



Bridges Trade BioRes

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

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CLIMATE CHANGE

Kirk Moves to Quell Concern over Carbon Border Tax

A recent letter from US Trade Representative Ron Kirk downplays the notion that the Obama Administration would implement a border tax on imports from large developing countries to help domestic industry under a cap-and-trade scheme.

Kirk's statement came as a response to a request for clarification by Republican Congressman Joe Barton, regarding Energy Secretary Stephen Chu comments at House hearing in early March. Chu had suggested that in order to prevent 'leakage' and protect local industry under a US cap-and-trade programme, the US would not rule out tariffs and other trade barriers as a means to place pressure on countries like China and India to cut back on emissions. "If other countries don't impose a cost on carbon, then we will be at a disadvantage," Chu said at the hearing.

Leakage, a term referring to the movement of carbon producing industry to countries with more lax environmental standards, is a prime concern for the Obama Administration as it mulls over a proposed emissions trading scheme, unveiled on 31 March (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 3 April 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/44634/>). Much speculation has been made over the ways in which the US plans to prevent such leakage under the scheme and protect domestic industry.

Letter addresses protectionist concerns

China has been particularly vocal over the suggestion of any such US import tariffs, arguing that the US could use the cap-and-trade scheme to justify protectionism. China maintains that the responsibility for emissions should be shouldered by the country importing the goods, rather than where the goods are manufactured.

Kirk's 14 April letter – addressed to Republican representatives Joe Barton, Ralph Hall, Greg Walden, and Paul Brown – takes aim at protectionist concerns, insisting that the Administration will ensure that its energy and climate policy will not infringe on the country's international trade obligations and will avoid initiatives that could trigger retaliatory trade measures on US exports.

“Our consideration of the necessity of, and options for, addressing carbon leakage will include how potential measures might be targeted towards the circumstances of energy and trade intensive industries,” the letter reads. “The Administration, however, does not support any specific measures, including border measures, at this time.”

Commitment to UNFCCC process re-affirmed

The letter also re-affirms US support for Copenhagen deal, suggesting that concerns over carbon leakage would be dealt with best through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

“The Administration believes that the best approach to address concerns with carbon leakage is to negotiate a new international climate change agreement in the United Nations that ensures that all the major emitters take long term, significant action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions,” Kirk wrote. “We look forward to working with these countries to negotiate a meaningful global climate agreement and actively avoiding circumstances in which we are simply exporting carbon emissions abroad.”

Letter leaves ‘unanswered questions’: Republicans

Responding to the letter, deputy Republican staff director on the Energy and Commerce Committee Larry Neal said Kirk “tries to make up in cheery confidence what it lacks in facts.” Neal said the letter leaves many unanswered questions regarding the possibility of other countries taking ‘strategic advantage’ of the higher cost of production US manufacturers would face under the cap-and-trade programme.

The proposed US carbon trading scheme has been controversial. The proposal faces bipartisan opposition and many observers say the bill is unlikely to get approval from congress if concerns over protecting domestic manufacturing are not addressed.

Additional Information

Ron Kirk's 14 April letter to Joe Barton can be accessed here: <http://ictsd.net/downloads/2009/04/kirk-letter-14-04-09.pdf>

ICTSD Reporting, “Obama Wants Climate Bill Mindful Of WTO Rules – Kirk,” REUTERS, 16 April 2009.

Parties in Bonn Demand Greater Emphasis on Agriculture

As two weeks of climate change negotiations in Bonn, Germany, came to a close on 8 April, little concrete action regarding international climate change policy was agreed upon. But observers say an important shift in negotiations occurred with a strong consensus supporting a more significant focus on agriculture in a post-Kyoto deal.

On 4 April, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) hosted its first workshop on agriculture where participants from the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) and other related organisations discussed the potential mitigation power of agriculture.

“The biggest mitigation potential of agriculture should be expected in terms of improvements in efficiency rather than absolute reductions in GHG emissions,” said Raul Montemayor, Vice President of IFAP. Montemayor also spoke of essential elements needed to make emissions reductions from agriculture a reality. He discussed the need for better technology, for incentives for farmers, and for a verification system for those products produced through clean agricultural practices.

