



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

BONN CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS CONCLUDE AS ATTENTION TURNS TO ACCRA

Four parallel meetings took place between 2-13 June 2008, in Bonn, Germany, under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Kyoto Protocol. The second session of the *Ad Hoc* Working



L-R: AWG-LCA Chair Luiz Machado, Brazil, and UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer

Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA), which was launched in Bali, started its substantive work in Bonn, while the resumed fifth session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) began the process of listing issues for further negotiation, particularly on the Kyoto Protocol's market-based mechanisms and on carbon sinks. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation advanced preparations for a second review of the Kyoto Protocol under Article 9 in December 2009, and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice made some progress on methodologies for reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation in developing countries (REDD). Collectively, these meetings resulted in the adoption of 30 conclusions and four draft decisions that will be taken up at subsequent meetings (<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb28/>; <http://unfccc.int/meetings/sb28/items/4328.php>).

Continued on page 2

MEA Clusters In This Issue

- **Climate and Atmosphere**
Ozone Secretariat Continues Preparation for OEWG28 *Page 2*
- **Chemicals and Wastes**
Rotterdam Posts COP4 Documents; Basel COP9 Convenes *Page 3*
- **Intergovernmental Organizations**
UNGA Considers Private Investment Role in Climate Change; UNEP Highlights Environmental Refugees *Page 3-4*
- **Forests, Deserts and Land**
ITTO Pledges US\$3 Million for SFM; UNFF Posts Bureau Meeting Minutes; UNCCD Marks World Day to Combat Desertification *Page 4*
- **Trade, Finance and Investment**
FfD Process Discusses Doha Outcome Document; World Bank and GEF Join Tiger Initiative; Bank Projects Announced; GEF Holds Subregional Meeting *Page 5*
- **Water, Oceans and Wetlands**
Ramsar Informs on Implementation Activities; IMO Council Holds 100th Session; GPA Coordination Office Relocates; UNCLOS Parties Meet *Page 5-6*
- **Biodiversity and Wildlife**
CBD Holds Consultations with Business; CITES Posts SC Documents *Page 6*
- **Sustainable Development**
Marrakech Process Meetings Convene *Page 7*

GUEST ARTICLE

Start, then Strengthen: The Importance of Immediate Action for Climate Mitigation

By K. Madhava Sarma, former Executive Secretary, UNEP Ozone Secretariat, & Durwood Zaelke, President, Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development

Abstract

Speed matters for successfully managing the transition to a low-carbon future.

Continued on page 2

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

KEY ELEMENTS OF A GLOBAL DEAL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

(LSE, 2008) In this paper, Nicholas Stern, of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), proposes key elements of a global climate policy that seek to satisfy three basic principles: effectiveness, efficiency, and equity (<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/granthamInstitute/publications/KeyElements%20of%20a%20Global%20Deal%20-Final%20version%201300%2030-4.pdf>).

Continued on page 3

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GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

We need to start now with immediate mitigation to learn what works best to limit climate emissions and enhance sinks, and to build confidence to strengthen efforts in the future. Immediate mitigation also is essential for getting ahead of accelerating climate feedbacks by quickly reducing greenhouse gas concentrations from the current 385 ppm (growing fast at 2 ppm/year) to a safe level – perhaps as low as 350 ppm.

A strong long-term climate treaty is absolutely necessary. We should be working tirelessly to move negotiations forward towards a post-2012/post-Kyoto regime. However, the development, ratification, and implementation of a global treaty are not fast processes. Climate change has the upper hand at the moment, making it clearer every day that tipping points for catastrophic events are uncomfortably close – perhaps ten years away for disintegration of the Greenland Ice Sheet, which will cause up to seven meters of sea-level rise, or for the loss of the Himalayan glaciers and snow-pack, which will dry up vital rivers in India and China.

While we continue efforts to produce a successful climate treaty, we also need to focus on national, regional, and international actions that can be undertaken immediately to help climate in the near-term so that we have more time to focus on the long-term.

