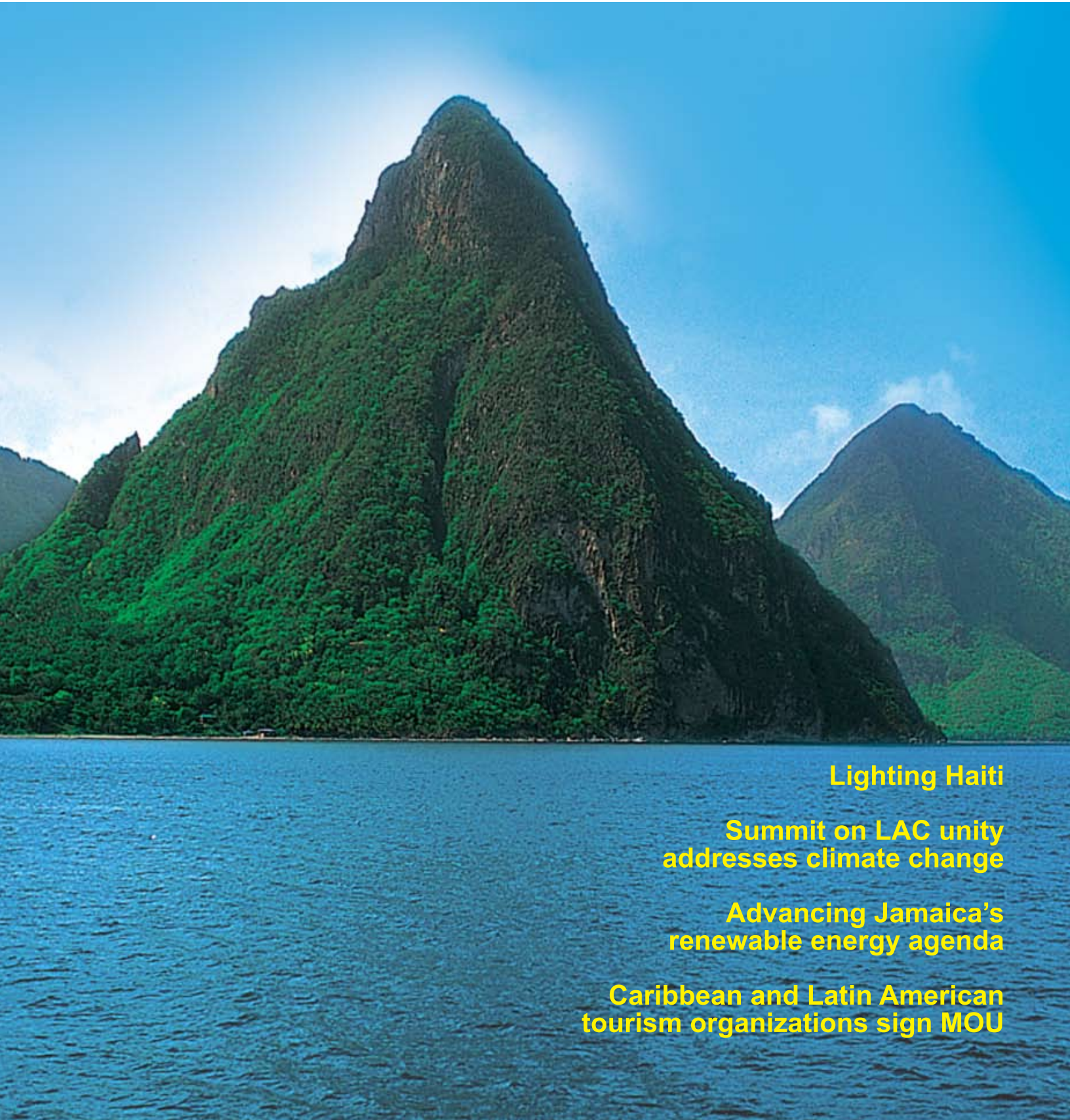


EARTH CONSCIOUS



Lighting Haiti

**Summit on LAC unity
addresses climate change**

**Advancing Jamaica's
renewable energy agenda**

**Caribbean and Latin American
tourism organizations sign MOU**



Forty years after the first Earth Day, the world is in greater peril than ever.

While climate change is the greatest challenge of our time, it also presents the greatest opportunity – an unprecedented opportunity to build a healthy, prosperous, clean energy economy now and for the future.

Earth Day 2010 can be a turning point to advance climate policy, energy efficiency, renewable energy and green jobs.

Earth Day Network is galvanizing millions who make personal commitments to sustainability.

Earth Day 2010 is a pivotal opportunity for individuals, corporations and governments to join together and create a global green economy.

www.earthday.net



Young people call for a
climate friendly Caribbean
Page 8

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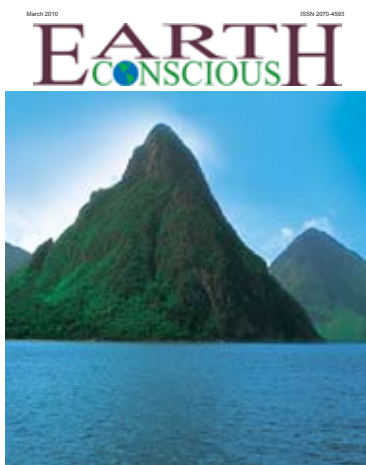
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ON OUR COVER

The world famous Pitons. Photo courtesy the St. Lucia Tourist Board. See related article in regional pages 'OECS launches Environmental and Socioeconomic Study in Vieux Fort, St Lucia'.



On the Road to Mexico

Wasn't it truly disappointing that our leaders could not reach a binding climate change agreement at last December's much-touted Copenhagen conference and had to settle – embarrassingly so – for an Accord that fell far short of its stated goals?

Many commentators and analysts have already given their views on what went wrong in Copenhagen and what contributed to the lack of consensus among the leaders.

Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Yvo de Boer tries to put a positive spin on the Accord, describing it as “politically important” as it demonstrates a willingness by countries to move forward.

The key points of the Accord include the objective to keep the maximum temperature rise to below 2 degrees Celsius; the commitment to list developed country emission reduction targets and mitigation action by developing countries for 2020; US\$ 30 billion short-term funding for immediate action till 2012 and US\$ 100 billion annually by 2020 in long-term financing, as well as mechanisms to support technology transfer and forestry.

The challenge now, according to de Boer, is to turn what is agreed into something that is legally binding in Mexico towards the end of this year when negotiators are hoping to nail down what they failed to achieve in Copenhagen -- a new treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol.

Please read Mr. de Boer's article inside the magazine, 'Reflections on the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference'.

We have also reproduced 'COP 15 - Review and analysis' by Saleemul Huq, Achala Chandani and Simon Anderson of the International Institute for Environment and Development for further understanding on what went wrong in Copenhagen.

A third article by WWF 'The Copenhagen Accord: A Stepping Stone?' analyses how the world might begin the journey from the political agreement of the Copenhagen Accord to an internationally binding climate treaty in Mexico City in December.

Over the next few months, the crucial issue leading up to Mexico is bridging the interests of industrialised, emerging economies and developing countries.

It's a mammoth challenge but all hands must be on deck to ensure a positive outcome in Mexico.

Linda Hutchinson-Jafar



NEW REGIONAL UNITED NATIONS REPORT:

REGION ADVANCES IN ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS, BUT DEFORESTATION AND CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS KEEP RISING

Despite significant progress in some areas, the constant reduction of forest areas and the sustained increase of CO₂ emissions

in the region are impeding compliance with the seventh Millennium Development Goal (MDG7) on environmental sustainability, according to a report of United Nations organizations and agencies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The study “Millennium Development Goals: Advances in Environmentally Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean” monitors the advances and difficulties in attaining the targets of the seventh MDG in the region.

These targets are: integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes, reversing the loss of environmental resources, reducing biodiversity loss, increasing the population’s sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation and significantly improving the lives of slum dwellers.

According to the report, from 1990-2005, the total surface of protected areas grew 120%, consumption of ozone-depleting substances diminished by 85% and coverage of drinking water and basic sanitation rose by 10% and 17%, respectively, although with enormous differences according to geographical areas and income levels in each country.

The urban population living in slums has decreased by 31%, but there are still 100 million people living in unacceptable conditions in the region, says the study.

There is no precise and comparable data available to be able to conclude any trend in other indicators, such as the fish stocks within safe biological limits, total water resources used and species threatened with extinction. In these cases,

the report stresses the urgent need to systematically collect information in order to have a more accurate assessment of the regional situation.

Where there has been no progress is in the surface area covered by forests and carbon dioxide emissions. The rate of deforestation in Latin America and the Caribbean doubles the world average, notes the study. Between 1990 and 2005, the region’s forest cover shrunk by 7%, losing nearly 69 million hectares of forest.

Of the total loss of forest, 86% took place in South America, particularly in the Amazon. Although some countries, like Chile and Uruguay, have increased their forest areas through large-scale industrial planting, they cannot replace the ecological and biodiversity functions of the natural forests that have been eliminated, asserts the report.

CO₂ emissions from fossil-fuel burning and cement production have increased in absolute terms. From 1990 to 2005, CO₂ emissions rose nearly 41%, although the ratio of these to GDP fell slightly. Even with the increase, total and regional per capita emissions are only a small fraction of those in developed countries.

However, these figures do not include emissions produced by changes in land use and deforestation, and so the indicator understates the region’s real emissions. Latin America and the Caribbean are estimated to generate more than 48% of all global emissions caused by land-use change, states the report.

Only five years from the deadline for attaining the Millennium Development Goals (2015), the report calls for stepping up efforts to advance in environmentally sustainable development in the region, adopting a proactive approach in light of the new challenges posed by climate change, and adapting current development models towards new frontiers of growth with greater value added and innovation.



Gordon Brown,
UK Prime Minister
and Bharrat Jagdeo,
President of Guyana

President Jagdeo joins UK, Ethiopia and Norway prime ministers in efforts to raise US\$100 billion in climate finance

UN Secretary General Announces Members of Climate Finance Advisory Group

At the request of United Nations Secretary General, Ban ki-Moon, Guyana's President Bharrat Jagdeo will join his British, Ethiopian and Norwegian counterparts to mobilize US\$100 billion in annual finance for developing countries' efforts to combat climate change.

The establishment of the advisory group builds on the Copenhagen Accord, which was agreed by most of the world's countries at December's climate change conference in the Danish capital.

UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown said that the group would take on the important task of combating climate change by ensuring that the poorest countries have the finance necessary to do so.

"If we can resolve this problem then I believe many of the other challenges of climate change can also be solved," he said.

The leaders will be joined by 16 global experts and leading policy-makers from the world's major economies – including Larry Summers, the Director of President Obama's National Economic Council; Lord Nicholas Stern, Author of the Stern Review on Climate Change; Caio Koch-Weser, the Vice-Chairman of Deutsche Bank, and George Soros, the venture capitalist. Senior Government representatives from China, India, Mexico, Australia, South Africa, Singapore, Mali, Brazil, Australia and France will also contribute.

A statement issued by the UN Secretary General's Office said: "... the group will develop practical proposals on how to significantly scale-up long-term financing for mitigation and adaptation strategies in developing countries."

The group will conclude their work before the end of 2010.

Getting agreement on the need for both immediate "fast start" funding and a commitment to US\$100 billion in annual climate finance for developing countries by 2020 have been two of Guyana's key demands in international climate negotiations.

Guyana lobbied for these commitments to be included in the Port of Spain Climate Change Consensus which was agreed by over 50 Heads of Government at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Trinidad last November.

They were also two of the key factors that President Jagdeo insisted must be agreed at the Copenhagen climate change negotiations.

"We need to face some blunt realities. One, the world is still not on the path to climate stability, and in that sense Copenhagen did not deliver what the world needs," President Jagdeo told the Government Information Agency (GINA),

"Two, we stand no chance of getting climate stability unless we support the many developing countries who are working to combat climate change and move onto a low carbon trajectory. In that sense, Copenhagen made significant progress."

Lighting Haiti:

GEF approves emergency solar power generating project



Hand-cranked lanterns, generators powered by sun to help power hospitals, clinics and refugee camps.

In concert with sister agencies, the Global Environment Facility has approved an emergency project to help restore power lost from the Port au Prince earthquake and assist relief workers as they look to supply critical medical needs to survivors.

The US\$3 million effort, co-financed with matching grants from the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank Group, will use energy from the sun to produce clean electricity for medical centers, vaccine refrigeration, and other critical relief efforts.

Hand-cranked lanterns will also be distributed in refugee camps and residential areas that are in the dark after a 7.0 magnitude temblor destroyed most of the electricity grid and local power plants.

The demand for off the grid electricity is immense--about three million displaced people are without power and it may take as much as two years to restore the infrastructure to pre-earthquake conditions, agency officials say.