Additionally, William Hohenstein, Director of the Climate Change Office at the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), highlighted the serious threat that climate change poses to farmers and those in the agricultural industry, saying that “agriculture is on the receiving end of climate change; we are likely to be one of the sectors most impacted by climate change.”

Agriculture advocates at the workshop emphasized the need for greater research related to the capability of agriculture to cut greenhouse gas emissions, and they strongly urged that agriculture be a focal point in the new climate change policy that will replace the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012. Many other states support the inclusion of agriculture in the new climate change policy that is set to be drafted in Copenhagen in December, and the recent consensus suggests that leaders now want to embrace the potential of agriculture in the deal.

Leaders in Bonn show greater flexibility

As indicated by the talks on agriculture, leaders at the Bonn Conference seemed to be more open in their dialogue of both new and old climate change issues compared to previous international meetings, such as that in Poznan, Poland, last December (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 15 December 2008, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/36372/>).

However, environmentalists say there is still a considerable amount of work that needs to be done. “Friendly rhetoric certainly helps, but without serious commitment and binding targets to reduce carbon dioxide it simply isn't good enough to protect a fragile planet from runaway climate change,” said Kim Carstensen, leader of WWF's Global Climate Initiative.

de Boer satisfied with Bonn outcome

Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, presented several major goals for the Copenhagen meeting at the start of the Bonn Conference, but observers say any concrete progress towards these goals was insignificant. On the opening day in Bonn, de Boer stated that industrialised and developing countries must describe their plans for emissions reductions and developed and developing states must form an

agreement for the financing of the inevitable economic burden that developing states will face when converting to cleaner technologies. (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 3 April 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/44630/>).

Furthermore, developing countries – who had demanded that developed states cut their emissions by 40 percent by 2020 and who had requested US\$2 billion in finances from developed countries – said they were disappointed with the minimal discussion about emissions targets for industrialised countries and about the lack of agreement on financing their mitigation strategies.

But despite the lack of substantial progress, de Boer said Bonn was a success. “Countries have narrowed gaps in many practical areas, for example on how to strengthen action for adapting to the impacts of climate change,” de Boer said.

More meetings added to UNFCCC agenda

Due to the slow movement towards international agreement on climate change policy, delegates at the conference in Bonn have agreed to organise further meetings in addition to the UNFCCC meetings that have already been planned for the year. Also, the new Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) Chair John Ashe from Antigua and Barbuda has been requested by the other parties at the conference to draft two documents for the next UNFCCC meeting in June. These documents will include a proposal for the amendment to the Kyoto Protocol.

ICTSD Reporting; “Summary of the Fifth Session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action and the Seventh Session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties Under the Kyoto Protocol,” EARTH NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN, 10 April 2009; “Slow Progress Made in Bonn Climate Talks,” ENVIRONMENT NEWS SERVICE, 8 April 2009.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

RSPO Certifies First Indonesian Palm Oil Company

An Indonesian palm oil company has become the country's first to be certified 'sustainable' by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). But environmentalists caution that production in the world's largest palm oil producing country continues to pose a serious environmental threat.

The sustainability certification, granted to a business unit of PT Musim Mas Group, covers two palm oil mills and six estates covering a total of 28,336 hectares in the Province of Riau on the island of Sumatra. Palm oil exports originating from the mills can now claim to be produced from a sustainable source – a valuable marketing tool.

As the largest palm oil producer in the world, Indonesia has been anxious to promote the integrity of its lucrative crop. Sustainable certification could prove to be a boon to exporters as environmentally-friendly markets are opened up. Europe began receiving shipments of RSPO-certified palm oil from Southeast Asia in November 2008 (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 14 November 2008, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/33649/>).

Indonesian companies struggle with requirements

Some critics – such as Greenpeace – have panned the RSPO certification in the past, arguing that requirements are not stringent enough and accusing some of the Roundtable's members of continuing to engage in unsustainable practices. However, exporters in Indonesia have found it particularly difficult to meet the standards set out by the RSPO.

