

'The Evolution of Adaptation in Science and Global Policy' lecture

Dr Saleemul Huq

Review by Jouni Paavola, Deputy Director of CCCEP

In a CCCEP Public Lecture at the University of Leeds on 16 November 2010, Dr Huq addressed the changing role of adaptation in the science and governance of climate change. Adaptation was avoided as an issue in the policy arenas until the 2000s, because it was feared to reduce the urgency of mitigation. However, it has been acknowledged more recently as a key part of the policy agenda because of mounting evidence that climate change already has unavoidable impacts which require immediate adaptation. Yet financing of adaptation remains unresolved and so does the implementation of both adaptation and mitigation on the ground. Dr Huq highlighted the role that national governments, local communities and non-state actors will need to play in multi-pronged climate change efforts and that the scientific community will play a role in motivating them to take action.