

E-news update March 5 2007

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CLIMATE

- 1.1. U.N. climate talks stagnate despite public worries

2 March 2007, Reuters

Governments are making scant progress towards extending a U.N. pact to fight global warming despite mounting public concern about climate change and U.N. warnings it poses a threat as great as war, experts say.

"We're not seeing governments saying 'yes, we'll make new commitments'," one U.N. official said of negotiations sponsored by the U.N. Climate Change Secretariat in Bonn.

The world's top climate scientists raised pressure for action with a report last month which said it was more than 90 percent certain that human activities led by burning fossil fuels are causing global warming.

Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the U.N. climate panel, said it was still hard to predict the political impact of the report, which also warned of more droughts, floods and rising seas in coming centuries.

"I'm reminded of what Chairman Mao said when he was asked what he thought of the influence of the French Revolution on the world: 'It's too early to tell'," he told Reuters.

The world's environment ministers have been widely predicted to agree a mandate to start negotiations to extend the U.N.'s Kyoto Protocol, the U.N. plan to fight global warming, beyond 2012 at a December meeting in Bali, Indonesia.

But even that may be in doubt. Many companies want clarity about what the rules will be after 2012 to let them make long-term investments, for example in new factories.

"A mandate is an optimistic goal," said Harald Dovland, Norway's chief climate negotiator.

No mandates?

"No one wants to talk about commitments or mandates," a U.N. official said. "Agreement on a mandate at Bali now looks like the best case outcome."

Still, public pressure is rising. And Germany, the current president of both the European Union and the Group of Eight industrialised nations, is making global warming a top issue.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Thursday that dangers posed to humanity by war were "at least matched" by the threats of warming. But he has rejected a call by U.N. environment agencies to hold a summit to address the threats.

The big problem for the U.N. climate negotiations is that the top emitters of greenhouse gases from human activities -- the United States, China, Russia and India -- are not among big enthusiasts for Kyoto led by European nations and Japan.

"I think that the (U.S.) agenda is shifting -- not into loving Kyoto but into acknowledging that things have to be done and maybe also that binding targets are an acceptable tool," said Danish Environment Minister Connie Hedegaard.

Many U.S. legislators, including some Republicans, are pushing U.S. President George W. Bush to drop opposition to caps on emissions -- the basis of Kyoto which binds 35 rich nations to cut emissions to 5 percent below 1990 levels by 2008-12.

Bush has shown no sign of wavering in his belief that Kyoto would harm the U.S. economy and wrongly omits 2012 targets for developing nations. Poor countries in turn feel no pressure to act when the world's richest economy is outside Kyoto.

A first test of whether there is new impetus in fighting climate change will come at an EU summit next week. Leaders will discuss a plan, opposed by France, to set a mandatory goal of getting 20 percent of energy from renewable sources by 2020.

"There is a level of public attention to the climate issue that we have never seen before," said Jennifer Morgan of the British-based environmental think-tank E3G. "The first test will be the EU heads of state."

ENERGY

2.1. CO2 output from shipping twice as much as airlines

3 March 2007, The Guardian

Maritime emissions not covered by Kyoto accord - Studies suggest 75% rise in 15 years as trade grows

90% of the world's goods are carried by sea and world trade is increasing all the time. Carbon dioxide emissions from shipping are double those of aviation and increasing at an alarming rate which will have a serious impact on global warming, according to research by the industry and European academics.

Separate studies suggest that maritime carbon dioxide emissions are not only higher than previously thought, but could rise by as much as 75% in the next 15 to 20 years if world trade continues to grow and no action is taken. The figures from the oil giant BP, which owns 50 tankers, and researchers at the Institute for Physics and Atmosphere in Wessling, Germany reveal that annual emissions from shipping range between 600 and 800m tonnes of carbon dioxide, or up to 5% of the global total. This is nearly double Britain's total emissions and more than all African countries combined.

Carbon dioxide emissions from ships do not come under the Kyoto agreement or any proposed European legislation and few studies have been made of them, even though they are set to increase.

