

NETWORK 2005

LITTLE ENERGY FOR CLIMATE TALKS?

JAN 2004

9th Conference Of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

The Annual ministerial meeting of the 188 parties to the UN Framework Convention of Climate Change, Milan, Italy, (1-12 December 2003), concluded after adopting two dozen legal decisions and exploring a wide range of options for limiting greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Preparations for the meeting put a strong emphasis on action at the national level. Joke Waller Hunter, Executive Secretary to the Convention, set the tone in an early press release stating:

“The Milan conference will evaluate the efforts that governments have been making to tackle the climate change challenge. The ‘national communications’ that they submit on a regular basis reveal that the combined emissions of Europe, Japan, the US and other highly industrialised countries could grow by 8% from 2000 to 2010, despite domestic measures currently in place to limit them. At the same time, it is clear that governments are adopting more comprehensive and ambitious policies and measures for cutting emissions than they did just several years ago.”

Attended by more than 5,000 participants, including 95 ministers, the conference sought to stimulate further action by national governments, civil society and the private sector and to prepare for the Kyoto Protocol’s entry into force.

The meeting was opened by Waller Hunter who greeted delegates with an overview of achievements since the last Conference of the Parties in Marrakech:

“There has been encouraging progress on the Kyoto mechanisms since Marrakech. In anticipation of the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, emissions-trading activities at the regional, national, sub-

national and company level have advanced rapidly and we have entered a period of ‘learning by doing’. New markets are emerging. At the moment they are largely unconnected, which may cause a problem over time. But once the Kyoto Protocol has entered into force, it will provide an overarching framework.”



Will improved emissions reporting lead to cleaner skies?

The high-level political debate during the conference took place through three informal ministerial roundtables focussing on adaptation, mitigation, sustainable development, technology and assessment. Ministers agreed that climate change remains the most important global challenge to humanity and that its adverse effects are already a reality in all parts of the world, as well as recognising the results of the third Assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change providing the scientific basis for action. Many Parties, developed and developing,

reported on activities to adapt to climate change and emphasised the moral duty to provide support to developing countries in these efforts.

Participants emphasised that the Kyoto Protocol represents a significant first step towards realising the Convention’s goal of stabilising atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases at safe levels and called for its immediate entry into force. Furthermore, the Protocol is already changing the way governments think about climate, energy and investment.

Ministers noted that economic growth and climate change policies are compatible and, if action is taken at an early stage, economic gains can be made. Implementing policies and measures such as energy-efficiency projects can help to decouple economic growth in emissions, in addition to achieving social and environmental benefits such as improved health. Intensified north-south and regional cooperation is essential, for example, in technology research, cleaner production.

Good governance and infrastructure as well as opportunities for private-sector investment are vital. So too, is choosing the best available technologies for the huge investments in electricity production that must be made over the coming two decades. Fortunately, many low-emission technologies are already available. The Protocol’s ‘flexible mechanisms’ - the Clean Development Mechanism, joint implementation and emission trading - will promote technology investment and



diffusion.

The formal decisions adopted by the conference will strengthen the institutional framework of both the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.

New emission reporting guidelines based on the good-practice guidance provided by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change will provide a sound and reliable foundation for reporting on changes in carbon concentrations resulting from land-use changes and forestry. These reports are due in 2005.

Another major advance is the agreement on the modalities and scope for carbon-absorbing forest-management projects in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) this agreement completes the package adopted in Marrakech two years ago and expands the CDM to an additional area of activity.

Many of the discussions over the two weeks touched upon cooperation between developed and developing nations, including the funding needed for least developed countries that are most vulnerable to climate change and that need to develop and carry out effective policies. Technology transfer and capacity building are addressed in many of the decisions, and there is a clear understanding of the importance of advancing this work in partnership with the private sector.

Two funds, the Special Climate Change Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund, which will support technology transfer, adaptation projects and other activities, were further developed. The European Union, Canada, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland renewed an earlier pledge to contribute \$410 million annually to developing countries through these and other avenues.

