



# Bridges Trade BioRes

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

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## CLIMATE CHANGE

### Draft Energy, Climate Bill Provides Sneak Peak at US Environment Policy

Environmentalists are praising a new draft bill released by Congressional Democrats in the US as a bold plan to combat climate change. But critics say the proposal will need to be drastically reworked in order to get the approval of the US Senate.

The 648-page American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, introduced Henry Waxman of California, who chairs the House Energy and Commerce Committee and Edward Markey who chairs the Energy and Environment Subcommittee, would establish an aggressive cap-and-trade program that exceeds the Obama Administration's initially expected targets.

The discussion draft also proposes several other initiatives aimed at cleaning up the environment, such as a plan to reduce carbon through offsetting, a renewable energy scheme, and new transportation emissions standards.

Some critics argue that measures such as an emissions trading, or cap-and-trade, scheme would place the US economy in jeopardy as domestic industry is forced to compete with countries without such restrictions. But the chairmen say their proposal will, in fact, strengthen the financial system.

"This legislation will create millions of clean energy jobs, put America on the path to energy independence, and cut global warming pollution," said Waxman. "Our goal is to strengthen our economy by making America the world leader in new clean energy and energy efficiency technologies."

### **Bill places emphasis on carbon trading**

The proposed cap-and-trade scheme surprised some observers by establishing short-term targets exceeding those that have been outlined by Barack Obama in the past. The new bill aims to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by three percent below 2005 levels in 2012, 20 percent by 2020, 42 percent by 2030, and 83 percent by 2050. In contrast, Obama has suggested a cut of some 15 percent by 2020 in the past.

The bill would place a cap on greenhouse gas emissions and requires entities that emit more than 25,000 tons (22,680 tonnes) of carbon dioxide annually to have tradable federal permits, or allowances that allow them to pollute. The program sets a cap on available allowances and the number of permits will reduce each year.

The plan will primarily target electric utilities, oil companies, and factories that together are responsible for 85 percent of US greenhouse gas emissions.

While the proposal provides a basic outline on how a national cap-and-trade market on emissions would work, it stopped short of describing how emissions credits would be distributed to polluters. President Obama has said in the past he would like to see 100 percent of the permits auctioned off, but has since indicated that this is not a requirement.

### **Industry says cap-and-trade will hamper competitiveness**

Proponents of the bill say it breaks from the previous US position set under the Bush Administration and sets a new course toward a clean energy economy. But some industries say they are concerned as to what their role in the new vision will be.

The US steel industry recently spoke out about Washington's plans for cutting greenhouse gasses, saying that steel produced in countries such as China and India should face import tariffs if their industries do not have to adopt similar emissions targets.

"Chinese steelmakers enjoy an unfair advantage in global trade due to the lack of enforcement of exceptionally weak pollution standards," Scott Paul, the executive director of the Alliance for American Manufacturing, said recently.

American steelmakers say their cost of production has already gone up significantly as a result of investments in pollution control systems aimed at reducing particulates and components of acid rain.

Terry Straub, a senior vice president at US Steel Corp, says that government should carefully consider the impact of the possible flood of cheap foreign imports and suggests a carbon fee be placed on steel from any country that does not regulate greenhouse gas emissions.

### **Government not ruling out 'border adjustment programme'**

Comments from US Energy Secretary Steven Chu at a House hearing earlier this month suggest that he is not adverse to the idea of a scheme aimed at assisting sensitive industries adapt to their new reality. Chu suggested that the US would not rule out tariffs and other trade barriers as a means to place pressure on countries like China and India. "If other countries don't impose a cost on carbon, then we will be at a disadvantage," he said at the hearing.

While Chu insisted that the tax idea on imports was only one possible option the Obama administration should consider, Xie Zhenhua, the head of China's Climate Change and Coordinating Committee, jumped on the comments calling the idea of such tariffs protectionist and "an excuse to impose trade restrictions."

China recently surpassed the US as the world's top emitter greenhouse gases, but Chinese officials have frequently said that the onus of emissions should be placed on countries that purchase the goods manufactured in China, rather than by China itself.

