

Trust But Verify:

Towards a comprehensive Global Observation, Information and Verification System on Greenhouse Gases

COP 21

Side Event

Tuesday, 01.12.2015,

12:15 – 13:45

Nordic Council of Minister's
Pavilion: New Nordic Climate
Solutions

"Blue Zone", Hall 2B, Room
65 – COP21, Le Bourget,
Paris

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To avoid dangerous climate change, as set in the international policy consensus at the year 2100 to a limit of 2° C warming compared to pre-industrial levels, worldwide GHG emission reductions of 20-30% in the next 10-15 years and in the order of 80% by 2050 will be required. However, national inventory systems have uncertainties and it is also uncertain how much and how long the greenhouse gases remain in the atmosphere, or how feedbacks of the Earth System due to climate change will influence future natural sources and sinks. In addition, aerosols influence radiative forcing and cloud formation. These complex interactions might result in faster or slower reductions of the GHG concentrations in the atmosphere and radiative forcing, respectively, than anticipated. A continuous fine-tuning and adaptation of emission reduction policies will develop as time and our knowledge progresses. Also the societal costs for mitigation and adaptation might, therefore, be higher or lower than anticipated. Risks of wrong investments correlate with the availability of knowledge and the reduction of uncertainties. The purpose of this side event is to deepen the global dialogue on one comprehensive observation and information system on greenhouse gases that is clearly needed to support climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Program

12:15 - 13:30 Presentations

12:15 – 12:20 Welcome and Introduction (W Kutsch, ICOS)

12:20 – 12:35 Scientific Background (M Heimann, MPI-BGC)

12:35 – 12:50 The role of GEO (B Ryan, GEO)

12:50 – 13:05 WMO and IG3IS (P DeCola, IG3IS)

13:05 – 13:15 A concept for global integrated in-situ
observations (T Petäjä, ACTRIS)

13:15 – 13:25 ICOS as an example for global integration of
greenhouse gas observing networks (A
Vermeulen, ICOS RI)

13:25 – 13:45 Panel discussion

Infrastructures as part of a global information system

- Tuukka Petäjä (ACTRIS)
- Alex Vermeulen (ICOS RI)
- Martin Heimann (Max-Planck-Institute for Biogeochemistry, Jena Germany)
- Barbara Ryan (GEO)
- Phil DeCola (IG3IS)