Contact: www.unfccc.int

Editorial

A new year is upon us, and a slightly nervous anxiety prevails. A lot of water has gone under the bridge since the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and not much of it has been all that sustainable. If the world changed significantly between Rio in 1992 and Johannesburg in 2002, then it has certainly shifted apace in the last 18 months.

Increased pressure on peace and security has raised tensions around the globe, as the political landscape has become entrenched by opposing views. The global economy has started to regain strength, while little progress has been made in injecting more equity into world trade. Species loss seemingly threatens as never before, as probes search for life on Mars.

Meanwhile, all the usual statistics continue to paint a grim picture of the plight of the world's poor, the decrepit state of the environment, as globalisation continues to deliver uneven benefits from region to region.

However, the proof, as they say, is often in the pudding. And if reports are to be believed, behind the rhetoric of inaction on climate change governments do seem to be adjusting their thinking as well as their approach, if not their ability to sign on the dotted line.

The challenge, for the next 6 months at least, will be to channel that positive energy into water and sanitation. A plethora of high-level intergovernmental meetings are about to unfold, including: UNEP's Global Ministerial Environment Forum in the Republic of Korea; the White Water to Blue Water Caribbean regional partnership initiative will meet to review progress in Miami; CSD12 will initiate its all important review session on the follow-up to WSSD; finally, Cairns will play host to the Hilltops to Oceans (cleverly H2O) conference in May.

Governments and stakeholders alike must rise to the challenge of integrating this agenda as well as implementing an ecosystem based approach to the water cycle embracing both freshwater and marine, as will be championed in Miami and Cairns. The unique calendar of events over the next 6 months offers a unique opportunity to deliver on this.

Other highlights to come over the next 12 months for the keen Sustainable Developer include: the 7th COP of the Convention on Biological Diversity, celebrating 10 years of the Convention as well as reviewing progress towards the Johannesburg target to half biodiversity loss by 2010; the June International Conference on Renewable Energy, UNCTAD's XI session, also in June, providing another opportunity to get serious about trade and development; finally the 10 year review of the Barbados Programme of Action on Small Island Developing States in August, where governments must address the vulnerability of this often marginalised group.

Otherwise, there is the small matter of the increasing murmurings emerging from last years UN General Assembly concerning a review of progress on the winding road to 2015 - due date for delivery of the Millennium Development Goals - scheduled for late next year.

Will 2005 be the final test of multi-lateralism? Will it be 1997 revisited all over again - *5 years in and nothing to show?* Is another global get together the last thing we need?

With ever more to do, and less time in which to do it, something will have to give.

T. Middleton, Editor

Network 2015

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SUSTAINABLE NEWS

World Economic Forum

This year's World Economic Forum is focussed at the links between security and prosperity. Taking place in Davos, Switzerland, from January 21-25 the event will explore how partnerships contribute to providing an enabling environment for both.

Asserting that 'While business is an engine for global growth, it requires an enabling environment: physical and political security and macroeconomic stability are two indispensable ingredients for business to fulfil its role in society' as its theme, the meeting will focus on 7 issues:

Ensuring Global Security: Threats to security have destroyed lives and property as well as harming future economic growth. Meanwhile, the world has yet to agree either on a hierarchy of threats or on the best measures to confront them.

Promoting Global Growth: Economic shocks can come from many different corners and threaten global recovery. In this unsettled environment, the big question remains how to sustain growth.

Managing New Risks: From terrorist attacks and infrastructure collapse to pandemics and reputational shocks, new risks pose systemic threats that defy responses or solutions from governments, businesses and other individual actors.

Building Corporate Resilience: Resilience - the ability to recover quickly from shocks and difficult challenges - is the new name of the game. Now more than ever, business leaders must be capable of targeting key risks and opportunities out of a bewildering array of issues.

Spurring Innovation: Innovation is the critical element that drives competitiveness. But scientific discoveries and new technologies are only part of the innovation puzzle.

