

Walker Institute Newsletter

Issue 2—September 2010

Walker Institute Annual Lecture

"Linking business and science" by **Rowan Douglas** from **Willis Reinsurance**.

"UK science is the key to the future and the integrity of the science community in the UK is second to none"

View lecture: <http://www.walker-institute.ac.uk/events/annuallecture10.htm>

Rowan delighted guests at our 2010 Annual Lecture held on 10th June.. He stressed the fruitful cooperation that his industry is having with the scientific community and stressed the need to break the barriers between these two communities : business-science.



Walker Institute Research Highlights Brochure

We have just published the first issue of **Research Highlights** (see <http://www.walker-institute.ac.uk/publications>). The publication gives an overview of some of the exciting science undertaken at the Walker Institute. If you would like a copy, please contact Julie Genney (j.genney@reading.a.c.uk).

Our climate change work is also featured in the latest University of Reading Research Review (see <http://www.reading.ac.uk/universitypublications/researchreview/up-researchreview.aspx>)



Adapting our buildings to future climate—lay a grass roof!

Can plants keep our buildings cool and help reduce energy consumption ? Dr **Ross Cameron** investigates how plants affect temperature and how planting a dense grass roof is the best option for reducing building temperature. See <http://www.walker-institute.ac.uk/research/cities&buildings>

Prof **Janet Barlow** through her project ACTUAL, is investigating the impact that buildings has on our climate. (ACTUAL— Advance Climate Technology: Urban Atmospheric Laboratory—<http://www.actual.ac.uk/>). The results will help engineers transform urban infrastructure.



Walker Institute scientists in the spotlight

- **Prof Ken Norris**—NERC Theme leader for Biodiversity—<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/themes/biodiversity>
- **Prof Tim Wheeler**—Deputy Chief Scientific Advisor - <http://www.research4development.info/news.asp?ArticleID=50572>
- **Prof Robert Gurney**—appointed to the Space Leadership Council to provide strategic advice to the newly formed UK Space Agency.

Our scientists hit the headlines

See: http://www.walker-institute.ac.uk/news/in_the_news.htm

- Scientists comment on Pakistan floods (http://www.walker-institute.ac.uk/news/news_pakistanfloods.htm)
- Professors Keith Shine and Brian Hoskins contribute to Royal Society Climate Science guide (<http://royalsociety.org/climate-change/>)
- Prof Nigel Arnell confirms the impacts of climate change on water resources (see http://www.walker-institute.ac.uk/news/in_the_news.htm#DutchIPCCreview)
- Dr Ben Lloyd-Hughes comments on summer 2010 drought (see http://www.walker-institute.ac.uk/news/in_the_news.htm#drought2010)

Walker Institute—a selection of our European research projects

Ocean data—MyOcean

MyOcean—provides ocean data based on the combination of space and in situ observations, and their assimilation into 3D simulation models: temperature, salinity, currents, ice extent, sea level, primary ecosystems. Our scientists are providing the visualisation system based upon the OGC Web Map Service. Find out more: <http://www.myocean.eu.org/>

Contact: Keith Haines (kh@mail.nerc-essc.ac.uk)



REFRESH—Adaptive strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change on European freshwater ecosystems

The project will inform the development of policies and implementation strategies needed to protect aquatic ecosystems. Our scientists will be leading the integrated modelling and scenario development work of this project. Andrew Wade and Maria Shahgedanova are on the steering committee of this 7 million EU programme.

Contact: Andrew Wade (a.j.wade@reading.ac.uk)

Thermohaline Overturning—at Risk? - THOR

The project will monitor and forecast the North Atlantic Thermohaline Circulation, assess its stability and the risk of a breakdown in a changing climate. Our scientists will work on improving and designing efficient decadal forecast ensembles. Find out more: <http://www.eu-thor.eu/>

Contact: Rowan Sutton (r.sutton@reading.ac.uk)



SOILSERVICES

This EU project investigates the conflicting demands of land use, soil biodiversity and the sustainable delivery of ecosystem goods. Find out more: <http://www.kem.ekol.lu.se/soilservice/index.html>

Contact: Simon Mortimer (s.r.mortimer@reading.ac.uk)



METAFOR—Common Metadata for Climate Digital Repositories

METAFOR will optimize the way climate data infrastructures are used to store knowledge, thereby adding value to primary research data and information, and providing an essential asset for the numerous stakeholders actively engaged in climate change issues (policy, research, impacts, mitigation, private sector). Eric Guilyardi is the project Coordinator. Find out more: <http://metaforclimate.eu/>

Contact: Eric Guilyardi (metafor@metaforclimate.eu)



www.walker-institute.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0)118 378 7380

Email: walker_info@reading.ac.uk

Director: Prof Nigel Arnell