Start with Black Carbon

We should start with black carbon, a component of soot. Black carbon emissions are the second largest contributor to global warming after carbon dioxide and a significant contributor to Arctic ice-melt. In regions such

as the Himalayas, the impact of black carbon on melting snow-packs and glaciers may be equal to that of carbon dioxide. Reducing black carbon may be the fastest strategy for slowing climate change and the most effective way to mitigate Arctic warming.

Addressing black carbon emissions – through new laws as well as through better compliance with existing laws – also would provide significant health benefits, saving millions of lives a year that otherwise would be lost to air pollution. Addressing black carbon would also benefit agriculture by reducing damaging impacts on plants, improving crop productivity, and reducing threats to food security.

Continue Strengthening the Montreal Protocol

Strengthening the Montreal Protocol ozone treaty is another fast-action climate mitigation strategy. Last year, at the 20th anniversary meeting, the 191 parties continued their “start and strengthen” strategy with an historic agreement to accelerate the phase-out of HCFCs, ensuring significant climate mitigation, along with faster recovery of the ozone layer.

This year the parties are considering further strengthening the Montreal Protocol to address banks of CFCs, HCFCs, and other chemicals that will be released from old products and equipment at end-of-life. These products represent an estimated 7.4 Gt CO₂-eq. by 2015 and more thereafter. Argentina, Micronesia, and Mauritius submitted proposals in May to destroy these banks when unnecessary, while the US is also expected to support the measures by submitting a proposed decision.

In addition to addressing banks, other measures can further strengthen the Montreal Protocol to maximize its climate benefits, including tightening exemptions for essential and critical uses of ozone depleting substances, chemical feedstocks and process agents, and strengthening efforts to combat illegal trade.

Phase Down HFCs Fast

Moving regulation of HFCs (gases which have high global warming potentials) from the Kyoto Protocol to the Montreal Protocol or to a separate Montreal Protocol-type regulatory regime, would ensure commitment from all 191 parties (including the US) and greatly benefit climate.

Use All Available Mitigation Measures

There are many additional ways to mitigate climate emissions in the near-term, using national, regional, and international laws, to:

- protect and expand forests,
- expand bio-char sequestration,
- reduce other non-CO₂ gasses – CH₄, SF₆, PFCs, and N₂O,
- reduce precursors for tropospheric ozone,
- expand wind and other renewable energy sources, and
- improve energy efficiency.

We must act fast. The clock is ticking.

Link to the full article: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/guestarticle50.html>

Editor's note: MEA Bulletin invites articles from practitioners, MEAs and academics on issues that are of interest across the MEA community. Please contact the Editor, lynn@iisd.org, for further information.

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

Continued from page 1

Since 13 June, the Secretariat's focus has moved to the next round of talks (21-27 August 2008, Accra, Ghana). These meetings will include the third session of the AWG-LCA and the sixth session of the AWG-KP. On 23 June, the Secretariat published a notification for parties and observer States with details about the Accra talks and annexes containing provisional agendas and guidelines for visas (http://unfccc.int/files/parties_and_observers/notifications/application/pdf/notification_parties_accra_080623_web.pdf). The AWG-KP will consider conclusions on such issues as the Protocol's flexible mechanisms

and land use, land-use change and forestry, while the AWG-LCA is expected to discuss sectoral issues and REDD (<http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb12375e.pdf>).

In other UNFCCC news, the fifth meeting of the Enforcement Branch of the Kyoto Protocol's Compliance Committee took place in Bonn on 14-15 June. The meeting considered a question of non-compliance relating to Canada, and decided that it would not pursue this matter further (http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/compliance/items/2875.php, http://unfccc.meta-fusion.com/kongresse/enforcement05/templ/ovw_unfccc.php?id_kongressmain=51).

OZONE SECRETARIAT CONTINUES PREPARATION FOR OEWG28

In preparation for the upcoming 28th Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (OEWG28), which will convene from 7-11 July 2008, in Bangkok, Thailand, the Ozone Secretariat has released a list of side events and an addendum discussing the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel progress report and the report discussing the destruction of ozone-depleting substances (http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/oweg/28oweg/index.shtml).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

AFRICA: ATLAS OF OUR CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

(UNEP, 2008) This publication documents the effects of climate change and urbanization, among other environmental drivers, on Africa's natural assets (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=538&ArticleID=5834&l=enU>).