Harnessing the Diversity of Values: Values reflect what we are and what we stand for: They define our identity. We all have a tendency to believe that 'our' values are universal values. But as a result of globalisation, the clash of strongly held beliefs about identities is sparking cultural stress and friction. Harnessing diversity is essential if we want to live harmoniously.

Reducing Inequality: Profits and losses, or costs and benefits, can no longer be calculated just in local, national or regional terms. We live in a world in which everyone has a stake. It is not only morally unacceptable but universally dangerous for two billion people to live on less than \$2/day. We must recognise and address the striking inequalities that imperil human values and its continued progress.

During the 2004 Annual Meeting, the World Economic Forum (WEF) and civil society organisations will co-organise discussions for the general public. These events will be held in conjunction with the WEF Annual Meeting under the heading 'Open Forum Davos 2004'. The general theme of this second year edition is 'Globalisation or De-globalisation for the benefit of the Poorest'.

Contact: www.weforum.org

World Social Forum

The 4th World Social Forum (WSF) will be held in Mumbai, India, from 16-21 January. 75,000 delegates are expected to attend from across the world with the stated aim to build a more just, people-centred world order.

The six-day forum will include public meetings, panels, seminars and debates focussing on:

- Imperialist globalisation
- Militarism and peace
- Communalism, religious fanaticism and sectarian violence
- Racism, casteism, work and descent-based exclusions and discrimination
- Patriarchy

The themes for WSF 2004 have a global perspective while ensuring that questions are addressed from a grassroots concerns. Moving out of Latin America for the first time, the WSF will have a greater participation from Africa and Asia.

A Youth Forum, similar to the earlier WSF editions in Brazil, will be a part of the Mumbai event to highlight the significant role played by young people across the world in the global movement. Approximately 10,000 delegates will participate in the Youth Forum, out of which 2,000 will be from outside India.

Alternative modes of cultural expression are also a part of the WSF process. WSF 2004 will include participation from leading artists, musicians, singers, painters, poets, writers and filmmakers who intend to capture the flavour of cultural responses to the onslaught of globalisation, the politics of exclusion, sectarian violence and war.

The first three editions of the WSF were held between 2001 and 2003 in the Brazilian city of Porto Alegre, and were timed to coincide with the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Over the last three years, the WSF has become a symbol of the movement against globalisation and armed conflict.

Contact: www.wsfindia.org

CSD 12 European Regional Preparations

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), at its Ad Hoc Informal meeting on 2 September 2003 decided to hold the First Regional Implementation Forum to provide substantial inputs to the Review Year and contribute to CSD-12 from 15-16 January.

It was also decided to organise as a preparatory meeting for the Forum an Ad Hoc Informal Meeting of the UNECE. This preparatory meeting took place on 1 December 2003 and resulted in a revised agenda and organisation of work for the January event.

Further details are available at: www.unece.org/env/wgso/Sustainable%20Development/sd_forum.jan2004.htm

CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

Good Governance of Energy Services

Arguably access to energy services is a prerequisite to poverty eradication and development, and by default is therefore a necessity in achieving the Millennium Development Goal to 'reduce by half the number of people living under one dollar a day, by 2015'. Increasing the provision and use of energy from renewable and sustainable sources is critical to achieving environmental sustainability, and in slowing the current rate of global warming and climatic change, as is encouraging the efficient use of energy. The further development and use of renewable and sustainable energy technologies, and energy efficiency are a necessity for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal of Ensuring Environmental Sustainability.

Poverty eradication, climate change and global warming are at the heart of the challenge of achieving sustainable development. It is therefore no surprise that improved access to energy, increase in energy efficiency, and an increase in the use of renewable and sustainable energy have been at the centre of recent international discussion. A broad range of forum exist, and continue to be developed at the international, regional

and national levels which seek to discuss, make decisions on and implement agreements on energy production, provision and usage. Ranging from United Nations Framework on the Convention on Biodiversity and United Nations Convention on Climate Change, to UNHABITAT and the World Trade Organisation. In addition to this, a broad range of organisations have an interest in the energy sector to include export credit agencies, international financial institutions, corporations, international development banks and consumer organisation.

