

“Climate Change versus Livelihoods, Heritage and Ecosystems in Small Island States: A Case of Tuvalu ”

Wednesday, 29th March 2017 at 2:30 p.m.

IAS Meeting Room 2.27, Level 2, FASS Building

Abstract

The global warming and climate change pose an alarming threat to many island states in the Asia Pacific Ocean region. The Sea Level Rise (SLR) and vulnerability of coastal offshore and ecosystems are the additional factors that undermine the long term management and protection strategy for dealing with ecosystems in the region. Tuvalu is a small island state in the Pacific Ocean with a land area of only 26 km² and a population of 11,810. Climate change has affected the cultural landscape and community livelihoods in the coastal atoll areas of Tuvalu. It has been projected by the IPCC that Tuvalu is most probably the first country in the region that could be gradually submerged. This raises concerns about the fate of its people, their livelihoods, cultural heritage, landscapes and ecosystems. This research examines how inhabitants of Tuvalu cope with climate changes in relation to livelihood strategy, heritage and ecosystems. The study reports that the lack of awareness and seriousness of the problems that are facing the country in the immediate future are particularly alarming. The research suggests that climate awareness education and applied research, training and migration issue should be included in Tuvalu's development plan.

Speaker's Profile



Shafi Noor Islam, PhD (Candidate for Dr. rer .nat. habil) is an Geo- environmentalist and GIS specialist. He has taught earlier at the Brandenburg University of Technology at Cottbus, and the Technical University of Berlin (TU Berlin), Germany and Halmstad University in Sweden. His Research Areas include interdisciplinary water resources specially water salinity intrusion and mangrove ecosystem analysis. Wetlands and coastal resource management as well as climate change impacts on food Security and mega delta Ecosystem services are also his focus research fields. He has published over 60 articles in international journals and in Books. He has research experiences in Bangladesh, China, Nepal, Bhutan, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Germany, Poland, Denmark, Belgium, Italy, Spain, France, Monaco, the Netherlands, Sweden, Albania, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Brazil, Mexico and in Brunei.