ICAO CALCULATOR

(ICAO, 2008) This web-based tool, presented by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), identifies the carbon dioxide emissions from a given flight (<http://www2.icao.int/public/cfmapps/carbonoffset>).

THE ECONOMICS OF ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY – AN INTERIM REPORT

(European Commission, 2008) Inspired by the momentum created by the *Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change*, and proposed by the German Government and endorsed by the G8+5 leaders in 2007, this study was designed to “initiate the process of analyzing the global economic benefit of biological diversity, the costs of the loss of biodiversity and the failure to take protective measures versus the costs of effective conservation” (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/economics/pdf/teeb_report.pdf).

FOREST GOVERNANCE LEARNING GROUP UPDATE

(International Institute for Environment and Development, 2008) This update highlights the impacts and plans of the Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG) in its country-based and international work. FGLG is an informal alliance of in-country groups and international partners, aiming to connect those marginalized from forest governance to those controlling it, in eight African and three Asian countries (<http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdfs/G02284.pdf>).

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION POSTS COP4 DOCUMENTS

The Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention has made available draft recommendations and draft Decision Guidance Documents for chrysotile asbestos, endosulfan and tributyl tin compounds for consideration during COP4 (20-25 October, Rome, Italy) (<http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=b&id=138&sid=27&tid=41>). The Secretariat has also made available the 12 June 2008, Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Circular, a bi-annual publication containing information required to be circulated by the Secretariat (<http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=t&id=50&sid=3>).

BASEL CONVENTION COP9 CONVENES IN BALI

The ninth Conference of the Parties (COP9) to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal is convening from 23-27 June in Bali, Indonesia. The theme of COP9 is “Waste Management for Human Livelihood,” and a High-Level Forum on this issue will convene on 26-27 June. COP9 will also consider: the programme of work for 2009-2010; a budget for the Basel Convention trust funds for 2009-2010 that provides for appropriate resources to effectively and efficiently implement the

programme of work; a recommendation for improved cooperation and coordination between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions developed by the *Ad Hoc* Joint Working Group (AHJWG) on Cooperation and Coordination; a process to develop a successor arrangement for the Strategic Plan beyond 2010; the approach toward reaching an agreed interpretation of paragraph 5 of article 17 of the Convention, on the entrance into force of amendments to the Convention; and a process leading to an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention at COP11, in accordance with Article 15(7) of the Convention. Over the first two days of COP9, delegates began discussion on the recommendation of the AHJWG. Several parties expressed support for the recommendation, while Brazil had some queries. Delegates agreed to discuss these informally and return to the draft decision later in the week (<http://www.iisd.ca/basel/cop9/>).



Outgoing Basel COP8 President John Njoroge Michuki (Kenya), welcomes COP9 President Rachmat Nadi Witoelar Kartaadipoetra (Indonesia)

► INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNGA CONSIDERS PRIVATE INVESTMENT ROLE IN CLIMATE CHANGE, BUSINESS PRACTICE AND GENDER

The UN General Assembly (UNGA) considered private investment's role in mitigating climate change and how climate change, in turn, influences private investment decisions, during this body's first follow-up to the UNGA's February 2008 thematic debate on climate change. Panelists at the 9 June 2008 meeting outlined the scope of environmental concerns that affect the market, which they said is marked by uncertainty. The panelists offered examples where specific local regulations spurred investment and innovation, and agreed on the need to adopt stable regulations to provide incentives for private sector action (<http://www.un.org/ga/president/62/ThematicDebates/gpicc.shtml>; <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2008/ga10718.doc.htm>).

UN Member States met on 13 June 2008 to discuss business practice aspects of System-wide Coherence. Representatives of the Chief Executives Board presented on a “Plan of Action

for the Harmonization of Business Practices in the UN System,” following which discussion focused on six high-level objectives, including adoption of international standards and replication of best practices, facilitation of effective inter-agency coordination, and enhanced transparency and accountability (<http://www.reformtheun.org/index.php/eupdate/4242>).