A major challenge to effective implementation of energy and related agreements and initiatives is the lack coherence and coordination between the different decision making and implementing bodies. Good governance is an absolute necessity to ensure that policy developments and action plans arising from each forum are supportive and reinforcing, rather than contradictory. Whilst such coordination should exist at all levels of governance from the international to the local, critical discussions need to take place on international governance for energy provision and usage.

The international community is shaping up for a comprehensive review of how the international system can promote and encourage sustainability, and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. A significant element of this process will focus on the proposed reform of the United Nations Environment Programme, in an attempt to address the current imbalance in the global governance architecture between, for example, trade and the environment. Such a review provides a prime opportunity for discussions to be initiated around energy governance.

Despite the range of activities that take place at the international level around energy, no centralised international agencies exists with a mandate to coordinate decision making and implementation processes on energy and sustainable

development. Attention has clearly been placed on meeting the urgent need to set targets, develop policies and initiate action plans to service the energy needs of the poor and ensure a reduction in environmental problems associated with traditional energy services. As a result, a lack of serious consideration has been given to the fact that these activities have been taking place in 'isolation', with a clear lack of an organisational home. Whilst discussions around the development of a global institutional structure for energy remain on the periphery of discussions, it is something that needs to be given significant consideration in future discussions on energy governance frameworks in the future. A number of proposals have been put forward for the development of such a coordinating body within the UN, to include an International Renewable Energy Agency (World Council for Renewable Energy), an International Sustainable Energy Fund and an International Sustainable Energy Organisation (NGO Energy and Climate Caucus of CSD). These proposals as yet have not been given serious thought by governments.



The murky world of energy governance

Despite the current lack of a central energy organisation, the Commission on Sustainable Development could play a critical coordinating role. Under its new modalities of work, the CSD will review progress towards the achievement of international energy targets included within Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation during the year 2006 - 2007. In addition to this, the Millennium Development five year review process, proposed to feed into a significant Development Summit in 2005, will also review activities contributing towards the achievement of the MDG's, to include access to renewable energy services. Under the revised work programme of the CSD countries are invited to report on progress toward implementing energy agreements at the national level. Within the process, challenges, constraints and obstacles as well as achievement and lessons learned experienced by each country will be reported on. This will, if effective, allow the CSD to monitor all activities around energy, and will therefore in part assist in filling the governance gap that currently exists. Further to this, it may well assist in filling the implementation gap that exist between international decisions and action at the local level.

There are clear challenges ahead for energy governance, and the CSD alone can not go far enough to coordinate all activities contributing toward energy for sustainable development. The opportunity being posed by the review of the international system should be seized and serious discussions undertaken as to how energy could be better governed to ensure future decisions, policy developments and action plans all work towards a common goal.

Georgina Ayre – Head of Policy and Research, Stakeholder Forum

BARBADOS +10

The 10 Year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA + 10)

"A Strategic Approach to the Sustainable Development of Small Island States"

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) generically, refer to coastal countries sharing similar challenges for sustainable development. These range from having small populations with limited expertise and natural resources, to being ecologically fragile and susceptible to natural disasters. SIDS provides a link grouping similar countries and thus strengthening their position in international negotiations. At present, there are forty-one (41) countries which are a part of SIDS.

In 2002, the United Nations General Assembly called for a comprehensive review of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) which was adopted in 1994. The BPoA sets forth specific actions and measures at the national, regional, and international levels in support of the sustainable development of the small island developing States (SIDS). In August 2004, the international community will convene in Mauritius to discuss recommendations for further and successful implementation of the BPoA.

