



Bridges Trade BioRes

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

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CLIMATE CHANGE

Call for Tariffs Intensifies as Cap-and-Trade
Hits US Agenda 1

Climate Change Impacts Worse than
Predicted: Studies 3

Environment at the WTO

China Lashes out at Continued Avian Flu
Poultry Ban..... 5

IN BRIEF

EU, US Make Progress on Beef Dispute..... 6

Mexico-US Tuna Dispute Moves to WTO..... 7

Financial Crisis Placing Pressure on Forests in
Developing World: FAO Report 7

Official Says China Should Not Suffer for
Producing World's Goods 8

Events and Resources

Events..... 9

Resources 11

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CLIMATE CHANGE

Call for Tariffs Intensifies as Cap-and-Trade Hits US Agenda

With a new administration in power and a major international conference on the horizon, climate change policy has re-emerged on the agenda in the US Congress. But as the much-anticipated issue takes centre stage, some politicians are already calling for trade barriers to help US industry cope with anticipated challenges if a cap-and-trade scheme is introduced.

Perhaps the most notable concern regarding US President Barack Obama's proposed US emissions trading policy came from US Senator Sherrod Brown, who says that a climate change bill should include tariffs to protect domestic manufacturers. "If a US company, say a steel mill in Ohio, if their cost goes up dramatically for cutting carbon, it's one more reason to think they're not going to be competitive...they lose jobs," Brown said during a recent speech at US think-tank the Worldwatch Institute.

Also, Senator Brown continues to advocate the inclusion of border tariffs in the climate change bill, a measure that some analysts say would violate WTO regulations. But despite these WTO concerns, other lawmakers have said they share Brown's sentiment – especially those in Midwestern states that depend heavily on industry and foresee an enormous economic burden if a US emissions trading programme is approved.

Emissions trading scheme faces bipartisan opposition

Last June, Brown was part of a group of senators that presented a letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and California Senator Barbara Boxer criticising a proposed climate change bill and the

money generated from selling carbon emissions permits.

“Much of these funds will be indirectly paid for by consumers through increased energy prices,” the letter reads. “The federal government has a fundamental obligation to ensure these funds are being spent in a responsible and wise manner.”

Although Obama’s Democratic Party holds a majority in the US Congress, not every member of his party fully backs the emissions trading policy. But Reid seems ready to move forward with climate change legislation and announced recently that Congress would try to have an emissions trading bill approved by the middle of this year.

Obama does support the granting of subsidies through a climate bill, specifically for renewable energy, which could make the legislation more appealing to wavering Congress members. But recent studies show that such subsidies would significantly increase the cost of the emissions policy. Also, some US policymakers are demanding extra incentives for their states, such as permit price caps and returned revenue from the sale of permits.

Within the Republican Party, opposition is considerable. Lisa Murkowski, a senator and member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, has advised against a hasty drafting of a climate change policy bill. “To merge energy and climate change legislation and pass the bill this year would likely founder because of strong differences among lawmakers over ways to control greenhouse gas emissions and allocate the costs,” Murkowski said earlier this week.

Evidently there are divergent views throughout the US Congress about how and when to draft a climate change bill that is under close scrutiny from the international community. Many countries have said in the past that they are waiting to see a final US climate change policy, as it could influence negotiations at the next UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) conference, to be held in Copenhagen this December.

Congress still reluctant to commit

The US Congress has long been reluctant to act on climate change. Despite contributing more than one-fourth of total global greenhouse gas emissions, the US declined to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. Kyoto was initially adopted at the third UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP-3) in December 1997.

With political and economic concerns strongly tied to the prospect of drafting legislation to combat greenhouse-gas emissions, Congress is still reluctant to commit to anything binding, especially the emissions trading policy that has been proposed by President Obama.

An emissions trading – or cap-and-trade – scheme, which was developed previously through the Kyoto Protocol, would allow Congress to determine a certain limit for carbon emissions each year. Permits would then be auctioned to different industries in the US so that they could pollute, but only up to the amount designated by the permit. Less polluting industries could then sell their permits to more heavily polluting industries.

