

## Climate Change and Development

Lecture 3. Sirkku Juhola - Adaptation in Europe case: Impacts and costs in adaptation to changing climate.

Sirkku Juhola's lecture was an intense view over the topic of adaptation to the climate change. According to the lecturer and the pre-reading material it seems that at least most of the European governments have by now officially recognized the forthcoming and inevitable threats the climate change poses to the European societies. Even though it is widely agreed that the Europe is one of the areas that will be least affected by the climate change, serious precautions are been taken to prevent catastrophes caused by floods, storms and sea level rises. The extreme natural phenomena are just the peaks of the iceberg. Besides world's ecosystem, climate change could have serious effects on European agriculture, economy, employment structures, stability and culture. To avoid these negative effects, maximum mitigation is needed. That means that the world's governments should be making radical policy changes in order to prevent climate change. Juhola states that even if the policy changes would be made in the most radical way, the climate will keep on heating up at least by 2 degrees over the next 20 years because of the warming already 'loded' in the climate. This is why adaptation is needed.

Adaptation means changing the society and reducing the risks but also acknowledging the potential opportunities caused by the climate change. It might be hard to think positively about the opportunities provided by the climate change, but it doesn't help anyone just to think about the future world only recognizing the negative sides. The world has to learn to get along with the new kind of environment. It is though very contradictory to celebrate with the opportunities of the climate change. There are a lot of quarters in whose interests are not to cut carbon emissions and keep on pumping oil from the soil. Those parties surely wouldn't mind emphasizing the opportunities of the climate change if it would lead to a public atmosphere where cutting emissions wouldn't be as important. It would be of course very dangerous if the opportunities of the climate change got that much attention that it would make the citizens and politics forget the disastrous effects of the climate change and decrease the political will to tackle it.

The ending of the class clearly showed that the adaptation is not going to be an easy task. We did a role play of a town whose water supply is threatened by climate change. The farmers and entrepreneurs want to secure the jobs of the area by building a water pipe that goes through a nature reserve or an expensive water desalination factory. Local green party says that both of those options are whether too expensive or too eco-unfriendly. Saving the water seems to be for them only reasonable choice, but in order to farmer to save their jobs, major technological improvements should be made. The result of the role play suggests that the adaptation to the changing environment is going to create a lot more challenges than opportunities.