



Energy and Transport Newsletter

Energy Security: A Major Concern

Accessibility to energy in convenient forms, in sufficient quantities, indefinitely into the future, at affordable prices, and without unacceptable or irreversible impact on the environment is vital for the achievement of the goals of sustainable development. While it is predicted that global oil production will peak in the near future, the World Energy Assessment (WEA) (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York, 2000) points out that, as of 1998 and at 1998 fossil-fuel consumption rates, there remained 45 year's worth of proven reserves of oil, 69 year's worth of natural gas and 452 years of coal. Thus, the fossil-fuel resources needed to meet the global energy demand for the foreseeable future are available in abundance.

Nevertheless, from a global energy security perspective, the world does need to begin preparing for its long-term energy needs beyond the era of easily accessible and inexpensive oil and natural gas. The WEA also indicates that, under these same conditions, 50 years of proven uranium reserves are available, although this could last 60 times longer if that amount of uranium were used in fast breeder reactors. Moreover, renewable energy sources are plentiful and new technologies—such as power and transport systems that use hydrogen fuel generated from renewable sources—hold out the prospect of plentiful, clean energy supplies in a carbon-constrained world. However, how soon energy from these resources can be made available in the marketplace at fair prices

and in adequate quantities remains a key challenge.

In the shorter term, concern for a sustained supply of energy has taken a higher place on the global agenda in recent years. Numerous reasons have been mentioned for this development: the recent rise in energy prices, taxation and subsidy policies, the need for energy market reform, international efforts to curb greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and political instability in some main energy-supplier countries. Moreover, the potential for conflict, sabotage, and disruption of production and trade, the occurrence of natural disasters, limited production and refining capacity, and reduction in strategic reserves are additional factors. These, along with the increasing demand for energy, have resulted in an unstable energy market characterized by volatile prices. If such a situation prevails for an extended period of time, economic disruption in many countries may result, with eventual disruption of global economic growth in all countries, whether developing or developed, energy-producing or -importing.

Energy import-dependent, and in particular oil-import dependent, developing countries are concerned about the negative economic and development impacts that current energy prices can have on their vulnerable economies. Energy security concerns are particularly great for land-locked, and least developed countries (LDCs), as well as for small island developing states (SIDS).

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ETB News: Activities and Announcements

New staff join ETB

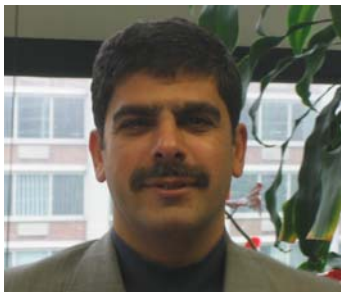
Steffen Behrle joins the Energy and Transport Branch as an Associate Expert to work on energy for sustainable development. He is assisting in the organization of workshops and conferences forming part of the preparatory process for CSD-14 and CSD-15 in the areas of cleaner fossil fuel technologies, cross-border energy trade and energy efficiency.



As a research fellow at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany, Mr. Behrle previously worked with the Global Governance Project, an international research programme. His research focused on global environmental governance and international organizations, in particular on the environmental activities of the World Bank and UNEP and on energy partnerships that grew out of the WSSD.

Mr. Behrle holds a BA and an MA in political science with a focus on international relations.

Hossein Moeini Meybodi joins the Energy and Transport Branch as an inter-regional adviser. Having worked as a diplomat at UN headquarters in Geneva and New York, he has been deeply involved in environment and sustainable development issues since the Rio Conference. During this period, he has held the position of chair, vice-chair or coordinator of various negotiating processes, including at the multilateral environmental agreements, UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), General Assembly, World Summit on Sustainable Development, UNEP, UNFF and the GEF.



Institutional arrangements for sustainable development, international environmental governance, sustainable forest management, policy measures and

responses to climate change, energy for sustainable development, and the GEF Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) are among the processes that he has been actively involved in. Outside the UN and as a member of the GEF Council for several years, as well as at the national level, he has dealt with project assessment and preparation.