Several organisations, including PT Hindoli, PT Sime Indo Agro and PT Perkebunan Nusantara III, have been attempting to acquire certification for some time. But some observers speculate that the green light given to PT Musim Mas could be the start of a series of approvals.

“This is a significant achievement for Musim Mas Group and Indonesia,” said the company's President Director, Bachtiar Karim. “It underlines the on-going efforts in achieving the highest standards in operations and making palm oil production sustainable.”

But with as much as 40 percent of Indonesia's palm oil being produced by small landholders (some 1.5 million farmers), creating a mass movement for industry-wide reform faces challenges. Some critics say small-scale farmers may have difficulty raising the capital needed to conform to the RSPO's requirements, leaving sustainable certification in the hands of big business. The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has recognised the problem and last month held a workshop to prepare local trainers to educate small landholders on the need for sustainable practices and how to comply with RSPO criteria.

Palm trade growing in recent years

According to the RSPO, more than 28 million tonnes of palm oil are produced around the world each year – almost one third of the world's vegetable oil production. The oil is found in a variety of foods, including margarine, cooking oil, potato chips, cakes, and cookies. It is also an ingredient in many cosmetics, soaps, shampoos and detergents. Recently, palm oil has also begun to be used as a biofuel.

Over the past two decades, areas undergoing palm oil cultivation have grown by about 43 percent, according to RSPO – mostly in Malaysia and Indonesia, where deforestation pressures are already high.

Palm production has further increased in recent years as biofuels have gained a better foothold as a more environmentally friendly alternative to fossil fuels. Proponents argue that because the land is being used to grow palm trees, the negative aspects of clearing forests are mitigated. Additionally, they assert that because palm species for oil production have not been genetically modified and they produce the highest per hectare yield of all oil or oil seed crops, the industry should be embraced as environmentally sound.

But environmentalists often point out that the palm oil industry continues to contribute to the loss of old-growth forests and depletion of the already-scarce habitat of endangered species, such as the Sumatran tiger, orangutan, and elephant.

Moreover, a recent study appearing in the journal *Conservation Biology* found that rainforest conversion for biofuels production is not as environmentally benign as previously thought, due to factors such as the release of carbon dioxide during the deforestation process and the fact that crops such as palm do not absorb as much carbon dioxide as the rainforests they replace (see *Bridges Trade BioRes*, 15 December 2008, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/36360/>)

Palm exports from Indonesia have been impacted severely by the global economic crisis, with overseas demand falling by as much as a third in late 2008. Moreover, Indonesia's non-oil and gas exports, including palm oil and rubber, are expected to drop by as much as 30 percent over the next three months in response to shrinking global demand.

RSPO background

Spearheaded by WWF in 2001, the RSPO has become a global, non-profit, multi-stakeholders forum seeking to promote the production and use of sustainable palm oil. The Roundtable is comprised of an array of stakeholders, including representatives from palm oil producers, processors and users of palm oil, retailers, bankers, NGOs, and research organisations.

The group aims to define the criteria for sustainable production and use of palm oil, implement projects that will help implement these criteria, help overcome obstacles that are preventing the implementation of sustainable practices, raise funds to finance projects related to the goals of the RSPO, and to disseminate information on the group's activities.

RSPO has developed principles and criteria as standards for the production of sustainable palm oil. Certification of sustainable palm oil is based on the RSPO protocol and certification system which has been developed for use by the

certification bodies as well as for members who want their palm oil to be certified.

RSPO standards comprise eight principles, 39 criteria and 144 indicators which stipulate the requirements for legal, economically viable, socially beneficial and environmentally appropriate management and operations.

These guidelines were assessed for PT Musim Mas by Control Union Certifications (CUC) based on the Indonesian National Interpretation adopted in 2008.

