

Abstract for an Invited Paper  
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**Fluid Mechanics and Public Policy including natural disasters and climate change**

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Where public policy relies on science for dealing with important issues affecting society, scientists involved have to explain what is known, what is uncertain, what might be known with more research and how to integrate science into decisions. Lessons have been learnt about all these stages in recent science-policy issues. Fluid mechanics and related sciences are contributing significantly to many problems. Some are specific such as the internal structure of extreme flow events in the atmosphere and ocean, or the microphysics of particle coagulation in narrow passages; others are system problems such as the environmental risks of growing mega cities, or combinations of processes affecting global and regional climate change.