



International Seminar

on

CLIMATE CHANGE & INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Organised by:

Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)

Union Christian College

Date: 14th-15th November, 2022

Venue: Union Christian College, Umiam Khwan

You may register at:

<https://forms.gle/EoVbbzC3GkXKUagdA>

CONCEPT NOTE

Humans, like all life on earth, depend on energy coming from the sun. But we also depend on the energy reflected from the earth's surface back into the atmosphere. This balance between energy coming in and energy going out has been maintained for billions of years, allowing life on earth to survive and thrive. Greenhouse gases are essential to life on earth. For example, plants depend on carbon dioxide (CO₂), which is also an important greenhouse gas contributing to global warming. And greenhouse gases help to maintain the earth's surface and oceans at temperatures that enable life to flourish on our planet. But as greenhouse gases accumulate beyond their historic levels, they prevent more and more of the energy reaching the earth from going back into space. The last time earth's atmospheric CO₂ concentration exceeded 400 ppm was three to five million years ago, a time when global temperatures were 2° to 3°C warmer and sea levels were ten to twenty meters higher than today. A number of natural processes cause the earth's climate to change over time, but their influence over decades or even centuries is very small, much smaller than the rate of change we are now measuring. In short, these natural patterns do not explain the rapid warming that the earth has experienced since the onset of the Industrial Revolution.

The threat of human-induced change to the earth's climate due to increased emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) is one of the greatest challenges confronting the international community. The primary source of GHG emissions is the burning of fossil fuels, mainly coal, oil and gas, which releases CO₂ into the atmosphere. Other sources of GHGs include methane from agriculture and energy production and distribution; nitrous oxide (N₂O) from agriculture and industrial processes; and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆) (the "synthetic" or "exotic" GHGs) from a variety of industrial and consumer uses. The loss of so-called sinks, such as forests, that sequester (i.e., remove) carbon is also a source of GHGs. Greenhouse gas concentrations are at their highest level in 2 million years.

Many people think climate change mainly means warmer temperature. But temperature rise is only the beginning of the story, because the earth is a system, where everything is connected, changes in one area can influence changes in all others. The consequences of climate changes now include among others like tropical cyclones (including hurricanes and typhoons), floods, intense droughts and heavy precipitation, water scarcity, severe fires, rising sea levels, flooding, melting polar ice, catastrophic storm and declining biodiversity. Changes in some types of extreme events have already been observed, for example, increases in the frequency and intensity of heat waves and heavy precipitation events. Climate change will have wide-ranging effects on the environment, and on socio-economic and related sectors, including water resources, agriculture and food security, human health, terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity and coastal zones. Changes in rainfall pattern are likely to lead to severe water shortages and/or flooding. Melting of glaciers can cause flooding and soil erosion. Rising temperatures will cause shifts in crop growing seasons which affects food security and changes in the distribution of disease vectors putting more people at risk from diseases such as malaria and dengue fever. Temperature increases will potentially severely increase rates of extinction for many habitats and species (up to 30 per cent with a 2° C rise in temperature). Particularly affected will be coral reefs, boreal forests, Mediterranean and mountain habitats. Increasing sea levels mean greater risk of storm surge, inundation and wave damage to coastlines, particularly in small island States and countries with low lying deltas. A rise in extreme events will have effects on health and lives as well as associated environmental and economic impacts.

Across the globe, the changes in precipitation patterns and seasonal regimes disrupt the agricultural calendar and the availability of food foraged from the wild, with serious consequences not only for indigenous people's food security, but also for their health conditions and cultural identity. The changes affect crop production and the availability of fish, wild fruits, and game, and they increase the incidence of livestock diseases that impair the livelihoods of the many indigenous people who are pastoralists. But many indigenous communities are disproportionately vulnerable to such threats. For members of these communities, survival often depends to a very high degree on traditional knowledge systems, evolved over generations, and on direct observation and interpretation of the natural world—which they perceive to be increasingly in disarray as the result of changes in seasonality and increases in extreme weather. Meanwhile, the economic resources they depend on for their livelihoods are already under threat from societal trends such as deforestation, advancing colonization, and expansion of towns and commercial agriculture, with associated demands for water.

