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“Ring in the New Year” by Mr Rajendra K. Pachauri

“January has been an extremely busy period for the IPCC, and an important milestone. The most significant development is the issue of call for nominations for authors who would be involved in the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), due to be completed in 2013-14. The AR5 would have several unique features and would be based on a design and outline which results from an intensive scoping meeting and a rigorous approval process followed by the IPCC Plenary. The challenge facing all of us and the authors who would come on board for preparing the report is exciting and momentous, because of two reasons. Firstly, the work required for meeting the scientific and technical challenge of producing an assessment of high standard would be enormous. But more importantly, society at large across the globe has very high expectations of this report, because understanding and awareness on the subject is now widespread and much deeper than was the case even three years ago. Public scrutiny of what we produce would be intense and detailed. This is in keeping with the evolution that has taken place over time on the accountability to society of scientists and their work. A hundred years ago scientists and what they produced were essentially taken for granted. Today society demands a high level of accountability both in terms of content and quality of what scientists produce. Potential authors who wish to work on the AR5 would find this opportunity stimulating and full of intellectual challenge.

During the month of January we have seen some distraction in public opinion being diverted to a set of scurrilous writings by some journalists, but my belief is that the truth will prevail and the mal-intent of those who are behind the falsehoods that are being produced in the media would be exposed.

For those engaged in the work of the IPCC it is essential to maintain single-mindedness of purpose and a clear direction which aims to produce the best science that we can provide in the AR5. We should not be discouraged by any ill-founded criticism, because for us satisfaction and success would lie in producing an outstanding AR5 which is sound and scientifically robust.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our readers a very happy New Year.”

Completion dates for the AR5

Working Group I: September 2013

Working Group II: March 2014

Working Group III: April 2014

Synthesis Report: September 2014

Moving towards the IPCC's 5th Assessment Report

The AR5 journey has begun

The outlines of the Working Groups' contributions to the AR5 - WG I, WG II, and WG III - were agreed at the 31st Session of the IPCC held in Bali, Indonesia, 26-29 October 2009. The nomination period has opened for experts who will prepare the Fifth Assessment Report as Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Review Editors. The writing process will start in the second half of the year for Working Group I with their First Lead Authors Meeting (LA1) taking place 8-11 November 2010 in Kunming, China. Working Group II and Working Group III will begin work on their contributions in early 2011. A meeting to further develop the scope of the AR5 Synthesis Report is scheduled for 30 August – 1 September 2010 in Liege, Belgium.



Flooded houses Dromedary caravan in the dunes, near Nouakchott, Mauritania (18°09 N, 15°29 W) © Yann Arthus-Bertrand / Earth from above
www.yannarthusbertrand.org | www.goodplanet.org

What will be new in the AR5?

The socio-economic aspects of climate change will be given greater emphasis, with special attention given to the implications for human security and sustainable development as well as ethical aspects. New scenarios and models currently under development by the scientific community will be available for assessment in the AR5. Expanded regional detail and analysis will be featured in the AR5: the Working Group I report will include an Atlas of Global and Regional Climate projections as an Annex. The Working Group II contribution will consist of two parts: Part A covering Global and Sectoral Aspects, and Part B covering Regional Aspects. Part A will cover new sectors, including oceans, and new issues, including the costs of adaptation, livelihoods and poverty, and human security; it also will extend its coverage of adaptation, food security, water resources, and other issues. Working Group I will have dedicated chapters on sea level change, carbon cycle and climate phenomena such as monsoon and El Niño. Working Groups II and III will focus on risk management and options to avoid, prepare for, and effectively respond to the risks of climate change, including the assessment of global climate policy goals. Investment and finance issues will be addressed in an integrated manner in the Working Group III report.

To enhance cross working group consistency, nine cross cutting issues have been identified:

- Consistent Evaluation of Uncertainties and Risks, to serve as useful input for policymakers

- Costing and Economic Analysis, to develop common language and common fundamentals in all valuation efforts, including finance and investment
- Regional Aspects, based on a geographical approach as suggested in Part B of the WG II contribution
- Scenarios and their use in the AR5
- Water and the Earth System: changes, impacts and responses to answer the need for a water cycle theme in the AR5
- Carbon Cycle including Ocean Acidification, identified as a critical topic
- Ice Sheets and Sea Level Rise, with implications for vulnerability and adaptation in coastal zones and islands
- Mitigation, Adaptation and Sustainable Development; addressing the "human side" of the implications of climate change, including human security
- Issues related to Article 2 of the UNFCCC Convention on "... stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system"

A number of expert meetings and workshops will be held to support the assessment process, including on cross cutting matters.

