



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNGA ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE CONSULTATIONS RECONVENE



L-R: The UN General Assembly's informal consultations on environmental governance are co-chaired by Amb. Peter Maurer (Switzerland) and Amb. Enrique Berruga (Mexico). Photos courtesy of the United Nations Treaty Collection.

The UN General Assembly (UNGA) held informal consultations on environmental governance on 18, 23 and 25 January 2007 at UN headquarters in New York, US. Among the delegations speaking, the EU stressed the importance of an effective institutional framework for the environment, advocating upgrading the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) into a UN Environment Organization with a revised and strengthened mandate, and adequate resources, underlining that this would ensure stronger system-wide coherence in the area of the environment (http://www.europa-eu-un.org/articles/sk/article_6690_sk.htm). Noting that the relationship between development

priorities and work undertaken in the multilateral environment agreements (MEAs) requires greater attention, New Zealand emphasized the UN Development Programme's role in empowering UNEP as the authoritative voice on the environment (<http://nzmissionny.org/environ.htm#EnvironmentalActivities23012007>). The G-77/China sought clarification on a number of issues, including the expected outcomes of the process, how it relates to other reform processes including that on System-Wide Coherence, and the reason why the Co-Chairs have decided to focus on implementation at the country level rather than at the global level (<http://www.g77.org/Speeches/011807.html>). Co-Chairs Enrique Berruga (Mexico) and Peter Maurer (Switzerland) will brief the 24th session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC-24/GMEF) in February 2007 about the concluded discussions in New York. They also envisage preparing an option paper, covering the various perspectives expressed in the discussions, which will be submitted to delegations as a basis for developing decisions (<http://www.un.org/ga/president/61/follow-up/environment/talkingpoints18Jan2007.pdf>).

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

ASIAN ASPIRATIONS FOR CLIMATE REGIME BEYOND 2012

(IGES, January 2007) This publication from the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, in collaboration with several other organizations, reflects on consultations held in 2006 in a number of different Asian countries and sub-regions. The consultations, which followed an earlier round of discussions in 2005—focused on a future climate regime after 2012 (<http://enviroscope.iges.or.jp/modules/envirolib/view.php?docid=535>).

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GUEST ARTICLE

Law and Sustainable Development at FAO

By Elisa Morgera, FAO Legal Office, Development Law Service

Abstract

Legal developments at the international level in the area of environment and natural resources often call for national legislative change. The Legal Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through its Development Law Service (LEGN) serves as a focal point for promoting the design of appropriate and workable legal frameworks for the sustainable management of natural resources.

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES (cont.)

ENVIRONMENT AND GLOBALIZATION: FIVE PROPOSITIONS

(IISD, 2007) This paper, written by Adil Najam, David Runnalls and Mark Halle, examines the nature and importance of the links between environment and globalization, and stresses that better global governance is the key to managing both globalization and the global environment. It was prepared as an independent input into the February 2007 meeting of the UNEP Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF) (http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2007/trade_environment_globalization.pdf).

MULTISTAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS – FUTURE MODELS OF MULTILATERALISM?

(Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, January 2007) This Occasional Paper, authored by Jens Martens, examines the growing role of "multistakeholder initiatives" and "policy networks" between private and public actors within the UN system. The paper overviews how relationships between the UN and private actors have changed over time, traces the scale and scope of "partnerships," discusses the limits, risks and side effects of this paradigm shift in international politics, and calls for clear rules for partnerships between the UN and private actors (http://www.fes-globalization.org/publications/FESOCP29_Martens_Multistakeholder_Partnerships_ONLINEversion.pdf).

BEYOND COMPLIANCE: BUSINESS DECISION MAKING AND THE US EPA'S PERFORMANCE TRACK PROGRAM

(Harvard University, 2006) This study by Cary Coglianese and Jennifer Nash suggests that corporate participation in voluntary environmental compliance programs may have less to do with the costs and benefits that government agencies put together and more to do with the companies' internal culture (<http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/m-rcbg/rpp/Beyondcompliance>).

WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT MECHANISM: ONE-PAGE CASE SUMMARIES

(WTO, January 2007) This first edition of One-page Case Summaries prepared by the World Trade Organization (WTO) Legal Affairs Division summarizes the core facts and findings of the Dispute Settlement Mechanism's Panel and Appellate Body reports for 103 cases during the period 1995-2006 (http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/dispu_summary06_e.pdf).

▶ INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNEP ANNOUNCES MANAGEMENT TEAM AND AWARD FINALISTS, REPORTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN LEBANON

On 19 January 2007, UNEP announced a strengthened management team, which according to UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner will "bring enhanced capacity, vision and action to UNEP in order



Sylvie Lemmet (France). Photo courtesy of UNEP.

to fulfil its mandate and meet the big challenges facing the environment and sustainable development in the early 21st century." The new appointees include: Sylvie Lemmet (France) as Director, Division of Technology,

Industry and Economics; Peter Gilruth (US), Director, Division of Early Warning and Assessment; Ibrahim Thiaw (Mauritius), Director, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation; Janos Pasztor (Hungary), Secretariat of the Environmental



Janos Pasztor (Hungary). Photo courtesy of UNEP.

Management Group; Juanita Castaño (Colombia), Chief of UNEP's New York liaison office; Paul Akiwumi (Ghana), Chief of UNEP's Executive Office; and, John Scanlon (Australia), Special Advisor on Policy and Operational Matters. The search for a suitable candidate for the position as Director of the UNEP/Global Environment Facility Division is ongoing (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=498&ArticleID=5498&I=en>).

UNEP announced ten finalists for five Supporting Entrepreneurs for Environment and Development (Seed) Awards on 25 January 2007. The Seed Awards aim to encourage local entrepreneurs to promote economic growth, social development and environmental protection. Finalists are engaged in a range of entrepreneurial partnerships, including the promotion of traditional medicine, support of community-based tourism, and production of alternative fuels. The five winners will be announced at the 15th session of the Commission for Sustainable Development in May in New York (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=498&ArticleID=5501&I=en>).

A report prepared by UNEP's Post Conflict Branch and released on 23 January 2007 indicates that the environmental problems stemming from the recent Lebanon conflict, such as damaged water infrastructure, toxic waste and cluster bombs on farmland,

need to be urgently addressed. The post conflict assessment report was carried out at the request of the Lebanese authorities and provides a comprehensive picture of the environmental challenges facing the country. A positive finding is that the marine environment appears to have escaped serious long-term damage (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=498&ArticleID=5499&I=en>).

Regarding the upcoming GC-24/GMEF, to be held from 5-9 February 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya, the working documents and information documents as well as the schedule of side events are now available online (<http://www.unep.org/gc/gc24/>).

UNDP EMPHASIZES STRENGTHENED PARTNERSHIP WITH UNEP, TEAMS UP WITH AZERBAIJAN AND UZBEKISTAN

In his address at the UN Development Programme (UNDP) Executive Board meeting on 23 January 2007, UNDP Administrator Kemal Dervis said UNDP has to remain active in the whole sustainable development area, including the environment, in the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals, stressing that UNDP will strengthen its partnership with UNEP. While noting that the high long-term risk associated with climate change is increasingly being accepted, Dervis emphasized the importance of preventive action as well as a concerted international approach (<http://content.undp.org/go/newsroom/january-2007/kemal-dervis-executive-board-of-undp-unfpa.en.jsessionid=aZIGbbwUYeh>).

Concerning partnerships, UNDP and Azerbaijan signed two projects to support development of renewable energy. The projects will focus on creating an investment environment for small hydropower applications, and address legal and institutional constraints to enable sustainable and commercial wind energy development (http://www.un-az.org/undp/news/2007/18-1-2007/18-1-2007_eng.php).

