



The joy of German engineering has never been so affordable

HAMILTON
VOLKSWAGEN
www.hamiltonvw.com

ROSELAND
MOTORS LTD.
www.roselandvw.com

thespec.com

<http://www.google.de>

</search?q=UN+focues+on+human+cost+of+environmental+change+hamilton&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&aq=t&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a> [\[Close\]](#)

UN focuses on human cost of environmental change

WADE HEMSWORTH

The Hamilton Spectator

(Oct 10, 2008)

Environmental disasters including floods, more severe and more numerous storms, desertification and famine will push as many as 200 million people from their homes around the world by 2050, the United Nations warns.

Environmental migration, as it is called, is a looming crisis that has already influenced the movement of people from Africa to Europe, for example, and it is likely to get much worse, the UN says.

The UN has organized the first major international conference on the subject, on now in Bonn, Germany, with the hope of building worldwide understanding and awareness of the problem.

Among the agencies contributing to the conference is the United Nations University's International Network on Water, Environment and Health, which is affiliated with McMaster University and based at McMaster Innovation Park.

The network is particularly interested in the causes, effects and prevention of desertification, said director Zafar Adeel.

"At the policy level, people are just waking up to the consequences," he said.

One of the worst environmental problems is rising sea levels, which would push huge populations out of heavily populated, low-lying coastal areas such as Egypt's Nile Delta and Vietnam's Mekong Delta.

In Canada, environment-related migration is expected to create pressure to admit more displaced immigrants and to offer more development assistance, even as it displaces the country's own Arctic populations, pushed from their homes by melting permafrost and disappearing wildlife populations.

It's a bleak picture, one that needs immediate attention, said Koko Warner of the United Nations University's Institute for Environment and Human Security.

It's happened before but "what's new now is the magnitude," he said.

whemsworth@thespec.com

905-526-3254

thespec.com

<http://www.google.de/search?q=UN+focues+on+human+cost+of+environmental+change+hamilton&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&aq=t&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a>



© Copyright 2007 Metroland Media Group Ltd. All rights reserved. The reproduction, modification, distribution, transmission or republication of any material from www.thespec.com is strictly prohibited without the prior written permission of Metroland Media Group Ltd.