But some members of Congress consider the market-driven aspect of emissions trading a critical drawback of Obama’s bill, due to the current economic downturn and the dismal state of the European Union’s emissions trading program (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 20 February 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/41136/>).

Developed / developing country divide still a barrier

The US has been especially resistant to signing on to international treaties and agreements on climate change because it argues that major emerging economies, such as China, should be held more accountable for their heavy industrial polluting, despite the fact that they are classified as developing countries. But many developing nations insist that rich countries carry the burden to act, and say they need greater access to climate change mitigating technologies from the developed world before they can implement cleaner industrial practices.

The developed-developing country divide continues to be an obstacle, a fact that was made apparent during the most recent Conference of the Parties, held in December of last year in Poznan, Poland, when consensus on most issues remained elusive (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 15 December 2008, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/36372/>).

Now, world leaders are scrambling to find some sort of common ground before the next conference in Copenhagen, where Parties hope to create a new climate change policy as the 2012 expiration of the Kyoto Protocol approaches.

Ongoing rhetoric since Obama has been elected seems to indicate that he is serious about environmental issues, especially greenhouse gas emissions. He already has allocated a sizeable portion of the almost US\$ 800 billion financial stimulus package to energy and cleaner environmental practices and he has also been working closely with the US Environmental Protection Agency, ordering it to develop higher fuel-efficiency standards for cars.

But some observers say the severe economic downturn, both in the US and around the world, could impede Obama's environmental goals. Indeed, Obama's lack of action on establishing a comprehensive climate change policy thus far has some pundits speculating that the environment portfolio has slipped somewhat on the new president's agenda.

ICTSD reporting; "U.S. Climate Change Takes Center Stage In Congress," REUTERS, 13 March 2009; "Sins of emission," THE ECONOMIST, 12 March 2009; "The greening of Canada?," THE ECONOMIST, 23 February 2009; "Trade Concerns Raised in U.S. Climate Debate," WORLDWATCH INSTITUTE, 13 March, 2009; "US cap/trade bill may not pass this year-senator," REUTERS, 16 March 2009; "NFTC Cautions Against Global Protectionism in Response to Financial Crisis," NATIONAL FOREIGN TRADE COUNCIL, 28 January 2009.

Climate Change Impacts Worse than Predicted: Studies

New studies released at a climate change conference in Copenhagen warn that seas are likely to rise to levels much higher than previously predicted. The studies also suggest that continued deforestation could lead to trees emitting more carbon dioxide than they store.

The findings were presented at the International Scientific Congress on Climate Change, which was held from 10-12 March at the University of Copenhagen. The findings of the Congress are meant to add to the body of knowledge accumulated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The Congress will provide a summary of existing scientific knowledge two years after the last IPCC report.

The last IPCC report estimated that sea levels would rise between 18 and 59 centimetres by the end of the 21st century. The group did, however, caution that due to insufficient data, their prediction did not fully reflect the likely effects of melting ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica.

Since then, scientist have been able develop a new forecasting model based on a much more accurate picture of what is happening in these regions, including the major role played by ice cracking up and sliding into the ocean.

With new estimates suggesting that sea-levels are likely to rise up to a metre or more – about twice the amount predicted by the IPCC in 2007 – environmentalists say the new research is alarming. Some 600 million people, or 10 percent of the earth's population, who live in low-lying areas will be in danger of catastrophic flooding even at the lower end of the new estimates, scientists at the conference said.

Other studies presented at the Copenhagen meeting focussed on other aspects of climate change. A Japanese study showed that while it would cost up to 128 billion yen (US\$1.3 billion) to secure the country's ports against more frequent storms, failure to do so could result in the loss of 1.5 to 3.4 percent of Japan's GDP by 2085.

Another study suggests that India has experienced a 10 percent drop in the productivity of outdoor labourers since 1980 due to climate change. The study said this could decline by another 20 percent if a 2 degree temperature rise is realised. The World Health Organisation has estimated that climate change is responsible for some 150,000 deaths a year through increases in crop failures, flooding, malaria and diarrheal diseases.