On 15 January 2007, UNDP and Uzbekistan launched the project "Capacity Building for Clean Development Mechanism in Uzbekistan," which will help reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and fund sustainable development by tapping the global carbon finance market. The initiative aims to develop public and private sector capacities to access carbon finance and to build competence for identifying and implementing GHG reduction projects (<http://content.undp.org/go/newsroom/january-2007/20070115-kyoto-uz.en.jsessionid=aPq09whQzh9d>).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES *(cont.)***IMPROVING LIVES: WORLD BANK GROUP PROGRESS ON RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

(World Bank, December 2006) This report reviews the World Bank's efforts to finance renewable energy and energy efficiency projects through 61 projects in 34 different countries. It notes that during fiscal year 2006, the Bank funded renewable energy and energy efficiency projects amounting to US\$860 million and committed an additional US\$668 million. These figures represent a 45% increase over fiscal year 2005, which more than doubles the World Bank's target to increase financing of renewable energy by 20% per year adopted at the International Conference on Renewable Energy held in Bonn, Germany in June 2004 (http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTENERGY/Resources/336805-1157034157861/Improving_Lives_Low_Res.pdf).

THE ECONOMICS OF ILLEGAL LOGGING AND ASSOCIATED TRADE

(OECD, 2007) Written by Arnoldo Contreras-Hermosilla, Richard Doornbosch and Michael Lodge, this paper outlines the nature, magnitude and consequences of illegal logging in forest-rich producer countries, and programmes on both the supply and demand side being implemented to reduce this problem (http://www.illegal-logging.info/papers/OECD_background_paper_on_illegal_logging.pdf).

MDGs: MISUNDERSTOOD TARGETS?

(UNDP International Poverty Centre, January 2007) This International Poverty Centre's "One pager," authored by Jan Vandermoortele, underlines that, although the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are global targets that can be adapted at the country level, the quantitative targets were set based on global trends and not on the basis of historical trends for a specific region or country (<http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCOnePager28.pdf>).

ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS FOR NORTH AMERICA

(UNEP, December 2006) Examining the indicators used to describe environmental conditions and trends in Canada and the United States, this report reveals positive trends such as a decoupling of energy consumption from economic growth, as well as strong progress in decreasing the release of sulphur oxides (http://www.na.unep.net/publications/NA_Indicators/NA-Indicators-FullVersion.pdf).

▶ INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNECE AND WHO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE ORGANIZE FIRST MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH

At their first meeting, Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health have adopted an institutional structure and a roadmap to make the Protocol operational. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe, which are jointly servicing the Protocol, organized the 17-19 January 2007 meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. Over 140 participants attended the event, during which Parties and signatories reaffirmed their commitment to the Protocol's goal of providing access to safe water and adequate sanitation to all. A "Roundtable on the human right to water and the Protocol on Water and Health: making access to water a reality" during the meeting highlighted that the Protocol is at the forefront in the implementation of the human right to water. Among the decisions adopted during the meeting were the rules of procedure as well as decisions addressing financial arrangements, focal points, mainstreaming the work of the Protocol in the decision-making of WHO, and terms of reference of bodies established under the Meeting of the Parties. The meeting adopted a compliance procedure that is



The dais at the First Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health: (L-R) Keith Bull, UNECE; Kaj Barlund, UNECE; Roberto Bertollini, WHO-EURO; Marek Belka, UNECE Executive Secretary; Mihaly Kadar, Chairman of the Working Group on Water and Health, Hungary; Francesca Bernardini, UNECE/WHO-EURO Joint Secretariat of the Protocol; and Roger Aertgeerts, UNECE/WHO-EURO Joint Secretariat of the Protocol.

