



# What's Hot in Yokohama

Tuesday 25 March, 2014

The IPCC WG2 opening speeches, chaired by a tired looking IPCC chairperson RK Pachauri, were fairly short. It seemed to take longer for the journalists in the room to leave than it took to deliver the short messages (*mostly video taped*) from a series of important people, including UNFCCC head Christina Figueres, UNEP Head Achim Steiner and WG2 co-chairpersons Dr Chris Field and Dr Vincente Barros.

The WG2 report has based a large part of its messaging on a risk-based approach. This is causing difficulties for countries that are concerned that in some case such an approach makes climate change sound like a “manageable” risk. Fortunately most parties are being constructive about this to date but progress has been slow as country representatives developed a shared understanding of the new terminology, for instance, in which cases it is acceptable to replace “impacts” with “risks” and in which it is not.

There is generally a strong push to keep the report focused on adaptation and impacts and resistance to making any strong inferences about mitigation as representatives do not want to prejudge the outcomes of working group 3.



The most difficult debates during the day was when some Latin American countries made a push for “Mother Earth” terminology to be incorporated in the text but they conceded the point in the end in the face of arguments from the authors and others that this language is not used in the source literature outside of the chapter on indigenous knowledge. Judging by how hard these parties fought



to have the “Mother Earth” terminology incorporated and by how they emphasised its use in other UN bodies this debate will likely crop up again.

There was a also an interesting slight debate on whether WG 2 should just consider the impacts of anthropogenic climate change or climate impacts in general. In today’s meeting the viewpoint that WG 2 should cover both seemed to win out through text that allowed for both interpretations.

In terms of progress there was generally constructive dialogue between negotiators with all speakers trying to find constructive solutions. The wealth of inputs did unfortunately lead to slow progress and we only managed to work through a half page introduction and two

information boxes.

Parties postponed a sensitive discussion on whether to use the terminology “medium, low and high income countries” or “developed and developing countries”. This will be discussed later in a contact group and the sense in the room was that this would be a very difficult debate, possibly influenced by UNFCCC dynamics where some parties are trying to move away from the hard binary distinction while others want to keep the firewall between developed and developing countries very clear..

There was some discussion about how to capture the fact that most of the climate research still comes from developed countries and what the implications of that are.

*Remember you can find the latest version of the WG2 report on [Cool Planet](#)*

## Coming up...

### Media briefing on the impacts of climate change in Japan – Wednesday at 2:30pm Japan time

Don’t forget to tune in to the live webcast of the WWF-Japan media briefing on the Impacts of Climate Change in Japan, tomorrow from 2:30pm Japan time. The address for the webcast is:

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/wwfjapan-climatechange>. For further information about this, event, please contact Ms Hiroko Sakuma from WWF-Japan at [Sakuma@wwf.or.jp](mailto:Sakuma@wwf.or.jp).





## **Ask Me Anything session on Reddit – Monday 31 March with UK Chief Adviser for Climate Change Leo Hickman**

On 31st March at 6pm (GMT) Leo Hickman, Chief Adviser, Climate Change for WWF-UK, will take to Reddit for an /IAmA 'Ask Me Anything', answering questions on why an organisation known for protecting pandas is taking on climate change – referencing the newly released IPCC WG2 report, our work on climate change and why we should all care.

*It's worthwhile signing up to Reddit beforehand so you're all ready to go – the sub-Reddit where we'll be posting is: <http://en.reddit.com/r/IAmA/>*

We'll share the official link for the Reddit post on the day of the event at 5.30pm (GMT) on the @wwf\_uk Twitter account.

Here are a few tweets that you can share on your accounts in the meantime :

*Want to find out more about climate change? Ask @LeoHickman of @wwf\_uk in @Reddit\_AMA on 31/3/2014 @ 6pm GMT!*

*Join @LeoHickman, Chief Adviser, Climate Change at @WWF\_UK for a @Reddit\_AMA on 31/3/2014 @ 6pm GMT!*

*Ask @LeoHickman, Chief Adviser, Climate Change, anything in @wwf\_uk's @Reddit\_AMA on 31/3/2014 @ 6pm GMT!*

### **Quotable quotes**

*"We are at a critical moment in history and the window of opportunity is narrow. Time is not on our side."* Yeb Sano, Philippines Climate Commissioner

*"We have a lot clearer picture of impacts and their consequences ... including the implications for security."* Chris Field, co chair of Working Group II.

*"Climate change is the biggest threat to our chances of winning the fight against hunger."* Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director, Oxfam

### **Selected media coverage**

**SBS News: Climate scientists meet in Japan**

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2014/03/25/climate-scientists-meet-japan>

**Sydney Morning Herald: IPCC report downplays economic impacts of climate change, reviewer says**

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/ipcc-report-downplays-economic-impacts-of-climate-change-reviewer-says-20140325-35f71.html>



**The Tribune: Climate scientists in Japan to study warming risks**

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2014/03/24/2988594/climate-scientists-in-japan-to.html?sp=/99/177/507//>

**Rappler.com: The fight for food and climate justice**

<http://www.rappler.com/move-ph/ispeak/53853-fight-food-climate-justice>



**The Guardian: Climate change could leave another 50 million people facing hunger by 2050**

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters/2014/mar/25/climate-change-equivalent-spanish-population-hunger-crisis-2050>

**Global Post – Intl climate change conference opens in Yokohama**

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/kyodo-news-international/140325/intl-climate-change-meeting-opens-yokohama>

**GMA News: Scientists meet in Japan after grim climate forecast**

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/354053/scitech/science/scientists-meet-in-japan-after-grim-climate-forecast>

**BBC: Dissent among scientists over key climate report**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-26655779>

**Asbarez.com: The urgency of adaptation: combating climate change in Armenia**

<http://asbarez.com/121053/the-urgency-of-adaptation-combating-climate-change-in-armenia/>

**Bloomberg: World unprepared for threats from warmer climate, Oxfam says**

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2014-03-24/world-unprepared-for-hunger-linked-to-warmer-climate-oxfam-says>

**Carbon Brief: A big UN report on climate change impacts is coming: how is it being reported?**

<http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2014/03/a-big-un-report-on-climate-change-impacts-is-coming-how-is-it-being-reported/>

## For further information

**The WWF Delegation members to the Yokohama meeting are:**

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**Web:** [www.panda.org/climateandenergy](http://www.panda.org/climateandenergy)



## Resources

**Opening Statement:** Rajendra K. Pachauri, Chair of the IPCC

(<http://ipcc.ch/pdf/ar5/Dr.%20Pachauri%20Opening%20Statement.pdf>)

**Opening Statement:** Christopher Field, IPCC Working Group II Co-Chair

(<http://ipcc.ch/pdf/ar5/Chris%20Field%20Opening%20Statement.pdf>)

**Opening Session:** IPCC press release from the Working Group II

[http://ipcc.ch/pdf/press/140325\\_WGII\\_press\\_release.pdf](http://ipcc.ch/pdf/press/140325_WGII_press_release.pdf)

**Opening session:** Japanese Minister of Environment

<http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/ar5/Japan%20minister%20opening%20remarks.pdf>

**Oxfam report launched today:**

<http://www.oxfam.org/en/grow/pressroom/pressrelease/2014-03-25/world-woefully-unprepared-impacts-climate-food>

**Infographic to share:** Climate change could make 50 million people hungry

**Infographic to share:** [Morihiro's story](#)

**Infographic to share:** [Joao's story](#)



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