Increased temperatures accelerate rainforest mortality

David Hilbert of the Australian research organisation CSIRO warned that global warming could turn rainforests from carbon sinks into net emitters. "Most carbon is in living trees, and tree mortality is not included in climate models," he explained. Detailed observations of 117 rainforests sites around the world showed that although trees grow faster with higher temperatures, their mortality goes up too.

According to Dr Hilbert's calculations, every degree centigrade of temperature increase will result in 14 tonnes of carbon emissions per hectare of rainforest, equating to 24.5 gigatonnes of carbon worldwide – two and a half times the world carbon emissions in 2007.

Another study used computer models to investigate how the Amazon would respond to future temperature rises. It found that a 2 degree centigrade increase above pre-industrial levels would result in a 20-40 percent loss of the rainforest within 100 years. A 3 degree rise, which the study says is more likely, would see a 75 percent loss by drought and turn the Amazon from a significant carbon sink into a significant source.

Expert says carbon tax more effective than emissions trading

To avoid the worst effects of climate change, the IPCC has called for a 25-40 percent reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. The European Union has committed to a 20 to 30 percent decrease from 1990 levels by 2020. President Obama recently said the US would try to cut its CO₂ emissions back to 1990 levels in within the same timeframe. This, IPCC head

Rajendra Pauchuri has said, would not suffice for a meaningful post-Kyoto agreement.

Speaking at the Copenhagen scientific congress, Yale economics professor William Nordhaus proposed replacing the 'inefficient and ineffective' Kyoto Protocol with a global carbon tax. "The developed countries that have emissions reductions targets account for only half of the world's carbon emissions," Nordhaus said. "Our models show that a 50 percent non-participation results in a 250 percent increase in the cost to those who are participating, and this is a huge penalty we can no longer afford."

A carbon tax levied on fossil fuels and transport "would create a reliable carbon price which would create the incentive we need to shift towards a low-carbon economy," professor Nordhaus suggested. Allowing countries to commit to imposing a carbon tax at a minimum level, rather than taking on emissions reductions commitments, would be particularly attractive to small countries.

The Congress was organised by a consortium of universities in Australia, China, Denmark, Japan, Singapore, Switzerland, the UK and the US. Among the event's preliminary conclusions was that the worst-case IPCC scenario trajectories were being realised. Weaker greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets for 2020 would increase the risk of crossing tipping points and make it more difficult to meet the IPCC's 60-percent target for 2050. Participants also agreed that a delay in initiating effective mitigation actions would significantly increase the long-term social and economic costs of both adaptation and mitigation.

A full synthesis report will be published in June and distributed to all participants at December's UN Framework Convention on Climate Change summit in Copenhagen. The objective of that meeting is the conclusion of a successor treaty to the Kyoto Protocol, which will expire in 2012.

ICTSD Reporting

ENVIRONMENT AT THE WTO

China Lashes out at Continued Avian Flu Poultry Ban

Beijing is considering a WTO challenge of Washington's ongoing ban on imports of Chinese chicken products, the Chinese government announced this week. Trade officials from China denounced the measure, which has been in place since 2004 and was extended by recent legislation, at a meeting of the WTO's Agriculture Committee.

Following a 2004 outbreak of avian flu, Washington and Beijing banned imports of each other's poultry, but both countries pledged to re-open their markets in the future. Although China lifted the ban several months later, officials from the country assert that the US continues the measure unfairly.

China's recent posturing, however, is seen by many observers as the direct result of provisions in the federal budget signed into law by US President Barack Obama on 11 March. The bill, which provides funding for several US agencies including the Department of Agriculture, states that "none of the funds made available in this Act may be used to establish or implement a rule allowing poultry products to be imported into the United States from the People's Republic of China."

Provision is 'discriminative' and 'protectionist': China

China lashed out at the measure during the 12 March Agriculture Committee meeting, calling it clearly discriminatory. "It is needless to explain why such discriminative measures are forbidden by the WTO," said Zhang Xiangchen, China's deputy envoy to the World Trade Organization. "I believe that any trainee with a preliminary knowledge of the WTO disciplines will tell that this section violates the basic rules of the WTO including the MFN."