Aviation carbon dioxide emissions, estimated to be about 2% of the global total, have been at the forefront of the climate change debate because of the sharp increase in cheap flights, whereas shipping emissions have risen nearly as fast in the past 20 years but have been ignored by governments and environmental groups. Shipping is responsible for transporting 90% of world trade which has doubled in 25 years.

Donald Gregory, director of environment at BP Marine, said this week that BP estimates that the global fleet of 70,000 ships uses approximately 200m tonnes of fuel a year and this is expected to grow to 350m tonnes a year by 2020. "We estimate carbon dioxide emissions from shipping to be 4% of the global total. Ships are getting bigger and every shipyard in the world has a full order book. There are about 20,000 new ships on order" he said.

The estimate supports other academic studies which, until now, have been dismissed as "extreme", because the industry fears that emissions regulations will be forced on it if it is not seen to be

addressing the issue. "The International Maritime Organisation [IMO] needs to come up with an emissions strategy, or it will be down to us," said Mr Gregory. "Aviation is in the firing line now but shipping needs to take responsibility. There will be increasing pressure to do something."

Dr Veronika Eyring, a researcher at the Institute of Physics and Atmosphere, calculates that the global fleet used 280m tonnes of fuel in 2001 and that could reach 400m tonnes by 2020.

"People are becoming more aware of the shipping emissions problem, but there is still uncertainty as to the exact amount of fuel being used," she said.

An IMO study of greenhouse gas emissions has estimated that emissions from the global fleet would increase dramatically in the next 20 years as globalisation leads to increased demand for bigger, faster ships. Without action the IMO predicts that by 2020, emissions from ships would increase up to 72%.

Yesterday the independent Tyndall Centre for Climate Change, which has launched a two-year study into shipping emissions, said the problem needed to be addressed urgently. "The proportion of [greenhouse gas] emissions from international shipping continues to receive scant regard within government. Shipping has been missed off the climate change agenda, said researcher Alice Bowes.

Britain downplays the problem, saying that ships in UK waters emit less than 2m tonnes of carbon dioxide a year. But no record is kept of the fuel used and most ships take on fuel outside Britain.

Although the industry maintains that ships are more efficient at transferring freight than air, it admits improvements can be made.

Yesterday Caroline Lucas, a Green MEP, said: "[Shipping] has got away with doing nothing and maintained a clean image which it does not deserve."

2.2. Germany Says Renewables Growth Faster Than Planned

28 February 2007, Planet Ark Reuters

The rapid expansion of renewable energy in Germany means there is no need to renege on the government's agreement to phase out nuclear power, Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel said on Tuesday.

The Social Democrat, a member of conservative Chancellor Angela Merkel's left-right coalition, said Germany would this year exceed a 2010 goal to boost the share of electricity generated by renewable energy sources to at least 12.5 percent.

He said that should climb to a share of about 27 percent by 2020.

"We are expanding the share of renewable energy faster than other EU states," Gabriel said in a statement.

Renewable energy had risen almost 13 percent last year to account for 11.8 percent of the country's total electricity supply, he said.

"This means we that we can reach Germany's ambitious climate protection goals in parallel with the phasing out of atomic energy," said Gabriel.

"There will be no power gaps and so there is no reason to abandon our course of getting out of atomic power."

Merkel, head of the Christian Democrats (CDU), would prefer to abandon plans to phase out nuclear power that were introduced by the previous Social Democrat-Greens coalition.

However, after a narrow election victory in 2005, the Social Democrats forced her to sign up to a coalition deal which included a pledge to continue with the closures.

As concern grows about global warming, several European countries are having second thoughts about previously unpopular nuclear power as -- unlike coal or gas fired power stations -- it is virtually free of climate-changing emissions.

Gabriel said the annual increase in renewable energy in the power sector was equivalent to a year's production at a nuclear plant.

As EU president, Germany has made a priority of tackling climate change but the country is reliant on pollution-heavy coal power plants. As Europe's biggest economy, it is also Europe's biggest polluter.

Figures from industry association VDEW, released this month, showed renewable energy rose about 15 percent last year in Germany, with wind power contributing the most, followed by hydro and biomass.

The German Renewable Energy Federation on Monday predicted exports of renewable energy would more than double by 2010 from about 6 billion euros (US\$7.93 billion).