Mr. Meybodi is the author of several articles on environment and sustainable development many of which are related to energy and climate change. Born in 1962 in Tehran, Mr. Meybodi holds a Masters Degree in International Law from the University of Tehran.

ETB says goodbye

In June the Energy Branch bade farewell to Dr. Jayarao Gururaja, fondly known as “Guru”, who retired after a long and distinguished career in the area of energy and renewable energy in particular. He joined the United Nations in 1996 as inter-regional adviser, after having served in the Government of India, where he pioneered efforts to develop renewable energy. Fond of the opportunity to debate an issue, he possessed a vast knowledge on energy matters, which he put to full and productive use during his time in the Branch. We wish him well in his new life.

Also leaving the Branch in 2005 was Dr. Roger Raufer, who served as inter-regional adviser for three years. Known to his colleagues as a proponent of economic instruments for environmental regulation, he was closely involved in several China projects, as well as work in the area of climate change, particularly the clean development mechanism (CDM). We wish him well as he returns to being a consultant in private practice.

Side event in Montreal

DESA participated in the e-7 side-event on public-private partnerships in Montreal during COP-11 on 9 December. Mr. Mohammad Reza Salamat of Division for Sustainable Development made a presentation on the results of the partnerships undertaken jointly by DESA



and e-7 on capacity-building for CDM and electricity interconnection. Other presentations focused on the overall activities of e-7 in area of clean energy.

Power sector reform in Africa

Energy experts from the AU, African regional economic communities (ECOWAS, SADC and COMESA) as well as representatives from utilities, energy ministries and regulators from 19 sub-Saharan African countries participated in a stakeholders' policy dialogue forum on making Africa's power sector sustainable.

The Forum, which was organized by ECA, the UNEP Regional Office for Africa and DESA, discussed strategies



for implementing power sector reforms in sub-Saharan Africa in a manner that integrates economic, social and environmental concerns. The participants adopted a two-page policy statement on power sector reform in Africa

Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference

From 7-8 November 2005 ministers, senior officials and experts from 78 countries gathered for the Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference 2005 (BIREC 2005). The conference, which was organized by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of the People's Republic of China, brought together key players and stakeholders in the international community around the shared goal of global renewable energy development, with a particular emphasis on developing countries.

BIREC 2005 reviewed the status of renewable energy and its contribution to economic development and poverty reduction, shared successes and lessons learnt for renewable energy deployment,

and explored approaches and trends in renewable energy policy, finance and capacity building.

BIREC 2005 was supported by the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), Germany, the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany, DESA and the European Commission.

The conference provided a unique and timely platform for building consensus on issues, actions and accomplishments for increasing the



global market for renewable energy. The meeting concluded with the adoption of the Beijing Declaration on Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development, which invites the Commission on Sustainable Development "to to

consider an effective arrangement to review and assess progress towards substantially increasing the global share of renewable energy as foreseen in paragraph 20(e) of Johannesburg Plan of Implementation." The text can be accessed on the Conference webpage at www.birec2005.cn.

Energy Legislation and Sustainable Development

DESA and the Parliament of South Africa convened the *Parliamentarian Forum on Energy Legislation and Sustainable Development*, in Cape Town, from 5-7 October 2005. The Forum brought together national legislators from Africa and other regions to explore the challenges of energy provision and appropriate energy legislation.

The key objectives of the Forum were to: (i) to engage parliamentarians and legislators, a key group of decision-makers, in building support and capacity in the field of energy and sustainable development; (ii) to exchange information, good practice and identify areas for future cooperation; and (iii) identify capacity-building needs and constraints in the area of energy legislation and sustainable development.

In his address to the Forum, the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism of South Africa, Marthinus Van Schalkwyk, highlighted the projected impacts of climate change on South Africa and called for a more effective and inclusive global climate regime. Ms. Rachel Mayanja, representing DESA, noted the role of parliamentarians in establishing the legal framework for energy for



sustainable, and called on legislators to empower women, including by providing them with more options and better choices of energy for household use. Ms. Lulu Xingwana, the Deputy Minister of Minerals and Energy, outlined the strategies being put in place to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy in South Africa.

