



# Bridges Trade BioRes

*Biweekly news, events and resources at the intersection of trade and biodiversity*

**Issue 8.22, 15 December 2008**

<b>NOTE TO SUBSCRIBERS .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Poznan Meets Low Expectations .....	
Europe Closes Deal on Climate Change .....	
<b>IN BRIEF .....</b>	<b>5</b>
Shipping Noise Disrupting Marine Mammals .....	
Rainforest Conversion for Biofuels	
Production Bad for Environment: Report .....	
EU Approves Imports of GM Soybean .....	
IP Issues Inch Forward as TRIPS Council	
Meets .....	
<b>EVENTS &amp; RESOURCES .....</b>	<b>8</b>

To subscribe to Bridges Trade BioRes, visit [www.ictsd.net/news/biores/](http://www.ictsd.net/news/biores/) or send an email to [biores@ictsd.ch](mailto:biores@ictsd.ch).

## NOTE TO SUBSCRIBERS

The publication of this edition of Bridges Trade BioRes was delayed pending the outcome UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting in Poznan, Poland. We apologise for any inconvenience.

This is the last issue of Bridges Trade BioRes for the year 2008. The first issue of 2009 – Vol. 9, No. 1 – will be published on 23 January 2009. The Bridges Trade BioRes team would like to thank our readers for their interest and feedback and our funders for their invaluable assistance. We send to you all our best wishes for the holiday season and 2009.

*- The Bridges Trade BioRes Team*

## CLIMATE CHANGE

### Poznan Meets Low Expectations

Ministers from 189 countries wrapped up climate change discussions in the early morning hours of

13 December having made unexpected progress on the terms of the UN Adaptation Fund and marginal movement towards an agreement on technology transfer. Nevertheless, many observers have criticised the meeting for yielding exactly what was expected going in: very little.

As the half-way point between Bali and Copenhagen, the 14th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), or COP-14, was expected to provide delegates with a venue to reflect on 2008 and make solid commitments for the next 12 months leading up to COP-15. With a less-than-expected presence from US president-elect Barack Obama's delegation and global economic uncertainty still casting a shadow over negotiations, significant progress hoped for by environmentalists remained elusive.

Nevertheless, planning for 2009 was fruitful, with widespread agreement that regular meetings should be held throughout the year, with a possible major conference being held in September.

### **Negotiators Clinch Deal on Adaptation Fund**

Delegates finally agreed to provide the UN Adaptation Fund board with the capacity to grant developing countries access to funds earmarked for climate change adaptation. The Adaptation Fund is, essentially, a pot of money meant to protect developing countries against the potential impacts of climate change. The funds have been accumulated from a two percent allocation from the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) – a market mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol that allows industrialised countries to receive credit by investing in emissions reduction projects in developing countries – and voluntary contributions.

Heading into Poznan, developing countries were generally unhappy with the prospect that the

World Bank would be fingered to manage the Fund. Developing countries subsequently submitted a proposal to allow them to access the funds – approximately US\$80 million – by applying directly to the Adaptation Fund Board. Developing countries will be able to apply for funding for projects in the course of 2009.

While some observers are calling this boost in the legal capacity of the Adaptation Fund Board an important achievement, others say they are disappointed by governments' inability to reach a consensus on using proceeds from other flexibility mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol (i.e., emissions trading and joint implementation) to aliment the fund.

Furthermore, countries such as India and Colombia were outspoken critics of the blocking of an emissions trading tax proposal that could have seen as much as US\$7 billion released immediately for adaptation.

According to the UN, US\$86 billion are required annually for adaptation in developing countries. Further funding streams for adaptation are expected to be decided in Copenhagen 2009.

### **Poznan Leaves its Mark on Technology Transfer**

Technology transfer, which was widely expected to monopolise the COP-14 agenda, saw some progress when Parties endorsed the Global Environment Facility's "Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer." Originally called simply the "Strategic Programme," consensus last week allowed the initiative to take on the name of the host city.

The programme seeks to scale up the level of investment in technology transfer in order to help developing countries address their needs for environmentally sound technologies to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

But despite this progress, some green groups expressed their concerns that developed countries made no specific proposals detailing how much finance they will provide for technology transfer. The G77 and China have called on developed countries to divert as much as 1 percent of their

gross national product (GNP) to help finance emissions reducing technology projects in the developing world and many observers say finding this still-elusive magic formula will be key to reaching consensus in Copenhagen.

In a related issue, longstanding divergence between developed and developing countries remained on issues related to intellectual property rights (IPRs). The Contact Group on "Delivering on Technology and Financing, Including Consideration of Institutional Arrangements" discussed the matter in depth, but failed come to any meaningful convergence.