The project's support will be concentrated in Port-au-Prince although if necessary, other severely affected areas for which information is not yet available may be included in the effort.



“By supporting local authorities as they look to supply sustainable and accessible energy at this time of crisis, this project will help provide basic services as well as boost clean energy sources,” said Monique Barbut, CEO and Chairperson of the GEF.

As part of the rebuilding process, the GEF's two implementing agencies, the IDB and the WBG, have established an energy team to coordinate emergency response activities in Haiti's energy sector.

This project is part of both institutions' initial response for assessing the energy sector's reconstruction and recovery needs in the earthquake area, particularly for power generation and lighting. Results of this project will in the short and medium term help multilateral institutions organize follow-up investment actions, project organizers said.

Along with the obvious humanitarian benefits of

supplying off the grid electricity there is an environmental plus as well: Port au Prince now relies mainly on fossil fuel-based energy sources, and any substitution with renewable energy (in this case solar power) will generate carbon emission reductions.

With the breakdown of the grid, past sources of renewable electricity such as the country's hydropower plant, Peligre, are no longer available to local authorities so relief workers and survivors alike are now forced to rely exclusively on very inefficient fuel-based systems like small individual generators, kerosene lamps, candles, or even non-renewable biomass (i.e. wood fire cutting the last trees in the city).

About The GEF

GEF unites 179 countries in partnership with international institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector to address global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives

Excerpts of an address by Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment, Emily Gaynor Dick-Forde at the South Trinidad Chamber annual energy conference, January 2010.



Emily Gaynor Dick-Forde

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in order to avoid the most severe weather and sea-level rise, and limit the temperature increase to about 2°C, the greenhouse-gas concentration needs to be stabilised at around 450 ppm CO₂-equivalent. In the medium term

therefore, what are the global energy implications for a 450 ppm scenario?

The demand for natural gas worldwide is set to resume its long-term upwards trend, though the pace of demand growth hinges critically on the strength of international climate policy action as well as on the rate of economic growth. In the 450 ppm scenario, in which governments are assumed to take strong action to cut CO₂ emissions, world gas demand is expected to grow by 17% between 2007 and 2030. Gas being the cleaner fuel alternative to coal and oil.

The 450 ppm scenario assumes a hybrid policy approach, comprising a plausible combination of cap-and-trade systems, sectoral agreements and national measures, with countries subject to common but differentiated responsibilities. End-use efficiency offers the greatest opportunity for CO₂ emissions abatement, and early retirement of old, inefficient industrial plants and their replacement by more efficient and cleaner technology will make major contributions to the achievement of the 450 ppm scenario.

The increased deployment of renewable energy, the increased use of alternative fuels in the transport sector, and carbon capture and storage (CCS) all have significant roles to take in the achievement of major reductions in the atmospheric concentration of ghg emissions..

Any discourse on energy consumption and

economic growth would be incomplete without reference to the impact of the global financial crisis. Despite the impact of the financial crisis, world greenhouse-gas emissions, including non-energy related CO₂ and all other gases, are projected to grow from 42.4 Gigitons CO₂-equivalent in 2005 to 56.5 Gt CO₂-eq in 2030 – an increase of one-third.

All of the foregoing therefore points to a very different 21st century in the global context. Trinidad and Tobago as a major energy producer and consumer stands to be impacted on, as a result of measures taken, not only globally, but also domestically. Being a small island developing state, we are not immune to exogenous economic shocks and adapting to this picture for the future will require sound research and analysis, wise decisions and firm action.

Preliminary analysis of research into our emissions experience indicates that carbon dioxide emissions from the energy sector, which accounts for total emissions arising as a result of direct combustion of fossil fuels and includes emissions from power generation and transport, increased from 16 806 gigagrams to 63 456 gigagrams, which represents an increase of 278 % over the period 1990-2006.

Carbon dioxide emissions from the transport sector are estimated to have doubled from 1990 levels to 2006. It is no coincidence that this increase correlates directly with the number of vehicles increasing by almost 100% over the same period.

Carbon dioxide emissions from power generation increased by 43.3 % over the period 1990-2006, while carbon dioxide emissions from the industrial processes sector increased by 86.7% over the same period.

Already, it is estimated that the average ambient temperature of Trinidad and Tobago has risen by about 1.7 degrees Celcius over the past forty years based on meteorological records. Future projected impacts of climate change are likely to affect the agriculture sector through possible increased aridity of soils, decreased crop yields due to intolerance of crop varieties, salinisation of productive soils in the event of an increase in sea levels and inundation and flooding of coastal areas.

Impacts in the water resources sector are expected to arise as a result of increase in temperatures with the attendant loss of available surface water and decreased rainfall resulting in reduced percolation and recharge of groundwater reserves in aquifers; reduced availability of surface water and potable water.

***Excerpts of a speech by Senator Conrad Enill,
Minister of Energy and Energy Industries in the
Trinidad and Tobago Government at the South
Trinidad Chamber of Industry and Commerce
Annual Energy Conference, January 2010***



Conrad Enill

We have also done a few things. We switched to all unleaded gasoline several years ago. We are in the midst of reducing our natural gas consumption in electricity generation by a programme to have all of our power generation converted to combined-cycle generators by 2016.

In addition, the South Chamber in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries and the Ministry of Planning Housing and the Environment are currently working together to collaborate and conceptualise a Carbon Capture and Storage project for Trinidad and Tobago.

This project will outline the role and responsibility of each organisation, the technology to be employed and the implications of the Carbon Capture and Storage project for existing plants.

We are also planning for a large reduction in diesel and gasoline consumption via the expansion of the Compressed Natural Gas programme.

That being said, I am pleased to advise that the Government is developing a renewable energy policy for Trinidad and Tobago which should be available for public comment shortly.

Additionally we are in the process of developing a framework for partnering with the United States through its Department of Energy (USDOE) in the development of a Renewable Energy Research Centre and a Framework for Partnership under the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA).

The Partnership was first announced at the Fifth Summit of the Americas in Port of Spain, where President Obama invited all countries of the Western Hemisphere to be a part of a united effort in this critical area.

Since the Summit in April, regional response has been positive across all five ECPA elements: energy efficiency, renewable energy, cleaner fossil

fuels, critical infrastructure, and energy poverty alleviation.

Moreover, the Renewable Energy Research Centre would provide an excellent opportunity to broaden our joint activities while building needed capacity in the region.

The Centre would benefit from being networked to other regional energy centres that have already been established in Chile, Peru and Colombia, and other centres that might be established.

The progress of Trinidad and Tobago as a nation depends on our ability to use our energy resources in ways that provide maximum benefit to all the people of our country.

The Government has embraced a sustainable development methodology that aims to improve our standard of living and expand our nation's opportunities for tomorrow as we move towards developed nation status.

The key strategies developed and deployed by this Government for the current and long-term vibrancy of the gas sector revolve around the deliberate selection of a mix of gas-consuming projects which will provide for diversification, balance and maximum value-adding potential for our economy.

DID YOU KNOW?

Global sea level rise is projected to increase by 0.09 to 0.088m in 2100



Courtesy: Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre

Photo: Margo Jordan



YOUTH CALL FOR CLIMATE FRIENDLY CARIBBEAN

CMEx Director Lelei LeLaulu in dialogue with St. Lucian secondary school students at CMEx.

Youth delegates to the Caribbean Media Exchange on Sustainable Tourism (CMEx) have called for effective regional action on global warming and for more education to assist youth in making the region's destinations "climate friendly".

In a declaration adopted at the CMEx session in St. Lucia last December, youth participants voiced serious concern about "the separation and segregation of the Caribbean region" and called on governments "to aggressively encourage stakeholders to resume efforts to unite the Caribbean and market the region as a one."

In addition to working with the media to disseminate travel and tourism messages in the Caribbean, the youth expressed concern at the lack of education in the tourism and environmental fields: "We believe that through education, tourism can become a more sustainable business, and we can teach every citizen how they

can benefit from this industry."

Focusing on the importance of youth - the future leaders of the world, the declaration urged young people be given "all the resources to do a better job than their predecessors with governing their communities, regions, countries and the world."

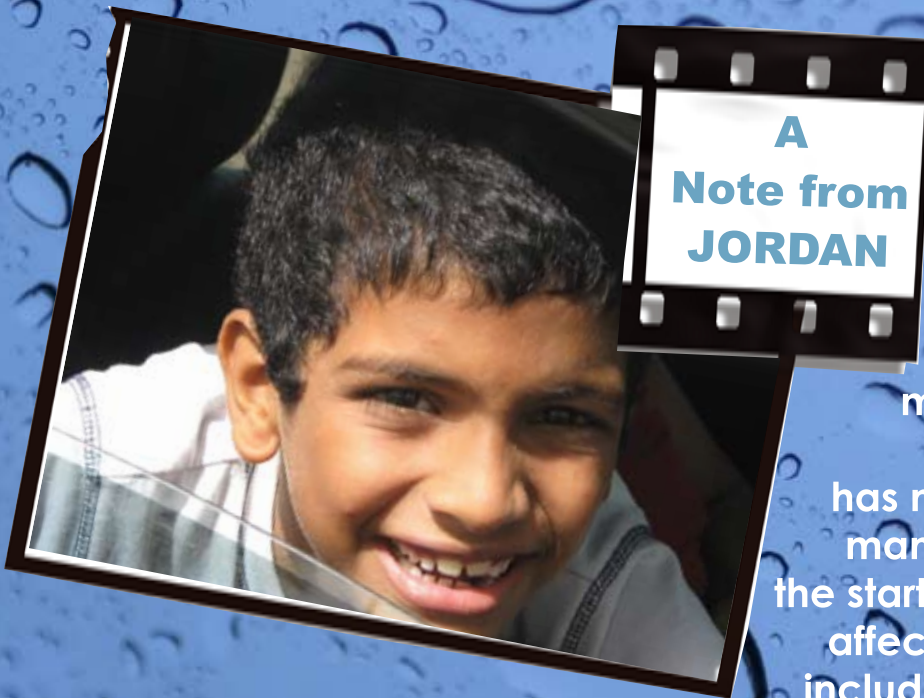
Cognizant that sustainable tourism "transcends environmental policies and practices and includes the social, economic, cultural and community impacts of responsible travel", the young delegates asserted climate change "is the first universal calamity too important to only be addressed by politicians and scientists."

Urging all Caribbean countries to become members of the United Nations World Tourism Organization, they called on all relevant governments and educational institutions to educate the youth "on the importance of the tourism industry and the value

of protecting their environment - teaching students how to get involved in sustainable tourism and encouraging them to think innovatively."

The student delegates were sponsored by CMEx as part of its commitment to ensuring the best and brightest of the region's youth select sustainable tourism as the first, and not last resort, as a career.

Since 2001, the Caribbean Media Exchange (CMEx) has produced 18 conferences and symposia throughout the Caribbean and North America to underscore the value of the region's largest industry, tourism, in bettering the health, education, culture, environment and wealth of communities in a climate friendly fashion.



Have you, like me, been missing the rain? The Caribbean has not had rains for many months since the start of the year. It's affecting everybody including the farmers.

People in the government say it has something to do with 'El Nino'. But how can 'El Nino' translated into English 'A boy' have anything to do with weather patterns? OK – I give up but maybe one day when I grow up I'll understand what this really means!

But the lack of rain has dried up the earth so bad that the government people are saying we're in a drought. Drought means, from what I understand, when the earth begins to crack. And I have seen this happening in my yard at home.

The river that runs behind my house has gone dry and we're no longer seeing the Caimans – a type of alligator – that normally swim there. Let's hope they are safe.

The lack of rain has also forced us at home to conserve water even more than before.

My mother and father collect the rinse water from the washing machine to clean the yard from the ashes which come from the bush fires. The rinse water is also used for the plants.

My parents have given me three minutes to bathe in the shower and I must take the pipe off when I soap my body. At home, I'm constantly hearing my parents telling my brothers and I "take off the pipe" when we're at the sink to brush our teeth.

Even though I hope the rains will fall soon so we can begin to have green taking over the brown, dry bush and trees, we still have to conserve water.

I have collected some tips to help you conserve water:

- Don't keep the water running while you're brushing your teeth.
- Take shorter showers. Help your mom or dad fix the dripping faucet. Did you know that it can waste 20 gallons of water a day?
- Use a broom, not a hose, to clean decks, driveways, and Sidewalks
- Use a bucket instead of a hose to wash your car
- Check all faucets, pipes and toilets for leaks



THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED

29,000
seedlings.

That's 29,000 commitments to the

environment.

29,000 more trees for our children's

children to enjoy.

29,000 more subjects for a

painter's canvas. 29,000 more homes for

our wildlife to seek refuge. 29,000

reasons to keep planting.