The UNGA considered gender aspects of System-wide Coherence on 16 June 2008, focusing on a Secretariat “Note on the UN System Support to Member States on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment,” which responded to a request that came out of a 16 May 2008 meeting and outlined the work on gender within the UN System. The meeting concluded with Co-Chair Augustine Mahiga (Tanzania) and Paul Kavanagh (Ireland) calling for a second paper from the Secretary-General on institutional options to improve the UN's performance in the area of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (<http://www.un.org/ga/president/62/issues/resolutions/ClosingRemarksGender160608.pdf>).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

INTERNATIONALLY FUNDED TRAINING IN BIOSAFETY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY - IS IT BRIDGING THE BIOTECH DIVIDE?

(UNU-IAS, 2008) On the basis of a global assessment undertaken from 2004-2007, and seeking to examine whether capacity-building activities deliver to developing countries the capacity to make and implement choices about biosafety and biotechnology, this report has concluded that the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety has provided a focus and catalyst for various capacity-building initiatives, although it finds that there remains a significant lack of capacity in the majority of developing countries (http://www.ias.unu.edu/sub_page.aspx?catID=111&ddlID=673).

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNEP HIGHLIGHTS ENVIRONMENTAL REFUGEES, ORGANIZES CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE

On World Refugee Day, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) noted the high proportion of refugees that are environmental refugees. Citing the International Federation of the Red Cross, UNEP highlighted that climate change is a bigger cause of population displacement than war and persecution (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=538&ArticleID=5842&l=en>).

In other UNEP news, the seventh Tunza International Children's Conference convened from 17-21 June 2008,



Photo courtesy of UNEP

in Stavanger, Norway. Seven hundred children attended the bi-annual conference, which focused on energy,

biodiversity, water, and production and consumption (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=538&ArticleID=5838&l=en>).

DELIVERING AS ONE PILOTS SHARE LESSONS LEARNED

Senior government representatives from the eight Delivering as One pilot countries gathered in Maputo, Mozambique, from 21-23 May 2008, to exchange experiences and lessons learned. The seminar also included the Co-Chairs of the UN General Assembly consultations on System-wide Coherence and UN country team members from the pilots, as well as Malawi. The seminar focused on the contributions that Delivering as One can make in implementing the UN system's Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development (<http://www.undg.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=ViewDocPublic&docID=9077>).

FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

ITTO PLEDGES US\$3 MILLION FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

A meeting on "Operational Modalities for Future Work of the International



Chair Katharina Kuehmayer addresses the meeting (Photo courtesy of ITTO)

Tropical Timber Council" convened in Accra, Ghana, from 9-12 June 2008. Grants worth over US \$3 million to assist sustainable forest management were

announced, two-thirds of which will go to projects in Africa. The meeting began with an "Africa Day" event, focusing on International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) African member countries' regional challenges and development assistance needs. During the rest of the week, participants addressed the entry into force of the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 2006, including the modalities of operation of new thematic programmes that will guide the Organization's work and the functions of the Council's subsidiary committees. Two Working Group Chairs' reports of the meeting's discussions will be forwarded to the next Council session, to be held in November 2008 in Japan (<http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pageId=217&id=4064>).

UNFF POSTS BUREAU MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the third meeting of the Bureau of the eighth session of the UN

Forum on Forests (UNFF8), which took place on 6 May 2008, in New York, US, are now available online. Participants at the meeting addressed preparations for UNFF8, the *Ad Hoc* Expert Group meeting on finance (3-7 November 2008, Vienna, Austria), and the Country-led Initiative on Financing Sustainable Forest Management (8-12 September 2008, Paramaribo, Suriname). They were briefed on an ongoing analytical study conducted by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Advisory Group on Finance to review the needs and existing available funding sources and mechanisms. Participants were also updated on progress in staffing the Secretariat, ongoing UN reforms, the UNFF Trust Fund, and recent meetings of the regional forestry commissions of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/bureau/unff8/minutes_06052008.pdf).

