

# Climate scientists in Japan to study warming risks

March 25 2014, by Elaine Kurtenbach

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The chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Rajendra K. Pachauri, second from right, delivers an opening remarks during the opening session of the 10th Plenary of (IPCC) Working Group II and the 38th Session of the IPCC in Yokohama, near Tokyo Tuesday, March 25, 2014. The hundreds of scientists from 100 countries meeting in this Japanese port city are putting finishing touches on a massive report emphasizing the gravity of the threat the changing climate poses for communities from the polar regions to the tropics. (AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)

Along with the enormous risks global warming poses for humanity are opportunities to improve public health and build a better world, scientists gathered in Yokohama for a climate change conference said Tuesday.

The hundreds of scientists from 100 countries meeting in this Japanese port city are putting finishing touches on a massive report emphasizing the gravity of the threat the [changing climate](#) poses for communities from the polar regions to the tropics.

"Although it focuses on a whole analytical and sometimes depressing view of the challenges we face, it also looks at the opportunities we face," said Christopher B. Field, the co-chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. "This can not only help us to deal with climate change but ultimately build a better world."

Japan's awareness of the severity of [climate change](#) has been driven home by record temperatures of over 40 C (104 F), and in Yokohama, by unusually heavy snows this winter, said the environment minister, Nobuteru Ishihara.

Japan plans to release an adaptation plan of its own by the summer of 2015 that would focus on a more "eco-friendly lifestyle," he said. That includes improvements in energy efficiency ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic games.

"We aim to take full environmental consideration so that the Tokyo Games will be the 'environmental Olympics,'" Ishihara said.



The chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Rajendra K. Pachauri, right, and Japan's Environment Minister Nobuteru Ishihara chat before an opening remarks during the opening session of the 10th Plenary of (IPCC) Working Group II and the 38th Session of the IPCC in Yokohama, near Tokyo Tuesday, March 25, 2014. The hundreds of scientists from 100 countries meeting in this Japanese port city are putting finishing touches on a massive report emphasizing the gravity of the threat the changing climate poses for communities from the polar regions to the tropics. (AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)

Japan is struggling to rein in its own emissions of greenhouse gases after it shut down its nuclear plants following the disaster in Fukushima after the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami. Increased burning of natural gas, coal and oil to compensate for lost generating capacity have undone much of the progress the country had made in cutting carbon emissions.



The chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Rajendra K. Pachauri walks in the venue during the opening session of the 10th Plenary of IPCC Working Group II and the 38th Session of the IPCC in Yokohama, Tuesday, March 25, 2014. The hundreds of scientists from 100 countries meeting in this Japanese port city are putting finishing touches on a massive report emphasizing the gravity of the threat the changing climate poses for communities from the polar regions to the tropics.(AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)

While each region faces its own mix of challenges, research conducted by thousands of scientists around the world underscores the need for urgent measures, J. Lengosa, deputy head of the World Meteorological Organization, said in a recorded message to Tuesday's meeting.

He said countries in Africa already spend \$7 billion to \$15 billion a year on climate adaptation.



Smoke is discharged from chimneys at a plant in Tokyo, Tuesday, March 25, 2014. Along with the enormous risks global warming poses for humanity are opportunities to improve public health and build a better world, scientists gathered in Yokohama for a climate change conference said Tuesday. (AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)

"Time is running out. We must take action," he said. "It is our obligation and our duty to inform the world of the prospects and risks that lie ahead."

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Citation: Climate scientists in Japan to study warming risks (2014, March 25) retrieved 26 April

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