Presenters and participants discussed a wide array of themes and topics during the course of the Forum. On the afternoon of the first day, a presentation on access to energy as human right sparked considerable discussion. Participants also heard presentations on inter-agency reporting on meeting sustainable development goals, as well as the promotion of renewable energy in Slovenia.

On the second day, the Forum continued in three parallel tracks, with the morning sessions devoted to energy development and natural resources manage-

ment, power sector reform and sustainable development, and renewable energy. The afternoon sessions were divided into rural energisation and electrification, energy efficiency, and regional cooperation in energy development and trade.

Participants' deliberations concluded with the adoption of conclusions and recommendations, which note that "the persistent energy divide is particularly affecting Africa, where it perpetuates poverty, constrains the delivery of social services, limits opportunities for women, and erodes environmental sustainability at all levels." Participants also called for continued collaborative local, national and international action to provide energy for sustainable development with a view to achieving accelerated poverty eradication, greater economic progress, welfare and social inclusion.

The organizers gratefully acknowledge a generous contribution by the Wallace Global Fund, which enabled the sponsorship of additional participants.

For more details on the Forum see: www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/energy/op/parliamentarian_forum.htm

Energy Security cont...

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Developing countries with economies facing high debt repayment burdens and/or declining foreign exchange revenues from primary commodity exports often face great challenges and economic and social instability as foreign exchange costs for oil and other energy imports rise. At the same time, in a globalizing economy ensuring sustained energy supply and fair and stable energy prices is no longer the problem solely of energy-importing countries. For export-dependent energy producing countries, the economic benefits of a well-functioning world energy market and expanding global economy are substantial. Without growing energy exports, these countries can not afford the imports needed for their economies.

Another principal uncertainty in the global energy supply outlook is cost. While advances in technology and productivity tend to drive down production and transportation costs, depletion of the more easily extracted reserves and the growing distances over which new supplies must be transported tend to push up the cost of delivered energy. The cost of supplying natural gas to the main markets is starting to rise with the depletion of near-to-market reserves and the growing need to ship supplies from further afield. Thus, the adequacy of future energy supplies will depend on massive investments to bring new production capacity on stream and, particularly for natural gas, to build new infrastructure to transport supplies to market. Other concerns of the producer countries are their large financial and technological needs for the exploration of new fossil-fuel reservoirs and the refining capacity to meet the growing energy demands of their own people and the international community. The bulk of this investment is needed in developing countries, but the scale of investment will require major capital inflows from industrialized countries.

There are a number of options for addressing these challenges and the concerns of importers and exporters of energy resources. One is to develop and apply new methods of using traditional

fuels such as coal that are more efficient and reduce polluting emissions. Other options include: promoting the use of renewable sources of energy; developing and applying advanced fossil-fuel technologies, as well as new technologies such as fuel cells; promoting international trade and investment all along the energy supply chain; expanding and diversifying the types and sources of energy; facilitating the availability of energy resources including through supporting increased investment, transferring advanced and cleaner exploration technologies to producing countries, building and extending pipelines and interconnecting national power grids.

Diversification provides an element of supply security by reducing risks. Diversity of energy supply both by type and source are important. For the long-term, this energy diversity should be sought within and across sectors and the sources of the fuels used should be as diverse as practicable. Non-hydrocarbon energy sources, particularly nuclear and hydraulic energy for electricity, make substantial contributions to the energy supply diversity of some countries. Nuclear power contributes both to diversity of supply and to supply security, since fuel requirements are small. However, there remain environmental and safety concerns involving the use of this source of energy, including with respect to transport and the disposal of the resulting radioactive waste. Adequately addressing these concerns could make nuclear energy a clean source of electricity in many countries.

Additional measures to be encouraged, because they are environmental-friendly and in line with global efforts to reduce GHG emissions, include: improving efficiency in the use of all forms of energy through better management of existing equipment and buildings; reducing GHG emissions by switching to such lower carbon fuels as natural gas, investing in new low-carbon generation plants for the future; and investing in new technologies and infrastructure which can reduce the

underlying demand for services such as transport, power, shelter and comfort.