UNCCD MARKS WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) selected "Combating land degradation for sustainable agriculture" as the theme for 2008 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, celebrated on 17 June. On the occasion, UNCCD Executive Secretary Luc



Luc Gnacadja, UNCCD Executive Secretary (Photo courtesy of UNCCD)

Gnacadja stressed the role science and technology play in combating land degradation, including through developing "guidelines and standards for alternative uses of agricultural goods and services, such as for biofuel production," and integrating scientific research with "proven policies and strategies aimed at sustainable development, market-oriented mechanisms and appropriate capacity-building" (<http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/june17/2008/menu.php>). The Global Mechanism (GM) of the UNCCD highlighted that "The current strategy and policy debates around climate resilience, sustainable agriculture and food security point to the conclusion that none of these global challenges and threats to human well-being should be tackled in isolation, but as part and parcel of development programming at country level, supported by effective international policy making processes," and outlined actors and initiatives related to these country level and international policy making processes (<http://www.global-mechanism.org/news--events/news/climate-resilience-and-sustainable-land-management>).

In his message to mark the day, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon emphasized that the UNCCD offers the sole international legal framework to reclaim dry and degraded land, and suggested that "these unused lands could also serve for biofuel production, and thus offer new benefits for their inhabitants" (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2008/sgsm11636.doc.htm>).

► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

FFD PROCESS DISCUSSES OUTCOME DOCUMENT FOR DOHA REVIEW CONFERENCE

Following the conclusion of the six informal review sessions on the six thematic areas of the Monterrey Consensus, Ambassadors Abdelaziz (Egypt) and Løvald (Norway) held informal consultations on the contents of the outcome document for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD), also called the Doha Review Conference. These consultations took place on 9 and 16 June 2008, at UN Headquarters in New York, US. Participants presented opinions on the outcome document's structure and the assessment of implementation of commitments by developed and developing countries. The informal consultations held on 16 June were followed by a workshop on "Carbon Taxes - A Tool for Managing Climate Change or a Threat to the World's Poor?" on 17 June, and hearings with representatives of civil society and the business sector on 18 June. The President of the General Assembly will issue informal summaries of the review sessions and will present, by the end of July 2008, a draft outcome document of the Conference (<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha/consultations/index.htm>).



www.worldbank.org/tigers
Photo courtesy of The World Bank

WORLD BANK, GEF AND OTHERS JOIN TO SAVE ENDANGERED TIGERS

The World Bank, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and a worldwide alliance of tiger conservationists, scientists and celebrities have joined forces to help save wild tigers. The new Tiger Conservation Initiative, launched in

Washington DC, US, will start with a series of dialogues in range countries to find out what has worked locally to protect the tigers. It will also assess the financing needs of tiger conservation and work with governments and the private sector to find innovative funding sources and mobilize new resources for the species' protection (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:21796122~pagePK:64257043~piPK:437376~theSitePK:4607,00.html>).

BANK PROJECTS TURN PASTURES INTO FORESTS, FINANCE PROJECTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The World Bank has announced that the Nicaragua Precious Woods Project, which began in August 2006, plans to turn 600 hectares of privately-owned former cattle ranches in southern Nicaragua into new-growth teak forests, thus removing tons of carbon from the atmosphere to mitigate global warming, growing a sustainable natural resource and helping to save Nicaragua's endangered native tree species and existing forests. The project intends to absorb nearly 300,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2017 and is being facilitated by the World Bank's Carbon Fund, which has agreed to "buy" 297,045 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emission reductions, or 26 percent of the total, by 2017 at US\$4 per ton (<http://go.worldbank.org/HLT0-VNZC60>).

In related news, the International Development Association, part of the World Bank Group, has announced it will finance a US\$12.5 million loan for an Environmental Management Project in the Maldives, which will assist the Government of Maldives to effectively manage environmental risks to fragile coral reefs and other marine habitats resulting from tourism development,

increased solid waste disposal, fisheries and global climate change (<http://go.worldbank.org/35TWIPUWY1>).

