

BRASIL

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ADAPTATION FUTURES 2014 III International Conference on the Adap- tation to Climate Change

The Conference, with a significant involvement of international experts in the environmental field, served as a starting point for the new phase of activities of KAS' "Regional Program on Climate Change, Environment and Energy Security in Latin America".

As a meeting point for more than 300 scientists, politicians and representatives of different public and private institutions around the world, the "III International Conference on the Adaptation to Climate Change" organized by the "Centre for Earth Sciences of the National Institute for Space Research (INPE-CCCT in its Portuguese acronym)" and the "Program on Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA)" took place between the 12th and the 16th of May in Fortaleza, Brazil.

Experts were able to discuss the current and future consequences of climate change, not just in the environmental area but also in social and economic paradigms.

Different issues such as reducing the emission of greenhouse gases, the impact of rising global temperatures, the increased intensity of floods, desertification and droughts, uncontrolled fires and rising sea levels were discussed; the future consequences of which can still be avoided if we work hard enough, with sufficient intensity effort and international cooperation.

Those attending tried to join forces in the search for plans of action needed to adapt to future changes, minimize the resultant negative impacts and seek improvements in natural ecosystems, human activities and the welfare of society.



Ex-environment minister: Marina Silva

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These decisions and subsequent actions should be developed from the bottom of the civil society to governments, through business, industry and various institutions in all areas.

This need was reflected in the conference by the presence of representatives from all levels of society, and this was already visible in the opening, with the presence of the candidate for the vice-presidency of the Republic, Ms. Marina Silva and the closing by the Brazilian Integration Minister, Francisco J. Teixeira.

Marina Silva, former Environment Minister, among other environment-related political positions, presented in her opening of this conference a defense of environmental values and the protection of natural resources, which she based on her political activity over the last 30 years as she made clear during her speech. She also highlighted the fact that, despite not being a scientist, addressed the audience with the knowledge acquired during her time as a politician active in the environmental area, reminding those present of the need to act positively so that policy makers, like her, could have all the information and alternatives early and accurately; highlighting the important role and responsibility of the experts present at this event.

For his part, the Integration Minister closed the week's lecture with reference to the policies adopted by the Government in the environmental area and future challenges for all Brazilians in the area of preservation and adaptation, integration at different scales of the consequences of global warming.



The audience.

The first four days of the Congress took place across 46 sessions with an average of 4 speakers in each, in which various issues were discussed such as the impact on different sectors of climate change and its implications for adaptation, links between adaptation and development in the welfare of our society, integration at different stages of the consequences of global warming, adaptation in the most vulnerable regions to climate change and how to understand, evaluate and adjust climate adaptation.



The Minister of Integration (second from right), flanked by the representative of BM (left) and the State of Ceará (right) listen to J. Marengo, co-Chair of the event.

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On the last day of the Congress, the issue of desertification and droughts on a global scale and in different regions around the globe was discussed.

In addition to conferences related to these issues, several parallel events took place where different issues and projects were discussed on a predominantly technical level.

Also, different experts had the opportunity, through the panel exhibition in the central hall of the event, to show their work and interact with other specialists present in Fortaleza.

These projects dealt with different topics, the "structural development and functional adaptation of society in the Southwestern Amazon," "the map of vulnerability of the municipalities of Rio de Janeiro to the climatic changes" or "adaptation in the aquaculture sector" are some of the examples of the 286 studies that were presented at conferences these days.

Funding for these projects came from the most diverse range of sources, containing both public and private institutions; among which we can highlight governments such as Germany, Spain and Brazil as well as universities in Brazil, Australia, USA and Sweden.



Jose Manuel Otero, Felix Dane, Karina Marzano and Rosemary Becker form part of the KAS Regional Program

Although most of the scientific explanations and lectures were conducted in English; it was not difficult to hear the participants conversing in different languages such as

Spanish and Portuguese. Reflecting the more than 50 nationalities represented in the event.

National, state and local political authorities were present at the conference, along with representatives of various organizations such as the World Bank, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Adaptability Fund, Petrobras and Eletrobras among others.

But also young people concerned with the environmental future of the planet were present such as Beatriz Araujo (researcher at the Federal University of Ceará-UFC, and member of the NGO Verde Luz) or Iranildo de Souza (student at the Stella Mares University, representative of young Brazilian environmentalists and climate ambassador at the UN) who even said a few words in the opening and closing of the event.

Between the present entities and collaborating institutions at the event, KAS, through its **Regional Program on Climate Change, Environment and Energy Security for Latin America (KLIMA)** had a booth where representatives of various institutions and researchers from around the world looked through the Foundation's and the Regional Program's work.

As the first major development of the new phase of the Foundation's Program, a large number of experts expressed their willingness to collaborate in the future work being done by the KAS, through both holding events or conferences and the preparation of studies and publications.

Various projects that promise to open important avenues of collaboration on issues of interest to the promotion of renewable energy and energy security in Latin America were also presented; the basis of the KLIMA program's work.

The "Third International Conference on Climate Change Adaptation" is part of a cycle of conferences that began four years ago in Australia, the second edition took place in 2012 in the U.S. and it will continue in 2016

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in the Netherlands, arriving for the first time in Europe.

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There they will discuss, predicted progress in the coming years in the area of Climate Adaptation and the challenges that society certainly still faces.

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