According to the government-run **Xinhua** news service, Chinese trade officials also sent a note to

the US Mission in Geneva urging "the US to eliminate such kind of discriminative and trade protectionist provision as soon as possible in order to correct its wrong decision. China would raise complaints to the WTO in this regard and maintain the right of further measures," the note reportedly said.

Washington has asserted in the past that poor sanitary conditions in Chinese processing centres pose a health risk to US consumers. "We have a series of very critical food safety issues in China that need to be addressed," said US Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro last week. DeLauro is the head of the appropriations subcommittee responsible for the controversial provision.

US says measures conform to SPS requirements

Under the WTO's agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (SPS), countries may establish safety requirements in response to such national concerns. The agreement, however, requires nations to base such regulations on scientific evidence, and to not arbitrarily or unjustifiably create a barrier to trade.

Last week before the WTO Committee on Agriculture, the US continued to assert that their measures are in conformity with the SPS agreement, and that Chinese concerns are being addressed by the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, which provides a forum for consultations regarding the agreement.

Beijing, however, argues that the US ban has little scientific justification and violates the basic principles of WTO law, noting that its poultry production meets international standards accepted by the European Union, Japan and Switzerland.

As China has seen its international trade surplus fall from a record US\$ 40 billion for November last year to US\$ 4.8 billion last month, Beijing has taken an aggressive stance against national stimulus packages and trade regulations it deems as protectionist (see Bridges Weekly, 4 March 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/42243/>).

More generally, China's position on the issue seems to indicate an increased willingness to engage in WTO Dispute Settlement. China has thus far been a respondent to fourteen complaints since it joined the WTO in 2001, but has only brought three of its own, all against the United States.

Notably, the US requested WTO consultations with the EU earlier this year regarding a prohibition by Brussels on the import of chicken treated with anti-bacterial chemicals such as chlorine dioxide, a US practice that Washington contends is safe and effective (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 23 January 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/38523/>).

ICTSD Reporting; "U.S. lawmaker blasts China food safety," REUTERS, 18 March 2009; "China lambasts US move to block Chinese poultry," INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, 13 March 2009; "China blasts "discriminative" U.S. measure on Chinese poultry imports," XINHUA, March 12, 2009; "China protests U.S. poultry rule at WTO meeting," REUTERS, 12 March 2009; "China Trade Surplus Plunges as Exports Fall by Record," BLOOMBERG, 11 March 2009.

IN BRIEF

EU, US Make Progress on Beef Dispute

The US says it will delay imposing retaliatory duties on an array of EU goods as the trading partners hash out a possible fix to the long-standing dispute over hormone-treated beef. The news came on 12 March when the office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) announced that the 23 March tariff implementation date, set under former USTR Susan Schwab, would be pushed back by one month.

The US maintains that the retaliatory duties were designed to push the EU into meaningful negotiations (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 23 January 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/38544/>). And while no final resolution is

immediately expected, some observers say a tentative agreement could be reached.

"USTR is currently in discussions with the European Commission on a possible interim solution that would provide benefits for US beef producers," USTR spokesperson Nefeterius McPherson said earlier this week. "These discussions have made progress, although several important issues remain to be resolved. USTR has decided to delay the trade action in order to give this process every possibility of success."

European Trade Commissioner Catherine Ashton welcomed the news, saying that she feels optimistic about the way things are progressing. "The EU and U.S. are engaged in negotiations to find a way forward on this issue, and I am confident we will find a solution very soon," Ashton said in a statement. Ashton is expected to travel to Washington to discuss the matter on 23 March.

The beef issue is arguably the best known and one of the longest running trade disputes between the two trade partners. At the centre of the controversy is whether the EU's ban on imported hormone-treated beef is in compliance with the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, known as the SPS Agreement. That Agreement governs the use of health and safety-related trade barriers, and allows such restrictions to be justified based on scientific evidence or other pertinent information.

