

## **Akkon Aspekte Abend “Can you feel the heat?”**

**April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 5:30 – 8:00 pm (CEST)**

**Venue: Akkon University of Applied Sciences  
Colditzstr. 34-36, 12099 Berlin, SR 07, 2. floor &  
<https://johanniter-de.zoom.us/j/81970615384> (hybrid)**

### **Aim and content**

The relationship between climate change and human health has become an urgent issue worldwide, especially in elevated areas. In an era of escalating environmental disruption, rising temperatures, and frequent climate disasters, communities around the globe are facing new and intensified health challenges. From heat-related illnesses and respiratory diseases to malnutrition and mental stress, climate change is increasingly affecting both physical and mental well-being, exacerbating existing health inequalities and placing vulnerable populations at greater risk.

Between the years 2010 and 2020, the World Health Organization reported a steady increase in climate-related health impacts, estimating that over 250,000 additional deaths per year will occur between 2030 and 2050 due to malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea, and heat stress alone. Air pollution, extreme weather events, and disrupted food systems are already straining health infrastructures and challenging public health systems worldwide. In light of this, local and international communities continue to call for coordinated action to mitigate and adapt to these growing threats.

During the Akkon Aspekte Abend “Can you feel the heat?”, we aim to explore the intertwined relationship between a changing climate and global health with the partial focus on mountainous regions. Our international and interdisciplinary panel, featuring researchers, public health experts, and students from Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Americas, will discuss crucial topics such as urban heat, air quality, infectious disease spread, climate anxiety, and health equity. Only through global cooperation, sustainable policy, and community-based resilience can we confront this defining public health challenge of our time and promote a healthier, more sustainable future for all.

Supported by:



on the basis of a decision  
by the German Bundestag

### **Organization/Registration**

Prof. Dr. med. Dr. PH Timo Ulrichs & Gaby Feldmann  
Akkon University with its Institute for Research in International Assistance (IRIA)  
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## Program

- 5:30 pm **Welcome** by Prof. Dr. Andreas M. Bock  
President Akkon University of Applied Sciences
- 5:40 – 7:15 pm **Presentations**  
Facilitator: Prof. Dr. med. Dr. PH Timo Ulrichs  
Vice President Akkon University of Applied Sciences,  
Director Institute for Research in International Assistance (IRIA) and  
Head of Study Program International Emergency and Disaster Relief
- State Secretary Tina Rudolph  
Thuringian Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Labour and Family  
(Germany):  
*Global Health & Climate Change:  
Germany's Strategy for a Healthy Future*
  - Dr. Stefan Schneiderbauer, Davide Cotti  
Global Mountain Safeguard Research (GLOMOS) at Eurac Research  
(Bolzano, Italy):  
*Warming mountains: climate and weather implications for the well-  
being of mountain populations*
  - Prof. Hassan O. Kaya, Dr. Mayashree Chinsamy  
African Institute in Indigenous Knowledge Systems (AIKS), University of  
KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa (online):  
*Traditional Leadership and Digital Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS)  
in Maloti Drakensberg Climate Resilience*
  - Philipp Endler, Stefan Mönnich, Gaby Feldmann  
Institute for Research in International Assistance (IRIA)/Akkon University,  
(Berlin/Germany)  
*Mitigation and Legislation: an international view at how governments  
prepare to fight and mitigate the outcomes of climate change on health*
  - Dr. Christian Lueme, Stellenbosch University (South-Africa) (online):  
*Association between ambient apparent temperature and hospital  
admission for respiratory disease in Cape Town, South Africa*
  - Silvia Zanetti (Akkon University/IRIA, Berlin/Germany), Manizha  
Khakimova (TU Braunschweig/Germany), Nana Katchiuri & Mariam  
Kevkhashvili (Petre Shotadze Tbilisi Medical Academy, Georgia):  
*Public Awareness and Health Risk Perception of Air Pollution in Tbilisi:  
An Exploratory Study (Engagement Global ASA Program 2025)*
- 7:15 – 7:30 pm **Discussion & Wrap up**
- 7:30 – 8:00 pm **Reception and Get-together**