Calendar of key scheduled AR5 expert meetings in 2010:

25-27 January	Joint WG I / WG II – Expert Meeting on Assessing and Combining Multi-Model Climate Projections – Boulder, Colorado, USA
20-22 April	Joint WG II / WG III – Expert Meeting on Human Settlement, Water, Energy and Transport Infrastructure – Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies – Calcutta, India
17-19 May	Co-sponsored meeting organized by GEO and IPCC – GEOSS support for IPCC assessments – A workshop on the data needs of the climate impacts, adaptation and vulnerability research community – Geneva, Switzerland
21-24 June	WG I – Workshop on Sea Level Rise and Ice Sheet Instabilities – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
July (exact date TBC)	IPCC Cross-Working Group Meeting on Consistent Evaluation of Uncertainties and Risks – Location TBD
October (exact date TBC)	Joint WG II / WG III – Expert Meeting on Socioeconomic Scenarios for Climate Change Impact and Response Assessments – Location TBD
Date TBC	IPCC Cross-Working Group Meeting on Article 2 – Location TBD

For all scheduled expert meetings supporting the AR5 process, see:
http://www.ipcc.ch/calendar_of_meetings/calendar_of_meetings.htm

TBC - To be confirmed TBD - To be decided

Who will be the authors of the next IPCC Assessment report?

The call for nominations is now out!

In the best tradition of comprehensiveness, objectivity, openness and transparency, the IPCC will make all efforts to ensure its assessments rely on the widest possible expertise for all disciplines and from all regions of the world. The Lead Authors' teams for the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) shall reflect a range of views and expertise, and ensure appropriate representation of experts from developing and developed countries and countries with economies in transition.

The Bureaux of Working Group I, II and III will guide this process and identify experts for specific sections and chapters from the nominations received. The Bureaux may also assign more experts, known through their publications and works.

While governments provide the bulk of nominated authors and experts, everyone with scientific technical expertise can be considered under the IPCC's nomination process. A number of observer organizations to the IPCC have scientific technical programs with specialists in the climate change field. They are of course invited to participate in the writing and review process for the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report. Otherwise, many of the IPCC Member countries have appointed a designated Focal Point (FP) which is the liaison among

Call for Nominations for AR5 authors

15 January - 12 March 2010

Governments and organizations:

We encourage your nominations for the best experts in all relevant fields!

Scientists and experts:

Want to contribute to the AR5? Approach the FP/institution of your country to be included in the list.

the government, the national scientific community and the IPCC. Focal Points have a key role in the nomination process. Their function is to prepare and update the list of national experts, which is required to implement the IPCC work programme, and to submit the list of nominees to the IPCC Secretariat.

The nomination process for the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report has just started. Governments and participating organizations, including all UN organizations, are asked

to nominate experts who can serve as authors and Review Editors for the three Working Groups' contributions to the AR5. FPs can learn more about the nomination process for potential Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Review Editors from the guidance document prepared by the Secretariat. It is available on the IPCC website at: <http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/ar5/ar5-fp-guidance.pdf>. The selection of authors and Review Editors for the AR5 by the IPCC Bureaux will be completed by May 2010.

More information on the AR5:

- AR5 schedule, outlines and relevant guidance documents and further information on the nomination process
www.ipcc.ch/activities/activities.htm#1
- AR5 Nominations portal
www.ipcc.ch/activities/activitiesar5nomination.htm

IPCC Special Report - Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation

The IPCC has begun the assessment of how climate change affects the threat of disasters resulting from extreme weather and climate events, and how nations can better manage the expected change in the frequency of occurrence and intensity of severe weather patterns. It will be the first global scientific effort examining the linkages between disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change.

This Special Report, referred to as "SREX", is the result of a proposal initiated by the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and advanced by the government of Norway. The SREX is currently under preparation (see approved outline) under the leadership of WG II and with the participation of WG I. The Report will be completed towards the end of 2011.