For Beauty and Beasts

Through our No Net Forest Loss Policy, NGC
replaces hectare for hectare

of forested areas cleared for pipeline
construction. We partner with communities,
governmental and non-governmental
agencies to carry out our

Reforestation Programme

with the aim to restore our
natural forest resources.

29,000 and counting...



Mexico's President,
Felipe Calderon,
who chaired the Summit



The Heads of State and government of Latin American and Caribbean countries gathered in Mexico last February at the Unity Summit, comprising the 21st Summit of the Rio Group and the second Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development.

Summit on Latin American and Caribbean Unity addresses Climate Change Negotiations

Leaders at the event discussed, among other things, prospects for the climate change negotiations.

In the resulting Summit Declaration, the Heads of State and government underlined that the fight against climate change includes: sustainable environmental management of forests and other key ecosystems such as wetlands; energy efficiency and the development of new, renewable energy sources; the transformation of transport systems; and scientific and technological innovation.

They further noted that this fight can only be sustainable if implemented in a socially and environmentally responsible way by respecting peoples and communities' rights.

In a section specifically devoted to climate change, the Heads of State and government stressed their commitment to the full, effective and sustained implementation of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol in a global effort on the basis of the principle of shared but differentiated responsibilities, the respective national capacities and the legitimate aspirations of developing countries.

They further committed to promote a predictable, transparent, effective financial mechanism under the UNFCCC that will ensure the proper supply

of new, additional, sufficient international financial flows to support the mitigation and adaptation efforts of Latin American and Caribbean countries in keeping with the Convention.

In addition, the Heads of State and government stressed the need for developed countries to meet their commitments under the UNFCCC on financing of, access to, and transfer of technology and the creation of sufficient capacities in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, particularly the less developed, small island developing and low-lying coastal States, for mitigation and adaptation.

They also expressed support to Mexico as the host of the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) to the UNFCCC so that, through transparent and inclusive negotiations, it will result in a broad, ambitious, effective agreement that will meet the challenges and needs of Latin America and the Caribbean and result in the strengthening of the international regime established by the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol.

They further agreed that the COP 16 results must be legally binding as a decisive step in the fight against climate change.

GHL

– A Leader in Sustaining the Environment

As a large regional corporation operating among Small Island Developing States (SIDS), pure logic would suggest that Guardian Holdings Limited (GHL) should align itself with the long-term protection and sustained productivity of the region's natural resource base and ecosystems services it provides. Since the company is in the business of risk, it obviously agreed and took a series of actions that led to the Energy Chamber (then the South Trinidad Chamber of Industry and Commerce) giving GHL the nod in its 2009 Leadership Awards.

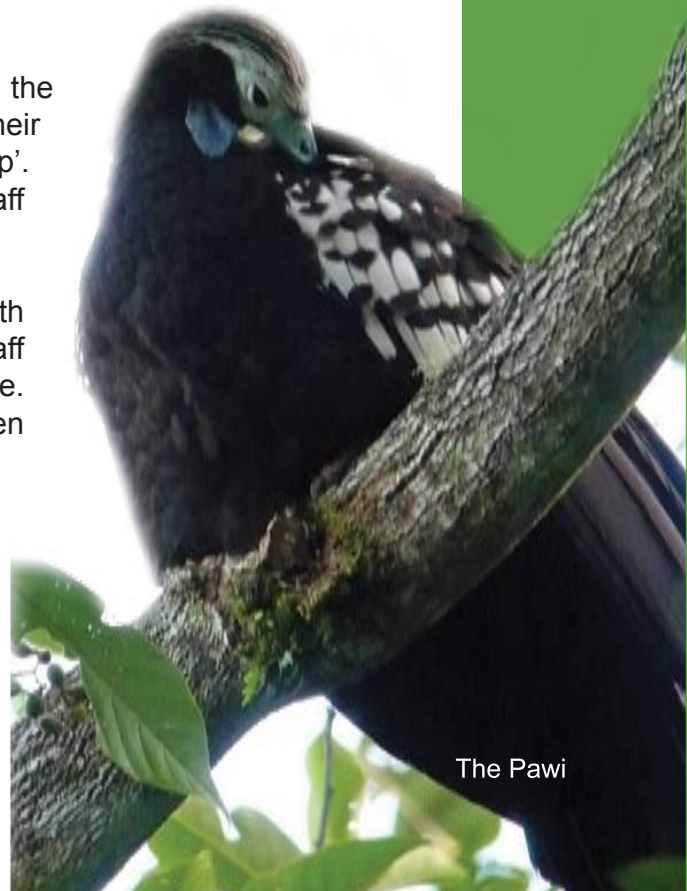
GHL received the award for "Sustaining the Environment: Making the Most of Green Opportunities" and was honoured for its Guardian Life Wildlife Fund (GLWF) initiative to save the Pawi as well as its companywide "responsible waste management and collection" drive.

GLWF's 'Pride in Pawi' project is aimed at saving and protecting the Trinidad Piping Guan (*pipile pipile*) which has been internationally listed as critically endangered. 'Pride in Pawi' is a comprehensive national campaign to promote public awareness of the plight of the Pawi and highlight the need for the Pawi's preservation. In this regard, GLWF launched a volunteer Pawi Guardian programme and enlisted the support of several community groups, including the Federation of Hunters' Associations.

Employees of GHL are active supporters of the environmental cause and can be found in their numbers in the annual 'Global Coastal Clean Up'. GreeNews, a monthly e-newsletter, is sent to staff via the company intranet.

The e-newsletter suggests tips for green living both at the home and in the office and encourages staff to live by the mantra of reduce, re-use and recycle. This is one element of an internal Project Green initiative which engages and educates employees while pursuing other mechanisms to green the organisation, such as powering down offices at set times and paper recycling. GHL's quarterly average of 576 tons of shredded paper for recycling is the equivalent of 100 mature trees (17 mature trees produce one ton of paper).

The message on an eco-bag produced by the company says it all: 'Transform Reality, Live Green!'



The Pawi



A SPLASH OF GREEN

Taking action for a sustainable future

At every level in the GHL organization, our people are taking the initiative to improve lives. This is who we are as a corporate entity—purposeful and caring.

This spirit is at the heart of our environmental stewardship where employees engage in a number of initiatives to reduce, reuse and recycle, aimed at minimizing our carbon footprint. It's all part of taking positive action on environmental matters, not because we have to but because we want to.

GHL - Transforming Reality and the winner of the 2009 Leadership Award for *Sustaining the Environment: Making the Most of Green Opportunities* from the Energy Chamber (formerly South Trinidad Chamber).



Strength. Endurance. Leadership.



Senator Arnold Piggott, Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources
and
Senator Emily Gaynor-Dickford, Minister of Housing and the Environment

Climate Change consultations launched in Trinidad and Tobago

The Ministry of Planning, Housing and the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources in Trinidad and Tobago have launched public consultations on Draft Policies on Climate Change, Forests and Protected Areas.

The government is seeking views and comments on their draft Climate Change Policy; draft Forest Policy and draft Protected Areas Policies during the period March 5 to April 30, 2010.

Business Journal

Another online magazine produced by Caribbean PR Agency coming in June 2010.

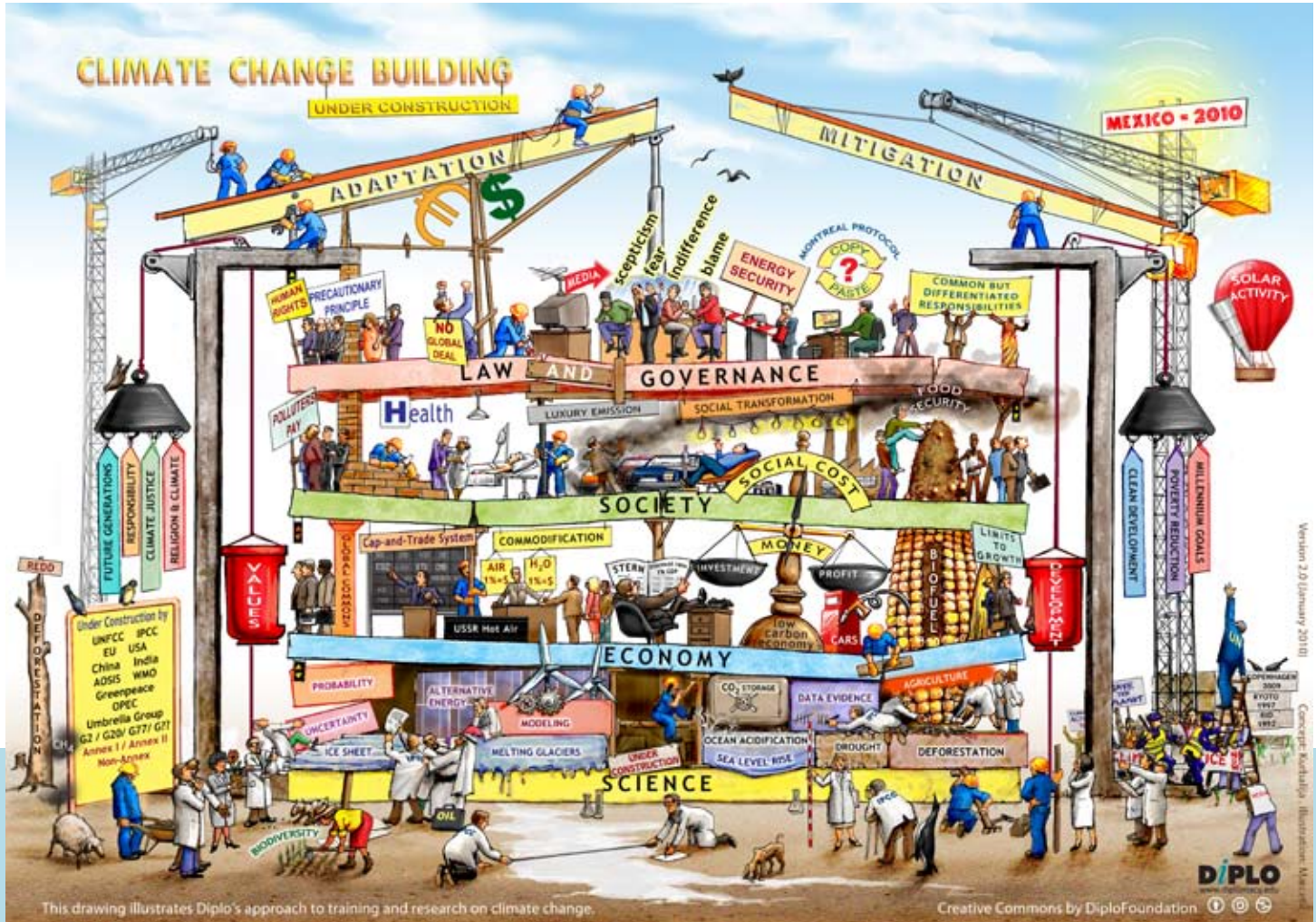
Business Journal was formed because of a noticeable gap for a quality publication that accurately reports and analyses the major business events in the Caribbean.

Business Journal will bring in-depth reporting, analysis and commentary to major business issues and events, looking behind and beyond headlines in the Caribbean. It will be a forum for unfettered debate on some of the most pressing issues facing our Caribbean society.

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During the Copenhagen Summit, Diplo developed an illustration to help navigate through the complex maze of climate change issues.

DiploFoundation is a non-profit organisation based in Malta, with offices in Geneva and Belgrade. Diplo works to strengthen the meaningful participation of all stakeholders in diplomatic practice and international relations.

For more information please visit www.diplomacy.edu.



World Future Energy Summit

strengthens position as platform for progressing future energy globally

The World Future Energy Summit, hosted by Masdar, has strengthened its position as a platform for the development and commercialisation of renewable energy through four days of high level discussions and innovative exhibitors in January. More than 23,000 people attended the event, representing a 25 percent increase over 2009.

Some of the world's foremost policy makers, academics, and business leaders in renewable energy attended representing more than 130 countries.

"The event has exceeded our original expectations by more than 15 percent. Such record numbers of people involved is testament to Abu Dhabi's growing status as a hub for renewable energy," said Ara Fernezian, Group Exhibition Director at Reed, the show organizers.

Abu Dhabi, the capital of the U.A.E. has hosted the World Future Energy Summit for the third year, demonstrating its commitment to promoting and advancing innovation, research and regulation of the future and renewable energy, globally. Abu Dhabi's role in shaping the future of the future energy continues to grow, and has been boosted by IRENA's decision to locate its global headquarters in the capital.

The event has been hailed as a success by many, and is a further boost to Abu Dhabi's position as a renewable energy hub. Ed Milliband, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for the United Kingdom said, "I think this is the centre of the clean energy revolution that is going on around the world."

