United Nations forecasts of urban population growth suggest that the overwhelming share of population growth in the future will be in the cities and towns of the developing world. In Asia alone from 2000 to 2025, we will see a net increase of more than one billion people in their cities and towns, a quantity that vastly outnumbers the expected rural population increase in these countries and which dwarfs all anticipated growth in high-income countries (United Nations, 2008). This city growth seems to be disproportionately located in regions that appear to be environmentally insecure or those more likely to feel the brunt of climate-related change in the coming decades. Yet where precisely within these regions has not been systematically assessed. Potential coastal flooding in cities has received attention in part because the long-term implications of rising sea-levels. But increasing precipitation, in general, and more extreme weather events will also lead to greater flood risks to city-dwellers from in-land water sources or in dryland cities ill-equipped to manage heavy rains. This talk will document the current locations of urban-dwellers of the developing world in ecologically delineated zones that are expected to experience the full force of climate change: the low-elevation coastal zones, zones exposed to in-land flooding and the arid regions known to ecologists as drylands. Understanding populations-at-risk and the implications for climate adaptation are still a fairly new science. Methodological and other challenges, and their implications for climate adaptation, will be discussed.

Seminars are live webcast: http://www.fin.ucar.edu/it/mms/ml-live.htm

* Refreshments are served before seminar. *

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