

Press release

26 May 2016

'The Generation of Climate Knowledge' - Panel Discussion at Anthropology, Weather and Climate Change Conference, London

The British Museum, 27-29 May 2016

Chris Trott and Sandra Piesek of Foster + Partners will be participating in the Anthropology, Weather and Climate Change Conference at the British Museum on 27-29 May 2016. Sandra Piesek is the Convenor of a panel on 'The role of indigenous knowledge in combating global climate change' which seeks to understand how a multi-disciplinary global community including representatives that contribute to the built environment, the natural sciences, civil society and public policy could engage with local people and gain a deeper understanding of their knowledge regarding strategies to address the issue of climate change.

Combating climate change is a complex issue involving many disciplines. Over the past few decades, many global initiatives have tried to comprehensively address what is one of the most pressing issues of this century. More recently, the importance of indigenous local knowledge and technologies in finding solutions to combat climate change has come to the fore, as they represent the viable and implementable solutions at the grassroots level. The role of modern science and technology has also been acknowledged as an important catalyst in technology co-development. The challenge remains to find the

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best way to combine both to find the optimum solution.

The COP21 Paris Agreement offers a long term vision for combating climate change. Amongst other recommendations, technology development and transfer is recognised as a particularly important tool for building local resilience. The sustainable management of natural resources plays a vital role in restoring fragile eco-systems as well as regional economies.

The highlight of the panel will be the keynote by Tomasz Chruszczow, Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) of the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC), amongst other multidisciplinary contributions from Professor Paul Stilloe, Anthropologist, Chair of The Royal Anthropological Institute in Great Britain and Ireland Environment Committee; Dr James Coleman, Economist, Head of Economics, Buro Happold Engineering, London; Christopher Trott, Head of Sustainability and Partner at Foster + Partners, London; Dr Sandra Piesik, Architect at Foster + Partners, who is also the Convenor of the panel.

Notes to editors:

- This panel will be part of the conference entitled "Anthropology, Weather and Climate Change" which will take place at the British Museum, 27-29 May 2016, organized in conjunction with the BM Department for Africa, Oceania and the Americas.
- Debate programme:
 - Keynote: Chair of The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) of the United

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Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Tomasz Chruszczow

- Sumatra, Indonesia: The Destruction and Preservation of Rainforest, a Culture, and its Vernacular Architecture: Desa Lingga, a Karo Village in North Central Sumatra. Associate Professor Barbara Anello-Adnani
- Ecuador: Community based Monitoring of Microclimate in Agro ecological Gardens at high altitudes as a measure taken to Adapt to Climate Change. Paulina Rosero
- South Africa: Desiccation and rain rockets: Natural disasters and climate change in South Africa. Dr Debbie Whelan
- MENA: Vanguard and Vernacular: Green Construction from Local to International in the MENA Region. Karen Rizvi
- COP21: Criteria for the Adaptation and Implementation of COP21 Paris Agreement in the Context of Technology Development and Transfer of Renewable Resources. Dr Sandra Piesik
- Agro-economics: The Economics of Agro-ecosystems in the Context of Climate Change. Dr Jim Coleman
- Bangladesh: Fornicating frogs: local Bangla knowledge of climate change? Professor Paul Sillitoe and Mahbub Alam
- Dissemination of Climate Knowledge: Towards sustainable focus and action on projects in the built environment. Christopher Trott