Additional Information

The RSPO Assessment Report can be accessed here:

http://www.rspo.org/resource_centre/Musim_Mas_RSPO_ASSESS_08_1_ENG.pdf

The PT Musim Mas certificate can be viewed here:

<http://www.musimmas.com/images/PDF/Sustainable%20Certificate%20Final.pdf>

ICTSD Reporting; "First In Indonesia Awarded RSPO Sustainable Palm Oil Certification," MUSIM MAS PRESS RELEASE, 20 January 2009; "First Indonesian Palm Oil Company Certified Sustainable," ENVIRONMENT NEWS SERVICE, 7 April 2009; "Non-Oil Exports May Plummet 30% As Big Contracts Evaporate, Says GPEI," JAKARTA GLOBE, 10 April 2009.

IN BRIEF

Fisheries 'Roadmap' Highlighted as WTO Rules Group Meets

A recent informal meeting of the WTO's Negotiating Group on Rules focused exclusively on moving the committee's negotiations on fisheries subsidies forward. But while the chair praised delegates for their "serious engagement" on the issue, progress toward new legal language to limit subsidies that contribute to overfishing remains uncertain.

"It is too early to predict when [the chair] might feel ready to issue another text," said a trade official who participated in the meeting.

Given the controversy over the most recent draft fisheries text, which was released in 2007, the chair of the rules group, Ambassador Guillermo Valles Galmés of Uruguay, took a step back in December by replacing the legal language of the previous draft with a 'roadmap' for future talks on the issue. "We have no pre-existing agreement to which to revert, and the differences among delegations go to the very concepts and structure of the rules," the chair explained (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 23 January 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/38538/>).

At this most recent meeting, held on 30 March and 1 April, delegates addressed the first three questions posed in the chair's 'roadmap'. Those questions covered what subsidies should and should not be prohibited, as well as how Members can ensure that subsidies that are permitted do not contribute to the depletion of fish stocks.

New Zealand, speaking on behalf of a coalition of countries dubbed the Friends of Fish, called for a broad prohibition of subsidies, with only limited exceptions. Speaking for itself, New Zealand said the WTO should prohibit subsidies for operating costs, port infrastructure, income support, price support and illegal fishing. The US, also a member of the Friends of Fish coalition, said that all subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing should be banned.

But Japan, Korea and Taiwan argued for a narrower embargo on fishing subsidies. Indonesia, India and El Salvador all spoke up to stress the importance of allowing developing countries adequate flexibility in implementing any new disciplines.

"I don't think we can say that we narrowed any gaps," said the trade official who attended the meeting, but added that the session had allowed delegates to "drill into" arguments on both sides and explore the technical aspects of the talks.

The next meeting of the rules group will be held the week of 11 May. At that session, delegates will

address anti-dumping and subsidies, in addition to the disciplines on fisheries.

ICTSD reporting.

Monsanto Mulls Legal Action as Germany Bans MON810

Resisting the will of the European Commission, Germany has become the sixth European country to impose a national ban on the cultivation of MON810, a genetically modified strain of maize. The country said the ban, imposed on 14 April, was based on environmental concerns, but agriculture giant Monsanto, which manufactures the pest-resistant strain, said that the fears were unfounded and that it was considering legal action on the matter.

"I have come to the conclusion there are just reasons to assume that the genetically modified maize MON810 represents a danger for the environment," Ilse Aigner, Germany's minister of agriculture, told reporters on Tuesday, AFP reported. "Therefore, the cultivation of MON810 is now banned in Germany."

Monsanto responded quickly to the move. "Monsanto is examining all available options and reserves the right to take legal steps so that German farmers can sow MON810 in the current season," said Ursula Luettmmer-Ouazane, head of Monsanto's German division, in a statement.

"We are disappointed and frankly, we don't believe that they have justification to warrant this," Brad Mitchell, a spokesman for Monsanto, told the *St. Louis Business Journal*. "They have cited unconvincing evidence that it is unsafe for aquatic organisms. But the scientific committee of the European Union approved it."

The European Commission has approved the use of MON810 maize and Germany has allowed farmers to grow the strain since 2005. But EU members Austria, France, Greece and Hungary have all banned its use; Luxembourg announced its own prohibition of MON810 just last month

(see Bridges Trade BioRes, 3 April 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/44622/>).