open to communications from the public, and elected the Compliance Committee, composed of nine independent experts acting in their personal capacity with legal, health and water management background. This mechanism, which has a nonconfrontational, non-judicial and consultative nature, is expected to significantly increase the Protocol's effectiveness. The Parties established a mechanism for international support for national action under article 14 of the Protocol, which will promote the coordination of international aid in the field of the Protocol. The mechanism will also enhance recipient countries' capacity to access sources of finance by helping them to formulate projects. Parties exchanged information on their progress in setting targets and target dates according to the Protocol and agreed on a programme of work to establish harmonized targets and to review progress towards their achievement. A Task force on indicators and reporting was established to assist Parties to meet the Protocol's obligations in this area, in particular the publication of targets by 2007 for the first 15 countries that ratified the Protocol and the reporting of progress achieved to the second meeting of the Parties in 2009. A Task Force on surveillance will develop guidelines to put in place surveillance and response systems. The Task Force will implement country assistance programmes to train country officials and test the effectiveness of the guidelines. Other activities in the adopted programme of work for 2007-2009 include those related to equitable access to water and solidarity measures, water supply and sanitation and adaptation to climate change, integrated management of small water supply and sanitation systems and capacity-building (<http://www.unece.org/env/water/whmop1/highlights.htm>).

▶ WATER, WETLANDS AND COASTS

RAMSAR SIGNS MOC, WELCOMES NEW SITE DESIGNATIONS

On 17 January 2007, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC). This "Interface Procedures" agreement aims to identify areas of potential mutual assistance and possible actions related to the notification and reporting, mobilisation of resources, and response to environmental emergencies and natural disasters with major environmental impacts affecting or involving wetlands (http://www.ramsar.org/w/w.n.ocha_sign.htm; http://www.ramsar.org/moc/key_ocha_agreement.htm).

The Ramsar Secretariat has announced that Serbia has designated two new Wetlands of International Importance, bringing its total number of Ramsar sites to six. The first new site, Labudovo okno in Vojvodina along the Danube River, is already an important bird area and special nature reserve. It provides a spawning area for many of the 50 supported fish species, and the nesting and



L-R: Peter Bridgewater, Ramsar Secretary General, and Vladimir Sakharov, Chief of the Environmental Emergencies Section in the Joint UNEP/OCHA Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, sign MOC. Photo courtesy of Ramsar.

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GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

1. Assistance in national legislation and capacity building

FAO's Legal Office provides governments with legal advisory services on food safety, plant and animal genetic resources, plant protection, seeds, pesticides, animal health, land tenure, biotechnology, bioenergy, fisheries, forestry, water, wildlife and national parks, as well as agricultural trade and related economic and institutional reforms. FAO's legal advisory projects rely on capacity building, broad-based involvement of local stakeholders and close cooperation with the relevant FAO and national technical experts.

2. Assistance in regional and international agreements

The Legal Office also contributes to the formulation of international and regional instruments concerning natural resources. The most notable examples are the International Plant Protection Convention and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

3. Legal information

The Legal Office maintains updated legislative information available worldwide through FAOLEX, (<http://faolex.fao.org/faolex>), one of the world's largest electronic collections of national legislation and international agreements concerning food and agriculture (including fisheries, forestry and water); FISHLEX, (<http://faolex.fao.org/fishery>), a database on coastal state requirements for foreign fishing; and WATERLEX (<http://faolex.fao.org/waterlex/>) collecting international agreements on international water sources.

4. Research and studies

The Legal Office also maintains a Legislative Studies Series (www.fao.org/Legal/pub-e.htm) and posts FAO Legal Papers Online (<http://www.fao.org/Legal/prs-ol/paper-e.htm>), articles and reports on comparative and international law topics relating to food policy, agriculture, rural development, biodiversity, environment and natural resource management.

Through these activities and the accretion of years of comparative legislative experience, the FAO Legal Office is in a unique position to assist countries in engineering legislative changes in the law on food, agriculture and sustainable management of natural resources;

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▶ WATER, WETLANDS AND COASTS

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wintering site for a range of species such as pygmy cormorants, little egret, white-fronted goose and common goldeneye. The second new site, Peštersko polje in the southwest of the country, supports a rare example of a specific wet peatbog habitat. The site hosts endangered plant species and provides habitat to a number of birds such as the Montagu's harrier (http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.serbia_two_sites.htm).

