



Special Session (SS06) on:

Health risks from climate change: Vulnerability, resilience and adaptation strategies

Organizers:

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Background:

Climate change can dramatically affect human health and disease by a multitude of pathways. Some existing health threats will intensify and new health threats will emerge. Public health can be affected by disruptions of physical, biological, and ecological systems. More direct impacts can include such as temperature related illness and death; injuries and premature deaths related to extreme weather events; the effect of air pollution on increased respiratory and cardiovascular disease. Other impacts follow more complex pathways such as those that give rise to water and food borne illnesses, vector borne and rodent borne diseases, or food and water shortages, population migration, and threats to mental health.

Not everyone is equally at risk of climate change hazards. In fact, regions with weak health infrastructure (mainly in developing countries) will be at greater risk of *climate change* related health problems.

Comprehension of all climate change-related health risks is essential for building resilience to climate problems and therefore strengthening efforts to improve and sustain the social and environmental determinants of health.

This session aims to bring together researchers in fields related climate change and health, including extreme events, food and water borne diseases and vector borne diseases to present their stimulating research and to transfer knowledge and ideas in climate change impacts on health, and health policy for resilience and adaptation.

Participants and target audience:

This session intends to bring representatives from governmental and non-governmental agencies, epidemiologists, health experts, academia, youth, development and regional partners that work in the area of climate change-related health effects. Additionally, the session will strive to link with national and international partners who face similar climate change-related health problems in their regions, to have a better synergy and provide most up-to-date information and knowledge on the subject.

Topics:

- Climate-related health risks

- Climate change and health disparities
- Climate change impacts on biodiversity and emergence or reemergence of vector borne diseases
- Food and water borne diseases and climate change
- Health policy for resilience and adaptation
- Frameworks for health system resilience strengthening
- Mitigation and health benefits

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