Europe's aversion to GM products motivated the US, Argentina, and Canada to bring a complaint to the WTO in 2003. Three years later, the WTO ruled that the EU's de facto ban on genetically modified food imports between 1984 and 2004 violated world trade rules.

Since then, the WTO has called on the EU to pressure its member countries to allow farmers to produce the modified strain of maize. Earlier this year, the European Commission was unable to force France and Greece, and later Austria and Hungary, to allow the use of MON810. But both efforts were unsuccessful (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 20 February 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/41093/> and 6 March 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/42458/>). The countries claim that current scientific studies do not provide adequate assurance that the genetically modified crop does no harm to humans, animals or the environment.

While the Monsanto maize is approved for use in all EU countries that have not imposed national bans, it is harvested in only seven of the bloc's 27 member states.

ICTSD reporting; "Germany banks Monsanto's GM maize," BBC NEWS, 14 April 2009; "Germany wants to ban Monsanto Corn," ST LOUIS BUSINESS JOURNAL, 15 April 2009; "Germany to join other European countries in ban against Monsanto's genetically modified MON 810 corn," EAT.DRINK.BETTER, 15 April 2009; "Monsanto mulls legal action over GMO ban," AFP, 15 April 2009.

Canada Challenges Korean Beef Ban at the WTO

Canada has launched a WTO case against a South Korean ban on imports of Canadian beef, Ottawa announced on 9 April. The ban was put in place five years ago after Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, or mad cow disease, was found in Canadian cattle, but Ottawa now insists that a

prohibition based on health concerns is unjustified.

"We are disappointed to have to launch this action, as we had hoped to resolve our differences through negotiation," Canadian trade minister Stockwell Day said in a statement on 9 April.

Ottawa points to the seal of approval it won from the World Organisation for Animal Health as proof that Canadian beef is safe to eat. Nearly two years ago, the group categorised Canada as a 'controlled-risk' country for mad cow disease, the same classification it has given to the United States. Seoul began accepting imports of US beef last year, after banning them in 2003 amid fears of mad cow (see Bridges Weekly, 25 June 2008, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/12268/>).

Seoul and Ottawa held talks last year to try to resolve their dispute over the embargo, but to no avail. The Korean ban remains in full force.

"If the beef issue goes before the WTO, only hard scientific and objective proof involving existing data on mad cow disease will be examined, without domestic consumer sentiment or public opinion taken into consideration," Korean Farm Minister Chang Tae-pyong said, according to Bernama news service. Chang added that he hopes to settle the matter through bilateral talks.

Consultations between the parties should commence within 30 days of 9 April, the day the request was filed. If those talks have failed to produce a resolution after 60 days, Canada can request the establishment of an arbitration panel to hear the dispute.

ICTSD reporting; "Beef emerging as hot trade issue again," THE KOREA TIMES, 22 March 2009; "S. Korea to take active measures on Canadian beef import," BERNAMA, 10 April 2009.

Mozambique Approves Policy on Biofuels

In the latest move in African biofuels development, the government of Mozambique has

adopted a National Policy and Strategy for Biofuels. The new initiative, launched on 24 March, establishes guidelines for both the public and private sector to better participate in the biofuels industry.

Officials say the primary purpose for adopting the measure is to reduce the country's dependence on imported fossil fuels. Other factors, such as the need to ensure energy security, advantageous conditions for agriculture, and need to promote sustainable economic growth, were also cited as motivating factors.

Concerns over food security issues in relation to growing food crops for biofuels were highlighted in parliamentary discussions on the issue. "We will produce biofuels without compromising food production," Vice-Minister of Culture Luís Covante said. Raw materials for manufacturing ethanol include sugar cane and sorghum, while the biodiesel is often obtained from coconut and the jatropha plant.

The same parliamentary session that voted to approve the document also agreed to create a National Biofuels Council which will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of policies targeting the sector.

