

Welcome to IISD News

designed to deliver news, information and feature stories about the International Institute for Sustainable Development. ● *IISD News* takes the place of a number of previous titles including our *President's Report*, the *New and Notable* electronic newsletter and the *Sustainer* newsletter. It is our hope and expectation that this new, merged effort will meet the needs of our audiences and attract new interest in IISD and in sustainable development. ● I hope you enjoy *IISD News*. I would be happy to hear your comments and questions.



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Subscription Notes: Subscribers to the former *New and Notable* are reading this first issue of *IISD News* as text in the body of an e-mail message. Subscribers to the former *President's Report* and the *Sustainer* are reading this as a PDF file or as a printed document. To continue receiving the newsletter as you are reading it now, you don't need to do anything. To subscribe to the text-only, e-mail version send a blank e-mail to subscribe-iisdnews@lists.iisd.ca; to receive the PDF version by e-mail, send a blank e-mail to subscribe-iisdnews-pdf@lists.iisd.ca

A Day in the Life of an ENB Writer

BY CHRIS SPENCE

Through his recollections of a typical day at the Seventh Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Marrakesh in the fall of 2001, Chris Spence offers a colourful snapshot of life as an Earth Negotiations Bulletin writer. ● The Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB) is an independent reporting service that provides daily coverage of negotiations on environment and development at the United Nations.

It is published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development. Archived issues can be read at <http://www.iisd.ca/voltoc.html>.



Spence at work: "I finally arrived back at the hotel a little after midnight to get some much-needed rest."

The day started at 7:45 am with the alarm clock's angry buzzing. I sat up and rubbed the sleep from my eyes as the small hotel room in Marrakesh, Morocco, came into focus. After showering, I climbed the stairs to the hotel's terrace to have breakfast with the team, which was made up of specialists who've been following the climate change talks for years. Over our coffee and pancakes, we speculated on what might happen during the final three days of the conference, where delegates were striving to seal a deal on the details of the Kyoto Protocol. We also discussed the previous night's breakthrough in the meeting on rules governing countries' compliance with the Protocol. Several team members seemed optimistic that this news boded well for the day's talks. ● Then it was time to leave for Palais des Congrès, site of the negotiations. I felt out of place as we entered the dusty, narrow, crowded streets of Marrakesh's old town, which seemed to be inhabited almost exclusively by locals wearing traditional Moroccan robes and cloaks. Ten minutes later—at around 9:20 am—we arrived at the conference centre. I noticed that the security checks were more thorough today, perhaps reflecting the imminent arrival of ministers and other high-level officials. — See *LIFE* on Page 2

Circumpolar Conference

Addresses Climate Change

- BY JENNIFER CASTLEDEN AND DENNIS CUNNINGHAM

DECLARATION PROMOTES CONSIDERATION OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

"Increased erosion around river banks"; "Less snow than there used to be"; "Lack of hard layer of snow making travel difficult for reindeer"; "Melting glaciers exposing important archaeological sites"—these are some of the dramatic climate change effects noted by Finnish, Russian, Swedish and Canadian delegates at February's Snowchange conference in Tampere, Finland. ● The conference was an opportunity for indigenous peoples and organizations from the Arctic region to share their concerns regarding climate change and strengthen partnerships in the circumpolar region to address these concerns. An important outcome of the meeting was the decision to draft a declaration to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), urging scientists to consider indigenous knowledge in their fourth assessment report. Conference delegates agreed that the IPCC report—whose goal is to increase understanding of the impacts of climate change—would benefit from recorded knowledge about the local environment understood by many indigenous peoples. ● The conference was organized by the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (Alaska, U.S.), the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and the Russian Association of the Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON). A follow-up conference is being organized for February 2003, by the Murmansk Institute for Humanities on the Kola Peninsula, Russia.



*Snowchange organizer Tero Mustonen;
a follow-up conference is scheduled for February 2003*

Jennifer Castleden, IISD Project Officer, and IISD Fund Development Officer Dennis Cunningham attended Snowchange. Both gave presentations at the conference.

