

E-news update August 28 2006

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UNFCCC

- 1.1. Yvo de Boer Appointed New UNFCCC Executive Secretary
10 August 2006

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has appointed Yvo de Boer as the new Executive Secretary of the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat based in Bonn, Germany.

The appointment was endorsed by the Bureau of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The 52 year old national of the Netherlands is currently Director for International Affairs at the Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM).

As a leading member of the Dutch delegation, Mr. de Boer has been active in UNFCCC meetings since 1996.

Before serving the Dutch government, Mr. de Boer was Chief of the UN Information Office for North America and the Caribbean, of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in Canada and Human Settlements Adviser with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in Nairobi, Kenya.

Mr. de Boer has also served as vice-chair of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.

Yvo de Boer will take up duties on 4 September and will lead UNFCCC at the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference in Nairobi.

"I am very enthusiastic about taking up the job ahead of this conference", he said. "The conference is significant because some of the biggest challenges related to climate change which are presently facing humanity will be dealt with there".

"It is also significant because of its location in Africa. Africans are among the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, such as increased incidences of drought and flooding, which in turn lead to famine", he added.

The meeting, the first ever of its kind in sub-Saharan Africa, will focus on issues such as adaptation to climate change, technology transfer and talks and negotiations on the future of the climate change process, both under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and under the Kyoto Protocol.

"It is important that the good momentum of the negotiations and talks on the future of the climate change process, which began in Bonn this year, be sustained at Nairobi", Yvo de Boer said. "We need to see significant progress with regard to these and the other issues."

Among other things, the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat supports the UN-sponsored climate change negotiations and meetings, analyzes and reviews climate change information and data provided by Parties to the Convention and supports the burgeoning carbon market under the Kyoto Protocol.

ENERGY AND EMISSIONS

2.1. UK publishes final NAP for phase II of the EU ETS.

21 August 2006, WWF press release

Weak pollution limit on industry puts climate change target out of reach The government has ducked a key opportunity to meet its manifesto pledge to reduce the UK's carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent by 2010, WWF said today. By failing to set a sufficiently tight limit on carbon emissions from heavy industry through the European Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) the government has conceded that the UK's total emissions will fall by 16 per cent at best.

The long-standing target was a central plank of government policy, and appeared in the last manifesto in 2005. However, in March this year - less than 12 months on from the general election - the government's Climate Change Programme stated that the UK would only achieve a cut of between 15 and 18 per cent by 2010.

Kirsty Clough, climate change policy officer at WWF-UK, said: "The government has now effectively abandoned its climate change target to reduce emissions by 20 per cent by 2010. This is a massive missed opportunity for a Prime Minister who has staked his environmental credentials on tackling climate change. It is unbelievable that a government can break a manifesto commitment so readily."

The government, though it's EU ETS National Allocation Plan (NAP), has proposed an annual limit on heavy industry's emissions of 64.6 million tonnes of carbon (237 million tonnes of carbon dioxide) for the second phase of the EU ETS which will run from 2008 to 2012. This limit is just over two million tonnes of carbon (3.5 per cent) below the cap in the current phase of the scheme, which ends in 2007. WWF believes the government needs to set the limit at 60.5 million tonnes (222 million tonnes of carbon dioxide) in order to meet its emissions reduction targets.

Matthew Davis, Climate Change Campaign Director for WWF-UK added: "WWF's proposal that industry cuts its emissions to 60.5 million tonnes of carbon through the European Emissions Trading Scheme would have meant that business would do its fair share to tackle climate change. Under the government's proposals heavy industry's share of UK emissions will rise significantly over this decade." WWF does, however, support the Government's proposal to auction seven per cent of pollution permits in the second phase of the EU ETS and to deduct these from the power sector's allocation. Although this is short of the 10 per cent maximum amount that could be auctioned the decision will ensure that the power sector, the single biggest emitter of carbon emissions, has to pay for some of its right to pollute up front.

Further info on UK NAP II at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2006/060821a.htm>.

2.2. Clinton Foundation and ITDP Establish Partnership to Fight Global Warming

At a public event held at UCLA on Wednesday, August 1, former U.S. President William J. Clinton launched the Clinton Climate Initiative, a Clinton Foundation initiative dedicated to making a difference in the fight against climate change in practical and measurable ways.

"It no longer makes sense for us to debate whether or not the earth is warming at an alarming rate, and it doesn't make sense for us to sit back and wait for others to act," said President Clinton. "The fate of the planet that our children and grandchildren will inherit is in our hands, and it is our responsibility to do something about this crisis."

