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Plenary sessions and moderated poster sessions should encourage cross-disciplinary exchange.

The plenary sessions will be organised along specific thematic subjects and introduced by key note speakers.

Poster sessions will be introduced to plenary as oral summaries by selected SC experts.

Moderated round tables are suggested at the end of each day or alternatively at the end of each thematic section. They are aimed at fostering conclusive discussions and a synthesizing statement.

Call for Abstracts and posters will be sent out in October 2009

For more information please visit:  
[www.loicz.org/storm2010](http://www.loicz.org/storm2010)



Organised by:

LOICZ (Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone), project of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) and the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP)  
GKSS Research Centre, Institute for Coastal Research



# Storm Surges Congress

*Risk and Management  
of current and future Storm Surges*

13 – 17 September, 2010, Hamburg, Germany

Organised by:



Storm surges represent a major type of natural hazard, frequently causing losses of lives and substantial economic damages.

In 1953, the Netherlands and the UK were hit by severe storm surges, followed by Germany in 1962, Bangladesh in 1970, and in 2005 New Orleans was hit as a consequence of Hurricane Katrina. Most recently in 2008 the tropical storm Nargis impacted Myanmar. The number of people lost during the resulting storm surge was in the order of 100,000; while the economic damage associated with Katrina amounted to approximately 80bn US\$.

Besides climate change drivers, storm surges are exacerbated by anthropogenic forcing including intensive land and sea use along the river-coast continuum. A recent OECD global study of risk of extreme surge-induced floods in 136 port cities suggested an increase in exposure of people and assets by the 2070s of as much as 3 and 10 times, respectively.

Two scientific and social questions are critical:

1. How do we deal with the present level of risk?
2. How do we respond to changing future conditions?

Answers require interdisciplinary approaches and to overcome the traditional fragmentation in scientific and coastal user discussions. Joined-up thinking is needed involving the assessment of risks and benefits emerging across the social-ecological system scale of coasts.



Nr. 3.00172300, Foto: Lija Peter/dp



## The Storm Surges Congress 2010

... aims to engage relevant actors and to serve as an enabling forum for exchange of state-of-the-art knowledge from researchers, policy makers as well as practitioners.

We address multiple stakeholders and diverse fields of expertise to be involved, such as, coastal engineering; coastal zone and river basin management; urban, coastal, marine, and emergency planning; coastal communities and harbour authorities; operational oceanography and coastal geology; climate research and storm surge modelling; weather services, and insurance and finance sector representatives.

The following topics will be addressed at the Storm Surges Congress:

- Contemporary risk and management
- History and intercultural perception of risk and response
- Driving factors and scales
- Future risk and management
- Institutional dimensions

The objective is to work towards a common perception of the key issues including the role of mitigation and adaptation. Policy makers, practitioners and researchers are invited to delineate the future challenges and increase dialogue across the science-policy-practice interface.

The goal is also to foster mutual understanding of the relevant spatial, temporal, and institutional scales that need to be considered in response to current and future storm surge risks.