The Ramsar Secretariat has also announced that the government of Nicaragua has requested that the Secretariat add the Sistema de Humedales de la Bahía de Bluefields to the Montreux Record, which consists of Ramsar sites requiring urgent conservation attention. This 15 January 2007 request followed advice from a Ramsar Advisory Mission, which assessed the potential impacts of building an all-weather road from Nueva Guinea to Bluefields. The Bluefields site is situated on the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua and was designated as a Ramsar site in November 2001 (http://www.ramsar.org/ram/ram_rpt_57s.htm).

The Secretariat has now released all of the documents for the 35th meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee, which will convene in Gland, Switzerland, from 14-16 February 2007. Subgroups related to

COP-10, Finance, the Strategic Plan, and the Management Working Group will also meet during this time (http://www.ramsar.org/sc/35/key_sc35_agenda_papers.htm).

GPA COORDINATION OFFICE RELEASES KEY MESSAGES EMERGING FROM IGR-2

The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA) Coordination Office has produced a document outlining the key messages emerging from the Second Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action (IGR-2), which took place in Beijing, China, from 16-20 October 2006. The document identifies five key areas of focus for 2007-2011 and contains sections on IGR-2's Ministerial/High level Segment as well as responses from the GPA Coordination Office. The document will be circulated at the upcoming GC-24/GMEF (http://www.gpa.unep.org/documents/igr2_key_outcomes_english.pdf).



The dais at IGR-2.

▶ BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE**PREPARATIONS FOR CITES COP-14 UNDERWAY**

Preparations are underway for the 14th Conference of the Parties (COP-14) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to be held in June 2007, in The Hague, the Netherlands. Parties have submitted proposals to amend the CITES appendices. The proposals range from charismatic mammals such as the African elephant and leopard, to commercially valuable marine species such as sharks, eels and corals. The provisional agenda and working documents have also been made available online (http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/14/raw_props.shtml; <http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/14/doc/index.shtml>).

BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL GETS NEW PARTY, JAPAN OFFERS TO HOST CBD COP-10

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat announced that, on 5 January 2007, Malta acceded to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, bringing the number of parties to 138 (<http://www.biodiv.org/biosafety/signinglist.aspx?sts=rif&ord=dt#mt>).

On 16 January, the Japanese Cabinet offered to host the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP-10), to be held in 2010. CBD COP-9 is expected to take a decision on this offer at

its May 2008 meeting. Japan also recently revised its biodiversity strategy to integrate the commitment to significantly reduce biodiversity loss by 2010. During a visit to Japan on 29 January 2007 to discuss these developments, CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif also finalized the negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding with the UN University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), located in Yokohama, to enhance inter-agency cooperation for the implementation of the CBD's objectives (<http://www.biodiv.org/doc/press/2007/pr-2007-01-29-japan-en.pdf>).

CMS APPOINTS STANLEY JOHNSON AS AMBASSADOR

On 17 January 2007, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) awarded its third Ambassadorship to the British author and environmentalist Stanley Johnson, in recognition of his work to preserve wildlife, promote the cause of migratory animals and publicize threats to endangered species. CMS Ambassadors promote the cause of migratory species through their work and contacts with the press and media (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/newPR2007/January/nw170107_Stanley_Johnson.pdf).



Stanley Johnson. Photo courtesy of CMS.

GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

building national and local capacities to this end; analyzing emerging trends, and disseminating best practices and lessons learnt to government officials, researchers, lawyers and all those interested in the law on sustainable development.

For further information, please contact: DevLaw@fao.org

The full article can be accessed at <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle20.htm>

Editor's note:

MEA Bulletin invites articles from practitioners, MEAs and academics on issues that are of interest across the MEA community. Please contact the Editor, lynn@iisd.org, for further information.