Three regional preparatory meetings in 2003 have highlighted the actions taken and the challenges faced in the implementation of BPoA. These meetings were:

- Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for BPoA+10, Samoa, August 2003
- Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and the South China Seas (AIMS) Regional Preparatory Meeting for BPoA+10, Cape Verde, September 2003
- Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for BPoA+10, Trinidad and Tobago, October 2003

Drawing upon the outcomes of these regional level meetings, two international level preparatory meetings are scheduled prior to BPoA+10. These include an inter-regional preparatory meeting in the Bahamas from 26-30 January, 2004, and a SIDS preparatory meeting preceding the twelfth session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in New York from 14-14 April 2004.

The regional meetings were attended by the governments, observer countries and relevant international, regional and national organisations to each region. The meetings highlighted the key current and rising issues, constraints and opportunities for the implementation of BPoA in each region.

Each of the three preparatory meetings highlighted the following aspects towards the implementation of BPoA:

- Reaffirmed validity of the BPoA as a blueprint for the sustainable development of SIDS.
- Acknowledged the financial support provided by

governments and institutions for the generation of National Assessment Reporting, though highlighted the need for reinvigorated support.

- Recognised the value of streamlining the implementation and reporting of the BPoA with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPoI) to create a simple, harmonised annual monitoring process.

- Key issues that were raised in all regions included: climate change, dependence on trade, lack of freshwater availability, limited institutional capacity, small scale economies, biodiversity (endemism), coastal and marine resources, energy (dependence on fossil fuel imports), waste

management, access to technologies and cultural vulnerabilities.

- Key opportunities that exist for all of the regions include: potential development of renewable energies, ecotourism and regional and international partnerships.

- Stakeholder participation was highlighted as an opportunity across all aspects of the BPoA in SIDS including: through the national preparatory processes, the implementation of sustainable development policies, management of coastal and marine resources,

within national institutions and through building of administrative capacity.

- Integrated management of coastal and freshwater resources was highlighted by all regions as a key instrument for the implementation of BPoA. The use of integrated water resource management (IWRM), watershed management policies and integration of land-based sources of pollution into coastal zone policies were identified as key mechanism to link freshwater and marine resource management. It was recognised that more work is needed through the integration of coastal and marine resources to achieve integrated policy preparation and decision making for the implementation of BPoA.

- New and emerging issues for all regional meetings included: security, health, poverty and trade, though the particulars for each issue are regionally specific.

For a more detailed assessment of each of the regional preparatory meeting outcomes, please read the January edition of *GPA Outreach*. To subscribe, visit: www.stakeholderforum.org, or email: join-gpa-outreach@lists.healthdev.org

Karen Dickinson, Stakeholder Forum



Not always just a Tropical Paradise

CSD PREPARATIONS

Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water

The Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water (PANAFCON), which opened on December 8 simultaneously with the Africa Water Week, ended today in Addis Ababa with an action plan to meet Africa's World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets, the African Water Vision and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on water. More than 1000 participants attended the Conference from across the world.

In a continent where more than 300 millions people lack reasonable access to safe water and 14 countries are currently subject to water stress or scarcity, water management has become a development issue.

PANAFCON made proposals for concrete actions in nine key areas: meeting basic needs: water, sanitation and human settlements; water for food security; protecting ecosystems and livelihoods; managing risks: water and climate; financing water infrastructure; integrated water resources management / shared water resources; valuing and allocating water; ensuring water wisdom; and governing water wisely.

In pursuit of the MDGs, about 45 Ministers of Water and Environment from Africa, who attended the Conference, resolved to give special attention to countries likely to miss their targets for safe drinking water and sanitation. They also agreed to establish, next year, a National Task Force on Water and Sanitation which will prepare national plans with service delivery targets for achieving water and sanitation goals by 2015.

During the Conference, the Ministers launched a number of

initiatives, including the African Water Facility with a targeted funding of over \$600 million for medium-term projects on water and sanitation; the African Water Journal which will provide an outlet to disseminate knowledge; the Water and Sanitation for African Cities (Phase II), the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative and the G8 Action Plan on Water for Africa.