In an interdependent world, producers and consumers are beginning to understand that they share a common interest in smoothly functioning international energy markets. Moreover, co-operation and long-term agreements among energy-importing countries and between importing and exporting countries, as well as increased sharing of infrastructure for transporting natural gas and transmitting electricity, foster economic and political stability. Such cooperation can be promoted by engaging key energy-importing partners, major energy producers, and international institutions in a dialogue to explore ways of promoting a shared global prosperity. Over the past decade, the producer-consumer dialogue has become increasingly productive in seeking to balance the interests of both groups and facilitating the exchange of views on energy-related issues. Energy producers and consumers have identified many areas where market functioning could be improved.

Access to better oil-market data is a common objective which is being constructively tackled on a cooperative basis. The new International Energy Forum (IEF) based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, is an attempt to enhance the producer-consumer dialogue on oil and natural gas. Similarly, well-designed international partnerships on the development and commercialization of new energy technologies and energy sources improve the energy market and help leverage financial resources, increase the knowledge base, and expand opportunities to apply advanced energy technologies. Currently, the IEF is focusing on such issues as statistics and processes, but has the potential for expansion to such other issues of common interest as the promotion of access to energy resources in a sustainable and cost-effective manner.

Another initiative took place in June 2005 between OPEC and the European Union. The main objective of this meeting was to pursue cooperation

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Renewable energy for village power in China

China has extensive historical experience in developing renewable energy systems for rural electrification using small wind systems, solar home systems, and hybrid village power systems.

In 2002 a programme, implemented by the National Development and Reform and Commission (NDRC), was established with the goal of electrifying the remaining 1065 administrative townships in rural western China. With funding from UNDP/GEF, DESA is providing assistance to the programme in the form of a project entitled Capacity Building for the Rapid Commercialization of Renewable Energy in China.

A number of key areas in which the project provided support are: ownership of township system assets, tariff regulation, securing long-term financial support, and management models. Surveys carried out under the project have found

that electricity tariffs charged for customers of township systems varies highly from province to province and from system to system. The NDRC is in the process of establishing uniform tariff regulations for the township systems. With respect to financial viability, it is known that the long-term financial requirements of township systems, such as battery replacement, will not be covered by electricity tariff revenues alone, thus necessitating some form of subsidy. The Renewable Energy Law, adopted in February 2005, will provide a financing mechanism to provide continuing government cost sharing for



the township systems. Finally, the project also investigated various management models for township systems, ranging from ownership by provincial utilities to ownership and operation by township government.

In cooperation with the NDRC, the project has focused its support in the areas of capacity

building and information exchange, baseline survey and training, and assistance for the development of renewable electricity services companies (RESCOs). Accordingly, the project has published the *Village Power Project Development Guidebook* and conducted field surveys of the installed systems to develop a database to provide information for current planning purposes and future evaluation. The project has developed a curriculum and management training program for future RESCOs that complements an engineering training program for system operators.

The project also saw the establishment of a Rural Energy Service Station model for management of village power systems in Bulunkou Township in Xinjiang. This case provides insights and lessons for the RESCO companies operating as a small business to manage large numbers of village power systems. In the near future, the NDRC plans to establish RESCO pilot projects in Qinghai, Xinjiang, and Tibet with the assistance of the GEF/World Bank Renewable Energy Development Program in China.

Looking ahead, China has made a commitment to expand the national rural electrification programme to some 20,000 un-electrified natural villages and a large number of remote rural households in western China, at an estimated cost of US\$ of 5 billion over 10-15 years.

[The above is adapted, with permission, from an article by William Wallace, Si-cheng Wang, Fang Lu, and Zhongying Wang.]

Energy Security cont...

through dialogue between oil producers and consumers on such issues as greater data transparency, trends in supply and demand, future policies and their implications, and technology developments. An important result of this meeting is the recognition of the environmental aspects of the energy industry. A conference on new technologies, particularly for the capture and storage of CO₂ is planned for the early part of 2006.