The proposed bill acknowledges the obstacles some industries – such as steel, aluminium, cement and chemicals – will face under cap-and-trade and proposes assistance in the form of rebates, incentives for carbon capture projects,

and a 'special reserve' of allowances administered by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that can be used in the event that prices rise faster than expected. However, should these measures prove to be less than what is required, the bill allows the president to establish a so-called 'border adjustment programme', which some observers speculate is a code term for import taxes or tariffs.

### **Offsets, clean transport also proposed**

The draft looks to complement the cap-and-trade scheme with annual reductions of 2 billion tons of offsets – investments in clean energy projects such as wind and solar farms – per year. Also, power utilities would be required to generate 6 percent of their power from alternative energy sources by 2012 and 25 percent by 2025.

Regarding transportation, the proposal would establish a new low-carbon fuel standard to promote the use of biofuels and provide grants and loans to help electric vehicles gain a better foothold in the auto market.

The European Commission (EC), the EU's executive arm has welcomed the proposal, saying it boosts the possibilities for a favourable outcome at the December UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark.

"We welcome this. It is really very encouraging," EC Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas told a news conference on Wednesday. "This will send a very strong message...and facilitate an agreement in Copenhagen."

### **Additional information**

A copy of the draft can be found here:

[http://www.eenews.net/public/25/10364/feature/s/documents/2009/03/31/document\\_gw\\_03.pdf](http://www.eenews.net/public/25/10364/feature/s/documents/2009/03/31/document_gw_03.pdf)

ICTSD Reporting; "House Democrats release draft energy, climate bill," NEW YORK TIMES, 31 March 2009; "U.S. Democrats launch draft carbon legislation," REUTERS, 31 March 2009; "U.S. Carbon Emissions Trading Core of Clean

Energy Bill," ENVIRONMENT NEWS SERVICE, 31 March 2009;

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## **Bonn Climate Change Conference Gets Underway**

While the outcome of the G20 meeting in London has been taking centre stage, over 2,000 world leaders and activists have gathered in Bonn, Germany to reach a consensus about the direction to take regarding climate change and greenhouse gas emissions. These nine days of meetings, which commenced on 29 March mark the first major UN climate change meeting of the year.

On the opening day of the meetings, the Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Yvo de Boer stated that "this first negotiating session this year is critical for moving the world closer to a political solution to climate change." The fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP15) is set to meet in Copenhagen in December where world leaders plan to create a new treaty to replace the UNFCCC Kyoto Protocol which expires in 2012.

The current Bonn meeting is the first of three major two-week long UNFCCC meetings before the principal conference in Copenhagen. That means that there are less than six weeks of collective UN negotiations before Copenhagen – a point emphasised by Mr. de Boer. Moreover, the course of the negotiations in Bonn will be an important determinant for the rest of the meetings held this year.

de Boer highlighted four areas of focus for the COP15 negotiations which must be stressed in the preparatory climate change meetings. He said that industrialised countries must specify how they intend to cut back carbon emissions, and second, he insisted that developing countries indicate how they will diminish the growth of these greenhouse gases. Third, he said that developing countries must receive greater financial support for carbon emission reduction since their economies often depend on high industry and consequent greenhouse gas pollution.

Lastly, de Boer stated that world leaders must develop a system of governance for global climate change policy in which both developed and developing states are equally represented. Some draft policies are in the negotiation process in Bonn, and de Boer says he hopes to have a “fully-fledged negotiating text on the table by June” when the next UNFCCC meeting takes place in Bonn again.

### **Developed, developing countries look for middle ground**

The divide between developed and developing countries continues to stall effective negotiation. Throughout the meetings, developing nations have been insistent that developed nations decrease their greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent below 1990s levels by 2020, a benchmark stressed by Chinese delegate Xu Huaqing.

Because developing countries depend more heavily on industry, they are reluctant to commit to any binding climate change legislation. Climate change legislation could cause a serious burden for developing nations who do not have the clean technologies and resources of some of the developed nations—a concern that is evidently recognised by de Boer. Yet, developing small island states and other tropical states who are most vulnerable to the floods, droughts, and other catastrophes that global warming could inevitably bring are especially eager to take action.