CONFERENCES

3.1. Workshop National adaptation strategies

7 march 2007, Netherlands

The dutch ministry of VROM (Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment) will organise a workshop on 7 march 2007 from 9.30 till 16.30 in The Hague in the Netherlands. The main objective for this workshop is the exchange of experiences concerning building national strategies with a spatial dimension, the challenges which have to be met and the problems or dilemmas which are faced.

The workshop is meant for those -within or outside the EU- who are actively involved in building national adaptation strategies or closely related to this subject:

The programme for the workshop will as soon as possible be drawn up and sent to all interested persons.

More info: Marieke Soeters and Fincent van Woerden, Ministry of VROM, 0031-70-3394939 / 0031-70-3398005, marieke.soeters@minvrom.nl, fincent.vanwoerden@minvrom.nl

3.2. CO2 Capture and Storage, the cornerstone of the energy-climate challenge

International conference held in Le havre in France, March 8th and 9th 2007.

All information at: <http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/ProgrammeENG.pdf>,
<http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/CHARBON-PROPRE-mythe-ou-realite.html>.

3.3. European Conference on the Future of Energy Certificate Systems

Brussels, 9 March 2007, 9.30 - 16.30.

For further information please see the conference leaflet, which is available online: <http://www.e-track-project.org/events.php>.

Participation in the conference is free of charge. However, participants are asked to register online before 28 February 2007 via the E-TRACK project website: <http://www.e-track-project.org/conference>.

3.4. "Strategies for a Climate Compatible Society"

International Climate Alliance Annual Conference 9 to 11 May 2007 in Zurich.

Additional information about the location of the event, accommodations, registration and the program as pdf-file please find on the website: <http://www.climatealliance.org/aktuell/mv2007-uebersicht.htm>.

3.5. International Workshop on Numerical Modelling - Policy Interface (NMPI 2007)

Stuttgart, Germany, 12th - 13th of March 2007.

The workshop is expected to improve the dialogue between modellers (mostly physical scientists / engineers) and policy (mostly social scientists) in the water environment. The NMPI scientific committee believes improving the interface between policy analysis / development and modelling is a necessary step towards better policy formulation especially at the international level (not mention within the context of adaptation to the vagaries of climate change). Participants are invited from both the social sciences, environmental sciences and numerical modelling disciplines. The aim of the workshop is to build an international network of interested parties to create a research agenda for this evolving science area.

More details can be found at <http://www.ilpoe.uni-stuttgart.de/nmpi/>.

3.6. New EU Policies for Sustainable Energy and Climate Protection

One-day Event on Sustainable Energy: March 20 Brussels, Brussels

Organised by INFORSE-Europe, EREF, EUFORES

See Program and Registration form at: http://www.inforse.org/europe/seminar07_BXL.htm.

3.7. Workshop: Climate Change in South-Eastern European Countries: Causes, Impacts, Solutions

Graz, Austria, 26th and 27th of March 2007

Information regarding this workshop (accommodation, programme) is provided at the webpage www.joanneum.at/climate. Also, information about possibly granted subsidies will be provided at this page soon.

Although the organization of the workshop is proceeding, we would kindly encourage interested people to attend as speaker, poster or mere participant. Beside to our webpage, please find also information about registration procedure and requirements at http://www.joanneum.at/climate/Docs/pbf07102ief_climate_cfa_v1.pdf.

For further questions please contact me at climate@joanneum.at.

3.8. Russia and the Kyoto Protocol 2007

St. Petersburg, 24 – 25 May

Online registration will be available soon. Meanwhile please write to ys@pointcarbon.com to get registered.

Following the overwhelming success of last year's conference which gathered over 300 participants and 20 exhibitors from from 24 countries, we are pleased to invite you to meet the Russian authorities, project owners and developers, emission reduction buyers, potential project hosts, technology providers, carbon investors and analysts.

To learn more about the conference, sponsorship and exhibition opportunities, please visit <http://www.pointcarbon.com/Events/article20697-369.html>.