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) approved a loan for US\$8 million to support Paraguay's national environmental system. This is the second stage of a programme that began in 2001 with a first US\$8 million IDB loan to establish and strengthen key institutions in the sector (<http://www.iadb.org/news/articledetail.cfm?artid=4644&language=En>).

The Asian Development Bank approved a US\$100 million loan for the Guangdong Energy Efficiency and Environment Improvement Investment Programme in Guangdong, China. The funds will finance projects by major energy consumers to retrofit plants and buildings with energy-efficient technology. The programme is expected to lower coal consumption and result in annual energy savings of 533 GWh (<http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2008/12494-chinese-energies-projects/>).

GEF HOLDS SUBREGIONAL MEETING IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) held a sub-regional workshop for national focal points from West and Central African countries from 19-21 June 2008, in Douala, Cameroon. During the event, GEF Focal Points discussed and reviewed policies and procedures and shared experiences and lessons learned from developing and implementing GEF projects. Among the issues addressed were: the GEF Focal Area Strategies; its revised project cycle; the Resource Allocation Framework mid-term review; and knowledge management and monitoring tools and resources available to focal points. A presentation by Burundi addressed the development and strengthening of stakeholder partnerships (http://www.gefcountrysupport.org/report_detail.cfm?projectId=219).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

IMO COUNCIL HOLDS 100th SESSION

The International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Council held its 100th session from 16-20 June 2008, in London, UK. During the week, a number of speakers addressed the Council, including: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon; IMO Secretary-General Efthimos E. Mitropoulos; Ruth Kelly, Secretary of State for Transport, UK; Kosuke Shibata, Vice-Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism,



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon opens week of celebrations at IMO
(Photo courtesy fo IMO)

Japan; and Binali Yildirim, Minister of Transport and Communications, Turkey. A panel discussion on IMO/industry cooperation was also held under the theme: IMO's relationship with the maritime industry. The Council's session was

also the occasion for the IMO to commemorate 60 years since the adoption of the IMO Convention and 50 years since that Convention entered into force, and to mark the 25th and 20th anniversaries, respectively, of the World Maritime University and the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1709&doc_id=9444; http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1709&doc_id=9230).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

RAMSAR INFORMS ON NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

The Ramsar Secretariat has released the report from, and decisions adopted by, the 37th meeting of the Standing Committee, which met from 2-6 June 2008, in Gland, Switzerland (http://www.ramsar.org/sc/37/key_sc37_decisions_e.htm; http://www.ramsar.org/sc/37/key_sc37_report.htm). The Secretariat has also released the report of the sixth European Ramsar Meeting, which was held in Stockholm, Sweden, from 3-7 May 2008 (http://www.ramsar.org/mtg/mtg_reg_europe2008_report.pdf).

In other Ramsar news, the Secretariat has reported that Moldova has completed the Small Grants Fund Project on "Management Scenario Development for the Unguri – Holosnita Ramsar Site and Awareness Raising on the Ramsar Convention Wise Use Policy." The project aimed at developing a management plan and implementing the wise use approach in the Unguri-Holosnita Ramsar Site, located on the left bank of the Dniester River in north-eastern Moldova near the border with Ukraine (http://www.ramsar.org/sgf/sgf_rpts_moldova_unguri.htm). In addition, the Secretariat has reported that the US has designated the Olentangy research wetland in the state of Ohio as its 24th Wetland of International Importance (http://www.ramsar.org/archives/archives_trans_usa_olentangy.htm). Finally, the Secretariat has created an on-line pre-registration facility for the tenth Conference of the Parties, scheduled to take place in Changwon, Republic of Korea, from 28 October -

4 November 2008 (http://www.ramsar.org/index_cop10_e.htm).

GPA COORDINATION OFFICE RELOCATES

In a letter dated 30 May 2008, Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director, officially communicated the relocation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources (GPA) Coordination Office from The Hague, the Netherlands, to Nairobi, Kenya. In his letter, Steiner emphasizes the benefits of the move and extends UNEP's gratitude to the Government of the Netherlands for their invaluable support. The move is expected to take place in August 2008 (IISD RS Sources).

