

# Foreword

This book contains a set of papers presented during the world's second online climate change conference (Climate 2009) held on 2–6 Nov 2009. The idea of running on-line climate conferences was born in Hamburg in the summer of 2008. With the first on-line climate change conference (titled “Climate 2008”) and the second one titled “Climate 2009” groundbreaking a methodology was established: the execution of climate change conferences which are not – paradoxically – harmful to the climate as conventional conferences are, but ones which are climate-neutral. For this purpose, the Hamburg-based company “Klimainvest” purchased climate certificates (WWF Gold Standard) which have neutralized the emissions caused by desktop computers and notebooks used during the time of the conference by all conference participants. In doing so, millions of people – as opposed to a few hundred – can take part in the event, wherever they are, whenever they want and regardless of their economic situation or social status.

A unique feature of this book is its strong practice-oriented nature: it contains a wide range of papers dealing with the social, economic and political aspects of climate change, exemplifying the diversity of approaches to climate change management taking place all over the world, in a way never seen before. In addition, the book describes a number of projects and other initiatives happening in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Australasian region, providing a profile of the diversity of works taking place today.

Primarily, the book looks at matters related to the economic aspects of climate change and, quite often, also looks at its relationship with sustainable development. In this area, interdisciplinary groups of economists, philosophers, ecologists and climate experts have produced a rich set of papers characterized by a diversity of contexts. In addition, many contributors to the book have analysed the impacts of climate change in farming systems, on health, food production and the effects of economic globalization to attempts to address the causes of climate change. Moreover, the book presents various tendencies grounded in the social and political roots of climate change, with special attention being paid to developing countries. Furthermore, the results of various empirical investigations and projects are

presented, which touch upon areas as varied as ontology, ecosophy, anthropocentrism, biocentrism, ethical concepts, deep ecology and others. All in all, the various chapters illustrate how deep and how wide the roots of climate change are and how complex the handling of climate change-related matters may be.

Prepared in the framework of the International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP), this book – the second one in the Springer Climate Change Management Series – meets a perceived need for practice-based publications, i.e. publications which do not limit themselves to discussing theoretical aspects of climate change, but which actively seek to foster a broader understanding of what climate change is and means to people and to countries.

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