In an effort to promote the development of biofuel production, Mozambique has engaged governments and businesses in other countries, namely biofuels giant Brazil. Former Portuguese colonies, continue to share cultural, linguistic, and trade ties and Brazil's experience in the sector has allowed it to become a leader in biofuels cooperation deals in other countries.

Mozambique has already concluded agreements on trade cooperation, investment, and technology transfer for several years, giving the country an advantage over other African countries now dabbling in biofuels production, such as Angola (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 3 April 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/44619/>).

The first ethanol plant in Mozambique, inaugurated in October 2007, received some US\$510 million in support from the UK. The plant currently produces 120 million litres of ethanol per year.

More recently, Mozambican biofuels policies designed to stimulate the sector have led to the approval of three export-oriented projects in the south, north, and centre of the country. In order to stimulate domestic consumption, the government plans to establish a mandatory 15 percent blend of biofuel to petrol and diesel within five years.

Biofuels investments in African countries, such as Mozambique and Angola, have an advantage over other countries due to the EU tariff-free export status of former European colonies. African biofuels exports to the US may also qualify for preferential export treatment, due to the African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA), which seeks promote the development of sustainable industry in less developed countries, mostly in Africa. The program is a response to the EU "Everything but Arms" program.

"Governo aprova estratégia de biocombustíveis," MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE, 25 March 2009; "Biocombustíveis devem contribuir com 15% no consumo nacional," MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE, 12 March 2009; "Etanol em Moçambique atrai brasileiros," BRAZILIAN SUGARCANE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION PRESS RELEASE, 30 March 2009; "Moçambique aprova política que incentiva produção de biocombustíveis," BRAZILIAN SUGARCANE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION PRESS RELEASE, 27 March 2009.

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EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Events

Coming up in the next two weeks (17 April – 1 May)

20-24 April, Anchorage, US. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' GLOBAL SUMMIT ON CLIMATE CHANGE. Many posit that indigenous people are

on the front lines of climate change, witnessing environmental and climate changes first-hand, and as such, they are in a unique position to offer insight into the global climate crisis. This conference seeks to bring together representatives and experts to discuss common issues for indigenous peoples regarding this issue, specifically addressing strategies for increasing visibility and participation in policy making. For additional information please contact Patricia Cochran: email: pcochran@aknsc.org; internet: http://iccalaska.org/Media/Flyer_Summit.pdf.

21-23 April, Antalya, Turkey. THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE IPCC. This meeting of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change aims to provide decision makers with objective information and recommendations regarding the issue of climate change. Assessing in an unbiased and transparent manner the latest literature regarding the issue, this IPCC Session will discuss activities and reports of the organisation, as well as administrative matters and future endeavours. For further information refer to <http://www.ipcc.ch/meetings/session30.htm>.

24 April, Cambridge, US. MIT SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT: DISCOVERING NEW DIMENSIONS FOR GROWTH. Hosted on the campus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, this summit examines opportunities for innovation and collaboration, as well as methods of progressing toward sustainability in a recession and measuring the success of sustainability practices. Also offering participants the chance to attend a number of specialised break out sessions, this event brings together leaders in academia and business to discuss the myriad challenges and possibilities of transitioning to a sustainable world. For further information, contact Catharina Lavers: email: clavers@mit.edu; internet: <http://sustainabilitysummit.mit.edu/>.

27-29 April, Geneva, Switzerland. EXPERT MEETING ON TRADE AND CLIMATE CHANGE: TRADE AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES UNDER THE CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM (CDM). The Clean Development Mechanism was identified in the Kyoto Protocol as a method through which countries may meet their greenhouse gas reduction targets, bringing

together the goals of both developing host nations and investor countries while promoting long term environmental sustainability. With 1,300 currently registered CDM projects in 49 countries, and with thousands more being developed, this summit aims to develop widespread understanding of the mechanism and approaches to optimising CDM utilisation in emerging economies. For more information please contact Lucas Assunção: fax: +41 22 917 02 47; e-mail: lucas.assuncao@unctad.org; internet: <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/StartPage.asp?intItemID=4342>.

