

18:15 – 19:15 h: Book presentation (ZMAW, room 022/23)

„Facing Global Environmental Change: Environmental, Human, Energy, Food, Health & Water Security Concepts“

The APEC meeting of the 14th November in Singapore signaled, that politicians still believe they are the political masters of climate change. They hesitate to accept clear figures for the reduction of carbon monoxide, not yet willing to spend money for the future of the one world we are living on.

There has been some hope with the Stern report in October 2006 and the assessment reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the IPCC. The award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the IPCC and the former Vice President of the US, Al Gore gave additional impetus about the link between climate change and peace. Even Bestseller Journalist Thomas L. Friedman (The world is flat) described the risks and challenges of climate change in his new bestseller: Hot, Flat, and Crowded. Why we need a green revolution – and how it can renew America.

But these positive movements have been stopped by the burning of billions of US \$ by some bankers who destabilised the global financial system.

German politicians are speaking about the need of a netted security. NATO, EU and OSCE call it the comprehensive approach or comprehensive security. In theory it sounds convincing, in reality the will of working together between the ministries of a country or the governments of states is still more or less missing.

In this actual situation I congratulate the organizers of this conference for their interdisciplinary approach and – hopefully - a wake-up call for all of us. And I congratulate Dr. Hans Günter Brauch as one of the series editors of the Hexagon Series on Human and Environmental Security and Peace for this real heavy work he has done with the Vol. 4 titled: Facing Global Environmental Change: Environmental, Human, Energy, Food, Health and Water Security Concepts. Having had the honour to publish an essay about climate change and security in the 21st century in Vol. 3 of the Hexagon Series titled: Globalization and Environmental Challenges: Reconceptualizing Security in the in the 21st century, I must admit that I never thought that this work could be topped.

Hans Günter: You and your Co-Authors have topped Vol. 3. Congratulations.

What to expect?

132 authors from 49 countries analyze in 100 essays the global debate on security issues like Environment, Humanity, Gender, livelihood, health, energy, food and water – politicians all over the world are not yet trained to think in these interrelations. In 10 chapters the authors discuss the context and securitization of global environmental change and possible extreme natural and societal outcomes. It seems necessary to state that the authors assess the risks but also the challenges and linkages of climate change, food stress, water stress for the living of people all over the world. We in Europe are still discussing the security related problems in theory, in other parts of the world they became reality. In the end they suggest a new research programme to move from knowledge to action, from solely reactive to proactive policies.

Written for:

Researchers, scientists, institutes, libraries, International Organisations, Non Governmental Organisations,

Problem:

Not written for politicians. Who can translate it in their language and ways of their thinking? So, it would be helpful to publish a small abstract with the major findings and political recommendations to gain the support of the political classes in the regions and continents of the earth. If not I see the danger of the media to sabotage the holistic approach because they only have interest in bad news; and some of the well known scientists – also in Germany – like themselves for their worst case scenarios instead of looking for challenges to the better.