Urban areas are responsible for over 75% of all greenhouse gas emissions in the world. The Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) will partner with the Clinton Foundation and local

authorities in developing country cities to implement solutions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions while addressing severe traffic congestion and other problems.

"We're very pleased to have ITDP on board as a partner because of their experience with implementing transportation projects in developing world cities that provide tangible benefits for the environment and for people," President Clinton added.

During the next 20 years, it's estimated that greenhouse gas emissions will grow three times faster in developing countries than in the U.S., Europe, and Japan.

"ITDP commends President Clinton on this new initiative," said Walter Hook, ITDP's executive director.

"Based on the enormous respect that developing country leaders have for President Clinton, we envision that the Clinton Climate Initiative will encourage mayors to take bold measures to reduce carbon emissions."

"This partnership will strengthen the technical assistance that ITDP provides to mayors in the developing world who are looking for high quality transportation that both improves the quality of life of their cities and combats the threat of climate change."

Mayor Ken Livingstone of London, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa of Los Angeles, and Mayor Gavin Newsom of San Francisco joined President Clinton at UCLA in announcing the Clinton Climate Initiative. The cities that will participate in the Initiative are part of the Large Cities Climate Leadership Group, an organization convened by Mayor Livingstone and comprised of most of the largest cities in the world that have pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

CLIMATE IMPACTS

3.1. Climate change shifting European seasons

25 August 2006, Guardian Unlimited

Spring is arriving sooner and autumn is starting later because of climate change, according to a study of more than 500 plants and animals across Europe.

Scientists found that events associated with the start of spring - such as the flowering and leafing of plants and activities of certain animal species - were now appearing six to eight days earlier across the continent than they did 30 years ago.

Britain saw an even more dramatic change, with spring events happening 10 days earlier and particular species seeing even earlier flowerings. Wild cherry trees are now flowering two weeks earlier than they did in the 1970s, the report found.

The study of 542 plants and 19 animals from 1971 to 2000 found 78% of plants flowering, leafing and fruiting earlier, with only 3% waiting longer before the spring change.

There was also a marked delay in the arrival of autumn, which arrived an average three days later across the 21 countries surveyed.

Tim Sparks, the UK researcher who co-led the study, said that the change in seasonal dates could disrupt the ecological cycles of many species, as average temperatures rise by 2-5C or more over the coming century.

"There's a limit to how much earlier these events can get without affecting some of these species. Trees need a rest period during the winter, and if leafing starts happening earlier, that period becomes shorter," he said.

Migratory cuckoos, whose arrival has long been one of the traditional signs of spring, can also be affected by the changes, as the insects they feed on and the plants that the insects feed on start emerging earlier in the year.

But Dr Sparks said that a 30% decline in the population of British cuckoos meant that they were no longer a reliable marker of the season, and spring-watchers were better off listening out for swallows.

People in Britain may be surprised to learn that the summer season is getting longer after this year's severe winter and dreary August, but Dr Sparks said that weather over the past month has actually been more typical of the historical average.

"We've become accustomed to much warmer years recently, and I think we're probably so overwhelmed by the temperature in July that when August returned to the rather unimpressive summers that Britain usually has, everyone was surprised," he said.

He said there was no sure rule of thumb for the start of spring from the flowering and leafing events seen in the UK, with even early flowers such as snowdrops and wood anemones showing markedly different flowering dates in different parts of the country.

Traditionally, spring starts on March 21 with the vernal equinox, the point at which day and night are of equal length and the day starts lengthening towards the summer solstice. But the Met Office caused irritation this year when it attempted to tidy up the seasonal calendar by announcing that the official start of the season would be March 1.

CONFERENCES

4.1. Workshop on reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries

Rome, Italy, 30 August - 1 September 2006.

Papers are now available on the UNFCCC website for this meeting:
http://unfccc.int/methods_and_science/lulucf/items/3757.php.

4.2. Regulatory framework for RES penetration support

The 2nd Decision Maker's Workshop, entitled "Regulatory framework for RES penetration support will take place in Hotel Zenit in Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina, from 14th to 15th September 2006. The workshop is organized by the Virtual Balkan Power Center for Renewable Energy Sources (VBPC-RES), a project under the auspices of the European Commission, 6th Framework Project, DG INCO.

Participation in the Workshop is free of charge. Please register at the web site, http://bpc.fe.uni-lj.si/html/dmworkshop_registration.php where you can also get additional information about the workshop.

4.3. EU ETS Review: Outlook for its future climate effectiveness

Climate Action Network Europe in collaboration with MEP Peter Liese, MEP Chris Davies and MEP Claude Turmes, invite you to participate in the workshop 'EU ETS Review: Outlook for its future climate effectiveness'

The workshop will take place on Wednesday 11 October 2006, 16:30 - 18:30pm.