Exhibitors have also acknowledged the role the Summit is playing in helping facilitate business and development opportunities. Sectors most represented include energy, solar, wind, environment, green building and water. China, France, Spain, the UK, the United States, Germany, Japan, Switzerland

and the Netherlands are among the list of countries that have hosted national pavilions.

“The event continues to improve, and Abu Dhabi is really the place to do business. We have met many of the influential business leaders from the Capital of the U.A.E. and the event, until now, has been very fruitful for us,” said a sales representative of Tenesol, part of Total and EDF Groupes.

Mauricio Rojas La Rotta, a marketing representative of Solar Power Group commented, “We have secured some solid business leads which we are confident will develop after the show. The event is becoming a reference point in the Middle East region.”

The number of national pavilions has doubled compared to the 2009 Summit, and animated discussions on topics ranging from solar array control systems to architecture have taken place.

The consensus is that the future for renewable energy is bright. Ambassador Richard Jones, Deputy Executive Director of the International Energy Agency commented, “Renewables are of course a big part of the current mix, but they are going to be an even bigger part in the future.” ■

“I think this is the centre of the clean energy revolution that is going on around the world.”



Global warming will likely result in sea level rise, increased sea surface temperature and changes in atmospheric temperature



CARIBBEAN TOURISM LEADERS TO TALK SUSTAINABILITY IN BARBADOS

Barbados is set to host decision makers in regional tourism this May through the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) "Caribbean Conference on Sustainable Tourism Development", otherwise known as the Sustainable Tourism Conference (STC).

This 11th annual conference (STC-11) will be held from May 9-12, 2010 at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre and is being organised in collaboration with the Barbados Ministry of Tourism.

The annual "Caribbean Conference on Sustainable Tourism Development" is part of the information dissemination and regional awareness component of CTO's strategy for sustainable tourism. It looks at how member states can design and implement sustainable tourism policies and programmes, offering a regional forum for information exchange on the successes and pitfalls of national, regional and international initiatives.

"We are delighted that we are able to once again bring together a wide range of experts and stakeholders to discuss the region's sustainability," said Hugh Riley, Secretary General of the CTO. "We thank the government of Barbados for hosting this very important conference in this difficult global economic climate."



Hugh Riley

This year's conference will examine critical issues relating to sustainability and will explore creative solutions to many of the challenges facing CTO Member Countries, including

the effects of climate change.

"STC will continue with the focus on how member states can design and incorporate sustainable tourism policies and practices into their regional and international initiatives," said Gail Henry, the CTO's Sustainable Tourism Product Specialist. "We recognize that the development of the tourism sector in the Caribbean has to continue on a sustainable path. The Caribbean has an opportunity to lead advancements in this area while also

creating valuable employment opportunities."

A comprehensive and dynamic programme is being planned to include the study tours to some of the island's key heritage tourism attractions, a key feature of this conference. Conference delegates can also look forward to the featured presentation, which will be delivered by well known tourism correspondent, Jonathan Tourtellot.

Mr. Tourtellot, the man who originated the concept of geotourism, has said that the Caribbean tourism product will be a lot more competitive if its social fabric, ecology, architecture, cuisine, natural beauty and its heritage are protected.

Geotourism is described as "best practice" tourism that sustains, or even enhances, the geographical character of a place, such as its culture, environment, heritage, and the well-being of its residents.

Mr. Tourtellot, who is also the director of the NGS's Centre for Sustainable Destinations, said he was aware of the need to balance economic development with protecting the character of the Caribbean. However, he said it was not impossible to achieve this balance.



Johnathan Tortellot

"It's not a zero-sum game. You can do both," he said, adding that if the Caribbean fails to protect its character it will lose its pride in the short term and, in the long term, its ability to increase revenue from tourism.

NEW CARIBBEAN-EU STRATEGY TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

Caribbean and EU diplomats, as well as representatives from civil society met to discuss an enhanced Caribbean-EU partnership at a seminar in Barbados held in early March with a view to launching a drafting process of a new EU-Caribbean strategy addressing, inter alia, challenges related to climate change.

Seminar participants discussed priorities and areas of strategic importance for both the Caribbean

and the EU, and assessed strengths, weaknesses and achievements of the Caribbean-EU relations.

It is anticipated that an outline of the strategy will be presented at the upcoming EU/Latin America and the Caribbean Summit, which will take place in Madrid, Spain in May. The seminar was organized by the CARIFORUM Directorate of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, the European Commission and the Spanish EU Presidency.

GRENADA'S PM CALLS FOR REGIONAL ENERGY SECURITY

Grenada's Prime Minister Tillman Thomas says the successful exploitation of Grenada's sustainable energy resources is the foundation for the country's energy security, sustained economic growth and national development.



Prime Minister Tillman Thomas

Addressing the recent Summit of Caribbean and Latin American leaders in Mexico on Energy Security and Climate Change, the prime minister said his administration will "aggressively move to reduce its dependence on imported fossil fuels through the development of geothermal, wind and solar energy, to reduce fossil fuels imported for power generation."

The Grenadian leader told delegates that with access to investment and appropriate technology, his country's geothermal potential, if proven to be technically and economically feasible for exploitation, will place the island on a sustainable energy path. Grenada's electricity could be 100% renewable by 2020, with the use of renewable energy and appropriate technology, he added.

"The way forward for us is therefore, to look for ways to develop our renewable energy potential as rapidly and as efficiently as possible, to put the region on a sustainable development path," according to the prime minister.

Mr. Thomas called for genuine South-South cooperation between Mexico and the Caribbean region to help in the exploitation of renewable energy and reduce the dependence on fossil fuels, which he said, pose a threat to the environment and to the survival of small island states.

He described as "a burden", the region's expenditure of more than US\$12 billion or 21% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on petroleum imports per year for electricity generation and transport.

"This significant amount of our foreign exchange that we have to spend on imported energy every year is a burden to our social and economic development and one which we have to address," he said. The Grenadian leader said the issue becomes "even more urgent", considering the contribution of fossil fuels to climate change.

CARICOM SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CLIMATE CHANGE: 'DON'T TAKE IT LIGHTLY'



Edwin Carrington

Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Edwin Carrington urged members of the CARICOM Budget Committee to pay keen attention to the issues and effects of climate change and development.

Secretary-General Carrington admitted that in the initial stages, he too was a bit skeptical about

the phenomenon called climate change but having got all the alarming facts, he was now an ardent convert and a strong advocate for mitigation and adaptation measures to counter the effects of climate change.

In this context, Secretary-General Carrington appealed to the Committee not to take the budgetary issues related to climate change lightly and hastened to point out that if the present generation did not live to feel the full effects of this threatening phenomenon "our children are most vulnerable and will feel the full effects."

The CARICOM Secretary-General's interjections came against the background of a presentation of the work programme for the Directorate of Human and Social Development (HSD) under which sustainable development including the environment and climate change falls.

Director of Sustainable Development Garfield Barnwell who was making the presentation endorsed the observations of the Secretary-General noting that the effects of climate change on small island developing lowing lying states were "horrifying and frightening."

He advised the meeting to "listen to what the scientists have to say and make the financing of mitigation and adaptation a priority within the budget."

Director-General of the Office of Trade Negotiations Ambassador Gail Mathurin added that her office was engaged in research to examine the trade related aspects of climate change in light of the need to protect the environment and the region's investments, particularly from those who would exploit the climate change issues to advance their own agenda.

IDB APPROVES LOAN FOR PROJECTS IN MEXICO, PERU



The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) approved a US\$102 million loan in partial financing for two wind power projects totaling 318 MW in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico.

The projects will help establish a critical mass of renewable energy in the country and contribute to the Mexican Government's goal of reducing emissions by 50% compared to their 2000 level by 2050.

The IDB has also approved a US\$25 million loan to support the production of sugarcane-based ethanol in Piura, Peru.

The wind power projects in Mexico will take advantage of strong winds in the state Oaxaca to develop at least 2500 MW of wind power capacity in this state, with an estimated total of investments in around US\$5 billion by 2012.

The bioethanol project in Peru includes construction of a sugarcane ethanol refinery with production capacity of 35 million gallons of fuel per year.

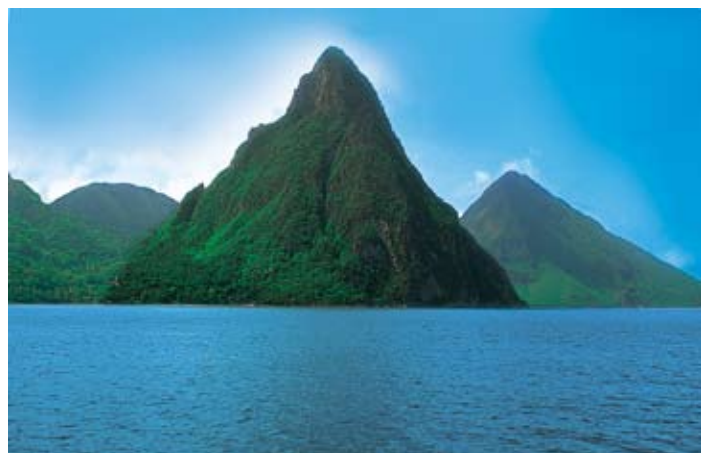
It also includes planting, farming and milling of 7,800 hectares of sugarcane. The land comprises desert and/or arid areas that Maple Etanol will convert into highly productive land, introducing innovative irrigation methods and mechanizing the planting and harvesting processes.

OECS LAUNCHES ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC STUDY IN VIEUX FORT, ST LUCIA

The Secretariat of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States is conducting a study of the natural, social, economic and physical attributes of the Pointe Sable Environmental Protection Area (PSEPA), a protected area located in Vieux Fort, Saint Lucia.

The site study, which commenced in late January 2010, is being undertaken by CEPro Consultants Limited – a Saint Lucia based firm. The consultants are expected to complete their work in three months.

The environmental and socio-economic study is intended to further define the environmental and socio-economic features in the protected area, identify any significant species of plants and animals, determine the economic value of the assets contained in the area and obtain information on the community issues and conditions which have an effect on the area and its management.



Les Pitons, St. Lucia.

Photo courtesy St. Lucia Tourist Board

When completed, the study will provide a detailed and up to date description of the site. This will include maps, a plan for monitoring impacts and a dollar value given to the resources in the Pointe Sable area. Additionally, the study will describe the socio-economic conditions and issues found in the communities within the area. The OECS Secretariat anticipates that through the conduct of the study, the Government of Saint Lucia will have additional information to guide the management of the site.

According to Bishnu Tulsie, Director of the Saint Lucia National Trust, "this study will add to our knowledge about the value of the resources of the site as well as strengthen arguments in support of development approaches which seek to conserve economically and socially valuable natural resources."

Mr. Tulsie noted further that the Saint Lucia National Trust intends to use the study outputs "to advance arguments presented within the site and beyond. We also look forward to its recommendations regarding the promotion of site level sustainable livelihood opportunities and management arrangements."

PSEPA is one of six sites supported by the OECS Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods (OPAAL) project. The PSEPA is a multi-use area that is managed for the purpose of protecting the natural beauty and interest in the area.

The protected area stretches from Pointe De Caille to Moule A Chique in Vieux Fort and comprises beaches, mangroves, sea grasses, corals, offshore islands and open waters. The site has several important historical features and several unique animals such as the St. Lucia Whip Tail Lizard.

The OECS Secretariat has also supported the preparation of a plan to manage this protected area.

CDM EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTS NEW CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR



Clifford Mahlung

Clifford Mahlung of Jamaica has been chosen by the Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) to serve as its Chair for 2010.

In addition, Pedro Martins Barata (Portugal) has been chosen to serve as Vice-Chair.

Mr. Mahlung, who was the Board's Vice-Chair in 2009, takes over from Lex de Jonge of the Netherlands.

Mr. Mahlung, who is an applied meteorologist in Jamaica's National Meteorological Service, was an alternate member of the Board in 2005-2006 and joined the Board as a member in 2008.

Mr. Barata is an environmental economist and a senior consultant to the Portuguese Climate Change Commission. He has served on the Board as an alternate member since 2008.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO PURSUE MEMBERSHIP IN THE GLOBAL CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE INSTITUTE

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has agreed to pursue membership in the Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute (Global CCS Institute) following an invitation from the Australian Government.

The Global CCS Institute is a multinational initiative of the Australian Government which is aimed at accelerating the international commercial development and implementation of Carbon Capture and Storage technologies and commercial deployment of CCS.

The Initiative was announced by the Australian Government in September 2008 and was formally launched in

April 2009.

Trinidad and Tobago as an oil producing country said it recognises that there is a need for the reduction of carbon emissions and is committed to finding suitable and acceptable solutions to the climate change phenomenon.

By becoming CCS technology-ready, Trinidad and Tobago will be positioning itself to take advantage



Artistic impression of Port of Spain, Trinidad

of opportunities that may present themselves in the international carbon market while reducing its own carbon emissions.