Developing countries stressed the need to depart from a business as usual approach in the treatment of IPRs in addressing the climate change emergency, and some countries made a parallel with the case of access to affordable medicines. Developed countries emphasised the importance of IPRs in order to promote innovation for technology development and deployment.

### **Shared Vision Remains Elusive**

Establishing a "shared vision" has been stressed as an essential foundation for moving forward toward consensus. The ministerial roundtable was convened in Poznan to address this topic, but despite an expression of commitment to advance the process by both developed and developing countries, there was little movement forward.

During the conference, developed countries stressed the importance of medium and long-term targets for 2020 and 2050. Meanwhile, developing countries insisted on the need for developed countries to first demonstrate their implementation of existing targets under the Kyoto Protocol and give a strong sense of future commitment by agreeing to reduce their emissions by a minimum of 40 percent by 2050.

Referring to a recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), several developed countries called for developing countries to undertake a "substantial deviation from business as usual" in the path of their emissions growth. There now appears to be some sort of convergence that developing countries' future mitigation efforts will be

discussed in a way that recognises a substantial shift away from current practice, and perhaps not in terms of capping of their emissions.

### **Mitigation Agreement in Principle**

Under the Ad hoc Working Group under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) Parties agreed that commitments of industrialised countries post-2012 should principally take the form of quantified emissions limitations and reduction objectives, in line with the type of emissions reduction targets they have assumed for the first commitment period of the protocol. The AWG-KP has adopted conclusions on its work programme for 2009.

Meanwhile, European Union leaders meeting at a concurrent conference have unanimously agreed a deal on tackling climate change, with the objective of reducing EU greenhouse-gas emissions by 20 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 (see related story, this issue). The Europeans have however made their agreement conditional to the successful conclusion of a global agreement on climate change next year in Copenhagen. A review clause that members agreed to would allow a review of the EU climate package in March 2010 to reflect the outcome of the Copenhagen conference.

Under the Ad hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action (AWGLCA) under the Convention, Parties agreed to shift into full negotiating mode in 2009 on all elements of the Bali Action Plan – namely a shared vision, mitigation, adaptation, development and transfer of technology, and financing – in a comprehensive and balanced way.

### **Deforestation, Obama Fizzle**

Widespread expectation that some movement would be made on deforestation issues – such as the UN Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Programme (UN-REDD) – was not realised at Poznan.

No agreement was reached about whether to include forests in a proposed carbon market scheme and much hubbub was made over a report from environmental group Friends of the Earth which charges that a loophole in the UN-REDD

system would allow governments to buy up forests and use the land for monoculture cultivation.

Many environmentalists were similarly disappointed when the high expectations from the upcoming US administration under president-elect Obama produced little. The US envoy in Poznan, led by Senator John Kerry, made it clear that while recognising the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, large developing countries such as China will have to have some kind of target before ratification will be possible.

### **Moving Forward**

Parties agreed to step up their efforts in 2009 to create the necessary momentum for consensus in Copenhagen.

When addressing delegates on 11 December, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed his concern that Parties would need additional stimulus to reach consensus and suggested that a high-level pre-Copenhagen meeting be convened in September. Ban has been quick to point out that current global instability should be used as an opportunity to move climate change negotiations forward.

“We are going through unprecedented multiple crises starting from global financial crisis, food crisis and also climate change crisis,” Ban told BBC News during the conference. “If we take action today it may not be too late. But if we take action tomorrow, we may have to regret it for not only us, but for coming generations and even for planet Earth.”

But critics have expressed their concerns that the lack of progress seen in Poznan is indicative of the lack of commitment, particularly from developed countries. “The climate talks fizzled out with no progress on the big decisions,” said Andy Atkins, Executive Director of Friends of the Earth. “There's now a plan to make decisions in 2009 but a radical quickening in pace is urgently required.”

ICTSD Reporting; “Ambitions For 2009 U.N. Climate Pact Fade In Poznan,” REUTERS, 9 December 2008; “Carbon Trade In U.N. Climate

Spotlight,” REUTERS, 10 December 2008; “Slow Progress in Poznan While Climate Threats Mount,” ENVIRONMENT NEWS SERVICE, 13 December 2008.

### **Europe Closes Deal on Climate Change**

European leaders have clinched an energy-climate deal as a part of their attempts to be a global leader on the issue. French President Nicholas Sarkozy ushered in the agreement – at the 12 December high-level meeting targeting climate change and the financial crises – as one of his final feats during the six-month French EU presidency.

