

## For an Environment Worth Living in

Opening of the KIT Climate and Environment Center on January 20 –  
State Minister of the Environment Tanja Gönner Will Speak about Climate Change



*Securing the natural bases of life is the main concern of the researchers of the KIT Climate and Environment Center. (Photo: picture alliance/dpa)*

**Climate and environmental change as well as demographic, economic, and technical developments are changing the living conditions on earth as they did never before. This affects the availability and quality of water, air, and food. Hence, climate and environmental research is facing great challenges. To cope with these challenges, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology has established the KIT Climate and Environment Center. On Wednesday, January 20, 2010, an opening event will mark the official start of work.**

“At the moment, the focus no longer lies only on eliminating the causes of environmental problems,” explains Professor Christoph Kottmeier, spokesman of the Center, “but increasingly on adapting to modified natural and anthropogenically induced environmental conditions”. To avoid problems, researchers have to concentrate above all on the global aspects. For adaptation, the regional scale is decisive.

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To gain fundamental knowledge on processes and climatic, ecological, and economic consequences and to develop adaptation strategies on this basis, the KIT Climate and Environment Center is bundling competencies in natural science, engineering, and social sciences. In a multidisciplinary manner, the researchers are developing technologies to secure the natural bases of life under seven topics: atmospheric processes, water resources and water management, processes in the underground, technology-induced material flows, urban systems, risks and risk management, and climate change.

At the Center, 500 employees of KIT from nearly 30 institutes are developing innovative and sustainable technical solutions to cope with the challenges of climate change and environmental change. Work is based on internationally acknowledged competencies in research relating to the atmosphere, terrestrial hydrosphere, biosphere, lithosphere, and pedosphere (rock mantle of the earth and uppermost layer of this mantle) as well as in the field of technological and socioeconomic systems.

The Center is cooperated with industrial enterprises. Multidisciplinary cooperative ventures open up new perspectives. It is focused among others on the safe storage of CO<sub>2</sub> in deep formations, the development of measurement instruments and methods, on consulting services with respect to the extent of climate change or risk assessment, and on numerical forecast models and efficient software solutions.

### **Opening of the KIT Climate and Environment Center**

Wednesday, January 20, 10 to 17 hrs

Aula, Center for Advanced Technological and Environmental Training, KIT, Campus North (Hermann-von-Helmholtz-Platz 1, Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen)

#### **10:30 Opening and Welcome Address**

Dr. Peter Fritz, Vice President of KIT

#### **10:45 Climate Change and Water in Baden-Wuerttemberg**

Tanja Gönner, Minister of the Environment of the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg

#### **11:15 The Earth from Space – A Water Planet**

Dr. Gerhard Thiele, former science astronaut, Head of the Astronauts Department of the European Astronaut Center of ESA

**13:00 KIT Climate and Environment Center**

Professor Christoph Kottmeier, KIT

**13:15 Scientific Challenges in Hydrology**

Professor Günter Blöschl, Technical University of Vienna

**13:45 Water Quality – A Problem of the Future?**

Professor Fritz Frimmel, KIT

**14:45 Water Resources Management – Technical Solutions:  
Example Indonesia**

Professor Franz Nestmann, KIT

**15:15 Climate and Water – Regionally Coupled Models**

Dr. Harald Kunstmann, KIT

**15:45 Water Resources Management and Society**

Professor Jonos J. Bogardi, University of Bonn

**Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) is a public corporation and state institution of Baden-Württemberg. It fulfills the mission of a university and the mission of a national research center of the Helmholtz Association. KIT pursues its tasks in the knowledge triangle of research, teaching, and innovation.**

This press release is available on the internet at [www.kit.edu](http://www.kit.edu).