

The event will be held in November and will bring together 300 scientists from all over the world to prepare the next IPCC assessment report

Spain will host the only meeting of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change of the UN to be held in Europe

- *The research center Economics for Energy and the University of Vigo collaborate in organizing the meeting, which is supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment.*
- *The assessment reports of this group of experts led to the Kyoto Protocol negotiations and, after the publication of its last assessment report, the IPCC was awarded with the Nobel Peace Prize.*

Vigo, April 13, 2012.- The only meeting of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group III (WG3) of the United Nations (UN) to be held in Europe to prepare its next assessment report on climate change mitigation will take place in Vigo (Galicia, Spain) between the 3rd and 9th of November and will bring together 300 scientists from all over the world.

The event, which is organized with the collaboration of the University of Vigo and the research center Economics for Energy, is supported by the Barrié Foundation, the Entrecanales Foundation, the Ramón Areces Foundation and the Basque Center for Climate Change, and is backed by the Spanish representative to the IPCC, the Spanish Office of Climate Change of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

The main task of the IPCC is to prepare every six or seven years an assessment report on climate change, which is based on scientific, technical and socio-economic researches developed by thousands of experts from all over the world. In these reports, prepared and reviewed thoroughly and independently by scientists organized into working groups, the causes and the effects of climate change and possible response measures are analyzed. Given the importance of the findings of such reports for policy making and international negotiations, in addition to leading international experts in this area, the governments of 195 countries also participate in the IPCC.

The meeting to be held in Spain will be the third of the current cycle, after those in South Korea in July 2011 and in New Zealand in March 2012. Vigo will be the meeting point for the lead authors of the WG3, which is in charge of assessing options for mitigating climate change through limiting greenhouse gas emissions. Its members take into account the role of all economic sectors, such as energy, transport, construction, industry, agriculture and forestry. The conclusions, highly targeted to potential solutions, include a thorough analysis of the costs and benefits of mitigation measures. Xavier Labandeira, Professor of Economics at the University of Vigo and director of the research center Economics for Energy, participates in this group as a lead author.

The meeting will take place in the headquarters of the Barrié Foundation and Centro Social Novacaixagalicia. The lead author meeting to prepare the assessment report will be between the 5th and 9th of November. An expert meeting to discuss future scenarios of climate change will be held the two days before.

The fifth assessment report

The lead author meeting to be held in Vigo will contribute to the IPCC 5th Assessment Report, which will be released in 2014. This report will put greater emphasis on assessing the socio-economic aspects of climate change and implications for sustainable development and risk management, paying more attention to regional approach.

The IPCC was created in 1988, being set up by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) as an effort by the United Nations to assess on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding climate change. The IPCC assessment reports are of great significance and are the scientific reference for policy makers in the negotiations related to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. These assessments, with a scientific view, are policy relevant, but not policy-prescriptive.

There have been four IPCC assessment reports so far. The first IPCC assessment report of 1990 played a decisive role to the creation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The second, in 1995, provided key scientific input in the way to the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997. The third, published in 2001, showed the interest for extending the mitigation commitments to those countries that have high emissions levels. The fourth, in 2007, shows enough evidence on the warming of the climate system and establishes human activity as the likely cause. After the publication of the last assessment report, the IPCC was awarded with the Nobel Peace Prize.

Thousands of scientists from all over the world contribute to the work of the IPCC on a voluntary basis. Selected information undergoes a rigorous review process and is used to prepare the final document, which consists in several volumes and is organized by topics. Assessment reports are interdisciplinary and politically neutral which facilitates dialogue between scientific community and governments. They are also a reference tool for decision-making at international level on climate change.

About *Economics for Energy*

Economics for Energy (www.eforenergy.org) is a private research center constituted as a non-profit association participated by Comillas Pontifical University, University of Vigo, the Spanish Institute for Fiscal Studies of the Spanish government, Barrié Foundation, Ramón Areces Foundation, Novacaixagalicia, Banco Santander, Gas Natural Fenosa, Acciona, Alcoa, and Iberdrola.

The center is specialized in knowledge creation in energy matters. The mission is to create knowledge in the field of energy economics, and to transfer it effectively to society, informing, guiding and advising public and private decision makers.