While such dialogues are mainly held between the producers and importers of energy resources, there have been a number of meetings among energy-importing countries to address their common energy challenges. In 2002, energy ministers from the Group of Eight (G-8) countries met in Detroit, USA. Ministers reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and coordinating emergency oil reserves and agreed to work together to encourage greater energy investment.

In 2003, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum endorsed a plan proposed by the United States to identify best practices for LNG trade and

strategic oil reserves, to finance clean energy, to develop a framework for a hydrogen economy, and to cooperate on the exploitation of methane hydrates. The Liquefied Natural Gas Ministerial Summit, which was held in December 2004, brought together representatives from 24 countries to assess the world LNG market. The expectation is that these initiatives will improve energy security and energy access along the entire chain of production, distribution and consumption of energy.

In summary, while world resources are sufficient to satisfy global demand for energy for the foreseeable future, there are major challenges in terms of infrastructure, diversification, resource distribution, climate-change risk, and environmental degradation. Addressing the world's growing demand for energy resources and ensuring the reliability of global energy supplies and fair and stabilized energy prices, calls for comprehensive and integrated policies that consider both demand and supply aspects and the cooperation of all countries.

News from the Montreal climate change conference

The eleventh Conference of the Parties (COP 11) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the first Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 1) was held in Montreal, Canada, from 28 November to 10 December 2005.

The COP in Montreal addressed an array of issues, among them capacity building, technology development and transfer, and the adverse effects of climate change on developing and least developed countries. Importantly, after intensive negotiations the COP agreed on a process for considering future action beyond 2012 under the Convention. At COP/MOP 1, the parties adopted the “Marrakech Accords”, which consist of the detailed rules giving effect to the Kyoto Protocol and set out how it will function. After long negotiation, the COP/MOP also decided on a process for discussing possible post-2012 commitments, providing a much-awaited signal to the nascent carbon trading market.

Long neglected as a response to climate change, adaptation has received greater attention recently, a trend that continued at Montreal. Building on COP-10 in Buenos Aires, the parties adopted a decision setting out a five-year programme of work comprising two thematic areas: impacts and vulnerability, and adaptation planning, measures and actions. The COP reaffirms that the response to climate change should be coordinated with social and economic development in an integrated manner. The call for an action-oriented programme, led by developing countries, which are likely to be hardest hit and least prepared to cope with climate change, was tempered by concerns over the need for additional funding.

COP-7 in 2001 approved a package of rules establishing the operational details of the Protocol, covering key issues such as land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF), methodological issues, review of information, compliance and enforcement, flexible mechanisms, and accounting of assigned amounts. To enter into effect, these decisions required

formal adoption by the COP/MOP. Despite a proposal to make the provisions on compliance subject to an amendment, the parties adopted the compliance regime, and thereby established the most sophisticated compliance regime of any existing multilateral environmental agreement. The mechanism will monitor and facilitate the compliance of the Annex-I parties with their commitments under the Protocol and ensure their sustained eligibility for participation in the flexibility mechanisms. It consists of a 20-member compliance committee, with facilitative and enforcement branches.

The COP/MOP addressed a range of issues pertaining to the flexibility meas-



ures under the Protocol. During discussions, parties noted the importance of safeguarding the environmental integrity of the CDM, while mention was also made of the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution of CDM projects, particularly with respect to Africa.

Addressing the issue of administration and procedures, the COP/MOP requested the Board to identify measures aimed at strengthening the CDM and its responsiveness to the needs of parties and stakeholders. The Board is also requested to solicit public input on new ways to demonstrate additionality and to improve the “additionality tool.” It also calls for further progress with respect to baseline and monitoring methodologies. Recognising need for adequate financing for the Board, the parties substantially increased pledges to the fund supporting its work, while also deciding on the share of proceeds from the sale of credits to cover administrative expenses.