Canada and the US maintain that the EU ban is unfounded and their position has been supported by the WTO. In July 1999, the US established retaliatory sanctions on a specific list of EU goods in response to the ban. In January 2009, the outgoing Bush Administration broadened the list of products to include goods such as meat, chewing gum, chocolate, certain jams, and other goods. The so-called 'carousel' sanctions, which would be applied on a rotating basis, have been identified as an issue of particular concern by Commissioner Ashton.

Other trade issues, such as the EU's bans on US chicken sanitised with chlorine and the harvesting of genetically modified crops have also been causing friction between the two trading partners

recently (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 23 January 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/38523/> and 6 March 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/42458/>).

Most recently, the EU raised the ire of the US by introducing new tariffs on American biodiesel, arguing that the fuel is being subsidised and dumped (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 6 March 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/42454/>).

ICTSD Reporting; “USTR announces delay of trade action in beef hormones dispute,” EU PRESS RELEASE, 12 March 2009; “U.S., EU eye possible fix to long-standing beef war,” REUTERS, 16 March 2009; “EU welcomes delay to US trade sanctions,” FINANCIAL TIMES, 13 March 2009.

Mexico-US Tuna Dispute Moves to WTO

The WTO’s Dispute Settlement Body will consider a complaint from Mexico that US rules on ‘dolphin-safe’ tuna unfairly discriminate against its exports, according to an agenda for the 20 March meeting of the DSB that was released Tuesday. Mexico City says it believes it has a 90 percent chance of winning the suit, the Mexican news agency Notimex reported.

US law dictates that the ‘dolphin-safe’ label cannot be used on tuna caught in encircling, or ‘purse-seine’, nets, which often trap dolphins along with the fish. Mexico, however, contends that its fishing practices are fully sustainable and comply with the guidelines accepted by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, of which the US is a member.

A 2007 ruling by the US Court of Appeals banned the import of tuna carrying the seal of approval of the International Dolphin Conservation Programme (IDCP). The case was brought by a coalition of environmental groups, which sued the Secretary of Commerce after he concluded that there was not enough evidence to prove that the use of purse seine nets, which are allowed by the IDCP, harmed depleted dolphin stocks in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean. The court ruled

that this decision was ‘arbitrary and capricious’, and overturned it.

Mexico asserts that the US restrictions on tuna imports violate several WTO rules, including national treatment and most-favoured nation (MFN) obligations. The country also claims that the measures have forced more than a third of its tuna fleet to shut down.

“The greatest strength we have is our compliance with what had been agreed upon on safeguarding dolphins and improving our tuna fishing technology to the point that we have practically zero dolphin bycatch, as is stipulated by fisheries norms,” Ramon Corral Avila, the head of Mexico’s National Aquaculture and Fishing Commission told Notimex.

The tuna issue “is more a commercial problem than a biological one. It is a zero-tariff barrier where we have a free trade treaty,” he added.

Mexico requested consultations with the US on the matter in October of last year (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 31 October 2008, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/32491/>). The consultations were held in December but did not lead to a resolution.

The dispute dates back to 1991, when Mexico first objected to the US embargo of Mexican tuna products under its Marine Mammal Protection Act.

ICTSD reporting; “WTO to look into US rules on ‘dolphin-safe’ tuna,” AP, 10 March 2009; “Expectations high in US tuna dispute,” NOTIMEX, 11 March 2009.

Financial Crisis Placing Pressure on Forests in Developing World

The initiative to increase forest coverage in the developing world as a means to combat climate change is being threatened by the current global financial crisis, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation’s report on the State of the World’s Forests.

The report suggests that because developing countries often struggle with institutional weaknesses and immense pressures on their forests the current problem is difficult to solve. Moreover, because of the heightened economic challenges faced in the developing world during the financial crisis, short-term economic benefits will often trump long-term environmental planning, the report says.

There is concern that some governments could abandon ambitious climate change mitigation and adaptation targets as they focus on reversing the economic downturn, the report says. Specifically, schemes such as the UN programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD) Programme, which rely on financial transfers from developed to developing countries to encourage forest conservation, could face significant challenges.

