

P1.1

**INTERNATIONAL URBAN CLIMATE HOMEPAGE -
A TOOL FOR URBAN PLANNERS AND URBAN METEOROLOGISTS**

Andreas Matzarakis *,
University of Freiburg, Germany

Jürgen Baumüller,
Office for Environmental Protection, City of Stuttgart, Germany

Helmut Mayer,
University of Freiburg, Germany

1. INTRODUCTION

The international urban climate homepage does not deal primarily with the weather but rather highlights the special climatic characteristics in urban areas.

More and more people is living in big cities today, sometimes, with the number of inhabitants exceeding 10 million. These cities produce their own climate and modify climatic and air pollution conditions in the local and regional range. For a long time, we know that climate and air-quality in urban areas differs significantly from those of the surrounding areas. Urban Climatology investigates and analyses these phenomena and provides related applied sciences with tools and information.

A lot of climatic effects of cities are disadvantageous to people living there, e.g. heat stress in summer and smog in both winter and summer. Urban climatologists try to improve the environmental conditions by influencing urban-planning which considers climatic knowledge and investigations.

Therefore climatic investigations take place in many cities to get urban climatic and air-quality data for urban-planning purposes.

2. MOTIVE AND OBJECTIVE

To make the exchange of experiences in urban climate possible, we are developing the homepage "STADTKLIMA / URBAN CLIMATE"

* *Corresponding author address:* Andreas Matzarakis, Univ. of Freiburg, Meteorological Institute, Werderring 10, D-79085 Freiburg, Germany, e-mail: matzarak@uni-freiburg.de which is dedicated to getting information about this subject form all over the world. The interna-

tional urban climate homepage is available under the URL address

<http://www.stadtklima.de>

and is a collaboration between the Department of Urban Climatology, Office of Environmental Protection of the City of Stuttgart, Germany, and the Meteorological Institute of the University of Freiburg, Germany.

The necessity for this homepage was born out of the second Japanese-German Meeting on "Climate Analysis in Urban Planning", held in Kobe, Japan, in September 1997.

The phrase "Stadtklima" represents the German term for "urban climate" which is the basis of the homepage.

3. SUBJECT MATTER

The objective of the international urban climate homepage is to focus on and provide information from the different groups working in the field of urban climatology. The homepage has the following contents:

3.1 Addresses

This section present the list of scientists and people all over the world in the field of urban climatology with their mailing addresses and interests. With this option, we are looking for a better interaction within the urban climate community.

3.2 Cities

Information on cities with special focus on their general characteristics as well as the contact institutions and person in the field of urban

climatology is given there. Average climatic and air pollution data are included, too.

Moreover a directory and detailed explanations about -completed, ongoing and planned urban climate investigations and projects are provided giving relevant information for these cities.

3.3 Literature and New Publications

Contributions from urban climate's relevant books, references, other literature and glossary is also available on this homepage.

Publications of new books are also presented and it is planned to discuss them in the homepage.

3.4 Upcoming Events

Latest list of upcoming conferences and meetings in the field of urban climatology and related sciences constitute a part of the homepage.

3.5 Tools

The greatest benefits of urban climate's homepage are the tools it provides for urban climate. The homepage presents urban climate models, some demos of urban climate models, other software, instruments and equipment, some of which can be downloaded.

3.6 Comments on recent subjects

From time to time, it is expected that scientists or persons will give some explanations and discussions on recent aspects of urban climatology. We want to give the possibility to the urban climate community to have a discussion forum on recent problems and phenomenons in urban climatology.

3.7 Companies

The international urban climate homepage offers companies making instruments, tools and software the possibility to highlight their products and consulting activities in the homepage and support the necessary information for people who are searching for urban climate information in the Internet.

3.8 Urban climate weather sites

Links to Internet sites about the current weather and air quality conditions of cities and related topics are also included.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The internet presents a very good forum for urban climate and gives the urban climate community the possibility for the provision and exchange of information on urban climate and urban air pollution.

The international urban climate homepage intends to enhance the information exchange within the urban climate community.

We hope that the international urban climate homepage (www.stadtklima.de) would serve as a great tool for meteorologists, climatologists, urban planners and persons interested in the field of urban climate.