The agreement basically built on a package set forth at the beginning of this year (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 25 January 2008, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/9354/>) in which the EU committed itself to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20 percent by 2020 as compared to 1990 levels, and to deriving 20 percent of its energy from renewable sources. The European Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) serves as a key tool for achieving the target.

On adopting the package, the European leaders declared that it “underlines the vital importance of achieving the strategic objective of limiting the global average temperature increase to not more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels. [The European Council] stresses the need for decisive and immediate action, in order for the challenges of climate change to be tackled effectively. International collective action will be critical in driving an effective, efficient and equitable response in the scale required to face climate change challenges.”

Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the EU Commission, said for his part that “Europe has today passed its credibility test. We mean business when we talk about climate.”

### **Concessions made to Eastern Europe, heavy industry**

However, the newly adopted package was watered down on several accounts due to strong opposition in particular from Eastern European countries heavily dependent on coal, such as

Poland. Also, pressure from Western countries concerned by the impact of potential job losses due to the financial downturn, especially Germany and Italy, resulted in a less ambitious agreement than some had hoped for.

The main changes were made to the ETS, allowing heavy industry, fearful of competition from countries not bound by strong climate targets, to get the lion’s share of their emissions permits for free for a longer period than originally envisioned. Further, instead of having to buy 100 percent of their permits in 2020, they will now only have to buy 70 percent, and Eastern European power generators will get their permits at a special discount.

### **Responses at Poznan**

The European agreement was largely welcomed in Poznan, Poland, at the simultaneous international climate change negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC; see related story, this issue). UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer said “It shows the world that ambitious emission reduction goals by 2020 are in line with moving economic recovery in a green direction.

Ed Miliband, UK Energy and Climate Change Secretary, also underlined the international dimensions of the deal. “This will contribute to propelling the world towards a strong, ambitious and ratifiable outcome in Copenhagen in 2009,” he said, adding that “combined with the spirit of engagement from President-elect Obama, there is now everything to play for as we put the pieces in place for a global climate deal in Copenhagen next December.”

### **Green outcry**

Not all were as positive, however. A green coalition comprising the WWF Europe, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Oxfam and Climate Action Network strongly condemned the package, saying it was full of loopholes and concessions to industry. “Industry has to do next to nothing,” stressed Claude Turmes, a Green MEP from Luxembourg. “If they are honest, these leaders know they haven’t agreed something really ambitious.”

The fact that heavy industry is given permits for free is particularly controversial, as they are likely to make major windfall profits from the ETS. Green groups have also questioned the fact that Europeans will be able to buy large volumes of permits abroad, and want to see a clear plan for channelling ETS profits to urgent adaptation and mitigation project in developing countries.

The energy and climate package must still be ratified by the European Parliament this week to become legally binding. Green groups are calling on the Parliament to reject it.

“European Leaders Agree on Climate Change Plan,” ENS, 12 December 2008; “EU leaders agree stimulus, climate change deals,” DEUTSCHE WELLE, 13 December 2008; “EU leaders claim historic agreement on cutting pollution,” GUARDIAN, 13 December 2008; “EU accused of subsidising climate change after 'watered-down' deal,” THE INDEPENDENT, 13 December 2008; “EU hails climate deal as example for the world,” AP, 12 December 2008.

## IN BRIEF

### Shipping Noise Disrupting Marine Mammals

Marine mammals are suffering severe negative consequences due to ever-increasing noise pollution in the seas, according to experts. Among the sources of noise that are being blamed are the rising numbers of marine vessels that carry goods around the globe – as well as the increasing speeds they travel at.

The International Federation of Animal Welfare (IFAW) launched a report highlighting the problem and suggesting solutions at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP 9), which took place in Rome from 1-5 December.

According to IFAW, a combination of greater numbers of marine vessels, the increased use of powerful navy sonar, and exploration operations targeting oil and other valuable raw materials are

to blame. In addition, global warming has led to increased levels of acidity in water which decreases its ability to absorb noise. More noises causes serious disruptions in the communication patterns between marine mammals, their foraging patterns for food, confuses their sense of orientation, and they more often end up being struck by ships that they no longer are able to hear.

"Underwater, man-made noise is already triggering a kind of acoustic fog and a cacophony of sounds in many parts of the world's seas and oceans," Mark Simmonds, Science Director of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, said. "Protecting marine species from ocean noise is critical to their survival. Ocean noise can travel over vast distances and affect marine species across many national sea boundaries," added Veronica Frank, IFAW Campaign Officer.

