



The changing impact of megacities

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More of the world's population now live in urban rather than rural areas. The urban impact on the world citizen has never been greater. Megacities have increasingly important impacts on regional air quality, climate change and human health owing to their high population densities and concentrated emission sources. The talk will review the outputs of the EU FP VII project City-ZEN (megaCITY-Zoom for the Environment). In particular, it will look at the science and policy lessons that can be gained from looking at case studies of European hot spots as a model for the impacts of air quality control measures in megacities. The topic of whether the tightening of ambient air quality standards and regulation of emission sources change the oxidizing environment of a megacity will be explored as well as how these changes affect the downwind footprints of megacities.