Session on

Urban Environmental Health Risks and Sustainability

Densely populated urban areas are facing environmental health challenges including contamination of air, water and soil. Sprawling urban areas contribute to traffic congestion, with associated air pollution, noise and long commuting times affecting public health and productivity. The interaction between environmental, biological and social vulnerability shows the syndemic nature of diseases (e.g. diabetes, depression, COVID-19). Climate change is likely to aggravate certain health risks in cities by increasing the frequency, persistence and severity of extreme weather events, such as cold and heatwaves and floods, and potentially contributing to air pollution episodes. On the other hand, climate change mitigation and adaptation policies can provide a range of health co-benefits associated with low carbon buildings, urban green spaces, active transport, and renewable energy generation. This session will cover risks, challenges and opportunities for environmental health and sustainability in cities.

Topics:

4.1. COVID-19 Outbreaks, Urban Environment and Human Behaviour
4.2 Air pollution and climate change
4.3. Surface water, groundwater and soil contamination
4.4. Urban heat islands and building overheating
4.5. Food, water and vector borne diseases
4.6. Health risks of extreme events (heat, cold, floods)
4.7 Biometeorological forecasting of risks
4.8 Urban mobility challenges (soft mobility)
4.9 ICT and urban environmental health risk management

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