Signalling increasing interest in this mitigation technology, the decision invites parties to make submissions on car-

bon dioxide capture and storage (CCS) under the CDM, while the Board is requested to consider proposals for CCS project methodologies. A decision of the COP/MOP establishes the JI Supervisory Committee and requests it to develop standards and procedures for accrediting independent entities, accredit such entities, and develop a management plan and guidelines for small-scale JI projects. On a provisional basis, designated operational entities under the CDM may be used for JI projects.

Under Article 3.9 of the Protocol, discussions on post-2012 action and commitments had to commence in 2005, that is at the Montreal meeting, an outcome initially regarded as unlikely by many commentators. However, the parties decided to initiate a process in an open-ended *ad hoc* group, which will meet for the first time in May 2006, to consider further commitments by Annex I Parties beyond 2012. It was agreed that the group should aim to complete its work and have it adopted by the COP/MOP in time to ensure that there is no gap between commitment periods.

In a parallel track, and after overcoming significant opposition, the parties to the Convention decided to engage in a dialogue to exchange experiences and analyze strategic approaches for long-term cooperative action to address climate change. They resolved that the dialogue would be non-binding and will not open any negotiations leading to new commitments. It was agreed that the dialogue would identify actions to promote sustainable development, mitigate and adapt to climate change, and explore new ways to promote access by developing countries to climate friendly technologies.

The Conference signed off on the formalities to make the Kyoto Protocol fully operational, while also establishing processes to continue discussions under both the Convention and the Protocol, therefore maintaining the forward momentum of the international climate change regime.

e7-DESA Electricity Interconnection Seminar

DESA, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy of Egypt and the e7 Network of Expertise for the Global Environment organized the Seminar on African Electrical Interconnection, which took place in Cairo from 19-21 June.

The Seminar addressed the strategic, technical, financing, and operational aspects of regional electricity interconnection, with the objective of facilitating the regional interconnection of electricity grids in Africa, in implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) and in support of the goals of NEPAD. The JPOI calls for action to “[s]trengthen and facilitate, as appropriate, regional cooperation arrangements for promoting cross-border energy trade, including the interconnection of electricity grids...”

In his opening address, the Minister of Electricity and Energy of Egypt, underlined the importance of regional cooperation and electricity interconnection in Africa. He noted that the traditional approach to energy planning within national borders suffered from a range of shortcomings, including the following: political boundaries do not correspond to the geography of available energy



sources; many national markets are too small to justify the investment to develop energy supply opportunities; and energy planning and development does not ensure sufficient diversification of energy sources, a prerequisite for energy security.

Mr. Yehia Abu-Alam, DESA Technical Adviser, made a presentation on the political and legal framework issues pertaining to regional interconnection. A presentation on power pools in Africa, by a representative of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, highlighted that while regional power pools could overcome the reality of unevenly distributed energy sources in Africa, success requires fairly well-developed grid inter-

connections, a legal framework for cross-border electricity exchanges, and trust and mutual confidence among pool members.

The substance of the seminar was made up of a series of modules addressing all key facets of regional electricity grid interconnections, including initial feasibility assessment, market assessment, technical aspects of power system interconnection, and financing interconnection projects.

The participants consisted of 20 power sector managers and engineers from African countries, who were joined by 10-15 local participants. At the close of the seminar, participants adopted a set of conclusions, which called for greater support for electricity interconnection in Africa, including in the form of capacity-building on technical and legal/institutional issues.

The seminar was the second joint e7-DESA activity, following two CDM capacity building workshops in 2004, under an agreement signed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Building on the successful outcome of the first interconnection seminar, a second one is planned in Africa in 2006.

Cleaner fuels and vehicles partnership

The Energy and Transport Branch, in the framework of DESA's participation in the Partnership on Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV), cooperated in the organization of a Conference on Cleaner Fuels and Vehicles in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and Turkey, which was held in Szentendre, Hungary, on 27-28 October 2005. The conference, which was funded by the USEPA and the Clearing House of the Partnership, was organized in conjunction with UNEP, the Regional Environmental Centre (REC) for Central and Eastern Europe, and the US Government.