Life

Continued from Page 1

WRITING AND NETWORKING Then it was time for the 16 team members to get to work. While a couple of us sat at the back of the largest conference room taking notes of ministers' formal speeches on our laptops, other team members were roaming the corridors seeking out the latest news and information from the actual negotiations. Some talks were taking place behind closed doors. However, the team has so many contacts and is so well established within the process that we were able to keep a handle on what was going on. ● Over lunch we chatted about the allocation of work for the summary report, which we'd be producing when the meeting ended. Then team members left to cover the various meetings to which they'd been assigned. As team leader, I did the rounds, talking with delegates and periodically checking in with team members on likely stories for the *Bulletin's* "In the Corridors" section, where we outline the "hot" topics on delegates' minds. Then I returned to the office provided by the Secretariat to write up my work and check my e-mail. ● **LATE NIGHTS AND EDITING**

Negotiations went late that night, as they so often do. While a couple of team members kept track of the evening's meetings, the rest of us finished our write-ups of the day's events and began the group editing session. As always, we began by editing the work as a Word document, each of us reviewing not only our own sections but everyone else's, too. Then we went through it all a second time in its "desktopped" state. The editing process can take several hours and is essential for maintaining the *Bulletin's* high standards of accuracy and reliability, so it was almost midnight by the time we'd finished. Before leaving, I gave the text to our digital editor, who would use it alongside the photographs and RealAudio recordings that we put on our web site. Then I e-mailed the final version to our online assistant, who works out of an office in Bogota, Colombia, for him to e-mail to our international readership estimated at 25,000 people. After giving a copy to our translator, who'd complete the French version overnight, I finally arrived back at the hotel a little after midnight to get some much-needed rest—before starting over again the next day!

Chris Spence, a former journalist and political speechwriter, has worked for Earth Negotiations Bulletin since 1998. He has been team leader of the climate team for the past two and a half years.

IISD Contributes to Sustainability Conference

CONFERENCE EXPLORES THE VALUE OF PARTNERSHIPS

IISD's Director of Knowledge Communications, Heather Creech, will be speaking at Partnering for Sustainability, a Canadian conference scheduled for April 8–9 in Toronto. This conference, presented by the Strategy Institute and the Canadian Institute for Environment Law and Policy, is an opportunity to demonstrate how partnerships in sustainable development can benefit business, government and NGOs. Heather Creech's topic is "Partners Beyond Borders: International networks and alliances for sustainable development." Further information about the conference is available at <http://www.sustainabilitycanada.com/>.

New IISD Logo Unveiled

DESIGN STRESSES INTERNATIONAL, INFINITE FLAVOUR OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In January, IISD unveiled its new corporate logo. Designed by Neuhaus, a Winnipeg-based firm, the updated logo freshens the institute's visual profile. Inspired by what is known as the "International Style," the new logo aims to illustrate the ongoing cycle of sustainable development and demonstrate the idea of fluidity and natural growth within the organization. The logo is in use at <http://www.iisd.org>.



New institutional logo inspired by "International Style."

IISD Co-convenes Chapter 11 Workshops

DIALOGUE EXPLORES SIMULTANEOUS PROTECTION OF INVESTOR RIGHTS AND THE PUBLIC GOOD

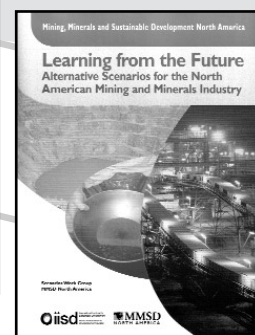
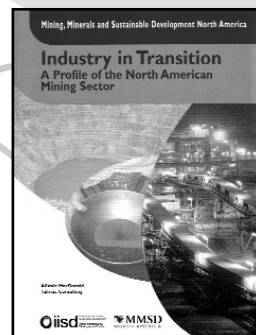
Económica and the Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental, are currently holding workshops on NAFTA's Chapter 11 and the environment. The objective is to discuss how we can ensure essential protection of investors while respecting the ability of governments to regulate in the public interest on matters such as environmental protection. ● The goal of these high-level workshops is to engage North American policy-makers and the wider policy community in a debate on the workings and environmental implications of NAFTA Chapter 11 provisions and procedures, with attention to the implications for other investment treaties. ● The first workshop was held in Mexico on March 11. The second was held in Ottawa on March 18. The final workshop will be held on April 11 in Washington. The workshops are made possible with the generous support of the Ford Foundation, Canada's Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Environment Canada.

● Further information is available at <http://www.iisd.org/trade/iisdworkshop/>.

