

Water and Climate Change

Second Session Opening Remarks:

The year 2009 is exceptional for global climate change policies; Denmark will host the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 15) next December.

This meeting will hopefully mark the turning point in the world's effort to effectively combat climate change and it will be the last chance for a new global deal to replace the KYOTO PROTOCOL before it expires.

Motivation

- Sufficient evidence that CLIMATE CHANGE is real
- Climate change is more than an unmatched environmental challenge. It is a massive development, economic and social challenge
- ***** CLIMATE CHANGE will increase frequency and intensity of events (drought & flood)
- Water sector is among most affected
- Guidance is needed for incorporating increased hydrologic variability and change in investments, particularly infrastructure

****** Human acts on the environment contributed to CLIMATE CHANGE**

Impacts of climate change on infrastructure systems are on the:

- **TRANSPORT**
- **WATER:**
 - **Delivery of services**
 - **Management of the resource**
- **INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY**

We need information, data, analysis, etc. at the appropriate scale and resolution.
- **ENERGY**
- **Adaptation options to reduce vulnerability of water systems to these impacts:**
 - **Move from think to act**

Investment decisions, design, management, etc. are made on the ground

- **Define agreed state of reference and set up a monitoring system (database, indicators and assessment)**
- **Implement national plan / strategies for adaptation dealing with crosscutting issues.**

***** The big picture is awareness, policy, priority**

***** Using prospective studies for decision makers.**

Developing countries are highly vulnerable to climate change

Population growth

Water demand exceeds supply

Reduced runoff volumes

Compacting climate change is a tedious task by any means this is why 130 ministers are expected to attend the Denmark meeting and why countless preparatory (like our meeting today) are conducted all over the world to try to reach a common understanding.

Afterwards an implementation mechanism is a must