### **New data increasing sense of urgency**

Meanwhile, developed countries including the US and Australia are demanding that developing countries like China and India – whose economies are rapidly growing – be held equally accountable for emissions. Developed states do seem to understand their obligation to developing countries though, and scientific reports that have come out recently saying that sea levels are rising much faster than had previously been thought are making some countries increasingly anxious to come to an agreement.

“Industrialised countries are committed to lead the way, and the world is looking to them to agree on ambitious targets, in line with what science is telling us, in Copenhagen in December,” said

Harald Dovland, Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol.

Michael Zammit Cutajar, Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention, shared this commitment to compromise. “Delegates will explore further issues where we already have a solid foundation for agreement, but also where elaboration is still lacking for an ambitious and fair agreed outcome in Copenhagen.”

### **Many optimistic in light of new US proposal**

With a greater commitment to climate change by the US under the direction of President Obama, world leaders seem to be more motivated and more determined to come to an agreement. Also, many observers say the ‘cap-and trade’ emissions program legislation that was finally released by the US Congress last week is surely a sign of a new vow to take climate change more seriously (see related story, this issue).

In Bonn, the US has been taking a more resolute stance, and Barack Obama's Special Envoy for Climate Change Todd Stern told reporters on the opening day of the meetings “my team and I came here determined to make up for lost time. America is now once again strongly committed to developing a global response to climate change.”

Economic concerns are a major focus of the climate change debate and a reason for much of the deadlock between nations. Few disagree on the potential dangers to humans and the environment caused by global warming, but as the current meeting in Bonn points out so far, there is still no viable solution to meet the interests of developing and of developed states.

The Bonn climate change talks will conclude on 8 April.

ICTSD Reporting; “U.S. says climate plans do not signal protectionism,” REUTERS, 1 April 2009; “Rich urged at UN talks to make deeper CO<sub>2</sub> cuts,” REUTERS, 1 April 2009; “First in Series of Major UN Climate Change Negotiating Sessions in 2009 Kicks off in Bonn,” UNFCCC PRESS RELEASE, 29 March 2009; “New Day Dawns for

U.S. Global Warming Policy,” ENVIRONMENT NEWS SERVICE, 30 Marce 2009.

## IN BRIEF

### Canada, US Look to Restrict Shipping Emissions

Canada and the US have asked the UN International Maritime Organization (IMO) to establish a massive shipping pollution buffer zone extending 370 km off the two country's coastlines. Under the plan, all ships engaged in international trade that either call at ports in, or navigate through, the 'Emissions Control Area' (ECA) would be forced to adopt strict emissions standards set well below current global requirements. It is the first proposal of its kind.

In order to meet the proposed ECA requirements, fuel used by ships would be required to contain no more than 1,000 parts per million of sulphur by 2015 – a reduction of some 98 percent from current levels – and nitrogen oxide emissions would have to be cut by 80 percent.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which submitted the proposal on 27 March on behalf of the two countries, says that pollution from shipping has grown to alarming levels and is impacting the health of those living in coastal communities. Shipping emissions are an ongoing environmental concern due to the common use of heavy sulphur-rich 'bunker' fuels.

“This is an important – and long overdue – step in our efforts to protect the air and water along our shores, and the health of the people in our coastal communities,” said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. “We want to ensure the economic strength of our port cities at the same time that we take responsible steps to protect public health and the environment in the United States and across the globe.”

US Senator Barbara Boxer, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works concurred. “We have known for a long time that our families that live around ports have a

higher rate of respiratory illness, including cancer,” Boxer said. “EPA’s announcement today is music to my ears because it means the United States is stepping forward to take a strong leadership role on clean air around ports.”

The EPA estimates that the buffer zone initiative could prevent the deaths of some 8,300 American and Canadian lives every year by 2020. More than 40 percent of US ports are in metropolitan areas that fail to meet federal air quality standards.

Officials say the proposal is meant to prevent a sudden rush to maritime transportation by other industries that are expected to face emissions controls.

The shipping industry says the measure would prove to be costly as expensive fuel will be needed to travel within the proposed ECA. The IMO is expected to begin reviewing the proposal in July. If approved, the EPA says implementation could occur as early as next year.