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CSD POSTS AGENDAS FOR IPM AND CSD-15

The Secretariat for the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) has posted the agendas for the 26 February-2 March 2007 Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (IPM) and the CSD-15 session in April-May 2007. The High-Level Segment of CSD-15 will convene from Wednesday to Friday of the final week, with the first session meeting in the UN General Assembly Hall. The Ministers will be invited to engage with representatives from major groups in an interactive discussion on how the latter will contribute to implementation of the session's four thematic areas during a portion of the Thursday afternoon High-Level Segment. In the annotated agenda, CSD-15 Chair Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah (Qatar) invites governments, UN agencies,



UN General Assembly Hall. Photo courtesy of the United Nations.

other international and regional organizations and major groups to announce voluntary commitments, partnership initiatives and support actions in the lead-up to or during CSD-15, highlighting that these "deliverables" will complement the negotiated outcome (<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/policy.htm>).

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

ITTO CALLS FOR PROPOSALS ON TIMBER TRACKING, RELEASES REPORT FROM THAILAND MISSION

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) is inviting small and medium private sector forest companies to participate in pilot schemes to study the feasibility of adopting timber tracking systems as a means of strengthening forest law governance and enforcement (<http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pageld=91&id=3176>).

In other news, the ITTO has made available its report from a technical mission to Thailand. The mission's recommendations include the suggestion that Thailand develop

national criteria and indicators through a broad-based participatory process. The mission report notes that this process could help develop a shared vision among stakeholders about the management of national forests. ITTO dispatches technical missions to member countries, on request, to help identify factors that limit progress towards achieving ITTO Objective 2000 and sustainable forest management and to help develop action



Photo courtesy of ITTO - J. Lounasvuori.

plans to address these constraints (<http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pageld=205&id=3127>).

UNCCD POSTS DOCUMENTS FOR CRIC-5

The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has posted a number of documents in preparation for the March 2007 meeting of the fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 5). These include reports submitted by Parties and Observers during the CRIC 5 reporting process and the agenda (<http://www.unccd.int/cop/cric5/menu.php>).

► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

IDB FINANCES CLEAN ENERGY MARKETS

The Inter-American Development Bank's Multilateral Investment Fund announced on 18 January 2007 that it has created a new cluster of activities focused on promoting clean energy markets to help small enterprises gain access to these markets while improving their competitiveness. It will promote new financial instruments and assist in the creation of capacities required by smaller firms to serve these markets. The new cluster has already approved two projects to support market opportunities

for clean energy: a US\$975,000 grant to Fundación Chile and a US\$600,000 grant to the Ecologica Institute to work in rural areas of Tocantins, Brazil (<http://www.iadb.org/news/articledetail.cfm?artid=3568&language=En>).

ADB FUNDS MARINE AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will fund a project to strengthen fragile marine ecosystems in the Philippines through a US\$33.8 million loan to improve coastal re-

source management and boost livelihoods of fisherfolk and a US\$9 million Global Environment Facility (GEF) grant to address the biodiversity conservation aspects of the project. Activities will be carried out in six priority marine biodiversity corridors, addressing environmental degradation and threats to major coastal ecosystems including coral reefs, sea grass, mangroves and beaches, and improving fishing catches in the coastal waters (<http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2007/11395-philippines-coastal-managements-projects/default.asp>).

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

BASEL CONVENTION SCHEDULES OEWG6 FOR SEPTEMBER 2007

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention has tentatively scheduled the sixth session of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG6) for the first week of September 2007. The Secretariat is in the process of finalizing dates and venue and will advise Parties and other stakeholders once arrangements are confirmed (<http://www.basel.int/>).