They also signed a joint declaration with the European Commission on the implementation of the African-European Union Strategic Partnership on Water Affairs and Sanitation. PANAFCON was organized jointly by the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), the UN-Water/Africa made up of UN agencies, the African Development Bank and key development partners and with its secretariat located at ECA.

The Ministers welcomed the active participation of civil society organization in PANAFCON and agreed to incorporate civil society and gender issues in policy formulation on water.

In an opening remark on Monday, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and co-chair of the Conference, Mr. K.Y. Amoako, reminded participants that access to water, which is a basic human need, still eludes a large proportion of Africans. He said "Poor management of this precious gift of nature continues to hinder our progress and is a major constraining factor in food production, health and industrial development". Mr Amoako said their was a large funding gap in the water sector, stating: "The average annual investment between 1990 and 2000 for water supply and sanitation in Africa was 4.6 billion US dollars, or 40% of the requirement for meeting basic needs".

For more information on the PANAFCON, contact:

www.uneca.org/panafcon

STAKEHOLDER INITIATIVES

Civil Society Input to WSSD Captured Online

Since the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) finished in September 2002, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the Northern Alliance for Sustainability (ANPED) have been collaborating to produce this website. It presents an extensive collection of documents in English, Spanish and French which set out civil society priorities and contributions for WSSD. The contents of this website are also available in full on a CD-ROM.

A vast array of materials was generated by civil society organisations around the world during the preparations for Johannesburg. Business associations, trade unions, NGOs, women's organisations, youth groups and many others produced policy statements, records of their own activities, critiques of their government's performance, information briefings and so on.

This website presents a broad range of ideas and information developed as a result of the Johannesburg Summit which would otherwise be lost - focussing not just on the inter-governmental process, but on a range of meetings and initiatives developed in

the space created by the official event.

Documents can be found using a Search Facility which allows you to search for documents produced by one of the organisations listed on the site, or for specific content as found within any of the documents.

Contact: www.wssd-and-civil-society.org

Book Launch - Civil Society,

by Michael Edwards

Is civil society the big idea for the 21st century? Or will the idea of civil society – confused, conflated and co-opted by elites – prove another false horizon in the search for a better world?

By illuminating the uses and abuses of different theories and traditions in clear and engaging prose, this book will help readers of all persuasions to answer this question for themselves.

Drawing inspiration and examples from history and contemporary experience, Islam and Christianity, South and North, and activists and academics, this book gives voice to a rich and diverse account of civil society in its many different

guises. In moving systematically through theories of associational life, the good society and the public sphere, exploring the neglected connections that exist between them, and clarifying their implications for policy and practice, Michael Edwards provides a comprehensive, accessible and often humorous overview of one of the most important debates of our times.

This book will be essential reading for students of politics, public policy, development studies and international relations. It will also be read by all those interested in the role of civil society in the media, policy-making and NGO communities.

Contact: www.polity.co.uk/

PROJECTS UPDATE

SEED Awards Launch

In three parallel launch events in Davos and Mumbai, the United Nations Environment Programme, IUCN-World Conservation Union, and Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future are launching a new initiative designed to support partnerships in sustainable development.

“Partnerships between NGOs, governments, and companies are generating new ideas on how to balance economic, social and environmental needs in a sustainable way,” says Miguel Araujo from IUCN, one of the organizations that spearhead the new award scheme. “However, not many people know about their success, why they are important, or how partnerships may be useful in their own communities.”

The **seed awards** initiative aims at honoring and promoting the entrepreneurial spirit of those working in partnerships and to provide tailor made support for the awardees. As a result, the **seed awards** initiative is an exercise in social entrepreneurship. Rather than acknowledging already accomplished partnerships, the **seed awards** will publicly recognize innovative ideas, and support them to come to fruition. Awardees will be nascent partnership initiatives that show great promise and that have the potential to serve as showcases for other new initiatives.