Membership in the Global CCS Institute is open to governments, non-governmental organizations and multinational corporations that demonstrate a legitimate interest in the advancement of CCS.

Current membership includes the United States of America, Canada, Mexico, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, India, Japan and the Republic of Korea among others, and several multinational corporations.

DID YOU KNOW?

Small island and low-lying coastal developing states have the least resources and therefore the least capacity to adapt



Advancing Jamaica's NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENDA



Alternative Power Sources is one company at the forefront of Jamaica's Energy sector, helping families and business to reduce their energy bill and, at the same time, advancing the national renewable energy agenda.

More importantly, Head of the company, Damien Lyn, reports that the renewable energy installation business has been a viable investment for him.

"When I saw several companies in Jamaica closing down and moving their operations to Trinidad because of the cheaper oil prices, I realized that lower energy prices was not only a survival necessity but a good business opportunity, as well" he explains.

The company's website says that their contribution to the Jamaican economy is to provide renewable sources of energy, ranging from solutions for lighting for establishments spanning residential singledwellingandmulti-dwellinggatedcommunities, in addition to agriculture, manufacturing and eco-tourism projects.

Alternative Power Sources has installed some 20 wind turbine systems across Jamaica, in addition to 230 solar voltaic systems with solar water heaters enjoying highest demand.

Clients range from small to large scale operations. Mr. Lyn is proud to admit that his company is involved in the installation of hybrid renewable energy systems for Mystic Mountain, Jamaica's spectacular cross country ski lift sightseeing attraction in Ocho Rios, St. Ann.

Their hybrid system includes wind turbines and photovoltaic installations.

Alternative Power Sources has also been involved in the installation of solar voltaic street and walkway lighting, at one of the newest and largest gated communities, at Richmond, St Ann, which includes 31 street lights and 40 walkway lights.

"This complex has been able to save approximately 80% of the installation costs for regular lighting systems, by choosing a solar voltaic system" Mr. Lyn states.

"There was no need for trunking and cables. Added to this, is the savings to be realized from not using costly oil generated power from the JPS grid, for outdoor lighting, he adds.

He explains that the solar voltaic units were stand alone units, and so far more attractive due to the absence of cables.

This renewable energy investor further pointed out that the battery bank required for such a system, would last about 4-5 years and the solar panels 25 years.

"It's the first of its kind at this solar voltaic level for Jamaica, and an energy saver's dream for home owners" he emphasises.

The company's website also states that several of the renewable energy systems that they have installed, are totally independent of the Jamaica Public Company (JPSCo) Grid.

Their flagship project is the first Town House Complex with Photo Voltaics in Jamaica, The Doric. Alternative Power Sources have also installed the first three-phase inverter/PV/Generator Hybrid (Green Produce Farm) system in the Caribbean.

The Ministry of Energy and Mining and its agency, the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ), have a national target to increase Jamaica's renewable energy use to 12.5% by 2015, 15% by 2020 and 20% by 2030. At present, the renewable energy supply level is 5%.

Announcing Jamaica's new energy policy, Minister of Energy and Mining, James Robertson says that the search for cleaner, safer, more reliable and cheaper sources of energy and better ways to use it will unite countries around the world.

He said that the Energy Policy shows Government's commitment to enabling Jamaican businesses to access energy, so that they can be competitive on the international market; and for individuals and households to have the energy they need to manage their daily lives in this modern economy.

"This policy will create and advance a modern, efficient, diversified and environmentally sustainable energy sector," he said.

Mr. Robertson stresses further that a cornerstone of the policy is diversifying the energy base.

"We will find new ways to power our economy and to reduce the amount of energy we use. We will explore indigenous sources of energy and clean technologies, thereby injecting life into research institutions and generating new, 'green' jobs, at a time when new jobs are so sorely needed," the Minister assures.

He said that the policy will also enable the country to reduce pollution and, thereby, protect the health of all Jamaicans as they go about their daily business.

"It will demonstrate that Jamaica is a responsible global citizen, as we minimize our emissions of greenhouse gases and reduce our carbon footprint," he says.

It is not only Alternative Power Sources but also The Mystic Mountain ski lift rainforest ride that stands testimony to this.

Mystic Mountain is a foreign investment that is 50% powered by renewable energy which will be 100% powered by 2010, saving approximately \$12 million per year in electricity bills and reducing carbon emissions or their carbon footprint.

Proprietor Michael Drakulich says that they use a hybrid system, combining wind turbines and photo voltaics, and are now constructing a mini hydro system to become totally self sufficient.

Since the park opened 18 months ago, most of the installation costs have been repaid and will be completed in another year, he said.

The renewable energy investor has also invested in a totally renewable

energy townhouse complex in St Ann, which will soon be completed.

Wigton Windfarm, a subsidiary of the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ) was incorporated in 2000 to develop wind farms, and similar renewable energy systems, to harness energy for commercial production and to generate electricity.

Wigton has been supplying wind generated energy to the JPS grid and Munro College for some time. The project is now to be expanded to meet the Ministry of Energy and Mining's national renewable target of 11% by 2012.

Wigton Windfarm Limited states that ground breaking for the expansion will take place in March. The project will be built on a turn key basis by Vestas Eolica S.A.U with local input in engineering, studies and construction.

They advise that commissioning of the plant is scheduled to commence in July 2010. The project will be 100% financed from the PetroCaribe Development Fund.

Savings will be through energy provided to power approximately 24,000 households, overall lowering of fuel costs and expanded technical capacity in the renewable energy field for Jamaica.



A windfarm in Jamaica



ECLAC, IDB COLLABORATE ON STUDIES

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) initiated a process of joint collaboration to produce studies on the economics of climate change in eight South American nations.

Through a cooperation agreement, the two institutions plan to carry out country and regional studies to raise awareness among decision-makers in the private and public sectors of these countries on the need to advance mitigation and adaptation initiatives.

With the collaboration of the IDB and other institutions, ECLAC will coordinate the technical assistance for these studies, which are due to be completed during 2010.

The cooperation agreement was signed by IDB president Luis Alberto Moreno and ECLAC Executive Secretary Alicia Buena.

The reports that will result of the economic analysis of the impact of climate change will include the following conclusions: - The extension of the impact of climate change in South America and its implications for the environment, economy and society in the region, with examples and results per country;

- The range and value of national mitigation and adaptation activities, independent of international agreements;
- Opportunities for regional participation in international policy instruments in support of mitigation and adaptation.

At the same time, ECLAC is working on similar studies for Central America and the Caribbean.

An ECLAC report **“Economics of Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean. Summary 2009”** concluded that if no international agreement is reached to mitigate the effects of climate change, the cost for Latin America and the Caribbean could be equivalent to 137% of the current regional GDP by 2100.

US AND BRAZIL CONCLUDE MOU FOR CLIMATE CHANGE COOPERATION

US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim have signed a “Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation Regarding Climate Change” that will strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

The Memorandum of Understanding launches a new “Climate Change Policy Dialogue” to discuss key issues, including:

- The implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and ways to build on the Copenhagen Accord as quickly as possible;
- Strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- Joint efforts on research, development, deployment and dissemination of clean energy technologies;
- Adaptation;
- Cooperation on climate change scientific research; and
- Capacity-building in sectors related to climate change.

The Memorandum of Understanding will also promote increased cooperation in areas including reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, capacity-building, and technology, while underscoring our commitment to the work already underway on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and carbon capture and storage.





Milo Pearson, Chairman of CCRIF and
Neil Pierre, Director of UNECLAC

CCRIF Signs MoU with UN-ECLAC

The signing of the MoU with the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), as well as CCRIF's partnerships with other key institutions in the region such as UWI, the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the Caribbean Institute of Hydrology and Meteorology (CIMH), has resulted in CCRIF developing a technical

assistance (TA) programme for the region. The signing of the MoU with ECLAC also signaled the start of the roll out of this programme which has three components as follows:

One of the components – regional “strategic” knowledge building – in which the focus is on developing partnerships with regional institutions and providing funding for regional technical projects in natural hazards/risk science is where CCRIF and ECLAC will work together as defined by the MoU. The MoU is built on four pillars:

- The development and enhancement of a knowledge base for key natural hazard risks;
- The conduct of regional studies concerning the economics of climate change and the impact of natural disasters on particular sectors such as tourism;
- The development of decision-making tools by CCRIF and/or ECLAC to assist in mitigating the economic impacts of natural catastrophes; and
- The elaboration of climate change adaptation strategies to facilitate decision making across the region.

The provisions of the MoU will better enable CCRIF and ECLAC to further embrace their mutual goal of enhancing regional capacity for comprehensive disaster management (CDM) and coping with catastrophe risks as a result of natural disasters and more specifically to:

- determine how the original post-event economic impact estimates made by ECLAC compare to CCRIF's model based loss estimates and to actual economic impacts six to nine months after an event
- determine the level of basis risk (if any) and whether or not short-term liquidity support would have helped to mitigate economic impact on the country
- undertake a further study on the cumulative macro socio-economic impacts of natural disasters on the Caribbean since 2004
- explore future opportunities for collaboration on regional studies concerning the economics of climate change, as well as the impact of natural disasters on particular sectors as appropriate.

At the signing in Trinidad in February, Milo Pearson, Chairman of CCRIF stated that “collaborative initiatives such as this are absolutely necessary as we seek to find forward-looking and sustainable solutions to reduce the risks created by the regional natural hazard landscape.”



Winter in Delhi



By Bogusia Sipiora

I come from the country where winter is associated with white snow and frost more than anything else. I remember winters of my childhood in Poland when the temperature reached -30 Celsius degrees and the schools were closed and the roads completely covered with snow drifts.

This of course gave us additional free time to play in the snow and then go to our heated houses where hot tea with honey and lemon were served (when we grew up rum replaced honey and lemon in tea!). The white landscape is still in my mind when I think about winter; however, I got to know that in the different parts of the world people associate winter with different features. Like Delhi.

Even though newspapers headlines in India where I now reside say: Delhi shiver from cold or Delhi experiences winter chill I would say that it is the friendliest season for outdoors activities as the temperature drops to very much bearable level.

Winter awakes plants and trees and people also use the opportunity to spend a lot of time outside unlike during the sweltering summer days.

Delhi offers a great deal of well maintained parks within the city which makes it oxygenated a lot. Otherwise the smog which is also a permanent aspect of the city would eat all of us. In the city once ruled by great Mughal emperors' the charm of greatness is felt if one can find time to discover it. The taste of these can be best recognized in winter, which also does not last too long.





I usually go to the most well known and visited park Lodhi Garden, which hides buildings from the era of Delhi Sultanate. Once called Lady Wellington Park, it is an oasis in the middle of Delhi, popular for health freaks and lovelorn couples with its spiral shaped lake, a Glass House and a National Bonsai Park.

Lodhi Gardens is one of the few places left in Delhi to hear the chirping of the birds and feel the whiff of a fresh breeze. Tombs of Sayid and Lodhi rulers which are left for our knowledge and watching us for centuries adorn the architectural style which was latter used in the construction of Taj Mahal in Agra.

There is another park I really like in winter where comrade Lenin is looking abstracted into the space ever since he has been rooted in 1987. Even though the era of communism ideologue has passed and Russian government has buried Lenin in Moscow, in Nehru Park the statue still stands and nobody feels like removing it. Nehru Park is very much popular with picnickers as well as young courting couples of the city and fitness enthusiasts. And I always feel like enhancing my senses in the Garden of Five Senses. Literally one's senses are indulged in this mysterious place. You can see, hear, smell, touch and taste the nature around you.

There is a main garden Khas Bagh designed on the pattern of Mughal gardens, filled with fountains fitted with modern colorful lightings. The spiral walkway leads to the food and shopping court. There are numerous wind chimes which add to the ambience with their sound and twenty-five different sculptures and murals by the popular craftsmen. The peak of winter in Delhi, which comes in January, allows indulging all the senses for longer as all plants are in their best growing phase as well which gives the melody to eyes, nose, ear, fingers and mouth.

Winter in Delhi for me smells of warm peanuts packed in the bags made out of newspapers which give surprising warmth coming to hands and tastes unique. And it smells of Indian chai brewed with aromatic spices and milk and sugar to turn it into something sweet and comforting a cold day. Bonhomie of Delhi's winter last for about 2 months and then again the summer will come.

Bogusia is a Polish citizen now living in Delhi, India.



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EU PARLIAMENT CALLS FOR NEW CLIMATE DIPLOMACY

Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) adopted a resolution in February, calling on the EU to create a “new climate diplomacy,” whereby the EU’s High Representative for Foreign Affairs and the Commissioner on Climate Action should work together with the more progressive developing and emerging countries.