The collapse of the housing sector and the credit crunch has resulted in a dramatic decline in industrial and forest management investment. The report warns that the contraction of formal sectors, such as those supplying the building industry, could lead to an increase in illegal logging as the informal sector is called on to fill the gaps.

However, the report says that over the long-term global demand for forestry products and environmental services are expected to increase in the coming decades.

The FAO publishes the State of the World's Forests every two years to provide a global view of major developments affecting forests. The 2009 report provides a regional analysis on rates of deforestation, drawing particular attention to concerns in Africa and South America.

"Although Africa holds only 16 percent of the global forest area, from 2000 to 2005 it lost about 4 million hectares of forests annually, close to one-third of the area deforested globally," the report reads. "Forest loss is likely to continue at current rates. The growing demand for, and rising price of, food and energy will exacerbate the situation, especially as increased investments in infrastructure open up new areas."

Concerns for continued levels of deforestation were also highlighted for South America due to high food and fuel prices which are likely to encourage continued forest clearance for production of livestock and agricultural crops for food, feed, and biofuel.

The report recommends that forestry institutions be reformed and science and technology investments be increased to help manage forests globally.

The full report can be accessed here: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/011/i0350e/i0350e00.htm>

ICTSD Reporting.

Official Says China Should Not Suffer for Producing World's Goods

Beijing's top official responsible for climate change says that China should not be responsible for emissions it creates while manufacturing goods for the rest of the world. The comments came during a 16 March visit to Washington by Li Gao, China's director of the Department of Climate Change, National Development, and Reform Commission.

Li said it would not be fair to hold China accountable because the country is "on the lower end of the economic chain of the global economy." The climate change negotiator suggested that the burden for climate change mitigation should be shouldered by the countries that ultimately receive the products. "Countries that buy goods from China should be held responsible for the carbon dioxide emitted by the factories that make them," Li said without elaborating further.

Li said it would be a 'disaster' – and possibly the start of a trade war – for the US to impose tariffs on imports from China or other countries that didn't have mandatory emissions controls. He said the tariffs would be unfair and a violation of trade rules.

While the US and China – which account for about half the world's greenhouse gas emissions – agree on the need for reducing emissions, the two countries are at odds over how to accomplish the task.

Many observers have noted the importance of cooperation between the two countries is essential to solving the world's climate change puzzle. "The US and Chinese governments must start right now to build a stronger partnership on energy and climate change," the Pew Center's Eileen Claussen said in a recent editorial. "Smart investments in alternative energy and other technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions can provide immediate economic stimulus in both the United States and China, while also laying the foundation for a new low-carbon economy that will pay dividends for decades to come."

Some pundits say the recent changing of the guard in Washington could help move the issue ahead. Several key players in the Barack Obama administration – including Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, who recently paid a visit to Beijing – have indicated that they are ready to push forward to find new ways for bilateral cooperation with China, particularly on key issues such as climate change and environment.

Kenneth Lieberthal, a former National Security Council officer on Asia in the Clinton administration and now at the Washington-based think-tank the Brookings Institute, recently urged the US and China to hold a summit featuring an agreement on climate change. Lieberthal says such a move could help create international momentum to seal a deal at December's UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting in Copenhagen.

ICTSD Reporting; "U.S., China worlds apart on climate change curbs," MIAMI HERALD, 17 March 2009; "Roadmap for a U.S.-China Partnership on Climate Change," HUFFINGTON POST, 6 March 2009; "Study urges U.S.-China climate change summit," REUTERS, 26 February 2009.

EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Events

Coming up in the next two weeks (20 March – 3 April)

24-25 March 2009, Singapore. POLICIES THAT PROMOTE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN TRANSPORT. The event, sponsored by the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), will bring together policy makers and experts within the transportation, environment, energy and related fields from the 21 APEC member economies. The workshop's objective is to provide a forum to discuss best practices and lessons learned in all APEC economies, with the aim of informing future policy for promoting energy-efficient and sustainable transport throughout the APEC region. For more information contact Sally Larsen email: slarsen@ase.org or Diana Lin email: dlin@ase.org; internet: http://ase.org/uploaded_files/WPPEET_Agenda.pdf

25 March, Geneva, Switzerland. SEMINAR ON GLOBAL GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: THE NEED FOR POLICY COHERENCE AND NEW PARTNERSHIPS. This seminar, organised by the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI) and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, will discuss the outcome of the 24-28 June conference Global Governance for Sustainable Development: The Need for Policy Coherence and New Partnerships, which presented the perceptions of leading European development experts and their associates in the developing regions on dramatic global challenges and on possible policy options or governance models to meet those challenges. For further information, contact Susanne von Itter: tel: +49 228-26-18-101; fax: + 49 228-26-18-103; email: itter@eadi.org; internet: <http://www.eadi.org>

31 March 2009, Washington, US. FOREST CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT. The IPCC found that reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) are critical to

addressing climate change through stabilization of GHG concentrations in the atmosphere. Sponsored by the Global Environment Facility-Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, this workshop brings forestry based organizations together to discuss reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), forest conservation, and sustainable forest management. For more information visit http://stapgef.unep.org/activities/technicalworksops/SFM_REDD.

Other Upcoming Events

4 April, Venice, Italy. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCIAL CRISIS AND CLIMATE POLICY. This conference, organised in collaboration with the European Centre for Living Technology (ECLT), will bring four panelists together to look at the ways in which the financial crisis is affecting climate change policy on the road to Copenhagen. The panelists will approach the problem from four different perspectives: climate research, economic research, business, and the study of complex systems. Researchers and stakeholders are invited to engage in an open discussion. For further information, contact Aida Abdulah: email: aida@european-climate-forum.net; internet: <http://www.european-climate-forum.net/>

6-15 April, London, United Kingdom. WORLD PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: MOVING INTO THE SECOND HALF OF THE UN DECADE. Prosperity has reached unprecedented levels. But so have our demands on education and environment, and so has the gap between rich and poor. Natural resources provide services that sustain our lives and are crucial for economic development and human well being. Using natural resources sustainably is imperative to ensuring their availability also for future generations while satisfying the needs of today. Five years into the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) this conference aims to highlight the relevance of ESD to educate, promote international exchange on ESD, especially between countries of the world, carry out a stock-taking of the implementation of the UN Decade and develop strategies for the way

ahead. To register please contact: unesco@un-conference2009.org

27-29 May, Barcelona, Spain. GLOBAL CARBON MARKET FAIR & CONFERENCE. This event, jointly organized by the International Emissions Trading Association, The World Bank, Fira Barcelona, and Koelnmesse, will feature debates, in-depth case studies and leadership sessions with an in-depth overview of the status of the carbon market and international climate change negotiations. For further information, contact Lisa Spafford: tel: +41 (0) 22-737-0502; fax: +41 (0) 22-737-0508; email: spafford@carbonexpo.org; internet: www.carbonexpo.com.

17-19 June, Venice, Italy. 2009 INTERNATIONAL ENERGY WORKSHOP. This workshop, jointly sponsored by the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC) and the International Center for Climate Governance, represents an informal network of analysts actively working on international energy issues. The IEW provides a venue for scholars and researchers to compare quantitative energy projections and to understand the reasons for diverging views of future developments. The workshop is structured with one plenary session per day, each one hosting two key-note speeches of international experts of the research field. Then, three parallel sessions will be held at each time slot with 3 or 4 presentations each. The aim is to select about 85 papers out of the applications. For more information please visit <http://www.iccgov.org/iew2009/2-0.htm>.