3.9. International Young Scholar Network for Earth Systems Science, Third Workshop

Bristol, UK June 2-5, 2007

This small workshop will focus on understanding decision making on land-use issues, in order to move towards modelling these processes in Earth System Models. We encourage interdisciplinary applicants from the natural and social sciences, economics, engineers and scholars from the humanities with research interests in the Earth system. The goal of the YSN workshop will be a manuscript reviewing the state-of-art in decision-making in land-use modelling and its impacts on biogeochemistry and climate from an Earth's System perspective, and prioritise future research topics. Participants will be expected to write whitepapers before the workshop, and continue finalizing the manuscript after the workshop.

For more information see the attached flyer and also the web page at: http://www.imes.ucar.edu/activities/YSN/2007_UK/YSN_BRISTOL.shtml.

3.10. YouPEC - European Youth Perspective on Energy and Climate

From June 22nd-27th, 2007, the Youth Alliance for Future Energy, a public network of individuals and youth organizations, will hold YouPEC, a European conference on climate and energy, in Berlin. Young Friends of the Earth Germany (BUNDjugend) is responsible for the administration and organization of the conference.

Conference participants will be young people between the ages of 18 and 27 from all 27 member countries of the European Union. Five active young people from each country will be selected and invited to attend the conference.

The conference offers a unique opportunity for participants to forge international contacts and deepen their knowledge, exchange ideas and explore courses of action in the field of energy and climate protection. Therefore the various consequences of climate change (in terms of biodiversity, weather and living conditions etc.) and energy use and politics will be the central educational themes of the conference.

The goals of the conference are the development of a strategy to combat climate change from the point of view of young people, the drafting of a declaration and a personal commitment to protect the climate, as well as the planning of one or more European projects to reduce CO2 emissions.

The conference is being sponsored by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

For further information contact: Julia Balz, julia.balz@bundjugend.de.

3.11. IEW meeting 2007: first announcement

The International Energy Workshop (IEW) is a network of global energy experts who meet annually to discuss a wide range of topics, with particular emphasis on global as well as regional energy issues. The annual IEW meetings focus on energy assessments and try to understand the reasons for diverging views of development in the energy sector. This year's meeting will be held 25–27 June 2007 at Stanford University, Stanford, California.

A call for abstracts in the energy-economy-environment field (including Post-2012 Regimes for the UNFCCC) can be found at http://www.iiasa.ac.at/Research/ECS/IEW2007/index_1stannouncement.html.

3.12. COP 13, COP/MOP3

Venue of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) and the third session of the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 3) Nusa Dua, Bali, 3 to 14 December 2007.

The Bureau of the UNFCCC met on Tuesday, 13 February 2007 and decided to accept with gratitude the offer by the Government of Indonesia to host COP 13 and COP/MOP 3 at the Bali International Conference Centre and the adjacent facilities and services in Nusa Dua.

The Bureau requested the secretariat to complete the corresponding host country agreement with Indonesia in time for the sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies in May 2007.

Further information on the Conference will appear on the UNFCCC website.

PUBLICATIONS

4.1. CO2 allowance and electricity price interaction - Impact on industry's electricity purchasing strategies in Europe

The 2007 IEA Information Paper: CO2 allowance and electricity price interaction - Impact on industry's electricity purchasing strategies in Europe has been released. It is freely accessible at the following link: http://www.iea.org/textbase/papers/2007/jr_price_interaction.pdf.

4.2. Creating a Climate for Change: Communicating Climate Change and Facilitating Social Change

Moser, S.C. and L. Dilling (eds., 2007). *Creating a Climate for Change: Communicating Climate Change and Facilitating Social Change*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

The need for effective communication, public outreach, and education to increase support for policy, collective action and behavior change is ever present, and is perhaps most pressing in the context of anthropogenic climate change.

This book is the first to take a comprehensive look at communication and social change specifically targeted to climate change. It is a unique collection of ideas examining the challenges associated with communicating climate change to facilitate societal response. It offers well-founded, practical suggestions on how to communicate climate change and how to approach related social change more effectively.

Contributors come from a diverse range of backgrounds, including government, academia, non-governmental, and civic sectors of society. It will be of great interest to academic researchers and professionals in climate change, environmental policy, science communication, psychology, sociology, and geography.

Order your copy now: <http://www.amazon.com/>, <http://www.cambridge.org/us/>.