The three launch events are intended to build bridges between the World Social Forum and the World Economic Forum. Says Cornis van der Lugt from UNEP: “In many ways, Davos and Mumbai are worlds apart. However, we believe that partnerships between civil society, business and governments in locally-driven community partnerships can make not only a great contribution to sustainable development – they also show that bridges can be built between these two worlds.”

The three launch events are attended by a selection of high-profile speakers, including **Jürgen Trittin** (Minister of Environment, Germany), **Klaus Töpfer** (Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme), **Jose Maria Figueres** (Co-CEO, World Economic Forum), and **Ashok Khosla** (President, Development Alternatives).

See www.seedawards.org for more background on the new program.

Bonn Renewables Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue

From June 1 to 4, 2004, Germany will host the International Conference for Renewable Energies, as announced by German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2002 in Johannesburg.

Stakeholder Forum has been contracted to facilitate the multi-

stakeholder dialogue (MSD) as the principal means of integrated stakeholder participation at the conference. It aims to set the stage for a transparent and participatory conference by enabling an interactive dialogue between civil society, business and governments.

The discussions during preparation and implementation of the MSD facilitate a wider understanding of renewable energy issues and help build consensus among major stakeholder groups. The results will have an impact on the further decision-making process of the conference.

There will be two MSD sessions. The MSD International Advisory Group will propose the themes of the sessions. The Agenda of the MSD will be published on this website as soon as it is available.

The overall preparation and coordination of the multi-stakeholder dialogue at the International Conference for Renewable Energy is carried out by Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future on behalf of the conference convenors and in close cooperation with the conference secretariat.

For the preparation of different groups of civil society, an International Advisory Group (IAG) will be appointed. The Members of the Advisory Group can be contacted for requests and further information on MSD preparations of the respective stakeholder group.

Stakeholder Forum will facilitate formation of the IAG. In close cooperation with the convenors, the IAG will propose the themes of the MSD and outline a schedule of activities and the procedures for the preparatory process.

The website will inform on the members of the IAG and their roles prior to 15 December 2003. Information as regards to themes, schedule and participation will be provided after the second meeting of the International Steering Committee at 15/16 December 2003. For more information on MSD please email renewables2004@stakeholderforum.org

Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues (MSD) have become a significant component of the sustainable development process. The idea and format derive from deliberations at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. MSD enable direct interaction between governments and other stakeholders on specific topics, and have been increasingly accepted as part of the official inter-governmental process rather than as an ancillary event taking place on the margins of negotiations.

Such exchanges help to promote meaningful participation among all stakeholder groups and governments in the intergovernmental decision-making process.

For more information about multi-stakeholder dialogues please visit: www.stakeholderforum.org/practice/msp.php

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CONFERENCES & EVENTS

15 - 16 January	ECE Regional Implementation Meeting. Geneva, Switzerland. Contact: www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/rim.htm
21 - 25 January	World Economic Forum Annual Meeting. Davos, Switzerland. Contact: www.weforum.org
26 - 30 January	Inter-Regional Preparatory Meeting to the Review of the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action. Nassau, Bahamas. Contact: www.org/esa/sustdev/sids/sids.htm
4 - 7 February	Forth Delhi Sustainable Development Summit: Partnerships for Sustainable Development - The WEHAB Agenda. Delhi, India. Contact: www.teriin.org/dsds
9 - 20 February	UN Convention on Biological Diversity 7th Conference of the Parties. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Contact: www.biodiv.org
18 - 20 February	Forth Global Forum on Sustainable Energy. Vienna, Austria. Contact: www.gfse.at
4 - 6 March	International Forum on Partnerships for Sustainable Development. Rome, Italy. Contact: visconti.gloria@minambiente.it
17 - 18 March	World Resources Institute 7th Annual Sustainable Enterprise Summit. Washington DC, USA. Contact: www.summit.wri.org
25 - 26 March	Meeting on Trade, Environment & Sustainable Development. Cheju, South Korea. Contact: www.unep.org
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