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## News

### Climate Change and Southern Africa

Posted Fri, 28 May 2010

#### A global perspective on economic policies to address climate change and green growth challenges 7th June 2010

Using recent OECD analysis, we will discuss policy options to address global climate change mitigation and adaptation challenges in an economically efficient manner.

We will first present the magnitude of the challenges and then discuss the incentives of major countries/regions to participate in global mitigation action as well as the implications of their declared commitments and plans. We will talk about the difficulties in developing a policy mix anchored on carbon pricing and possible avenues for progressing in this area. We will also discuss the costs and benefits associated with adaptation to climate change, the interaction between mitigation and adaptation, as well as the role of economic and policy instruments that can be used to motivate adaptation actions. Policies to integrate adaptation within core sectoral and development priorities will also be discussed.

#### KEY DISCUSSANTS | 7th JUNE 2010

Alain de Serres is a senior economist in the Structural Policy Analysis Division of the Economics Department at the OECD. He has recently worked on developing a framework for the analysis of green growth policies, looking both at the rationale for government intervention, the identification of appropriate policy mixes as well as issues of structural adjustment related to the transition towards a greener economy. Before that, he has contributed to an OECD Report on the economics of climate change mitigation, focusing mainly on least-cost policy strategies to achieve greenhouse gas emission cuts in both OECD and non-OECD countries. Alain is Canadian and before joining the OECD, he has worked for several years at the Bank of Canada and the Ministry of Finance in Ottawa.

Shardul Agrawala is a senior economist in the Climate Change, Biodiversity and Development Division of the Environment Directorate at the OECD, where he leads the work programme on climate change and development. He recently served as the Coordinating Lead Author (CLA) for the chapter on adaptation practices, constraints and capacity for the Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and on the Expert Advisory Group for the Pilot Programme on Climate Resilience (PPCR) under the World Bank's Climate Investment Funds. He received his PhD from Princeton University, and has previously worked at Princeton, Columbia and Harvard universities.

#### Climate change and Southern Africa 10th June 2010

We will present recent approaches for analyzing the implications of climate change and appropriate policy responses.



While the focus of the presentation will be on economic implications and potential policy responses, a review of the science of climate change will be presented. Next, the implications of these changes for the economies of Southern Africa, along with policy options for adapting to these changes, will be considered. These issues will comprise the principal focus of the talk. Nevertheless, issues related to transition to a low carbon economy will also be outlined.

#### **KEY DISCUSSANTS | 10th JUNE 2010**

Channing Arndt is a Professor of Economics at the University of Copenhagen. He leads the climate change pillar at the World Institute for Development Economics Research at the United Nations University (UNU-WIDER). He has published in diverse areas including trade policy, poverty measurement, technical change, the macroeconomic implications of HIV/AIDS, and appropriate treatment of risk in large models. In addition to his academic responsibilities, he served as resident advisor to the Ministry of Planning and Development in Mozambique for 5.5 years and as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Morocco.

James Thurlow is a Research Fellow at the United Nations University's World Institute for Development Economics Research, and at the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington DC. Recently James has used stochastic economywide modeling techniques to estimate climate change impacts in Bangladesh, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia, focusing on the treatment of uncertainty in evaluating climate risk and adaptation strategies.

#### **PROGRAMME DETAILS**

Fees Per Evening

There is no charge to attend this event.

#### **Date and Time**

7th June or 10 June 2010\*

17h30 for 18h00

Cocktails and networking will follow after the presentation

#### **Venue**

Bert Wessels Theatre, Wits Business School, Johannesburg, South Africa

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