“U.S. Proposes to Slash Harmful Ship Emissions Along the Nation’s Coastlines to Save Lives,” EPA PRESS RELEASE, 30 March 2009; “US Asks UN To Help Cut Ship Emissions Near Coasts,” REUTERS, 31 March 2009; “EPA Proposes Sharp Cuts in Air Pollution From Ships,” WALL STREET JOURNAL, 30 March 2009; “North American waters set to become largest emissions control area,” LLOYD’S LIST, 31 March 2009.

### Luxembourg to Ban GM Maize Cultivation

Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is scheduled to become the fifth EU country to effectively ban cultivation of Monsanto’s genetically modified (GM) crop MON810. The microstate made the decision after recent national studies failed to conclude that the crop as ‘completely innocuous’.

The move comes after two failed attempts in as many months by the European Commission (EC) to lift controversial bans from the four other EU nations prohibiting cultivation of the GM crop. Despite being deemed safe by the European Food

Safety Authority (EFSA), France, Greece, Austria, Hungary, and now Luxembourg have independently resisted pressure from Brussels (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 20 February 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/41093/> and 6 March 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/34714/>).

In the past, the WTO has urged the EU to take action, arguing that national bans are effectively denying market access allowed under trade rules to countries using biotechnology in agriculture. However, Marco Coniero of Greenpeace EU GMO policy director argues that EU nations must protect their citizens with these bans.

“Last year, EU ministers called for a re-think in the way GM crops are assessed in Europe,” Contiero said. “Faced with the Commission’s reticence to take these concerns on board, EU countries have no other choice but to protect their citizens and their environment with national bans.”

Luxembourg’s main agricultural products are barley, oats, potatoes, wheat, fruits, and grapes for wine – the agricultural sector takes up 27 percent of the work force and 50 percent of the country’s arable land.

Activist organisation Greenpeace has been active in the country’s anti-GM movement. In February, the organisation was instrumental in an initiative that had the city of Luxembourg declare itself a ‘GMO-free city’. Results of a recent survey show that 83 percent of Luxembourg’s population is against the use of biotechnology.

The current EU system of approving agriculture biotechnology came after some EU member states pushed back against the decision to give a green light to MON810 in 1998, which to the development of a new legal framework. This allows the EU to approve GM crops throughout the EU, providing no scientific evidence showing health or environmental dangers is presented.

Insect-resistant MON810 is currently the only GM crop approved for planting in the EU. Of all 27 member countries accessible to GM crops, only 7 harvest the GM crop within their borders.

ICTSD Reporting; “EU, Luxembourg to ban MON810 maize too,” NEWSFOOD.COM, 24 March 2009; “Luxembourg, European capital, declared ‘GMO-free city,’” GREENPEACE, February 2009.

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## Angola Moves toward Biofuels Production

An Angolan-Brazilian consortium says it is moving ahead with plans to establish a major biofuels production facility in the Angolan province of Malanje. The US\$258 million project – scheduled for completion by 2012 – will include a 30 thousand hectare area for sugarcane cultivation and a plant for processing the crop into sugar and ethanol. The facility will also generate bioenergy.

The sub-Saharan African country has been mulling over its capacity to produce biofuels for some time and is considering a policy proposal specifically aimed at nurturing the industry through funding incentives and investments in infrastructure. The project brings together Angola’s state oil company Sonangol and Damer with Brazilian construction behemoth Odebrecht in a joint venture dubbed the Bioenergy Company of Angola (BIOCOM).

Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has long been a champion of biofuels as a tool for development in land rich but cash poor countries, particularly in Africa (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 28 November 2008, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/34714/>). And the linguistic and cultural ties that the two former Portuguese colonies continue to share make Angola an ideal country to collaborate with the South American biofuels giant. In addition to participating in the implementation and management of the project, Brazil will provide technology transfer, as the country has decades of experience in the production of biofuels.

Eduardo Leão de Sousa, Executive Director of the Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Association (UNICA), says Angola’s favourable climatic and agricultural conditions make the country provide the country with promising potential for biofuels



production. Moreover, the geographical location and the trade preferences the former colony shares with Portugal makes Angola ideally suited for export to the EU. Leão de Sousa also noted that the Brazilian cooperation in terms of technology transfer should not be strictly limited to the agricultural sector, but should also extend to the automobile, as in the development of flex-fuel engines.