Many cetacean populations are already threatened and highly vulnerable to increased environmental pressure resulting from habitat loss, climate change, and intensive fishing operations – which can sometimes inadvertently ensnare marine mammals.

Among corrective measures, IFAW urged nations to consider instituting new rules requiring ship engines to be quieter and to travel at lower speeds.

The main CMS meeting also considered the issue of marine noise pollution and its adverse impact on marine mammals. At the end of the meeting, participants adopted a resolution on marine noise pollution urging caution, and calling for sharing of best practices and further research. Some observers felt that the issue was not taken up forcefully enough due to the major commercial interests involved, as well as sensitive military issues.

Simmonds stressed that "we simply don't know at this stage how many animals are affected by noise pollution, but the lack of full scientific evidence should not be a reason to delay action."

### **Additional information**

To access the IFAW report "Ocean Noise - Turn it Down," visit

[http://www.ifaw.org/Publications/Regional\\_Publications/UK/Ocean\\_Noise\\_Pubs/asset\\_upload\\_file469\\_48552.pdf](http://www.ifaw.org/Publications/Regional_Publications/UK/Ocean_Noise_Pubs/asset_upload_file469_48552.pdf)

To access the report by the Earth Negotiations Bulletin from the CMS conference, visit <http://www.iisd.ca/cms/cop9/>

ICTSD reporting; "Man-Made Noise In World's Seas Threatens Wildlife," REUTERS, 4 December 2008; "The end of the 'silent sea'," GLOBE AND MAIL, 13 December 2008.

### **Rainforest Conversion for Biofuels Production Bad for Environment: Report**

Clearing rainforests to plant crops for biofuels production would be worse for climate change and biodiversity than preserving the existing ecosystem, a new study says. The report, which appears in the academic journal *Conservation Biology*, says that it would be as long as 75 to 93 years before any benefits to the climate could be realised.

Biofuels have often been held up as an environmentally friendly alternative to fossil fuels. But debate over the negative environmental aspects related to large scale production of crops such as palm, soy, and sugarcane for conversion to fuel has been growing in recent years (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 6 October 2006, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/9061/>).

Released on the opening day of the UN Climate Change conference in Poznan, Poland, the study is meant to challenge some emissions-mitigating initiatives that are driving up Biofuels production in many tropical countries. The report's authors assert that developed countries' efforts to meet their obligations under the Kyoto Protocol are negatively impacting the environment in developing countries.

"Subsidies to purchase tropical biofuels are given by countries in Europe and North America supposedly to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions from transport," says lead author Finn Danielsen of Denmark's Nordic Agency for Development and Ecology (NORDECO). "They encourage [developing countries] to increase their

emissions as well as breach their obligations under another agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity."

The team of botanists, ecologists and engineers relied on published studies and undertook field research on oil palm and forest plots in Indonesia to reach their conclusions. The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), which was involved in the project, says the study is "the most comprehensive analysis of the impact of oil palm plantations in tropical forests on climate and biodiversity."

The research team found that rainforest conversion causes a dramatic decline in plant and animal species. Botanist Hendrien Beukema of the University of Groningen in the Netherlands says that major plant groups that are abundant in rainforests are completely absent from plantations. "Forest plants need shady and undisturbed habitat to survive," she says. For fauna, the study reveals that only one in six forest species are able to survive in a plantation ecosystem.

While the study was primarily conducted in Southeast Asia, where palm is the preferred crop for biofuels production, authors say that other regions are under threat as well. "In Latin America, forests are being cleared for soy production which is even less efficient at biofuel production compared to oil palm," says co-author Faizal Parish of the Global Environment Centre, a Malaysia-based NGO.

The authors of the study say that reducing deforestation is a more effective means of combating climate change and can also help countries meet their obligations to protect biodiversity. They are calling for the development of common global standards for sustainable production of biofuels.

While the study panned initiatives aimed at rainforest conversion, it found that planting crops for biofuels in select grasslands areas could lead to a net removal of carbon in 10 years.

### **Additional Information**

The study "Biofuel Plantations on Forested Lands: Double Jeopardy for Biodiversity and

Climate,” can be found at <http://www.worldwildlife.org/who/media/press/2008/WWFBinaryitem10887.pdf>.

“Biofuel Plantations on Tropical Forestlands Are Bad for the Climate and Biodiversity, Study Finds,” WWF PRESS PRELEASE, 1 December 2008; “Clearing Forests For Biofuel Hurts Climate – Study,” REUTERS, 2 December 2008.