More than 90 Lead Authors were notified of their appointments in September 2009. The First Lead Authors Meeting was held in Panama City, Panama, 9-12 November 2009. The second will be held 22-25 March 2010 in Hanoi, Vietnam, and the third in Geneva, Switzerland, 25-28 October 2010. In addition to the LA meetings, a workshop on the Asian Region (<http://www.adpc.net/IPCC/index.htm>), co-sponsored with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, was held 7-8 January 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand. An Expert Meeting on the SREX Case Studies may also be held.

A Fourth Lead Authors Meeting and the session to accept the report and approve its Summary for Policymakers will occur in 2011.



Flooded houses south of Dhaka, Bangladesh (23°41 N, 90°25 W)

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IPCC Special Report - Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation

The Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation (SRREN) is being prepared under the leadership of Working Group III of the IPCC.

In 2009, Working Group III hosted the first and second Lead Authors' meetings within the context of the SRREN, as well as an Expert Meeting focused on the coherency between model assumptions and technological knowledge. The First Order Draft (FOD) was sent out for expert review in December, 2009. The Expert Review period will end on 8 February 2010. During this round of review, external expert reviewers from across the globe will comment on the draft. Their comments will be considered by the authors in the Third Lead Author Meeting (LA3), scheduled 2-5 March 2010 in Oxford, UK.

The Second-Order Draft (SOD) will be prepared following LA3, and will be sent out for Expert and Government review on 18 June 2010. At this time, experts and governments of all IPCC member countries will be invited to comment on the SOD until 16 August 2010. The comments from this round of review will be considered at the Fourth Lead Author Meeting (LA4)

scheduled 21-24 September 2010 in Mexico. The full report and the draft of its Summary for Policymakers (SPM) will be sent out for final Government distribution on 26 November 2010. This commenting period will end on 24 January 2011. After final consideration of government comments on the SPM, the full report will be accepted and its SPM approved in a Plenary Session scheduled to be held in Abu Dhabi, UAE in February, 2011.

In addition to the aforementioned Lead Authors' meetings, two Expert Meetings are planned within the SRREN-Process in the course of 2010:

- IPCC SRREN Expert Review Meeting, Washington, D.C., USA (1-2 February)
- IPCC Expert Meeting on Scenarios (28 February - 1 March)

For further information, please see the IPCC Working Group III webpages (<http://www.ipcc-wg3.de/meetings> and <http://www.ipcc-wg3.de/publications/special-reports>).



Middelgrunden offshore wind farm,
near Copenhagen, Denmark
(55°40 N, 12°38 E)
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Task force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI)

The TFI was established by the IPCC to oversee the IPCC National Greenhouse Gas Inventories Programme (IPCC-NGGIP).

The objectives of the IPCC-NGGIP are: to develop and refine an internationally-agreed methodology and software for the calculation and reporting of national GHG emissions and removals; and to encourage the widespread use of this methodology by countries participating in the IPCC and by signatories of the UNFCCC.

Current TFI Activities:

- Expert Meeting on National Forest GHG Inventories – a Stock Taking, Yokohama, Japan (23-25 February 2010)
- Expert Meeting on Uncertainty and Validation of Emission Inventories, Utrecht, The Netherlands (23-25 March 2010)

Statements on the hacking of the East Anglia University email communications

Many of you may have followed the news reports on the illegal act of accessing private email communications between scientists involved as authors in past IPCC assessments. The IPCC issued two statements addressing the issue (<http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/presentations/rkp-statement-4dec09.pdf> and <http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/presentations/WGIstatement04122009.pdf>). The matter was also addressed by the Chair in his address to Delegates at COP-15, as well as the IPCC side-event and a press briefing organized by the IPCC in Copenhagen. For more information, please see: <http://www.ipcc.ch>.

Statements issued in January 2010 about specific findings in the AR4

Statement on the melting of the Himalayan glaciers

In mid January, the press covered several stories on erroneous information published in the Fourth Assessment Report concerning the Himalayan glaciers. The IPCC issued the following statement available on the IPCC website: http://www.ipcc.ch/press_information/press_information.htm#6.

Statement on trends in disaster losses

The January 24 Sunday Times ran a misleading and baseless story attacking the way the Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC handled an important question concerning recent trends in economic losses from climate-related disasters. The IPCC issued a statement on this issue that is also available on the IPCC website: http://www.ipcc.ch/press_information/press_information.htm#6.