

PRESS RELEASE FROM UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA

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New centre gets to grips with climate change

As Britain strives to cope with the worst floods in decades, and governments prepare for next week's climate conference in the Hague, this week sees the launch of a new national centre which aims to get to grips with global climate change.

On Thursday (November 9), Environment Minister Michael Meacher opens the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, based at the University of East Anglia, Norwich. The Centre's remit is very much in line with current Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) thinking on climate change, and builds on DETR-funded initiatives such as the Hadley Centre and UK Climate Impacts Programme.

It brings together climate scientists, economists, social scientists and engineers from nine higher education and research institutions to explore and develop radical new responses to climate change and help policy makers make informed decisions for the future.

Real life problems are complex. The new Centre is not just about the climate. It is about how society can help minimise climate change and how any changes will affect our lives and business. We need collaborative research to understand the full picture. Dr Mike Hulme, the Centre's Executive Director, said: "Society is at last waking up to climate change. What might once have been considered unusual weather conditions for the UK – the recent storms and flooding, for example – are likely to be much more frequent occurrences. But we can see from the furore over fuel taxes that there are no easy solutions."

Hulme continues, "The Tyndall Centre is a unique collaboration of people, with a wide range of expertise. We will be exploring, with all relevant stakeholders, new technologies, lifestyles, economic and other measures to help us manage climate change."