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION OPENS COP-3 REGISTRATION FOR OBSERVERS

The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention has posted registration documents for intergovernmental and nongovernmental representatives wishing to participate in the third Conference of the Parties (COP-3), to be held in Dakar, Senegal, from 30 April to 4 May 2007. Registration documents

for observers wishing to attend the second meeting of the *ad hoc* open-ended working group on non-compliance of the Stockholm Convention, which will meet in Dakar from 25-27 April 2007, have also been posted along with documents for that meeting. Registration forms must be submitted by March 1 (http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/cop_3/default.htm).

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

UNFCCC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CHALLENGES ECONOMIC ASSUMPTIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE, SECRETARIAT RELEASES ADAPTATION DOCUMENT

Yvo de Boer, the Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), has spoken out against what he says are unfounded fears that action on climate change causes economic hard-



UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer.

ship. In his statement at the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2007, he noted that "Industrialized countries fear unwillingness on the part of their developing country competitors to act and are therefore reluctant to take the first step themselves" while "Developing countries fear that a new round of climate negotiations would impose on them obligations that would hurt their economic goals" (http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/20071801_press_release_new_delhi.pdf).

Meanwhile, the UNFCCC Secretariat has released a document on the structure for submissions from parties and organizations on adaptation approaches, strategies, practices and technologies. Submissions on this issue were requested in November 2006 by the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Body for Scien-

tific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), by 15 May 2007 (http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/sbsta_agenda_item_adaptation/application/msword/nwp_structure_for_submissions_on_adaptation_planning.doc).

IPCC SET TO ADOPT WORKING GROUP I REPORT

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group I is meeting this week in Paris to approve its report on "The Physical Science of Climate Change." The report is expected to confirm previous findings on the human-induced causes of climate change and elaborate on its impacts. The meeting begins a series of events in 2007 that will culminate in the adoption of the "Synthesis Report" of IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report in November (<http://www.ipcc.ch/>).

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **10TH SESSION OF IPCC WORKING GROUP I:** 29 January-1 February 2007, Paris, France. <http://www.ipcc.ch/meet/10session.htm>
- **SECOND MEETING OF THE PROVISIONAL AD HOC TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP FOR THE GLOBAL MONITORING PLAN FOR POPS (GMP-TWG):** 29 January-2 February 2007, Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/gmptwg/twg2/announcement.htm>
- **FIRST REGIONAL CONSULTATION OF THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS TOWARDS AN INTERNATIONAL MECHANISM OF SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE ON BIODIVERSITY (IMOSEB):** 30-31 January 2007, Montréal, Canada. <http://www.imoseb.net/>



L-R: Jorge Soberon, University of Kansas; Leonard Hirsch, Smithsonian Institution; John Karau, Environment Canada; and Ole Hendrickson (Environment Canada). IISD RS coverage of the meeting at <http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/imoseb/>

- **10TH POVERTY ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP MEETING:** 30 January-1 February 2007, Nairobi, Kenya. http://www.povertyenvironment.net/?q=10th_poverty_environment_partnership_pep_meeting



Participants during the panel discussion on Regional and International Network - RING. IISD RS coverage of the meeting at: <http://www.iisd.ca/africa/aupep/>

- **EXPLORATORY DIALOGUE ON PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT THROUGH TRADE:** 31 January-1 February 2007, Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.global-mechanism.org/news--events/events/promoting-slm-through-trade-workshop/>
- **CITIZENS OF THE EARTH: THE PARIS CONFERENCE ON GLOBAL ECOLOGICAL GOVERNANCE:** 2-3 February 2007, Paris, France. <http://www.citoyensdelaterre.fr/conference/?-English->
- **GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM:** 3-4 February 2007, Nairobi, Kenya. http://www.unep.org/civil_society/GCSF/
- **UNEP GC-24/GMEF:** 5-9 February 2007, Nairobi, Kenya. <http://www.unep.org/gc/gc24/>
- **COUNTRY-LED INITIATIVE IN SUPPORT OF THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE UNFF: CHARTING THE WAY FORWARD 2015:** 13-16 February 2007, Bali, Indonesia. http://www.dephut.go.id/INFORMASI/UNFF/G_Info.htm