

Guest lecture: The Role of Africa in International Climate Negotiations: The Experience of PACJA running up to COP 17

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On Tuesday, June 21, 2011, Mithika Mwenda, the coordinator of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), held a lecture on *The Role of Africa in International Climate Negotiations: The Experience of PACJA running up to COP 17*. PACJA is a coalition of around 300 diverse organizations from 45 African countries seeking to advocate, lobby and create awareness to integrate climate change into laws, policies and practices in broader sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies in African countries. The guest from Nairobi, Kenya, was invited by the Research Group Climate Change & Security (CLISEC), KlimaCampus, and the Institute of Geography to share his insights into the position of African Civil Society organizations with regard to international climate negotiations as well as the current hopes and expectations towards this year's Conference of Parties (COP 17) to the Climate Convention in Durban, South Africa as well as on the organization PACJA.

Mr. Mwenda provided the audience with a comprehensive overview of the past international climate negotiations and critically reviewed their implications for African developing countries. Pointing out the key stakeholders within the African context such as his own organization, he highlighted the central problems and demands with regard to climate change impacts and adaptation needs in Africa.

While from his point of view the past years' negotiations in Copenhagen and Cancun have been "a period of false hopes"; stakeholders in Africa have begun to organize themselves and to build capacity for active involvement in future negotiations and hands-on action to address international players in their plight. Towards the end of his presentation he illustrated the way forward and emphasized concrete steps to be taken to strengthen African capacity to react to the climatic changes the continent is faced with. After the talk there was time for questions and active discussion.

After the presentation, the Research Group Climate Change and Security and Mr. Mwenda discussed possible paths for collaboration.

For more information about PACJA see: www.pacja.org



During the presentation Mithika Mwenda, the coordinator of PACJA, discussed expectations towards the upcoming COP in Durban, South Africa.



Mithika Mwenda together with CLISEC members Janpeter Schilling, Elina Marmer, Elise Remling and Jürgen Scheffran