

MELTING ICE - A HOT TOPIC?



ask...



a polar bear



a farmer



an islander



an insurer



an indigenous person



yourself!



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY • 5 June 2007

# WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2007

melting ice  
- a hot topic?

**PLEASE REGISTER AT**  
[www.wed.npolar.no](http://www.wed.npolar.no)

**International  
climate conference  
4 - 5 June 2007**



**Take the opportunity to participate!**

## “Our Common Future” – 20 years on, and international climate conference

*A special gathering of politicians and specialists will take place in Tromsø, Norway, 4 and 5 June during World Environment Day 2007. The Norwegian Government will observe the 20th anniversary of the report “Our Common Future” from the World Commission on Environment and Development, led by former Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland. The Norwegian Polar Institute and the Ministry of the Environment will host a conference focussing on the world in a changing climate.*

The Norwegian government has invited a number of distinguished participants to a round table discussion to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of “Our Common Future”. The idea is to encourage a global outlook on a future-orientated agenda and create an arena for analysis and new visions. Dr Brundtland will provide the keynote address before the discussion. This event is the kick-off for two days with sustainable development and climate change on the agenda.

On the very same day, the Norwegian Polar Institute and the Ministry of the Environment will host a conference with the same topic as that of World Environment Day: decreasing ice and snow cover around the world. The Arctic mean temperature has risen at almost twice the rate as the rest of the world, diminishing sea ice and thawing permafrost.

But the changes are not limited to the polar regions. All areas covered by ice and snow, such as the Himalaya and Andes mountains, are influenced by climate change. Rivers once fed by mountain glaciers could eventually run dry or change their courses, harming agriculture, human health and biodiversity. Declining sea ice has an immediate impact on animals and people in the Arctic and a longer term effect on the rest of the world by affecting ocean circulation and

the global climate. As glaciers melt and oceans warm up, sea levels will rise. This will strongly impact inhabitants of low-lying islands and delta areas, where some of the world’s poorest people live.

The conference is planned as a meeting between decision makers and scientists and will also address the media and the general public. The Melting Ice conference will be held in English and is open to everyone. The conference will:

- give an overview of global, climate change, include a presentation by the chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on new findings and recommendations
- focus on consequences for indigenous people, effects of climate changes in different geographic regions presented by scientific models and expected rise in sea level because of melting glaciers
- and look ahead at expected results and new knowledge from the International Polar Year projects, in which participants from nearly 70 countries are taking part.

A photo presentation on changes in the circum-polar Arctic over the last decade will also be shown. The Nordic Council of Ministers, which recently presented a climate strategy for the Arctic, has contributed financially to the conference, and there will be a special focus on Nordic issues during the last part of the conference.

Tromsø, which has been nicknamed the “Paris of the North” and “Gateway to the Arctic”, is the main city of northern Norway. It was from here that explorers such as Roald Amundsen embarked upon their journeys into the High Arctic. In the summer of 2005, Nelson Mandela gathered a large audience at a fund-raising concert for HIV/AIDS in the city. Tromsø lies several hundred kilometres above the Arctic Circle, but is easily accessible from the rest of the world as it is less than two hours away by air from Oslo. The city has a number of organisations which specialize on polar and climate issues, such as the University of Tromsø, the Norwegian Polar Institute and other institutions at the Polar Environmental Centre. The venues will be Teorifagbygget (University of Tromsø), and Fokus cinema.

# PROGRAMME

## **MONDAY 4 JUNE 2007 – Teorifagbygget, University of Tromsø**

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### **Sustainable development – 20 years on. A global perspective on how to succeed**

- 0900 Registration, coffee
- 1015 Welcome to the University of Tromsø by Dean Jarle Aarbakke  
Introductory speech by Norwegian Prime Minister Mr Jens Stoltenberg  
Key note speech by former Norwegian Prime Minister  
Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland
- 1045 Round Table. Moderator:  
Norwegian Minister of Development Mr Erik Solheim  
Participants:  
Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP, Archbishop Desmond Tutu,  
Human rights and environmental activist Massoumeh Ebtekar from Iran,  
Dr Rajendra K. Pachauri, IPCC Chairman, Sheila Watt Cloutier,  
former President of Inuit Circumpolar Conference and Igor Tsjetsin,  
Secretary General of World Wildlife Fund in Russia
- 1230 Conclusions by Norwegian Minister of Finance Ms Kristin Halvorsen
- 1245 Press conference

### **Melting ice – a hot topic? Global change, impacts and actions**

- 1315 Lunch/viewing displays in the lobby
- 1500 Opening address by Norwegian Minister of the Environment  
Ms Helen Bjørnøy  
Why “Melting Ice” as a topic for the World Environment Day? UNEP’s  
Executive Director, Mr Achim Steiner  
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports: findings and  
recommendations. Chairman, Dr Rajendra K. Pachauri  
A changing climate – a challenge for indigenous peoples.  
Sheila Watt Cloutier, former President, Inuit Circumpolar Conference  
Climate change – consequences for different parts of the world from a  
scientific point of view. Dr Erich Roeckner, Max Planck Institute  
Chair: Dr Jan-Gunnar Winther, Director, Norwegian Polar Institute
- 1830 Shuttle bus to hotels
- 1945 Pick-up at hotels for get-together at Polaria Visitors’ Centre  
([www.polaria.no](http://www.polaria.no)) with light meal

## **Melting ice – a hot topic? Global change, impacts and actions**

- 0900 Introduction. Dr Jan-Gunnar Winther, Director, Norwegian Polar Institute  
Sea level rise as a consequence of large ice sheet melting. Dr Chris Rapley, Director British Antarctic Survey  
Consequences of melting ice in the Andes.  
Dr Andrés Rivera, Centro de Estudios Científicos, Chile  
Consequences of melting ice in the Himalayas. Dr. Samjwal Bajracharya, The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Nepal  
Photo presentation of climate change in the circumarctic.  
Dr Hinrich Bäsemann  
New insight into ice melting – expected results from the International Polar Year, Dr David Carlson, International Polar Year Secretariat

Chair: Dr Kim Holmén, Research Director, Norwegian Polar Institute

1200 Lunch

1330-1730 **Nordic perspectives**  
Conference programme with focus on Nordic strategies and challenges.

1200-1530 **Melting ice and the next generation**  
Youth programme at Fokus cinema.

**The conference is open to everyone. Registration: [www.wed.npolar.no](http://www.wed.npolar.no)**

A registration fee of NOK 2500 covers the full programme (Sustainable development, Melting ice and Nordic perspectives), lunches included. A fee of NOK 2200 covers a reduced programme, that is, without Nordic perspectives. Please use the electronic registration form on [www.wed.npolar.no](http://www.wed.npolar.no) For inquiries, registration for the youth programme or for Nordic strategies only, please contact Anne Kibsgaard, [kibsgaard@npolar.no](mailto:kibsgaard@npolar.no)

On Sunday night, there will be a gala event in the Concert Hall (Kulturhuset). The theme will be “Melting ice – a hot topic?”. The show will be in Norwegian, with some elements in English. Should you want to join, please tick the appropriate box of the registration form and add the cost of the ticket to your payment.

Organizers:



norden

