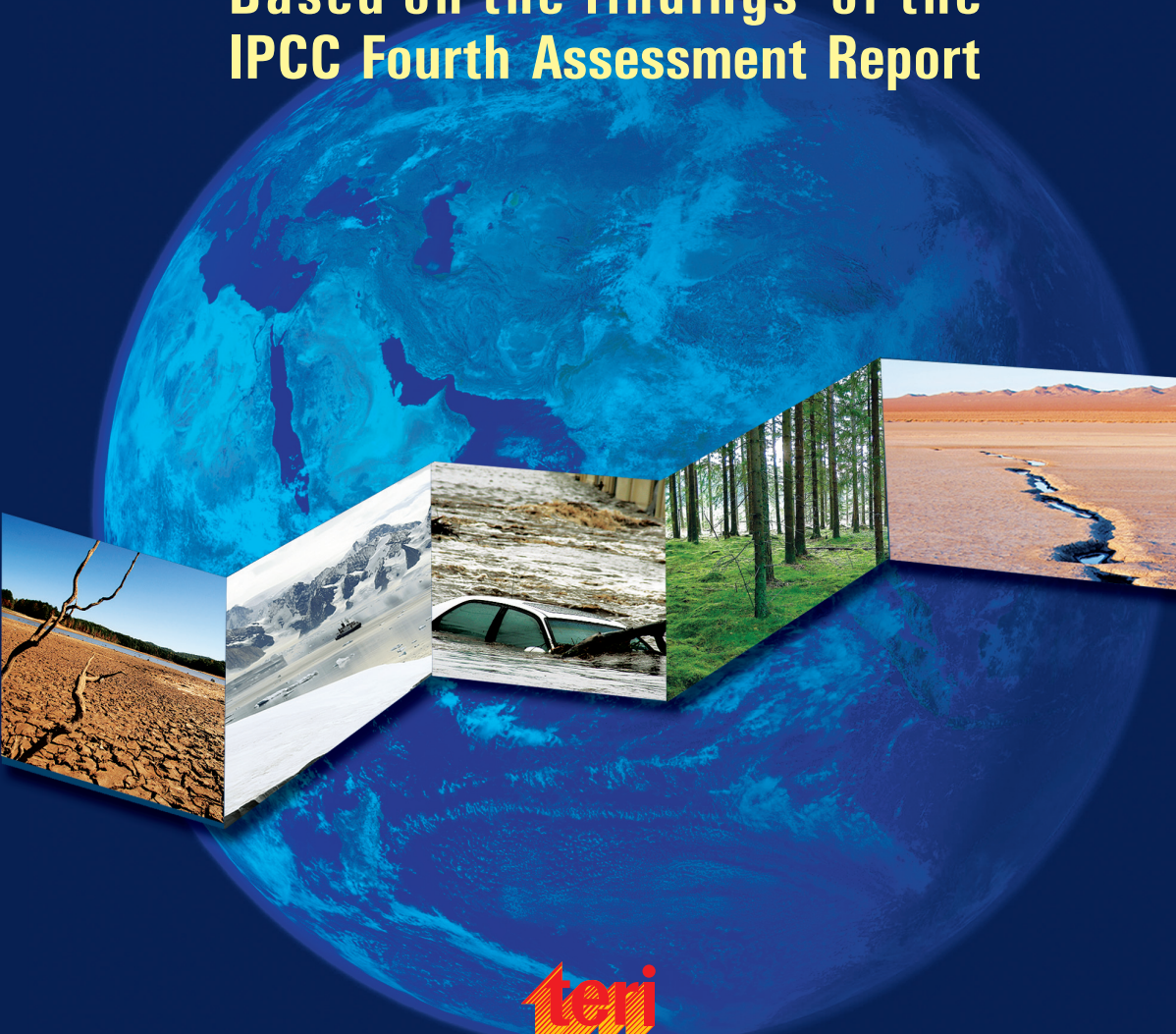


SIMPLIFYING CLIMATE CHANGE

Based on the findings of the
IPCC Fourth Assessment Report



The Energy and Resources Institute

Foreword

The *Fourth Assessment Report* of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) has had a major impact on informing public opinion, as well as providing policy-makers with knowledge on the scientific aspects of climate change. However, action to deal with every aspect of climate change necessarily requires information that reaches out to every section of society and creates an understanding through which all stakeholders can join hands to deal with the challenge. Even though the IPCC *Synthesis Report* is written in a language essentially for the lay public, it may still be a bit too complex for the understanding and full comprehension of those who are not fully familiar with the subject. Consequently, there is a widespread need for organizations that are dealing with the spread of awareness on environmental and other issues in general and climate change in particular to take initiatives to inform the public.

In view of the growing demand for science-based communications derived from the knowledge contained in the IPCC *Fourth Assessment Report*, TERI has undertaken the publication of this book. During previous assessments of the IPCC as well, TERI brought out several publications for the lay reader, some designed specifically for schoolchildren. This particular publication has a much wider audience in mind, and should be of particular relevance to readers in developing countries. It is now very clear that some of the most vulnerable places and communities with respect to the impacts of climate change are in the developing regions of the world. Consequently, an understanding of all aspects of climate change is of interest to society in general in these countries.

My colleagues in the TERI Press have worked diligently to bring out this publication, and we are truly grateful for the support from the Germeshausen Foundation. It is expected that widespread circulation of this book and reading by a range of interested individuals will create favourable conditions and informed discussion, leading to an appropriate agreement at Copenhagen, where the next Conference of the Parties will be held in December 2009. The work of the IPCC is a unique example of how science and knowledge can influence public policy and human behaviour on a large scale. This is the result of not only outstanding scientific assessment of climate change by the IPCC but also effective communication of its major findings. Such communication, however, can best be done on a wide scale only by other organizations working in the field, such as TERI. This book is an example, which hopefully would prove effective in this regard, of a wider effort to spread awareness on climate change for the benefit of human society.



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