### **EU Approves Imports of GM Soybean**

The EU has given a green light to imports of a genetically modified soybean made by US-based agriculture giant Monsanto, the European Commission announced on 4 December.

Imports of the soybean, which is designed to resist Monsanto’s glyphosate herbicides, will be used for animal feed, not human consumption.

The soybean is the latest in a string of GM products that have received approval by default in the European Commission. Under a system enacted in 2004, the EC grants ‘rubber stamp’ approval of GM imports if the EU’s 27 members are unable to reach a conclusion about a specific proposal after a set period of time. The conditional approval of the Monsanto product, MON 89788 or Roundup Ready 2 Yield soybeans, will last for ten years.

“MON 89788 soybean underwent the full authorisation procedure set out in the EU legislation,” the EU said in a statement. “Any products produced from this GM soybean will be subject to the EU’s strict labelling and traceability rules,” it said.

The announcement was welcomed by US producers, who rely heavily on GM products and export more soybeans to the EU than to any other area of the world except China. In 2007 and 2008, the EU’s 27 member countries collectively purchased US\$ 1.8 billion worth of soybean and soybean meal, according to the American Soybean Association.

Monsanto claims that Roundup Ready 2 products have been approved in 10 countries and regions: Australia, Canada, China, the EU, Japan, Mexico,

New Zealand, the Philippines, Taiwan, and the US.

European livestock producers say the increased use of GM products worldwide combined with the EU’s strict rules on biotech imports has made it increasingly difficult for them to find enough feed for their livestock. In the past, shipments of grains and rice that were found to contain GM materials have been confiscated at European ports.

European environmentalists have long opposed the import of any GM products out of health concerns and have denounced the Commission’s ‘rubber stamp’ approval process.

ICTSD reporting. “EU approves genetically modified soybean for import,” REUTERS, 5 December 2008.

### **IP Issues Inch Forward as TRIPS Council Meets**

Delegates made progress on intellectual property issues at a TRIPS Council meeting on 5 December, narrowing but not eliminating differences that, if unresolved, risk scuppering the agreement of a global trade deal at the WTO.

This was “a significantly better discussion than yesterday” the chair of the talks, Trevor Clarke of Barbados, said, comparing the session to a 4 December meeting that got mired down in debate over procedural issues.

At issue are three topics on which talks have largely stalled since the launch of the Doha Round in 2001, namely: extending to all products the stronger protection currently accorded to geographical indications of wines and spirits (GI extension); making it mandatory for patent applicants to disclose the origin of any genetic resources or associated traditional knowledge involved in their inventions; and the establishment of a register for geographical indications (GIs) of wines and spirits.

The majority of the afternoon meeting on 5 December was taken up by the EU’s response to

60 questions that had been put forward regarding its proposal for a GI register for wines and spirits.

According to the text of the proposal that the EU and its allies on the matter submitted in July, Member states “shall provide that” their domestic authorities “consult the register and take its information into account.” Importantly, the text also stated that, “in the absence of proof to the contrary,” the very fact that a product is listed on the register will be considered “prima facie evidence that it meets the definition of ‘geographical indication’.”

Historically, the main points of disagreement have been over participation in the register and the consequences and legal effects of registration. Members such as the EU want all WTO Members to participate. But others, including Argentina, Australia, Canada, and the US, argue that participation in the system should be voluntary. These countries and other opponents of the EU position, have put forward an alternative ‘joint proposal’ that would simply require or urge countries to consult the register.

The European delegates responded to questions regarding the participation of Member states, the consequences and legal effects of registration, the notification and registration of new GIs, as well as the costs and the particular challenges that developing countries would face in participating.

Ecuador, India and Switzerland indicated their support of the EU proposal, while Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, El Salvador, Japan, Taiwan and the US questioned the proposal.

At the 4 December meeting, a large number of countries - including the EU, the African group, Brazil, China, Colombia, India and Switzerland - urged delegates to discuss all three of the contentious IP issues in parallel, echoing the call they made in May for the IP issues to be included “as part of the horizontal process” of negotiations towards agreements to liberalise trade in the agricultural and industrial sectors in the Doha Round talks.

But that position has been strongly rebuffed by Australia, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, South Korea, and the US, among others, who rejected

“the artificial parallelism” of linking the three intellectual property matters.

“Each of the TRIPS issues...has its own terms of reference, and particular subject matter,” the dissenting countries argued in July. “The extent and interest of Members in the content and potential outcomes for each issue varies considerably.”

ICTSD reporting.

