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**Swiss Confederation**

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC  
Swiss Office for the Environment FOEN  
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO



University of Zurich

17:30 – 19:30, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2009

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Intercooperation and the University of Zurich,  
Room 5/6

**Special Side Event (Room 5/6)**

**Linking global and local perspectives for climate change  
adaptation and disaster risk reduction in mountain regions**

(17:30 – 19:30 Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2009, Room 5/6, CIG)

**Session Organizers**

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Intercooperation (Swiss Foundation for  
Development and International Cooperation), University of Zurich

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**Session Agenda**

**Welcome and Introduction:** Anton Hilbert, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (5 minutes)

**Panelists (50 minutes)**

Mrs Margareta Wahlström, Assistant Secretary-General for the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Mr Walter Vergara, World Bank

Prof. Dr. Wilfried Haerberli, University of Zurich

Dr. Elizabeth Silvestre, National Service for Meteorology and Hydrology in Peru

Dr. Carmenza Robledo, Intercooperation

**Facilitator:** Dr. Greg Greenwood, Mountain Research Initiative, Geography Institute, University of Berne

**Discussion and Comments: (30 minutes)**

**Closure**

**Apéro**

**Background**

Local communities in hazard prone areas have always had to cope with weather-related hazards – floods, droughts, too much or too little rainfall and the like. This local knowledge has become an integral component of human and social capital of these communities. Today, this capital is often underestimated or even ignored when dealing with climate change and disaster risk reduction issues. On the other hand, one needs to consider that climate change may alter atmospheric processes and thus lead to situations without any historical reference. The question on how these two fields can be better combined, especially in mountain regions, is the key issue of the panel discussion.

Besides building awareness and sharing experiences, the panel gives the opportunity to share first experiences of the pioneering Programme on Adaptation to Climate Change in Peru (PACC) – a programme by the Peruvian Ministry of Environment and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, implemented by a consortium (Intercooperation, PREDES, Libélula) and scientific institutions in Peru and Switzerland. It will highlight how science and local knowledge are complementary in order to strengthen the resilience of communities, developing local responses to face climate change and limiting the adverse impacts of natural hazards with hydrometeorological origin.

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