OBJECTIVES

1. To examine and understand the indigenous peoples' ecological knowledge system.
2. To examine the vulnerabilities and possible impacts of climate change in relations to Indigenous People.
3. To identify the key issues and challenges in the realm of policy making and international collaboration in dealing with Global Climate Change.

SUB THEMES: The list of topics to serve as guidelines for papers and discussions includes the following:

1. Indigenous People and traditional ecological knowledge
2. Climate Change and Adaptation:
 - Adaptation to Climate change: A necessity or option.
 - Adaptation and International Collaboration.
 - Sustainable development & Economic Planning

3. Regional Impacts and Vulnerabilities to Climate Change in Developing Countries.

- Socio-Economic Impact.

- Political Impact and Climate Change Refugee.

- Impacts on the ecology.

4. Potential threat of climate change to indigenous people.

5. Indigenous People and Global Environmental Governance.

PAPER SUBMISSION AND REVIEW PROCESS

Please submit an abstract of not more than 500 words (no detailed references) latest by 20th October, 2022 to the conference organizers. Abstracts should clearly state the purpose, results and conclusions of the work to be described in the final paper.

Paper selection/screening process

Papers will be selected based on a double-blind review process. Authors will receive abstract acceptance notice from the Organizing Committee by 25th October, 2022.

Full papers should be submitted by email not exceeding 5000 words or about 14 pages in A-4 size, Times New Roman 12 and 1.5 line spacing should be submitted by 10th November, 2022. The conference accepted papers will be published in an edited volume published by reputed publisher, with ISBN code.

Language

The working language of the conference will be English.

Style Sheet

For style sheet, Author(s) should follow the Chicago Manual of style.

Important Dates:

Seminar:	14th-15th November, 2022.
Abstract Submission:	20th October, 2022
Notification of acceptance of abstracts:	25th October, 2022.
Last date of Submission of full paper:	10th November, 2022.

Abstracts/ Full Papers may be submitted to the Convener at: ucc_iqac@hotmail.com

For style sheet, Author(s) should follow the Chicago Manual of style.

REGISTRATION FEE

1. Local and National Participants:

- ₹ 500/- (Five Hundred only) for Students and Research Scholars.
- ₹ 1000/- (One Thousand only) for Academicians

2. Foreign participants: Foreign Participants fee for the International Seminar

- For Academicians : \$ 25
- For Students and Research Scholars : \$ 20

Methods of payment:

- Through net banking/ direct transfer/ NEFT in the College account provided below.
- Through UPI (PayTM / GooglePay / BHIM, etc) in the College account provided below.
- Name of Account: UCC General Current Account
- Account No.: 37481656175
- Name of Bank: State Bank of India, Barapani Branch, Meghalaya
- IFSC Code: SBIN0002010
- **Participants can register at the link: <https://forms.gle/EoVbbzC3GkXKUagdA>**
- Last date of Registration: 30th October 2022.
- Spot Registration: Only for Local participants.

N. B:

1. The rate is valid for Full Programme including Refreshments (Breakfast and Lunch), Welcome Reception, and Publication charges (subject to selection of your paper by the Review Team) in an edited book with ISBN by an International Publisher.
2. No TA/DA will be paid to the participants.

HOW TO REACH SHILLONG

The Gopinath Bordoloi Airport in Guwahati (128 km from Shillong) is connected to rest of India with regular flights. Shared cabs (typically small cars from the airport and larger Tata Sumos from Guwahati town center) are available from outside airport connecting to Shillong. There are no rail lines in Meghalaya. The nearest railway station is Guwahati. It is about 100 km from Shillong and very well connected with all major cities of India. National Highway 40, an all-weather road, connects Shillong with Guwahati. State's Transport Corporation and private transport operators have services to various places in Meghalaya and to neighbouring states. Meghalaya Transport Corporation (MTC) and Assam State Transport Corporation (ASTC) operate bus services from Shillong to Guwahati and Guwahati to Shillong. Tourist Taxis, Tata Sumo Taxis, Tourist coaches are also available for travel between Shillong to Guwahati and vice-versa.

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