---

## EVENTS & RESOURCES

### Upcoming Events

14-18 December, Cairo, Egypt. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR THE ARAB STATES ON NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAP), AND THE MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY. This Convention on Biological Diversity workshop will look at, inter alia, national strategies, action plans, mainstreaming, strategy enhancement and sectoral and cross-sectoral action plans and integration relating to biodiversity. For further information, visit <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=NBSAPCBW-MENA-01>.

15 December, Geneva, Switzerland. SYMPOSIUM ON PUBLIC SECTOR IP MANAGEMENT IN THE LIFE SCIENCES. Organised by the World Intellectual Property Organisation. Public research institutions account for a significant share of the research undertaken in the life sciences. Public funds also support a large amount of life sciences research by others. Given the direct public interest in this research and its results, coherent intellectual property (IP) strategies and policies will help to ensure that benefits from new technologies resulting from these investments, for instance in fields such as public health, agriculture and the environment, flow to the public. This symposium will explore different national approaches, institutional policies and public-private partnerships, with a view to learning from practical experience. It will provide



a forum for informal discussion on these themes with the aim of reviewing the central issues in public sector IP management in the life sciences. The event is open to the general public and is free-of-charge. For further information, please refer to [http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/2008/lifesciences/ip\\_lss3\\_ge/](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/2008/lifesciences/ip_lss3_ge/).

15-16 December, Tokyo, Japan. ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL SYNTHESIS MEETING FOR THE 5<sup>TH</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM. The World Water Forum, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 16 to 22 March 2009, is the world's largest water event, and serves as a platform towards global collaboration on water problems. Since different regions experience different water issues or have different solutions to the same water challenges, it is important to highlight the uniqueness of each region through regional contributions to the Forum. The Asia Pacific Water Forum (APWF) serves as the World Water Forum's regional coordinator for Asia-Pacific. This role covers a broad range of responsibilities, such as mobilising actors in the region, acting as catalyst for specific contributions to the Forum, gathering and compiling the region's perspectives on the water challenges it faces, and more. For more information, please refer to <http://www.adb.org/documents/events/2008/5th-world-water-forum/>.

15-17 December, Sirte, Libya. FAO HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON WATER FOR AGRICULTURE AND ENERGY IN AFRICA: THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE. The overall purpose of this conference will be to address the availability of water resources in Africa under the circumstances of increased demand by the agricultural and energy sectors and in the context of changing climatic conditions. The conference will analyse the present situation and needs, in terms of water for agriculture and energy, and the potential, the costs and the sources of financing, with a view to proposing to Heads of State and Government the policies, strategies and programmes for effective use and management of water resources. For more information, please contact: e-mail: [Maher.Salman@fao.org](mailto:Maher.Salman@fao.org); Internet: <http://www.fao.org/nr/water/events.html> or

[http://www.fao.org/nr/water/docs/sirteconcept\\_note.pdf](http://www.fao.org/nr/water/docs/sirteconcept_note.pdf)

17 December, Copenhagen Denmark. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION MEETING: ECO-BUSINESS AS A DRIVER OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA? In occasion of his visit to Denmark, Danida advisor Søren Borch has offered to share his experiences from the eco-business component of Premaca, Danida's Regional Environment Programme in Central America, with members of Danish Development Research Network. A three-fold sustainability approach in eco-business, where economic, social and environmental sustainability are promoted, will be illustrated with examples such as from forest agriculture and tourism. After the presentation, there will be time for networking and informal discussion of the examples provided and of other related issues that participants may be interested in, as well as measurement and communication of results. For more information, please refer to [http://www.ddrn.dk/index.php?side\\_id=210](http://www.ddrn.dk/index.php?side_id=210).

18 December, Brussels, Belgium. FRENCH-GERMAN ENERGY RELATIONS IN THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT: STILL POWERING EUROPE? This seminar is part of the Ifri Energy Breakfast Roundtable, and includes Hinrich Thoenen, Economy Adviser, Embassy of Germany in France, Christophe Schramm, French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, Jan Horst Keppler, Professor in Economics, University Paris-Dauphine and Fellow Research associated with the Energy Programme at Ifri, Kristina Notz, Research Fellow at Center for Applied Policy Research. For further information, please refer to [http://www.ifri.org/frontDispatcher/ifri/manifestations/s\\_minaire\\_1033636016876/publi\\_P\\_energie\\_mar\\_s\\_1222330555835](http://www.ifri.org/frontDispatcher/ifri/manifestations/s_minaire_1033636016876/publi_P_energie_mar_s_1222330555835).

