed on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the compatibility of the Blue Growth Agenda with the sustainable use of marine resources. She has studied the theory and practice of sustainably fishing, marine conservation and integrated marine policy in various positions at the Ecologic Institute, the DG MARE at the European Commission and WWF Germany.

Patrick Toussaint joined the IASS on 1 September 2015 as a project scientist with the ELIAS (Environmental Law and Institutions for Air, Climate and Sustainability) team. He graduated with a Master of Laws (LLM) in international environmental law and policy from University College London (UCL) and a Master of Science (MSc) in Environmental Technology and International Affairs at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna and the TU Vienna. Patrick has

a keen interest in interdisciplinary approaches to environmental governance, climate change and sustainable development. Prior to joining the IASS he worked in various positions in different countries and across various sectors, from NGOs, business consultancy firms, the United Nations – UNEP and the UN Office of Legal Affairs – to the German Agency for International Development (GIZ) in Kenya.

AWARDS

Award for CO₂ Game Developed by IASS Researcher Thomas Bruhn

The physicist **Thomas Bruhn** is the recipient of the Sparda-Bank Award for the CO₂ Game he developed. The award, which is worth 10,000 euro, honours projects undertaken by non-profit organisations and institutions.

The CO₂ Game allows players to calculate their personal carbon footprint and identify ways of reducing it by changing some of their habits. It was developed by Bruhn together with colleagues from the Global Contract Foundation, where Bruhn is a member of the management board. The game has already been presented to great acclaim at numerous public events in Germany and abroad. The prize money will now go towards producing more copies of the game and training people to present it to the public throughout Germany. It is hoped that a joint workshop with teachers and schoolchildren will result in a teaching module that picks up on the topic of CO₂ and makes it tangible for schoolchildren.

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For more information, contact

■ **Dr Thomas Bruhn**

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JOB ADVERTISEMENTS

Academic positions:

[Research Associate \(m/f\) sought for the Economics and Culture research programme](#)

This position is initially foreseen for the period until 31 December 2016. The deadline for applications is 25 October 2015.

[Senior Fellow \(m/f\): Culture\(s\): The key to sustainability transformations](#)

This position is initially foreseen for the period until 31 December 2016. The deadline for applications is 7 December 2015.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2015

28 – 30 October 2015

Workshop: Options for an integrated regional ocean policy in the South-East Pacific; Venue: Bogota, Columbia; Organised by: CCPS, UNEP, the IASS and IDDRI (By invitation only)

November 2015

2 November 2015

Conference: High-Level Event of the Global Land Tool Network Partners; Venue: Nairobi, Kenya (By invitation only)

9 November 2015

2nd Round Table on Carbon Capture and Utilisation: CO₂ Recycling – Option für Politik und Gesellschaft?; Venue: IASS, Potsdam; Organised by: IASS; There are a limited number of places for people interested in

attending this event. Please register in advance via e-mail to: barbara.olfe-kraeutlein@iass-potsdam.de

11 November 2015

Evening in honour of Klaus Töpfer; Venue: Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, Berlin; Organised by: IASS, Potsdam; Time: 7 pm; There are a limited number of places left for people interested in attending this event. Please register in advance via e-mail to:

aneta.galek@iass-potsdam.de

12 – 13 November 2015

3rd Workshop on Solar Radiation Management: Foresight for Governance (SRM4G); Venue: IASS, Potsdam; Organised by: IASS, Foresight Intelligence (By invitation only)

Link:

- [To the job advertisement](#)

Link:

- [To the job advertisement](#)

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Link:

- [To the IASS Calendar of Events](#)

17 November 2015

Workshop: Synergies of Arts and Science for Sustainability Transformations; Venue: IASS, Potsdam; Organised by: IASS
There are a limited number of places for people interested in attending this event. Please register in advance via e-mail to: manuel.rivera@iass-potsdam.de

20 November 2015

Preview of Jonathan Rnouf's film "Klimawandel – Woher kommen die Zahlen?" (part 2) followed by a discussion with IASS Scientific Director Mark Lawrence and Olivier Boucher, Director of Research at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS); Venue: French Embassy, Berlin; Advance registration is required. You can register [here](#).

23–25 November 2015

Workshop: Greening the research system – towards climate friendly research; Venue: IASS, Potsdam
Organised by: IASS, JPI Climate
(By invitation only)

December

7 December 2015

Workshop: Die Journalisten und das Wirtschaftswachstum; Venue: IASS, Potsdam; Organised by: IASS
(In German; by invitation only)



Join the discussion: how sustainable are the sustainable development goals? How can we meet the increasing demand for water and energy across the globe? What is the City of Potsdam doing to support sustainable urban development? Read the latest blogs penned by IASS researchers!



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