

CLIMATE CHANGE AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

SIDE EVENT ORGANISED BY THE DANISH INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

21st October 2013, 09:00 am-12:30 pm

DESCRIPTION

The side event is entitled “Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples” and will focus on the indigenous peoples of the northern hemisphere and their struggle with the recent changes in climate. The presenters will discuss how climate change has affected the indigenous peoples environment, their culture and their rights, as well as the problems faced by indigenous peoples in the Asia-Pacific region.

“Indigenous peoples are uniquely vulnerable to environmental harm because of the increasing pressures on their lands and resources, as well as the cultural and religious link they maintain with their ancestral territories. There are more than 200 million indigenous people in the world. (...) In the past few decades, traditional indigenous lands have come under increased pressure as outsiders have sought and extracted or converted natural resources to supply a growing global demand.”¹

Furthermore, climate change is occurring with more strength in northern latitudes. The rate of change is approximately twice as fast as further south and particular indigenous peoples will be more strongly affected. Even though the pace of changes is different in the south, indigenous peoples from the rain forests of the Asia-Pacific region are also suffering the effects of the changes in climate.

The Danish Institute for Human Rights has invited Ms. Birgitte Feiring, who is anthropologist and independent expert on indigenous peoples’ rights to facilitate a debate on the effects of climate change on the lives of indigenous peoples.

¹ Donald K. Anton and Dinah L. Shelton. *Environmental Protection and Human Rights*. Cambridge University Press, New York, 2011, p. 545.

PROGRAMME21st October 2013

Venue: Moltke's Palace

Dr. Tværgade 2, Copenhagen

Time	Topic and presenter
09:00	Registration
09:15	Welcome Ms. Charlotte Flindt Pedersen, Director, International Department, Danish Institute for Human Rights
09:30	Climate Change and its Effects on the Lives of Indigenous Peoples & the Implications of the UN Declaration Ms. Catherine Iorns Magallanes, Senior Lecturer, Human Rights and Environmental Law, Victoria University of Wellington
10:00	REDD+ and its Effects on Indigenous Peoples – experiences from Asia Ms. Joan Carling, Secretary General, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact
10:30	Questions by Facilitator Ms. Birgitte Feiring, Anthropologist and Independent Expert on indigenous peoples' rights
10:45	Tea/coffee break
11:00	Sámi Life and Livelihoods – the Effects of Climate Change Mr. Niklas Labba, Manager, Sámi Language and Culture Centre, Tromsø, Norway
11:30	Questions by Facilitator
11:45	Plenary Discussion
12:15	Closing Remarks by Facilitator
12:30	End of Programme. A light lunch will be served.