

ABSTRACT

Climate change is more and more considered to be a major global environmental risk. To stimulate the participation of Dutch scientists in the international research effort a research programme was established jointly by Ministries involved in Dutch policy actions. The aim of this scientific long term, policy-oriented programme (NRP) was to support Dutch and international climate change policy.

To conclude the first phase of the NRP an international conference was held in Maastricht (The Netherlands) from 6 through 9 december 1994. The proceedings of this conference cover a wide range of subjects including:

- * key note papers of internationally leading scientists on relevant aspects of the climate problem;
- * assessments of NRP research on the climate system, the causes of potential change in the system, the possible effects and consequences of climate change, and possible alternative policy actions (including technological and/or social);
- * short papers of the NRP projects and other ongoing research projects, with final conclusions per project.