In the resolution, MEPs also recommend that: climate policies be included in every strategic partnership and in bilateral and multilateral co-operation agreements between the EU and third States, to establish a more coherent external climate protection strategy; the forthcoming EU budget review provide sufficient resources for climate change mitigation and adaptation, both within the EU and in developing countries; and consideration be given to introducing new and innovative financial mechanisms to support international climate action.

The MEPs, in addition, expressed disappointment at the EU Member States’ lack of unity at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference and urged the EU to speak with one voice in future international climate negotiations.

They called on the EU to: unilaterally set a carbon dioxide reduction target higher than 20% for 2020, despite the disappointing Copenhagen outcome; ensure that a future international climate change agreement set appropriate reduction targets for the aviation and maritime sectors; and advocate for an “equity clause” in future international climate regime.

SCIENTISTS UNITE TO COMBAT WATER SCARCITY; SOLUTIONS YIELD MORE CROP PER DROP IN DRY LANDS

As rapidly increasing water scarcity threatens to aggravate the effects of climate change on agriculture in the dry areas of the Middle East and other developing countries, scientists have launched an ambitious seven-country project, which offers new hope for farmers in the face of acute and growing water shortages.

Gathering in Amman, Jordan recently for a global conference on food security and climate change in dry areas, experts reported that improved irrigation techniques in rain-fed cropping will allow farmers to more

than double their wheat yields using only one-third the water they would use with full irrigation.

The new methods have been shown to boost farmers’ yields up to five-fold over those crops which relied on rainfall only. Such innovative strategies could provide a much-needed lift to livelihoods in dry areas in the developing world, home to almost 25 percent of the world’s population.

Regions most affected by drought and water scarcity are also disproportionately challenged by high population growth, climatic unreliability, frequent droughts, and widespread poverty, the experts said, citing figures from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

“In some countries in the region, per capita water availability has dropped to as little as 170 cubic meters per year, well below the internationally recognized water scarcity standard of 1000 cubic meters,” said Dr. Mahmoud Solh, Director General of the Aleppo-based International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA).

“There is a direct relationship between access to water and access to food and feed security. Unless we form a united front that responds effectively to water scarcity in agriculture and to the impacts of climate change, the future food security, economic development, and social stability of the entire region will be put in jeopardy.”

Seven Middle Eastern countries—Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Yemen—will work jointly to improve water management in agriculture as part of a 10-year effort called the Water and Livelihoods Initiative (WLI), which is being funded through the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and led by ICARDA, which is supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).



International Conference on:

Food Security and Climate Change in Dry Areas

1-4 February 2010, Amman, Jordan

EMERGING ECONOMY FRONT RUNNER IN CLIMATE POLICY FOR THE FIRST TIME

Climate Change Performance Index: Brazil knocks Sweden down a notch.



The fifth Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) - a worldwide national ranking of climate performance - was published by Germanwatch and Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe, Europe's

leading network for climate and energy issues.

The annual report ranks countries based on which ones show the strongest climate protection performance relative to one another, comparing 57 industrialised countries and emerging economies.

This year's index showed Brazil to be the biggest mover, knocking the usually strongest player Sweden farther down the scale.

"It's great to see emerging economies like Brazil moving up the rankings, sending a clear signal during these negotiations that they are more and more committed to combating climate change," said Matthias Duwe, Director of CAN Europe. "I only wish more EU countries were showing the same commitment to positive change."

Author of the study Jan Burck from Germanwatch explained, "Because the CCPI represents a relative ranking, countries are ranked against one another as well as against the criteria of keeping temperature rise below the dangerous level of two degrees. Therefore, since no country is thus far adequately on the path toward halting dangerous climate change, the three top spots are empty once again this year".

This year's bottom-of-the-barrel finishers were Canada and Saudi Arabia. Because Canada's government delayed the announcement of any major new climate policies, it remained in second-to-last place for the second year in a row.

On the other hand, Brazil and the United Kingdom ranked high in this year's index after passing progressive domestic climate legislation. At the same time, while the US took a small step up the ladder, it remains in low position.

Christoph Bals, Policy Director from Germanwatch, commented, "There are a number of climate policy proposals going through US congress at the moment but nothing yet on the books. A bill which really reduces emissions and a strong performance in Copenhagen would improve their ranking."

AFRICAN UNION AND LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES COMMIT TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE



Climate change was among the items discussed during the fifth Annual Inter-Secretariat Meeting on General Cooperation between the African Union (AU) and the League of Arab States, which met at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo, Egypt in January.

According to the resulting Communiqué, the two sides endorsed proposals to expand cooperation in the fields of environment and climate change.

They called on African and Arab countries to consolidate coordination, cooperation and exchange of views regarding negotiations on climate change, as well as to undertake coordination during relevant international meetings.

They further recommended implementing joint activities in the observation, monitoring and early warning of adverse impacts of climate change.

They agreed to hold the sixth Annual Inter-Secretariat Meeting on General Cooperation between the AU and the League of Arab States in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in October/November 2010.

BASIC GROUP MINISTERS CALL FOR ADDITIONAL MEETINGS BEFORE MEXICO

The second meeting of Ministers of the four BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) Group countries took place in New Delhi, India in January.

In a joint statement issued at the conclusion of the meeting, the Ministers re-emphasized their commitment to working together with all other countries to ensure an agreed outcome at the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 16), which will take place in Mexico at the end of 2010.

They underscored the centrality of the UNFCCC process and reiterated that all negotiations must be conducted in an inclusive and transparent manner.

The Ministers called on the COP 15 President (Denmark) to convene meetings of the Ad hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the UNFCCC (AWG-LCA) and the Ad hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) in March 2010, and to ensure that the AWGs meet at least five times before the Mexico Conference.



WANGARI MAATHAI
- UNITED NATIONS MESSENGER OF PEACE

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has designated 2004 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Wangari Maathai as a United Nations Messenger of Peace with a special focus on the environment and climate change. She was inducted by the Secretary-General last December during the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.

Messengers of Peace are individuals who possess widely recognized talents in the fields of art, academia, literature, sports and entertainment, helping to raise worldwide awareness of the Organization's ideals and activities.

Through their public appearances, contacts with the international media and humanitarian work, they expand public understanding of how the United Nations helps to improve the lives of people everywhere.

Wangari Maathai, a Kenyan national, has gained worldwide recognition over four decades as an academic, environmentalist, women's rights advocate

and parliamentarian, often serving as the first woman in her position.

In 1976, she introduced the notion of community-based tree planting. She developed her idea into an innovative grass-roots organization, the Green Belt Movement, focusing on poverty reduction and environmental conservation through tree planting.

Through the Green Belt Movement, Ms. Maathai has assisted women throughout Africa in planting more than 40 million trees on community lands, including farms, schools and church compounds.

Since 2006, Ms. Maathai has been the patron of the Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign, which has a presence in 170 countries. Thanks to her advocacy and leadership, 10 billion trees have been planted since the campaign began.

Ms. Maathai is actively campaigning for forest protection, and serves as Goodwill Ambassador of the Congo forest. She also actively promotes the issue of climate justice.

Wangari Maathai was listed 6th in the United Kingdom's Environment Agency peer review of the world's Top 100 Eco-Heroes. She was included in the United Nations Environment Programme's Global 500 Hall of Fame and named one of the 100 heroines of the world. In 2005, she was honored by Time Magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world, and by Forbes Magazine as one of the 100 most powerful women in the world.

In 2004, Wangari Maathai was honored with a Nobel Peace Prize for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace. She was the first African woman to win the prize, as well as the first environmental activist. Under the Nobel Women's Initiative, she and her sister laureates are now working with women worldwide to promote peace, justice and equality.

The other United Nations Messengers of Peace and their areas of focus are: conductor Daniel Barenboim (peace and tolerance); actor George Clooney (peacekeeping); author Paulo Coelho (poverty and intercultural dialogue); actor Michael Douglas (disarmament); primatologist Jane Goodall (conservation and environmental issues); violinist Midori Goto (Millennium Development Goals and Youth); Princess Haya Bint al Hussein (Millennium Development Goals and hunger); cellist Yo-Yo Ma (youth); actor Charlize Theron (ending violence against women); Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel (human rights); and singer/songwriter Stevie Wonder (persons with disabilities).

ICAO FORGING AHEAD WITH PLANS TO CURB GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL AVIATION

The International Civil Aviation Organization continues to move forward with its aggressive plan of action to combat climate change even though a deal on bunker (international aviation and maritime) fuels was not reached at the Conference of the Parties (COP/15) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Copenhagen in December 2009.

In response to the results of COP/15, ICAO Council President Roberto Kobeh González emphasized that States remain committed, through the Convention on International Civil Aviation, to keep working through ICAO in managing emissions from international civil aviation in order to achieve an environmentally sustainable air transport industry.

"The time-tested ICAO process of consensus-building and cooperation among the 190 Member States of ICAO, coupled with sustained efforts of the air transport industry, has been very effective through the years in minimizing the impact of aviation on the environment. It has recently led to the first, and to date, only globally-harmonized agreement designed to address climate change from a specific sector," Kobeh emphasized.

"As an active and long-time participant in UNFCCC deliberations, we fully recognize the complexity of the climate change challenge. We are convinced that the current ICAO process is best suited to achieving the goals we have set for ourselves," he added.

At a high-level ICAO meeting last October, States representing 93% of global commercial air traffic reached agreement on further reducing aviation's impact on climate change, in cooperation with the air transport industry, through such initiatives as a goal of - 2% annual improvement in fuel efficiency globally until the year 2050;

- a global CO₂ standard for aircraft; a framework for market-based measures in international aviation;
- measures to assist developing States and to facilitate access to financial resources, technology transfer and capacity-building; and continued further work on the development and implementation of alternative fuels for aviation worldwide which could lead to aviation being the first sector to use sustainable alternative fuels on a global basis.

According to the IPCC fourth assessment report, total O₂ emissions from the aviation sector account for approximately 2% of global emissions from human activity, about 60% of which is related to international air travel.

"The projected growth in public demand for air transport in the years to come could exceed our capability to limit the impact of air travel on climate change unless we continue our progressive course of action in developing and implementing bold and effective solutions," Kobeh said.

EARTH DAY

April 22, 2010

40th Anniversary



Earth conscious just means **conscious**



By Garfield King

Earth conscious... what does that mean? Should we be raising our awareness of the planet and what does raising awareness mean? Should we be deepening our relationship with this third stone from the Sun? And what about the multitude of life forms on Earth, how do we find ways of interacting more harmoniously with them?

I've been asking myself these questions for many years. I guess most of us have at one point or another. One of the things I keep hearing about is the importance of taking personal responsibility if we are to make our home, country, environment, planet a better place. I was once told that while it's good to start the change process at home, it's even better to start in your head, with your thoughts and attitude. This made some sense to me because I figured that one area we don't often consider is the build up of negativity polluting our minds. There are many mental pollutants... fear, anxiety, prejudice, lack of self esteem, hostility to name a few.

For example: when you're anxious it's extremely difficult to think clearly and constructively. I find if my mental energy is on the low side, it's really difficult to give consideration to the energy efficiency of my household appliances, the size of my carbon footprint or whether I should take a reusable bag to the supermarket or just let them give me another plastic one to add to the 457 piled up under the kitchen sink.

When mental energy is being wasted, a million thoughts flash on the mind, we try to do a bit of everything, but there are too many distractions. A great deal of energy is being used up, but we don't seem to be getting anywhere. Since our thoughts and attitudes impact on our behaviour, perhaps we could move forward with greater efficiency if we did

a little head work before the hard work.

That's not to say it's only possible to take constructive action after you sort your own head out. If that was the case, we probably wouldn't have survived as a species. But things often run more smoothly when the mind is clear and focused.

Global events in recent years have forced many of us to reassess the customs, institutions and systems we had previously taken for granted. The world today calls for effort on many levels if we are to get to a better place... individually and as communities. It helps if we learn to think for ourselves, rather than just adopt other people's thoughts and opinions as our own without critical analysis.

If you believe a heightened awareness of our symbiotic relationship with this planet can provide us with a better quality of life today and in the years ahead, you probably already know that it can sometimes seem as if it's uphill all the way. It requires a mindset that takes in a picture that we may not be able to fit in our mental viewfinder. An awareness of ourselves as a valuable and important part of this expansive system of life: interwoven and interdependent.

Listening to the negativity all around can leave you feeling powerless, that there's nothing you can do. Some people say trying to be positive in the face of growing negativity is a losing battle. But the contest is far from over. Belief in our ability to make a difference, to be part of something significant and extraordinary, helps us to focus on what needs to be done. That belief makes us conscious of the positive changes that are already happening. We create a better balance in our life by being aware of our environment and how we impact it.

If you believe that we are connected to all that exists on Earth; if you believe that being better informed about such issues as climate change, recycling, energy management will help you develop a more powerful mindset for change; if you believe that you can make a difference in your family and your community, then now might be a good time to start the process of making it so.