As the first major regional event for the PCFV, the conference was an opportunity to present its objectives and showcase partnership activities. Subjects cov-

ered during the encompassed the objectives and activities of the PCFV, technological, financial and legal aspects of clean fuel production, as well as emissions and fuel quality development in the EU.

Other topics covered included global trends in clean fuels and vehicles and biodiesel production, with a particular focus on leaded gasoline phase-out, plans for the reduction of sulphur levels in diesel fuel, cleaner vehicles and emission control technologies, harmonization of national legislation with EU fuel quality standards and implementation of relevant EU directives.

The Conference was attended by representatives from Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech

Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey (including the Turkish Undersecretary of the Environment, Mr. Ozturk), parliaments (the leader of the Romanian Green Party, Mr. Petru Lificiu), the private sector (refineries), automobile associations, international organizations, and academia.

The main outcome of the Conference was the launch of the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV) activities' in Central and Eastern Europe and Turkey, as well as the establishment of a network of experts and practitioners in the region to support these activities.

Upcoming meetings

CSD-14 - The fourteenth session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-14) will meet at UN Headquarters in New York from 1-12 May 2006. As the first year of the second implementation cycle, CSD-14 will review progress in the following areas: Energy for Sustainable Development; Industrial Development; Air pollution/Atmosphere; and Climate Change.

8-11 Jan—9th Regional Arab World Renewable Energy and Environment Congress
Venue: Tripoli, Libya
Organized by: Interexpo NV Netherlands Antilles

19-20 Jan—Latin America and the Caribbean CSD Regional Implementation Meeting
Venue: Santiago, Chile
Organized by: UN ECLAC

19-20 Jan—Asia and the Pacific CSD Regional Implementation Meeting
Venue: Bangkok, Thailand
Organized by: UN ESCAP

23 Jan—11th UNECE Gas Centre Executive Board Meeting
Venue: Geneva, Switzerland
Organized by: UN ECE Gas Centre

6-8 Feb—United Nations Symposium on Natural Gas and Sustainable Development
Venue: Qatar
Organized by: UN DESA

7-9 Feb 9th Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (9th SS.GC/GMEF)
Venue: Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Organized by: UNEP

20-21 Feb—Second Australia-New Zealand Climate Change and Business Conference
Venue: Adelaide Australia
Organized by: The Conference Company Ltd, <http://www.climateandbusiness.com>

27 Feb - 2 Mar—2006 European Wind Energy Conference and Exhibition
Venue: Athens, Greece
Organized by: European Wind Energy Association, http://www.ewea.org/documents/2006EWEC_programme.pdf

28 Feb- 2 March—2006 Carbon Markets Insights Event
Venue: Copenhagen, Denmark
Organized by: Point Carbon, http://www.pointcarbon.com/wimages/CMI_2006_Overview.pdf

Financing Energy for Sustainable Development (date to be determined)
Venue, UN Headquarters, New York
Organized by: US Government

5-6 Mar—Gas Arabia-An International Conference for the Middle East Gas Sector
Venue: Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Organized by: The Energy Exchange Ltd.

13-16—Mar European Fuels Week
Venue: Paris, France
Organized by: World Refining Association

7-8 April—Workshop on Climate Change and Sustainable Development
Venue: New Delhi, India
Organized by: TERI/UN DESA/Government of India

The Energy and Transport Branch

The Energy and Transport Branch of the Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) services the inter-governmental processes of the United Nations in the fields of energy and transport, prepares analytical studies on these subjects, and provides advisory services to governments and technically supports energy projects at the field level.

These services focus on increasing the supply of energy services in developing coun-

tries, particularly in rural areas, and managing the demand for energy, largely through energy efficiency efforts. Such technical assistance is directed toward capacity building, institutional strengthening, promoting increased energy investments, and expanding the role of the private sector and local communities.

With a core staff of fourteen in-house energy experts and with over 200 associated consultants, the Branch has the capacity to technically backstop projects dealing with

all aspects of this highly diverse sector.

For more information on the projects outlined in this newsletter, please contact:

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