19-20 December, Paris, France. SIXTH WORLD FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: PRIORITIES, FINANCING, GOVERNANCE. Launched in 2003, the Global Sustainability Forum provides an annual meeting for decision-makers and managers from the worlds of business, politics, education and the non-profit sector in the French-speaking

world, with strong links to Asia, the US and Latin America. This annual event is intended to bridge the gap between the World Economic Forum of Davos and the alter-globalisation of Porto Alegre. For more information, please contact: tel: +33-(0)1-4325-2357; fax: +33-(0)1-4325-6259; e-mail: [passages@club-internet.fr](mailto:passages@club-internet.fr); Internet: <http://www.fmdd.fr/synopsis.html>

26-27 January, Bonn, Germany. FOUNDING CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY (IRENA). Prior to the Founding Conference, the statutes will be sent to all member countries of the United Nations, inviting them to participate and become founding members of the agency at the Founding Conference. For more information contact: e-mail: [info@irena.org](mailto:info@irena.org); Internet: <http://www.irena.org/index.htm>

5-6 March, London, UK. AN ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT FUTURE. Given the balance between the soaring demand for transport, the environment and society needs, the demand for sustainable transport is becoming increasingly pressing. This conference will seek to address the steps which need to be taken by policymakers, the transport industry and the investment community to resolve this conundrum. For more information contact Chatham House Conferences, tel: +44 (0)20 7957 5753; fax: +44 (0)20 7321 2045; email: [conferences@chathamhouse.org.uk](mailto:conferences@chathamhouse.org.uk); Internet: <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/conferences/view/-/id/134/>

5-7 February, New Delhi, India. DELHI SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT. This annual event will be organised around the theme "Towards Copenhagen: an equitable and ethical approach." The DSDS is organised by TERI and seeks to provide long-term solutions for sustainable development. The 2009 Summit will aim to reinforce the climate change agenda of the previous year and will feature: an international climate change exhibition; screening of films on climate change; an Africa day; a young global leaders meeting; Sustainable Development Leadership Award; live performance: Tabla Maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain; and the CEO Forum 2009. For more information contact Satish Kumar, Programme Assistant, tel: +91 011

24682100 (Ext.2524); email: [satish@teri.res.in](mailto:satish@teri.res.in); internet: <http://dsds.teriin.org/2009/>

10-12 March, Copenhagen, Denmark. INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS ON CLIMATE CHANGE: GLOBAL RISKS, CHALLENGES AND DECISIONS. This Congress will include a session on 'Adapting Coastal Zone and Marine Recourses to Climate Change'. The Congress is organised by the University of Copenhagen in cooperation with the partners in the International Alliance of Research Universities. It is part of the run-up to the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 2009, and as such its main aim is to provide a synthesis of existing and emerging scientific knowledge necessary in order to make decisions concerning the application of mitigation and adaptation strategies in response to climate change. For more information contact Torben Mandrup Timmermann, tel: +4535324106; email: [tmti@adm.ku.dk](mailto:tmti@adm.ku.dk); internet: <http://climatecongress.ku.dk/>

18-20 March, Rotorua, New Zealand. INTERNATIONAL FOREST BIOSECURITY CONFERENCE. This conference is organised by the International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO). It will explore the latest developments in forest biosecurity and discuss issues related to the exclusion, eradication and management of pests for the protection of the diverse benefits offered by forests. For more information contact: Amanda Davies; e-mail: [amanda.davies@innovatek.co.nz](mailto:amanda.davies@innovatek.co.nz); Internet: <http://www.forestbiosecurity.com>

4-8 May, Geneva, Switzerland. FOURTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS. The fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) will address, *inter alia*: a non-compliance mechanism; synergies between the Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm Conventions; and recommendations from the POPs Review Committee to schedule further chemicals under the Convention. For more information contact: tel: +41-22-917-8191; fax: +41-22-917-8098; e-

mail: [ssc@pops.int](mailto:ssc@pops.int); Internet:  
<http://www.pops.int/>

4-15 May, New York, US. SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. This policy session will focus on agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa. For more information, please refer to <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd>.

## **Resources**

If you have a relevant resource (books, papers, bulletins, etc.) you would like to see announced in this section, please forward a copy for review by the Bridges staff to Andrew Aziz at [aaziz@ictsd.ch](mailto:aaziz@ictsd.ch).

