

The UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) in Bonn

Public Talk

10–11 am, Thursday 12 June 2014

Venue: UNU-IIGH Building, UKM Medical Centre
Jalan Yaacob Latiff, Bandar Tun Razak, Cheras
56000 Kuala Lumpur

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Abstract

The presentation will give an overview on the activities of the UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) in Bonn. UNU-EHS focuses on environmental risks, such as natural hazards, climate variability and pollution, and their impact on human livelihoods and security. Important working areas include the impact of climate change on environmental risks, environmentally induced migration and innovative insurance models for low income population groups. In describing some of our projects, I will illustrate that as well as understand the hazardous natural processes, it is essential to consider the socioeconomic environment in which they are happening.

The presentation will show the way in which UNU-EHS works with its various partners in UNU, UN, academia and the NGO and private sector. Possible fields of cooperation between UNU-IIGH and UNU-EHS will also be discussed.

Prof Jakob Rhyner holds a PhD in theoretical physics from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich. Since 2010, he has been United Nations University, Vice Rector in Europe and Director of the Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS). Concurrently, he is professor of agricultural science at the University of Bonn. His research focuses on environmental risks research and capacity building. During 2012-13, he was co-chair of the Future Earth implementation board.

Previously (2001-2010), he was with the Swiss Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research (SLF) in Davos Switzerland – initially as division leader Avalanche Warning and Risk Management and from 2006 institute leader. His responsibilities spanned operational warning systems, risk management research and education. During 1988-2001, he was with ABB Corporate Research, industrial physics, project and team leader where his research focused on physical and numerical modeling of electric power systems and materials.



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