11-13 April, Phuket, Thailand. THE FORGOTTEN CRISIS: ARRESTING WILDLIFE DEPLETION IN ASIA THROUGH STRENGTHENED REGIONAL COOPERATION AND EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS. While the world focuses on the current financial crisis, the rapid depletion of another type of stocks -- biodiversity is receiving little attention. Unfortunately wild animal populations such as tigers and other endangered species may never rebound after reaching such critically low levels. Urgent action is needed because extinction is forever. This International Workshop will be the premier venue for policymakers, senior government officials,

scientists and technical experts, NGOs and other stakeholders to come together to share knowledge and experiences, and engage in dynamic discussions on trends, issues and concerns related to building a region-wide platform for capacity building, strategic action and cooperation to support the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) and other parallel initiatives. The workshop will also help generate important momentum in mobilizing political will and support to critical national, regional and international actions in Asia in the run-up to 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity and the Year of the Tiger Summit. For more information please visit <http://www.iccgov.org/iew2009/>

27-29 April 2009, Geneva, Switzerland. EXPERT MEETING ON TRADE AND CLIMATE CHANGE: TRADE AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES UNDER THE CDM. At its fifty-fifth session, UNCTAD's Trade and Development Board approved terms of reference for a single-year expert meeting on trade and climate change. Accordingly, the expert meeting will focus on the trade and investment opportunities and challenges under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). For more information contact: Lucas Assunção; fax: +41 22 917 02 47; e-mail: lucas.assuncao@unctad.org; Internet: <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/meeting.asp?iItemID=4714&lang=1&m=15861&info=not>

30-31 March, Prague, Czech Republic. ENERGY IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE. This conference is being held in response to an impending capacity crunch and ongoing concern over energy security, energy companies across the CEE region are embarking on massive programmes of investment in generation capacity and supporting infrastructure. At the same time work is already beginning on taking forward the implementation of different aspects of the European Commissions third energy package and targets for renewables. Whilst progress in regional cooperation and regulatory harmonisation promises to improve the liquidity of cross-border energy flows and the integration of regional networks and markets, much work remains to be done, and the current economic climate and rising prices make for a tough financial environment. This conference will look at ongoing projects and

remaining challenges for the development of competitive markets and secure, sustainable energy supplies for the region. For more information visit <http://www.marketforce.eu.com/energycee/>.

Resources

HARVEST CHOICE INITIATIVE UPDATES DATA COLLECTION. By Harvest Choice, 2009. The HarvestChoice initiative has launched a comprehensive collection of data products designed to better inform strategic policy and investment decisions aimed at improving farm productivity and profitability, and market development. The data collection focuses on factors relevant to crop production and marketing in Sub-Saharan African (SSA) agriculture, such as climate, soil and pest conditions and constraints, current and future cropping systems geography and performance, and access to markets. Recognizing the site-specific nature of many interventions designed to boost productivity, especially in the rainfed systems common throughout SSA, HarvestChoice takes a spatial approach, using interfaces built around open-source platforms such as Google Maps. The website will continuously be updated and improved over time. For more information about the data collection visit <http://www.harvestchoice.org/>.

UNILATERAL CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM – AN APPROACH FOR A LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY?: THE CASE OF YEMEN. By Lia Carol Sieghart, Environmental Science & Policy. Decision parameters prevailing in the market lead to a slim expression of interest of foreign investors for Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects in a bi- or multilateral design in Yemen. The Designated National Authority Secretariat in Yemen experiences the preference of Annex I entities of merely buying Certified Emission Reductions rather than investing in projects. Yemen's ability, like many least developed countries, to carry out unilateral CDM projects is moderate. Domestic project developers perceive difficulties in procuring underlying finance as key barrier in materialising CDM project activities in a

unilateral design. The country remains trapped in a 'catch 22 situation'. Among other suggestions, this paper argues that international assistance, through low interest loans and capacity building for domestic financial institutions tailored to CDM project activities, may trigger the market. The paper can be purchased here: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/>

AGROFORESTRY OPTIONS FOR TANZANIA. By the World Agroforestry Centre. Tanzania is listed among the thirteen African countries worst affected by climate change impacts and vulnerability, and having the least adaptive capacities. The country faces the challenge of revitalising its agricultural sector by improving the natural resource base. This brief explains how agroforestry could offer robust options to improve productivity and achieve environmental sustainability. It also outlines policy recommendations – both technical and institutional – that the authors say will go a long way in mitigating the effects of climate change and reducing farmers' vulnerability. The brief can be downloaded here: <http://www.worldagroforestry.org/af1/downloads/publications/PDFs/BR09007.PDF>.