Mining Books Released

MMSD PROJECT EXPLORES SUSTAINABILITY

In early March, IISD released two outputs from the Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development project. ● *Learning from the Future*, a report from MMSD–North America's Scenarios Work Group, looks at four possible futures for the mining/minerals industry. The thought-provoking scenarios highlight the potential promise and the potential despair in the industry's future and explore what the years ahead could hold for sustainable development. *Learning from the Future* is available in its entirety at http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2002/mmsd_scenarios.pdf. The printed book can be ordered for CDN\$15 plus shipping and handling by contacting info@iisd.ca. ● *Industry in Transition* delivers a thorough profile of the North American industry, outlining the challenges and opportunities on the path to sustainability. It is available in its entirety at http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2001/mmsd_na_mining_profile.pdf. The printed book can be ordered for CDN\$20 plus shipping and handling by contacting info@iisd.ca. ● For more information about MMSD North America, please visit <http://www.iisd.org/mmsd/>.



4 Book Review

- BY MARLENE ROY

The Health of Nations: Infectious Disease, Environmental Change, and Their Effects on National Security and Development

By Andrew T. Price-Smith
Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2002.
220p.

Traditional concepts of security have ignored emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases (ERIDs) as a source of human misery and how they stress state capacity and undermine national security. Even though infectious diseases are as old as humanity, the new realities of a globalized world mean that infectious microbes can proliferate and flourish as never before. In addition, since 1975 "at least 33 new pathogens have emerged to compromise the health of the human species." Examples include HIV/AIDS, Ebola virus and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). And scourges such as tuberculosis, cholera and malaria are becoming increasingly resistant to treatment. ● The prevalence of these diseases is insidious, wreaking havoc with economic productivity and contributing to a decline in state capacity leading to underdevelopment and impaired prosperity. In some cases violence and state collapse can result. Disease proliferation may also undermine trade in otherwise secure states, as was seen in the case of British beef and Hong Kong chickens. ● After describing the concepts that ground the argument, the author presents his empirical findings from a quantitative analysis of the relationship between ERIDs and state capacity at national, regional and global levels. Next, he looks at the impact of ERIDs on economic

Newsletter to Launch in April

"NEXUS" WILL EXPLORE LINKS BETWEEN POVERTY AND THE ENVIRONMENT *Nexus*, a new IISD newsletter, intends to provide a platform for debate, opinions and analysis on issues relating to poverty reduction strategies and the environment; timely information on various poverty-environment initiatives; and critical review of poverty reduction strategies from a sustainable development perspective. *Nexus* is coordinated by Dr. Anantha Kumar Duraiappah, IISD's Director of Economic Policy, and IISD Project Officer, Dr. Pumulo Muyatwa. To subscribe to the text-only, e-mail version send a blank e-mail to subscribe-nexus@lists.iisd.ca; to receive the PDF version by e-mail, send a blank e-mail to subscribe-nexus-pdf@lists.iisd.ca. The first two issues of *Nexus* are funded by the Canadian International Development Agency.

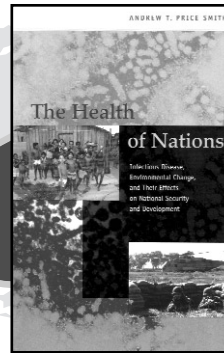


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New book investigates the influence of disease on stability and prosperity

productivity and social prosperity and the emergence of ERIDs as a security issue for the world policy community. Chapter 5 traces the causal relationships among environmental changes such as climate change, extreme weather and land use, with the evidence showing that humankind's negative impact on the biosphere will accelerate the emergence of pathogens and simultaneously alter the distribution of currently known pathogenic organisms. The author concludes by developing policy recommendations for the foreign policy and international development communities and lays out a plan for future scientific inquiry into this topic.

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The International Institute for Sustainable Development contributes to sustainable development by advancing policy recommendations on international trade and investment, economic policy, climate change, measurement and indicators, and natural resource management. By using Internet communications, we report on international negotiations and broker knowledge gained through collaborative projects with global partners, resulting in more rigorous research, capacity building in developing countries and better dialogue between North and South.

IISD's vision is better living for all—sustainably; its mission is to champion innovation, enabling societies to live sustainably. IISD receives operating grant support from the Government of Canada, provided through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Environment Canada, and from the Province of Manitoba. The institute receives project funding from the Government of Canada, the Province of Manitoba, other national governments, United Nations agencies, foundations and the private sector. IISD is registered as a charitable organization in Canada and has 501(c) (3) status in the United States.

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