Garfield King is an independent radio producer, presenter and writer with almost 30 years broadcast experience. As a trainer, he conducts workshops on public speaking, presentation skills and communication dynamics. inkings@tstt.net.tt

Family Values

Reasons to be optimistic



By Barbara King
Parent Educator,
The Parent Support Centre

Sometimes it seems that we are inundated with bad news and stories about what is going wrong. Unfortunately our local press dedicates little or no space to good ideas and good deeds that make a positive difference, but there are many wonderful and encouraging things happening that are changing the world for the better, particularly in the non-profit sector.

There are a host of organizations that have been created by people who have been through hardships and are keen to share their acquired wisdom to help others avoid or emerge from similar situations. Examples of these in Trinidad and Tobago include the shelters and services provided to address domestic violence, The Rape Crisis Society the Dyslexia Association, cancer support groups or the Coterie of Social Workers.

Then there are groups that have been founded by passionate individuals who see a problem and set about addressing needs and finding solutions like T & T Innovative Parenting Support, Families in Action, Moms for Literacy, Mamatoto, the Autistic Society, Crime Stoppers, and the Toco Foundation, to mention just a few.

The anger, frustration and grief of mothers have been channelled into strategies to change society. Mothers have united the world over to improve life for families despite obstacles placed by political parties, governments and corporations.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) has as its mission to stop drunk driving, support the victims of this violent crime and prevent underage drinking. Established in 1980, MADD has grown into one of the USA's most widely respected non-profit organizations.

Mothers Against Murder And Aggression (MAMAA) is a UK registered charity which has supported victims of violent crime and their families

for over 15 years. MAMAA works directly with the British Home Office, offering advice on victims' needs, and to develop and promote strategies that work towards reducing what they consider to be the unacceptable level of violent crime in the UK.

Mothers Against Sexual Abuse (MASA) works to prevent child sexual abuse by increasing adult awareness, connecting victims with resources and supporting legislation to protect children. It offers to abuse victims and their families access to a network of professionals who aid in recovery, literature and education to adults, parents, caregivers and educators.

The Four Mothers Movement
On February 4th, 1997, two transport helicopters carrying troops into Israel's self-declared security zone in Southern Lebanon collided, killing all 73 soldiers aboard. In the aftermath of this tragedy, four Israeli women, who had sons serving in Lebanon, held a small demonstration. They protested the fact that the Israeli government, which had indicated its readiness to pull out of Lebanon in 1985, had done nothing in the intervening 12 years to return to within its international border and had allowed the occupation of Lebanon to continue. These women, who took the name The Four Mothers Movement, gained immediate media attention. The Movement now has several hundred active members, it is unique in the country, a truly grassroots organization, not affiliated with any party, drawing supporters from across the political spectrum.

Conscious business
There is also ample evidence that there are individuals in the business sector who are transforming the way they do business. Denise Cerreta a resident of Salt Lake City in Utah, established a café called One World Everybody Eats. There are no menus and no set prices. Patrons select what and how much they want to eat and pay, what they feel the meal is worth or what they can afford. Those who can't pay wash dishes or serve food for a meal voucher. Sounds crazy, but since she started she has paid her staff above minimum wage, they get paid holiday leave, and Cerreta still makes a profit.

There are a lot of good things happening right here in T & T and internationally. Look out for them.

Barbara King is a professional facilitator and parent educator. She is the presenter of Baby Talk on Music Radio 97, conducts parenting talks and workshops for T&T Innovative Parenting Support and Creative Parenting for the New Era and is editor of Parenting Support Newsletter. Email: baking@tstt.net.tt

REFLECTIONS ON THE COPENHAGEN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

By Yvo de Boer,
Executive Secretary,
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

In December, the nations of the world and most of its leaders met in Copenhagen to agree ambitious and immediate global action to combat climate change. That complete vision did not emerge. The task has therefore become more, not less urgent. The window of opportunity to tackle the climate problem closes more rapidly the longer nations delay to act together. But Copenhagen has raised the challenge to the highest level of government policy, the level where it must ultimately be resolved.



Yvo de Boer

Moreover, what emerged from Copenhagen was a consensus amongst leaders on a collective, long-term response to climate change, and a set of measures to implement global climate action, which came close to completion. These together now point the way forward to achieving the bigger, collective goal.

The Copenhagen Accord was crafted by a group of countries including the biggest, richest, poorest and smallest, and incorporating nations responsible for 80 percent of global emissions.

It represents a letter of political intent to limit the global temperature rise, it asks countries to record national emission reduction pledges and promises defined short and long-term finance for the developing world.

The Accord was not accepted as a formal decision under the UN's climate convention. But its aims are anchored strongly in the Convention's objectives. Any country can now associate itself with those aims. Many countries pledged action before Copenhagen and the world should expect them to honour those pledges.

My communication with countries which agreed to the Accord reveals a strong message that it should not lead to a new negotiating track but can be used to unlock areas of disagreement in the on-going talks.

Also at Copenhagen, negotiators came close to decisions on a set of measures which would make a long-term response operational: a framework to help poor countries adapt, a mechanism to speed

technology transfer, a programme to build capacity and agreements to cut emissions from deforestation and agriculture.

It will take time for countries to digest the implications. This is well and good, for they must come to terms with the challenge ahead.

Now, industrialised countries can resume discussions to raise their collective mid-term emission cuts into the minus 25 to 40 percent range that science has indicated would avoid the worst climate impacts. Failure to achieve this can only mean the need for greater ambition later.

Countries need to discuss how the long-term finance will be raised. Let us also not forget that in Copenhagen, nations pledged \$28 billion in short-term finance for immediate action, and this money is sitting in national budgets. Countries need to find how this money can be used as soon as possible to launch immediate action.

The question whether geopolitical shifts are making multilateral agreements harder to reach must also be confronted.

My answer is that multilateral agreements are the only tool the world has to agree laws, regulations, accounting norms and market mechanisms that consolidate and catalyse global action, and keep it honest. It is increasingly impossible for nations to act confidently without these reference points, in a

world where no one bloc calls the shots.

Every tool we have to combat climate change on a global scale has come through the multilateral process: the Kyoto Protocol, the Clean Development Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund for developing nations, and the Convention's financial arm (GEF), which gives dedicated funding access for the poorest and most vulnerable. To reinvent these structures would take time and money the world does not have.

Copenhagen set out to deliver an agreement on four essential areas: medium-term emission cuts by industrialised countries; action by developing countries to limit emissions; finance to implement action; and an equitable governance of the climate regime. Those issues are as relevant as ever. If countries follow up Copenhagen's outcomes calmly and with their eye on the collective advantage, then they have every chance of completing this promise.

Mr. Yvo de Boer has announced that he will resign his position as Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as of 1 July 2010. Mr. de Boer will be joining the consultancy group KPMG as Global Adviser on Climate and Sustainability, as well as working with a number of universities.

UNITED NATIONS OFFICIAL APPLAUDS GRENADA'S LEADERSHIP OF AOSIS

The Head of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Under Secretary General, Sha Zukang, has praised Grenada's Prime Minister Tillman Thomas for his leadership of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

"I appreciate your leadership and the important and leading role you have played in pushing the agenda of Small Island Developing States. We have a historic opportunity to get the international community to help with the difficulties associated with climate change," a statement from the Grenada government quoted the UN Official as saying about Prime Minister Thomas.

They both agreed that while last December's climate change summit in Copenhagen did not meet the expectations of SIDS, it was the start of a process that recognized the vulnerabilities of these states, if green house gas emissions were not reduced.

Both Prime Minister Thomas and Mr. Zukang

recognized that the proper use of the United Nations system to move the climate change agenda forward was necessary if an agreement, by which all states will abide, is to be achieved.

"I agree that small states need external support and I am reasonably confident that the fund agreed to in Copenhagen will be established," he said. The Copenhagen Climate Change meeting established a Green fund to assist countries with adaptation and mitigation measures to combat the adverse effects of climate change.

"This is very important to us because most of our development is on the coast. We are also concerned with the impact rising sea levels will have on our fishing villages and the people who live in those areas," the Prime Minister said.

He told the UN Official, AOSIS members are hoping for a binding commitment, when the world debates climate change in Cancun, Mexico, later this year.

COP 15 - Review and analysis

By Saleemul Huq, Achala Chandani and Simon Anderson
International Institute for Environment and Development

Before COP15 there was widespread optimism that even if the outcome was not legally-binding, it would include strong positives for the 100 or so developing nations that have done least to cause climate change and are most at risk – the Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States and most of Africa.

They sent larger, more experienced delegations than to any previous session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Civil society groups in these countries and around the world joined together in a global chorus that demanded a fair and equitable response from the rest of the world's leaders.

The most vulnerable countries hoped for a binding agreement that would limit temperature increases to 1.5 degrees rather than the 2 degrees favoured by the G20. They wanted an agreement on how to support adaptation to climate change in their countries, with significant funding pledges and technology transfer from industrialised countries, and a 'REDD' deal that would pay forest nations to reduce emissions from deforestation.

However, they had little to bring to the table – no cash to offer and minimal emissions to reduce. Instead they appealed to morality by insisting that parties take seriously the task ahead of them because it was the right, if inconvenient, thing to do.

At some points the vulnerable countries urged a halt in the negotiations until developed countries announced their full pledges for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and for funding action in developing nations. These requests were seen as tactics for holding up the negotiations but they were the only ways for the vulnerable nations to get their voices heard.

In the weeks and months before the conference, many heads of state claimed in speeches that they knew how urgent their task was and that they were committed to acting. But time proved them to be weak in their will. They were not prepared to look beyond their narrow national interests and accept the burden of responsibility that true leadership brings. Instead they focused on saving face and scrambled to come up with something they could

present as a deal.

Towards the end of the COP15 negotiations, the talks were going on in two completely separate processes. First, negotiations among all 192 parties to the UNFCCC continued. Second, and behind closed

doors, a select group of about 25 world leaders came up with the Copenhagen Accord, into which most of the vulnerable countries had very little input. As 25 Parties agreed to the Accord, President Obama told the US media that a deal had been struck. The only trouble was that it had yet to be presented to and adopted by all 192 countries there, so his announcement was premature to say the least!

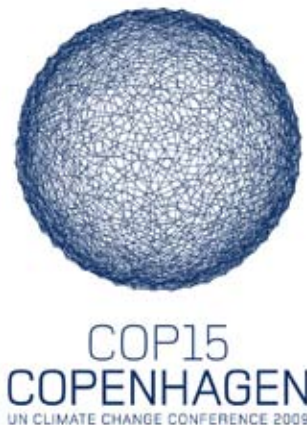
The Accord is weak. It is not binding and has no targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (countries that signed

it have until 31 January to list their voluntary actions in its appendix). The low level of ambition will make preventing dangerous climate change increasingly difficult. What countries have so far proposed will commit us to a 3 to 3.5-degree temperature increase, and that is just the global average.

The Accord does propose short-term funding for adaptation in vulnerable countries but lacks essential details such as where this money will come from, if it will be new and additional to existing aid, or its form — loans or grants. Regardless, the target figure of US\$30 billion over three years from 2010 to 2013 is not adequate for 100 vulnerable countries with about one billion citizens. This three year sum is about the same amount that JP Morgan Chase bank is expected to announce this week it will spend on salaries and bonuses in just the current year.

As to the long-term finance, developed countries pledged to commit to a goal of mobilizing jointly US\$100 billion a year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries.

However, the Accord does not say how much of this money would be allocated for adaptation in vulnerable countries (as opposed to mitigation actions



Nor were there any no assurances that the proposed US\$100 billion would not come from existing aid commitments.

Moreover, this amount is just half of what vulnerable countries require to adapt in the long term. This is also a promise that could easily be broken unless it comes from public sources that could guarantee the funding is delivered to developing countries. This would not be the case with money from private sources. On top of this, the Accord makes no special provisions regarding technology transfer for the vulnerable developing countries.

The UNFCCC operates by consensus and to adopt any decision, all parties must agree. In the end parties agreed only to note the existence of the accord, rather than adopt it as some vulnerable countries strongly resisted its adoption.

In many ways what happened in Copenhagen during two action-packed weeks was a shaking of the traditional pieces of the global geo-political puzzle and their landing in a new and unfamiliar configuration.

China, India, Brazil and South Africa formed a new block called BASIC which may be the death knell of the G77/China block of 130 developing nations as we have known it so far. As the BASIC group took on the industrialised nations, the most vulnerable countries were squeezed out of the process. Gradually they began to compromise.

Prime Minister Zenawi of Ethiopia, representing Africa, made a deal with President Sarkozy of France where he dropped the 1.5-degree target in exchange for a promise of funding for Africa. This split the Least Developed Countries (most but not all of which are African) and left the small islands as the only nations hanging on to the 1.5-degree target.