28-30 April, Cairo, Egypt. WORKSHOP ON INCREASING ECONOMIC RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND REDUCING RELIANCE ON VULNERABLE ECONOMIC SECTORS. This technical workshop aims to bring together experts and representatives from business and government with the goal of promoting the understanding and development of measures, methodologies and tools for increasing economic resilience. For more information please consult http://unfccc.int/adaptation/adverse_effects/items/4781.php.

29-30 April, Chicago, US. SUSTAINABLE MANUFACTURING SUMMIT. This two-day conference is part of a series of events focusing on the creation of systemic strategies for green, clean and profitable companies. This summit will examine developments in sustainable manufacturing, namely energy efficiency, clean technologies and renewables, carbon management and offsetting, climate policy updates and supply chain management. For more information, contact the organisers: email: info@greenpowerconferences.com; internet: <http://www.asaseries.com/v812/Registration/Index.php?sEventCode=SM0904US>.

30 April, London, UK. THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX: BORDERLESS STRATEGIES TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE. Open to all, the aim of the conference is to hear ideas from both leading experts and the general public on how to achieve a real reversal of greenhouse gas emissions. The conference will also feature breakout sessions on crucial topics such as aviation, tourism, energy, maritime emissions, UK initiatives, public opinion, and business responses

to climate change. For further information, contact the UN Association of the UK: email: UNAUKclimateconference@gmail.com; internet: <http://www.unalondonandse.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; internet: www.unige.ch/formcont/environmentaldiplomacy.

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; internet: www.carbonexpo.com.

2-3 June, London, United Kingdom. CARBON REDUCTION COMMITMENT SUMMIT. The CRC is a mandatory carbon trading scheme within the UK which targets emissions from around 5,000 large businesses and public sector organisations. The central focus of this conference will be ways in which those groups under the CRC can save energy and keep down costs while complying with this regulation and successfully running their respective organisations. For further information contact Adrienne Baker at adrienne.baker@greenpowerconferences.com; internet: <http://www.greenpowerconferences.com/corporateclimateresponse/crc.html>.

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; internet: <http://amnre2009.fisika.lipi.go.id/>

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; internet: <http://www.africabiofuels.com/>

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.

SEA CHANGE: US CLIMATE POLICY PROSPECTS UNDER THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION. By the Swedish Prime Minister's Office Commission on Sustainable Development, March 2009. Undoubtedly, on many fronts the policies of the Obama presidency stand in stark contrast to those of the last eight years. However, one of the most notable shifts has taken place in the new administration's position regarding climate change, and a new-found commitment to seriously tackle the issue both domestically and abroad. This new thinking, called a "sea change" by UN Climate Chief Yvo de Boer, is evident through re-engagement with international climate negotiations, administrative decisions and new policies. In multiple fora the US has pushed forward with ambitious initiatives, however, most would agree that much work remains to be done. This report aims to provide an overview of the key factors in the development of US climate policy, framed within three areas: 1) the shared goals and contours of Obama administration's policies regarding climate change; 2) the opportunities and obstacles accompanying this agenda; and 3) the implications for the upcoming Copenhagen negotiation and beyond. Concluding, this study identifies a number of important considerations that should be taken into account in preparations for the Swedish EU Presidency and COP15. To access this report refer to

<http://www.regeringen.se/sb/d/574/a/123914>.

THE CIRCULAR OF THE NETWORK FOR COOPERATION IN INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: ISSUE NO. 29. By the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), March, 2009. Recently translated to English, this circular provides open discussion on water issues in Buenos Aires such as regulatory accounting and improving transparency and efficiency. Also discussed are Bolivian regulatory developments, World Water Day 2009, as well as internationalisation and business strategies in the Latin American electricity industry, among other topics. The paper is published by ECLAC, one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations and founded with the purpose of

contributing to economic and social development of Latin America. To access the circular please refer to

<http://www.eclac.org/dnri/noticias/circulares/2/34862/Carta29in.pdf>.