THE IMPLEMENTATION GAME: THE TRIPS AGREEMENT AND THE GLOBAL POLITICS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY REFORM IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. Carolyn Deere, Global Economic Governance Programme, University College, Oxford University. Oxford University Press. This publication is the first book-length study of the politics surrounding the implementation of the WTO's Agreement on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). It seeks to explain the variation in how developing countries have implemented the treaty, highlighting the influence of global IP debates, international pressures, and political dynamics within developing countries. In so doing, the book exposes how power politics occur not just within global trade talks but afterward when countries implement agreements. The Implementation Game will be of interest to all those engaged in debates on the global governance of trade and intellectual property, and the challenges facing developing countries in the global economy. The book can be ordered from Oxford University Press at a 20 percent discount until 31 December by using the promotional flyer found [here](http://ictsd.net/downloads/2008/12/deere-implementation-game.pdf) <http://ictsd.net/downloads/2008/12/deere-implementation-game.pdf>. <http://www.oup.com/uk/catalogue/?ci=9780199550616>

REDD MYTHS: A CRITICAL REVIEW OF PROPOSED MECHANISMS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION AND DEGRADATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. Friends of the Earth International. United Nations negotiations on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing countries (REDD) are in fast forward mode, both in the negotiating halls and on the ground. This is partly because of the considerable sums of money being discussed – figures of tens of billions of dollars per year are the norm. This paper asserts that many critical questions remain unanswered. Will REDD help to mitigate climate change or actually negate efforts that have been made so far? Who will really benefit from REDD funds? How might trading in forest carbon credits impact on REDD-related policies and projects? <http://www.foei.org/en/publications/pdfs/redd-myths>

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF UNFCCC'S BALI CLIMATE CONFERENCE : A ROADMAP TO CLIMATE COMMERCIALIZATION. By Md Shamsuddoha and Rezaul Karim Chowdhury. Palgrave Macmillan Journals, 2008. The authors critically review the key elements of the UNFCCC Climate Change Conference held in Bali, Indonesia in December 2007, which was intended to formulate a climate action roadmap to replace the Kyoto Protocol in 2012. They argue that the transition plan for replacing the Kyoto Protocol aims to engage big business and the global financial institutions without committing any parties to tangible emissions cuts. They counter the concept of 'climate commercialization' on which Bali climate talks eventually fell, and argue the urgency of the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. <http://ideas.repec.org/a/pal/develop/v51y2008i3p397-402.html>

THE ROLE OF DECENTRALIZED RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES IN ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. South Centre, Geneva, August 2008. The paper analyses the positive impact of Decentralized Renewable Energy Technologies on enhancing climate change adaptation capacity in developing countries facing climate change-related increasing hazards. The paper concludes with some

recommendations for implementing decentralized renewable energy technologies for climate adaptation in developing countries. [http://smmap.ew.eea.europa.eu/media\\_server/files/o/A/South\\_Centre.pdf](http://smmap.ew.eea.europa.eu/media_server/files/o/A/South_Centre.pdf)

GOVERNING THE GLOBAL COMMONS: LINKING CARBON SEQUESTRATION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN TROPICAL FORESTS. By David O'Connor, *Global environmental change* 18 (3, 2008): 368-374. Biodiversity loss will be among the major impacts from climate change. Separate international political processes address climate change and biodiversity, yet the scientific evidence strongly links the two. For conservation groups, addressing climate change is increasingly necessary to protect biodiversity. Protecting tropical forests as biodiversity habitat is important as well to mitigating climate change, as deforestation and forest degradation represent a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. Thus, discussions currently underway on the political and technical feasibility of rewarding countries and their inhabitants financially for protecting their standing forests as carbon sinks are of vital interest to conservation groups. To access the paper, please refer to [http://www.ecoagriculture.org/documents/files/doc\\_122.pdf](http://www.ecoagriculture.org/documents/files/doc_122.pdf).

*Bridges Trade BioRes*© is published by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) [www.ictsd.org](http://www.ictsd.org), in collaboration with IUCN - World Conservation Union [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org).

This edition of *Bridges Trade BioRes* was edited by Andrew Aziz, [aaziz@ictsd.ch](mailto:aaziz@ictsd.ch). Contributors to this issue were Andrew Aziz, Paige McClanahan, Malena Sell and Jessica Thorn. The Director is Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz. ICTSD is an independent, not-for-profit organisation based at: International Environment House II, Chemin De Balexert 7, 1219 Geneva, Switzerland, tel: (+41) 22-917-8492; fax: (+41) 22-917-8093. Excerpts from *Bridges Trade BioRes* may be used in other publications with appropriate citation. Comments and suggestions are welcomed and should be directed to the Editors or the Director. ISSN 1682-0843

To subscribe to *BRIDGES Trade BioRes*, please send an email to [biores@ictsd.ch](mailto:biores@ictsd.ch).