Cracks may be appearing in the negotiating blocks of the developing world, but earlier in the year President Nasheed of the Maldives initiated a new group of vulnerable countries that transcends the traditional blocks of Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States and Africa. In 2010 President Tong of Kiribati will host the next meeting of that new group which is set to grow in strength and unity.

The biggest failure in Copenhagen was one of leadership. It was a failure of powerful leaders to realise that COP15 was not about money or politics but about the future security of their own grandchildren. For true climate leadership we should start looking South.

This article first appeared in Stakeholder Forum's 'Outreach' magazine Jan 2010



Commonwealth publication suggests discussing Climate Change at UN Conference on Least Developed Countries

The Commonwealth Secretariat published an article titled “Trade Hot Topics Issue #69: Fourth UN Conference on LDCs – What to Expect?” in preparation for the fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (UNLDC IV).

The article highlights, inter alia, the impacts of climate change on LDCs.

The article's authors suggest that the outcome of the UNLDC IV, which is scheduled to be held in Turkey during the first half of 2011, could be synchronized with other ongoing international initiatives, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha trade talks, the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness, the Monterrey process on development finance, and “last but not the least” the global climate discourse.

The authors also suggest that UNLDC IV should focus on “structural change,” if not “structural progress,” attained by the LDCs during the last decade, while taking note of traditional issues, such as increasing share in global trade, energy and food security, as well as new issues, such as the global financial crisis and the implications of climate change.

The authors advocate a multi-sectoral package, based on multiple instruments, to mitigate the adverse consequences of climate change as well as to encourage green growth.

WWF has released ***The Copenhagen Accord: A Stepping Stone?*** analysing how the world might begin the journey from the political agreement of the Copenhagen Accord to an internationally binding climate treaty in Mexico City in December.

The Copenhagen Accord is far from the fair, ambitious and binding deal the world needs to prevent dangerous climate change.

Based on an analysis of the Accord's strength and weaknesses, however, WWF believes it could become a stepping stone towards a fair, ambitious and binding deal.

In WWF's view, the Accord could inform and advance the UN climate negotiation process, for which a 2010 work plan and schedule must be established quickly.

To utilize the Accord's potential and to build trust, countries should submit their mitigation actions/targets by 31 January or as soon as possible thereafter.

Countries should also make immediate progress towards operationalizing the funds, mechanisms and guidelines agreed in the Copenhagen Accord. Finally, they have to turn urgent attention to adaptation and adaptation finance, areas where the Copenhagen Accord is disappointing and particularly weak.

These issues are hugely important for the most vulnerable countries, as they already suffer from climate impacts and will face major challenges in the near future.

Country submissions must be guided by the goal to keep global warming below 2 °C, a goal enshrined in the Copenhagen Accord. There is a large gap between the most ambitious emission cuts pledged to date and the reductions needed to give even a moderate chance to reach the goal.

A range of authoritative estimates put the gap in 2020 at around 2 to 5 gigatons CO₂e. In 2007, the entire annual emissions of the 27 EU countries were around 5 gigatons.

However, the gigatons gap might be even bigger, as current estimates are based on some overly optimistic assumptions so far not matched by reality.

Notably, the various studies ignore a series of dangerous loopholes which threaten to undermine the integrity of the targets countries currently put forward. This could greatly widen the gigatons gap, according to WWF estimates by perhaps 2 to 3 gigatons.

To put the world on course for a safer future, governments must act urgently to close the gap and deliver the "missing gigatons". This will require more ambitious targets, action to close off the loopholes and creative thinking to unleash real, concrete actions on the ground.

This could increase trust and ambition among parties and lead to agreement on a fair, ambitious and binding treaty in the UN climate process.



Role of Waste-to-Energy in Sustainable Waste Management

Salman Zafar
Renewable Energy Advisor

INTRODUCTION

Millions of tonnes of waste are generated each year with the vast majority disposed of in open fields or burnt wantonly. Reduction in the volume and mass of solid waste is a crucial issue especially in the light of limited availability of final disposal sites in many parts of the world. The term “waste-to-energy” has traditionally referred to the practice of incineration of garbage. Advanced waste-to-energy technologies can be used to produce biogas (methane and carbon dioxide), syngas (hydrogen and carbon monoxide), liquid biofuels (ethanol and biodiesel), or pure hydrogen; these fuels can then be converted into electricity. Feedstocks for waste-to-energy plants may include municipal solid waste (MSW); agricultural waste, such as crop silage and livestock manure; industrial waste from coal mining, lumber mills, or other facilities; food residuals; woody biomass and even the gases that are naturally produced within landfills.

Modern waste-to-energy plants offer significant, cost-effective and perpetual opportunities toward meeting emission reduction targets while providing additional ancillary benefits. Additional benefits offered are employment creation in rural areas, reduction of a country’s dependency on imported energy carriers (and the related improvement of the balance of trade), better waste control, and potentially benign effects with regard to biodiversity, desertification, recreational value, etc.

WASTE-TO-ENERGY CONVERSION PATHWAYS

Waste-to-energy technology is inherently flexible. The variety of technological options available means that it can be applied at a small, localized scale primarily for heat, or it can be used in much larger base-load power generation capacity whilst also producing heat. Waste-to-energy conversion can thus be tailored to rural or urban environments, and utilized in domestic, commercial or industrial applications.

A host of technologies are available for realizing the potential of waste as an energy source, ranging from very simple systems for disposing of dry waste to more complex technologies capable of dealing

with large amounts of industrial waste. The main categories of waste-to-energy technologies are physical technologies, which process waste to make it more useful as fuel; thermal technologies, which can yield heat, fuel oil, or syngas from both organic and inorganic wastes; and biological technologies, in which bacterial fermentation is used to digest organic wastes to yield fuel.

ROLE OF WASTE-TO-ENERGY IN SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste-to-energy provides the fourth “R” in a comprehensive solid waste management program: reduction, reuse, recycling, and energy recovery. The benefits of full-scale implementation of energy recovery as a final step in waste management are evident:

- conservation of natural resources and fossil fuels
- drastic landfill reduction
- lower greenhouse emissions

Waste-to-energy facilities provides integrated solutions to the problems of the modern era: by recovering otherwise lost energy and metals, thereby reducing use of precious natural resources; by cutting down emissions of greenhouse gases; and by both saving valuable land that would otherwise be destined to become landfill and recovering land once sacrificed to the products of consumerism.

CONCLUSIONS

As the environmental issues concerning waste management have evolved, and the concept of a waste hierarchy has developed, it has become clear that an increasingly important reason to incorporate an energy-from-waste component within an integrated waste strategy is for the recovery of energy from the residual waste stream. Waste-to-energy plants are highly efficient in harnessing the untapped sources of energy from a variety of wastes.

‘Salman Zafar is a Renewable Energy Advisor working towards implementation of renewable energy technologies and sustainable waste management systems in developing countries’

Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism signs Memorandum of Understanding with Confederation of Tourist Organizations of Latin America

Organizations to cooperate in support of initiatives promoting sustainability of Caribbean tourism



Attending the importance of cooperation among the different entities in the tourism sector to strengthening the development of tourism in the Caribbean, Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism (CAST) and Confederación de Organizaciones Turísticas de América Latina (COTAL) has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation to the joint support of both institutions for initiatives that promote sustainability of Caribbean tourism industry.

As a first joint project, it provides the potential for an initiative to raise awareness of the use of regulations to apply in visits to areas declared as world heritage or protected and/or national parks and protection standards. To achieve this goal, operators as well as tour guides in particular will be trained to bring home to tourists:

- The importance of conservation ecology and the need for all of our participation in this process and how to get involved in the preservation of the environment.
- Provide information to tourists about the evolution that led to the formation of the natural wealth of the visited areas.
- Communicate to the visitor the participation that natural resources have in the environment and thus, in our lives.

There will also be an awareness campaign to allow man to get closer to nature and to his history and culture, leading to greater awareness of natural wealth and the importance of conservation through educational programs that will enable man to contribute to the care of these products by:

- Implementing courses and workshops for training and education relating to the subject matter.
- Establishing institutional slogans related to the conservation and protection of natural, historical and cultural resources.
- Conducting a promotional information campaign on the importance of the resources already mentioned, in print, CD, participation in radio and television, articles in newspapers and participation in commercial displays.
- Realization of projects with specific contributions which would bear the name of each sponsoring company to help in the recovery of environmental, historic and cultural areas.

The agreement was signed by Sir Royston O. Hopkin, KCMG, Chairman of CAST; and Luis Felipe Aquino, President of COTAL. Actively involved in assisting the process were José Mella, President of Dominican Travel Agents and Tourism Association (ADAVIT), and Tirso Cabral, President of Asociación de Guías de Turismo de la República Dominicana (AGTRD).

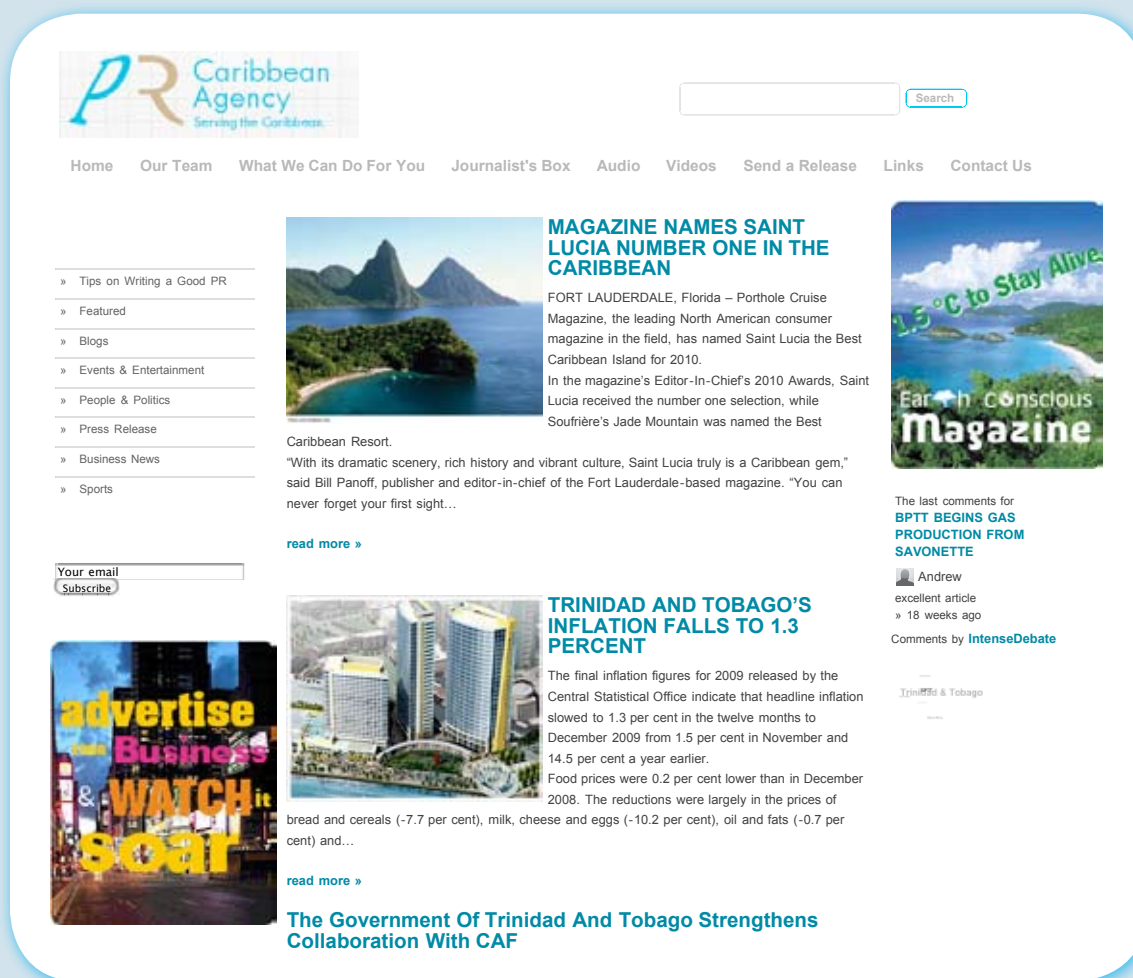
Photo caption (left to right): Manuel Castro Inocencio, Asociación de Guías de Turismo de la República Dominicana (AGTRD); Tirso Cabral, President of AGTRD; Luis Felipe Aquino, President of Confederación de Organizaciones Turísticas de América Latina (COTAL); José Mella, President of Dominican Travel Agents and Tourism Association (ADAVIT); and Adolfo López, Executive Director for the Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism (CAST)



*Only in quiet waters do things mirror themselves undistorted.
Only in a quiet mind is adequate perception of the world.*

~ Hans Margolius ~

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