

CHEC

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL

2013 ANNUAL LECTURE

“The Cities’ Challenge of Our Times

Adaptive Urbanism or Resistance to Resilience?”

Reception Lounge, Hamilton City Council, Garden Place Hamilton

Thursday 16 May 2013, 5.30pm - 7pm.

We have a rare opportunity to hear a distinguished speaker Bernd Gundermann, Dipl-Ing (Germany). He is a Past Vice President of the BDA (the equivalent to the New Zealand Institute of Architects) and thanks him for making time to visit Hamilton to present the CHEC 2013 Annual Lecture.

As the vast majority of humanity now live in low-lying coastal regions (65% of New Zealanders do), we should wisely use the remaining time to mitigate the enormous risks as climate changes develop. For example the recent hurricane Sandy, causing damage of US\$ 50 billion in and around New York, reminded us what is at risk – the stakes are high if we leave our cities unprepared.

The presentation aims to “Leave alarming behind and to go forward to the real challenges”, exploring and discussing options for both creating and/or improving resilience for our coastal and low lying cities and their supporting infrastructure. From our speaker’s hands-on experience, International comparative examples with our own region are to be presented and discussed.

The traditional mainstream response to prevent inundation is hard engineering: dykes, dams and seawalls. These need to be evaluated against other options such as retreat and soft engineering. His emphasis is on the latter adaptive urbanism, which approaches the problem holistically.

For example: After conducting a master seminar at Auckland University's School of Architecture and Planning in 2011 and another year of research and development adaptive urbanism is now going to be applied to the waterfront of Auckland, beginning with Westhaven Marina.

In addition we are fortunate to have present Diana Shand, National Programme Manager 2004-2009 for ICLEI’s Communities for Climate Protection - NZ. Also present will be Hamilton’s internationally recognised expert in modelling coastal and flood conditions Hugh MacMurray who will be willing to contribute to the subsequent discussion.

Engineers for Social Responsibility, Royal Society, Architects Institute and NZPI Waikato BOP Branch Members are invited to join Councillors and Staff of Regional and local Councils.

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We thank Waikato Regional Council and Hamilton City Council for sponsoring this important event.

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