Location: European Parliament, Rue Wiertz 60, B-1047 Brussels (room to be confirmed).

After the presentations we will open the floor for further discussions on the EU ETS post 2012.

Registration: please inform us if you wish to participate by 1 September 2006 by Email (karim@climnet.org) or Fax +32 2 229 52 29.

4.4. Climate Change and Business 2006 Conference

Point Carbon would like to announce Climate Change and Business 2006 Conference, which will take place on October 23 – 25 , 2006 at Ukrainsky Dim in Kiev.

This will be the second international event on JI projects in Ukraine. Over 300 participants from 24 countries attended the conference last year, including local project developers and hosts, Ukrainian government representatives, carbon credit buyers, technology providers, scientists, and international organizations.

The three-day conference will offer plenary presentations about current status and perspectives for JI project development in Ukraine and around the world, presentations on project opportunities, round table discussions, exhibition and project posters.

To learn more about the conference, sponsorship and exhibition opportunities please visit the link below. <http://www.pointcarbon.com/Events/article16480-369.html>.

4.5. The First International Conference "The case of energy autonomy: Storing Renewable Energies" (IRES I)

October 30 and 31 2006, Science Park Gelsenkirchen, Germany.

The conference is chaired by Dr. Hermann Scheer, President of EUROSOLAR, General Chairman of the World Council for Renewable Energy and winner of the Alternative Nobel Prize.

The central reservations against Renewable Energies are that they are not continuously available and that their storage is not possible and too costly.

Energy storage is therefore the strategic key element for the general application of a given energy source - and therefore the key to the breakthrough of Renewable Energies.

The programme is available online at:
http://www.eurosolar.org/new/en/Programme_Storage2006.html.

4.6. International course on 'Communication in Urbanised Forestry and Green-space Management'
The Danish Centre for Forest, Landscape and Planning, KVL (<http://www.sl.kvl.dk/?lang=en&>), in collaboration with the European Urban Forestry Research and Information Centre (EUFORIC, www.sl.kvl.dk/euforic) will organise an international course on 'Communication in Urbanised Forestry and Green-space Management'. This course will take place in Noedebo north of Copenhagen, during November 27 – December 1, 2006.

Further information and registration:

Full information about the course and online registration is available from:
<http://www.sl.kvl.dk/KurserOgEfteruddannelse/Kurser/CommunicationInUrbanisedForestry.aspx?lang=en&>.

Deadline for registration is September 15th, 2006.

PUBLICATIONS

5.1. "Field Guide to the Future: Four Ways for Communities to Think Ahead"

By Kristen Evans, Sandra J. Velarde, Rocio P. Prieto, Sheila N. Rao, Sandra Sertzen, Karina Davila and Wil de Jong.

Edited by Elena Bennett and Monika Zurek, Foreword by Doris Capistrano.

Coming in September 2006.

"Field Guide to the Future" is a practical, step-by-step manual describing methods that can help communities think ahead and prepare for changes in their environment and natural resources. These four methods are: Scenarios, Visioning, Pathways and Projections.

"Field Guide to the Future" is for communities who depend on natural resources and all of us who work with them. The authors have collaborated with communities in the management of forests, land, and water in many parts of the world, but particularly in tropical forest margins. In this manual they share their experiences and lessons learned about methods that can help communities prepare for the future.

"Field Guide to the Future" is a collaborative effort between the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the ASB system-wide program of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) and the Secretariat of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA).

To request your copy, please email Sandra Velarde at: s.velarde@cgiar.org. Spanish and French translations will be available later this year. Please contact Sandra if you are interested in receiving them.

5.2. Annual European Community greenhouse gas inventory 1990-2004 and inventory report 2006

Technical report No 6/2006, published at: http://reports.eea.europa.eu/technical_report_2006_6.

Abstract: This report is the annual submission of the greenhouse gas inventory of the European Community to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It presents greenhouse gas emissions between 1990 and 2004 by individual Member State and by economic sector. The report shows that, between 2003 and 2004, emissions in the 15 pre-2004 Member States increased by 11.5 million tonnes, or 0.3% and total EU emissions increased by 0.4%.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

6.1. Invitation for comments – JI project in Ukraine

DNV Certification is currently making a determination of the Coal Mine Methane Capture and Utilization at Holodnaya Balka Mine in Donetsk Oblast project in Ukraine. The project, proposed as Joint Implementation (JI) project between Ukraine and Japan, is a mining production and fugitive emissions from fuels project, where coal mine methane (CMM) will be captured and utilized at