For more information: <http://www.isse.ucar.edu/communication>.

4.3. TXU's Expansion Proposal: A Risk for Investors

New Ceres report - TXU's Expansion Proposal: A Risk for Investors - is now available for free downloading at http://www.ceres.org/news/news_item.php?nid=272.

The report finds that TXU's investors – whether as public shareholders or private investors – will face a multitude of financial risks if the company moves forward with its plans to build 9,000 megawatts of pulverized coal-fired capacity. The report cites construction cost over-runs, burdensome regulatory costs as climate regulations take hold and a slowing of power demand in Texas as state legislators aggressively push energy efficiency and other energy-saving programs. The 11 coal plants that TXU proposed to build are among more than 150 coal-fired power plants currently proposed across the

United States. As with TXU, most of these generating facilities would be built with no technologies or controls for capturing carbon dioxide, a primary contributor to global warming.

The report concludes that all coal-fired power plants present wide-ranging financial risks for investors, including to shareholders of power companies as well as to banks financing the projects. But the TXU proposal, which planned to add more coal-fired electricity capacity than has been built in the entire U.S. in the past 10 years, is considered especially risky for investors due to the project's sheer magnitude and because TXU operates in a deregulated market, where risks are borne primarily by shareholders and other investors instead of ratepayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

5.1. Taking Climate Change Discussions Beyond the Science - AMS Launches New Climate Policy Blog
1 March 2007, American Meteorological Society News Release

The American Meteorological Society, the nation's leading professional society for those in the atmospheric and related sciences, launched a new weblog ("blog") today to address the challenging policy issues related to climate change. The goal is to help decision makers at all levels make sound policy based on the best available information.

"From a policy standpoint, the important scientific questions about human caused climate change are largely settled," said AMS Senior Policy Fellow Paul Higgins. "Society faces serious risks and complex choices about how to handle them. We need to confront the most contentious policy issues as openly and straightforwardly as possible. That way we may be able to overcome the stumbling blocks that keep preventing us from dealing with climate change. AMS wants to help by making sure that it is knowledge and understanding that drive our policy choices."

ClimatePolicy.org will encourage exchanges among experts, policy-makers, journalists, and the broader society. The blog will build on the knowledge of some of the world's leading climate experts who come from the United States' most renowned institutions. The core contributors include Joe Aldy (Resources for the Future), Scott Barrett (Johns Hopkins University), Dan Kammen (University of California, Berkeley), Mike MacCracken (Climate Institute), Mike Mastrandrea (Stanford University), and Michael Oppenheimer (Princeton University). With this broad range of expertise, ClimatePolicy.org will explore and analyze society's options for reducing climate risks while also increasing economic opportunities and incorporating ethical values. These expert contributors, along with reader input from around the world, will help encourage a full assessment of potential responses to the threats posed by climate change.

"The goal of the blog is to move from knowledge to policy by helping to distinguish between what we know and personal value judgments about what we should do," added Higgins. "By working to inform the policy process rather than advocating specific policy preferences, we believe we can help society move more quickly to address this problem. A blog approach is critical, however, because it will draw thousands of people into the discussion. Their input, and the broad dialog that results, may produce unexpected, and far superior, outcomes."

The Climate Policy project is part of the American Meteorological Society's Policy Program. The views expressed by the contributors are theirs alone and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of AMS (www.ametsoc.org). To learn about established AMS positions on climate change or other issues, consult AMS statements online at <http://www.ametsoc.org/policy/>.

5.2. Opening of call for experts (JI accreditation panel members) – second call

Following the resignation of a member of the Joint Implementation Accreditation Panel (JI-AP), the Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee (JISC), at its sixth meeting, decided to launch a new public call for experts to fill the vacant position.

The JISC particularly encourages experts in baseline setting and monitoring regarding JI and/or CDM projects to apply to this call.

The call for experts is available through the main page of the UNFCCC JI website or under the following link: http://ji.unfccc.int/Panel_WG/Accr_Panel/CallForExperts/AP200703/CallExperts.html.

Applications shall be sent to the UNFCCC secretariat by 27 March 2007 (17:00 GMT).
