



EINLADUNG
zum
VERA-SEMINAR
von

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Climate hazard – adaptation is the key

An alternative view has emerged regarding the most cost-effective way in which to deal with the undoubted hazards of climate change. This view points towards setting a policy of preparation for, and adaptation to, change as it occurs, which is distinctly different from the emphasis given by most western parliaments to the mitigation of global warming by curbing carbon dioxide emissions. Ultimately, the rationale for choosing between policies of mitigation or adaptation must lie with an analysis of the underlying scientific evidence about climate change.

The vigorous public debate over possibly dangerous human-caused global warming is bedevilled by two things. First, an inadequacy of the historical temperature measurements that are used to reconstruct the average global temperature statistic. And second, fuelled by lobbyists and media interests, an unfortunate tribal emotionalism that has arisen between groups of persons who are depicted as either climate “alarmists” or climate “deniers”. In reality, the great majority of scientists fit into neither of these categories, but rather hold balanced and non-extreme views about the complex issue of climate change.

In this context, all competent scientists accept (i) that global climate has always changed, and always will; (ii) that human activities (not just carbon dioxide emissions) definitely affect local climate, and have the potential, summed, to measurably affect global climate; and (iii) that carbon dioxide is a mild greenhouse gas. The true scientific debate, then, is about none of these issues, but rather about the sign and magnitude of any global human effect, and its likely significance when considered in the context of natural climate change

Policymakers need to abandon the illusory goal of “preventing global warming” by reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Instead, dealing with climate reality as it unfolds represents the most prudent, practical and cost-effective solution to the global warming/climate change issue. Such a policy of adaptation is also strongly precautionary against any possibly dangerous, human-caused climate trends that might emerge in future.

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