BIOCOM says the facility will annually generate 30 million litres of ethanol, 250 tons of sugar as well as 160 thousand megawatts per hour. Initially, production will be directed to supply the domestic market with the possibility of exporting surpluses over the medium term. The consortium also hopes to install more facilities in the country.

The project is part of the efforts of the Angolan government to reduce dependence on imported sugar and consumption of fossil fuels in the country. Because ethanol has not yet been officially adopted as a fuel by the Angolan government, the activity of the plant will initially be aimed at sugar manufacturing. However, the opportunities generated by the possible inclusion of ethanol in the energy matrix have aroused much interest both in government and the private sector.

In addition to the government proposal to approve ethanol as an automotive fuel, the Angolan government is preparing a legislation package that would regulate biofuels production.

This article is primarily based on a translation from ICTSD's Portuguese biweekly periodical Pontes Quinzenal.

"Biocombustíveis esperam legislação," GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, 23 March, 2009; "Angola prepara-se para produzir biocombustíveis," GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA, 23 March 2009; "Bioenergia em Angola começa a funcionar em 2012," GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA - PORTAL ENTERPRISE, 17 March 2009; "Produção de cana-de-açúcar abre espaço para energias renováveis em Angola," BRAZILIAN SUGARCANE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (UNICA), 16 March 2009.

## EVENTS AND RESOURCES

### Events

#### Coming up in the next two weeks (3-17 April)

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](mailto: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](mailto:unesco@un-conference2009.org)

7 April 2009, London, England. HUNGER AND CLIMATE CHANGE: SOME PRACTICAL ANSWERS? Experts and scientists will gather at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers to debate and

analysis some of issues plaguing the international community. This conference will also discuss the rapid world population growth, expected to stabilize at nine billion in the middle of this century, in correlation with our food systems which then will need to feed 50% more people than they do today. The likely impact of climate change on agriculture will make the challenge even greater. For more information on this event visit [http://www.practicalaction.org/?id=hunger\\_climatechange&utm\\_campaign=Hunger+and+climate+change](http://www.practicalaction.org/?id=hunger_climatechange&utm_campaign=Hunger+and+climate+change)

11-13 April, Pattaya, Thailand. **THE FORGOTTEN CRISIS: ARRESTING WILDLIFE DEPLETION IN ASIA THROUGH STRENGTHENED REGIONAL COOPERATION AND EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS.** This international workshop will bring together policymakers, senior government officials, scientists and technical experts, NGOs, and other stakeholders to 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. For more information, contact the Wildlife Enforcement Network, tel: (66 38) 428-155; fax: (66 38) 423-155; internet: <http://www.asean-wen.org/>

### Other Upcoming Events

25 May- 6 September, Geneva, Switzerland. **UNEP/UNIGE/GRADUATE INSTITUTE TRAINING COURSE IN ENVIRONMENTAL DIPLOMACY.** This training course aims to provide diplomats, negotiators, policy-makers and decision-makers with the skills they need to understand the nature of specific environment concerns, to participate in global negotiations related to the environment, sustainable development, and other related fields. For further information, contact Céline Germond-Duret: email: [celine.duret@unige.ch](mailto:celine.duret@unige.ch); internet: [www.unige.ch/formcont/environmentaldiplomacy](http://www.unige.ch/formcont/environmentaldiplomacy).

16-18 June, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. **SECOND AFRICA BIOENERGY CONFERENCE AND EXPO.** This conference will bring together

Ministers, Ambassadors, CEOs and stakeholders from across leading bioenergy, agriculture, chemical and finance platforms to discuss, face-to-face, a vast range of today's most important issues while networking to set the stage for the next step in Africa's bioenergy revolution. Featuring more than 50 speakers and 450 delegates, participants will focus on issues such as current economic challenges have in many ways demonstrating the need for energy sources, the call for the development of sustainable agriculture and renewable energy programs, along with the need build up renewable energy projects and infrastructure. The Bioenergy Conference will not only showcase the newest technologies from biorefineries to gasification processes, but will also examine such pressing issues as blending technologies and infrastructure development. For information, contact the organisers: tel: +1-605-323-0119; fax: +1-605-323-0122; email: [info@biofuelsconferences.com](mailto:info@biofuelsconferences.com); internet: <http://www.africabiofuels.com/>

27-29 May, Barcelona, Spain. **GLOBAL CARBON MARKET FAIR & CONFERENCE.** This event, jointly organised 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](mailto:spafford@carbonexpo.org); internet: [www.carbonexpo.com](http://www.carbonexpo.com).

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, this 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](mailto:lucas.assuncao@unctad.org); internet:



<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/meeting.aspx?ntItemID=4714&lang=1&m=15861&info=not>

6-15 April, London, UK. WORLD PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: MOVING INTO THE SECOND HALF OF THE UN DECADE. 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. For more information, contact UNESCO: email: [unesco@un-conference2009.org](mailto:unesco@un-conference2009.org)

9-11 June, Jakarta, Indonesia. INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ADVANCED MATERIAL FOR NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY. This workshop, organised by the Research Center for Physics, Indonesian Institute of Sciences, will provide a platform for information sharing on issues related to research in materials for application in new and renewable energy projects. The event also aims to encourage member countries and the rest of the world to find a feasible solution to issues related to Climate Change and Global Warming. For more information, contact Bambang Prihandoko: tel: +62-21-7560570; fax: +62-21-7560554; email: [amnre2009@mail.lipi.go.id](mailto:amnre2009@mail.lipi.go.id); internet: <http://amnre2009.fisika.lipi.go.id/>

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## 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).

GLOBAL GREEN NEW DEAL. By the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), March 2009. This policy brief presents three broad objectives. In the short term, it expects to make a major contribution to reviving the world economy, saving and creating jobs, and protecting vulnerable groups. In the medium term, it should

promote sustainable and inclusive growth and the achievement of the MDGs, especially ending extreme poverty by 2025. Also in the medium term, focus on reducing carbon dependency and ecosystem degradation – these are key risks along a path to a sustainable world economy. This report also recognises the lack of resources in many developing countries, incurring reliance on foreign aid and support, both financial and non-financial. The research summarised in the policy brief aims to make a strong case for the active 'greening' of proposed fiscal stimulus packages, although necessary changes in international and domestic policy architectures must be made for this to be possible, as the current framework is biased in favour of resurrecting an unsustainable 'brown economy'. To access this report refer to [http://www.unep.org/pdf/A\\_Global\\_Green\\_New\\_Deal\\_Policy\\_Brief.pdf](http://www.unep.org/pdf/A_Global_Green_New_Deal_Policy_Brief.pdf)

LOCAL VARIETIES: RISING FOOD PRICES AND SMALL FARMERS' ACCESS TO SEED COUNTRY STUDIES IN MALI, KENYA, AND INDIA. By the Environment and Production Technology Division International Food Policy Research Institute, 2009. There are no easy solutions to the ongoing food price crisis. To address the complex causes of this phenomenon, IFPRI has recommended a combination of 'emergency' and 'resilience' actions. This emergency agriculture package requires carefully targeted subsidies to boost production of major food crops (rice, wheat, and maize) in favorable environments with good soils, moisture, and market infrastructure. As part of the resilience package, IFPRI proposes scaled-up investment in agricultural growth to bolster production responses over the longer term. However, less research has been committed to more arid, less favorable environments, which has been compounded by a prolonged decline in agricultural investment by aid donors and developing-country governments. For more information and to access this policy brief refer to <http://www.ifpri.org/PUBS/ib/ib59.asp>.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF NON-TRANSGENIC BIOTECHNOLOGIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: THE CASE OF PLANT MICROPROPAGATION IN AFRICA. By The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), March 2009. In the first chapter of this 75-page

book the author discusses some approaches used in impact assessment of innovations and presents a general overview of the literature about the impact of non-transgenic biotechnologies. In the following chapters the authors survey the extent of micropropagation application in Gabon, Mali, Nigeria, Uganda, and Zimbabwe, and ends with reports of the findings in two field studies on micropropagation of banana in Uganda and sweet potato in Zimbabwe; aiming to better understand the process of adoption of micropropagated planting materials and its impacts on livelihoods. To access this book refer to <http://www.fao.org/docrep/011/i0340e/i0340e00.htm>