UNCLOS PARTIES MEET, REPORT ON OCEANS RELEASED, ICP9 ADDRESSES MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY

The 18th meeting of the States parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) took place from 13-20 June 2008, in New York, US. During the meeting, delegates reviewed, *inter*

alia: the Report of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS); the information reported by the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority; and information reported by the Chairman of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. In addition, parties addressed budgetary matters and elected seven members of ITLOS (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting_states_parties/eighteenth-meetingstatesparties.htm). In related news, the UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea has released the Report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea to the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly and the ninth meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP9) (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/general_assembly/general_assembly_reports.htm). The latter opened on 23 June in New York, US. The meeting, which will conclude on 27 June, will focus on the topic "Maritime security and safety" (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm).



Delegates during an ICP9 plenary session

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

CBD HOLDS CONSULTATIONS WITH BUSINESS, JAPAN LAUNCHES COP10 PREPARATIONS

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held consultations with the business community on 11-12 June 2008, in Montreal, Canada, and San Francisco, US, to discuss the involvement of business in CBD implementation. On 11 June 2008, representatives of Canadian businesses met in Montreal to review their business links with biodiversity and consider the establishment of a Canadian business forum for biodiversity conservation. From 11-12 June 2008, the CBD Secretariat participated in a stakeholder dialogue held in San Francisco, to help shape the direction and content of the Strategic Plan of the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association ([\[cbd.int/doc/press/2008/pr-2008-06-16-business-en.pdf\]\(http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2008/pr-2008-06-16-business-en.pdf\)\).](http://www.</p>
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In preparation for CBD COP10, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, from 19-29 October 2010, Japan launched its national campaign. The campaign was initiated by a seminar organized on 14 June 2008 by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan in cooperation with the "COP10 Promotion Committee," attended by more than 1,000 participants. During his visit to Nagoya, CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif held meetings with national and local authorities, and signed memoranda of understanding with Higashiyama Botanical Garden and Nagoya City University (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2008/pr-2008-06-17-japan-en.pdf>).

On 16 June 2008, CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif delivered a speech on climate change and biodiversity at the G8 Dialogue Series convened

by the Institute of Advanced Studies of the UN University. He highlighted that biodiversity loss is both a consequence of, and a contributing factor to, climate change (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2008/sp-2008-06-16-ias-en.pdf>).

CITES POSTS DOCUMENTS FOR STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

In preparation for the 57th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to be held from 14-18 July 2008, in Geneva, Switzerland, the CITES Secretariat has recently posted an updated working programme along with other background documentation (<http://www.cites.org/eng/com/SC/57/index.shtml>).

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MARRAKECH PROCESS MEETINGS CONVENE

Costa Rica recently hosted the Fourth Meeting of the International Task Force on Sustainable Tourism Development, which is one element of the Marrakech Process, a global process to support the elaboration of a 10-Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) on sustainable consumption and production, as called for by the World Summit on Sustainable Development's Johannesburg Plan of Action. The 8-12 June 2008 meeting in San Jose and Arenal, Costa Rica, discussed issues including the protection of natural resources, promotion of sustainable production and consumption patterns in the tourism

industry, and best regional practices on sustainable tourism development. Labels, standards and certification processes for sustainable tourism, and integrated coastal zone management were also addressed (http://www.veilleinfo-tourisme.fr/1210773932864/0/fiche_article/&RH=1178110141256).

In other Marrakech Process news, the first Advisory Committee of the Marrakech Process met on the sidelines of the sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development,



Logo courtesy of the UN

on 8 May 2008, in New York, US. The Advisory Committee is a body of experts drawn from all regions and key stakeholder groups to provide guidance to UNEP and UNDESA in developing and implementing the Marrakech Process on sustainable consumption and production. Among other agreements, Committee participants agreed that the Secretariat should prepare a first draft of the 10YFP, to be sent to the Committee members by the beginning of June 2008. This draft is expected to be released on 1 July 2008 (<http://esa.un.org/marrakechprocess/index.shtml>; <http://esa.un.org/marrakechprocess/pdf/Minutes%20of%20the%20first%20meeting%20final.doc>).

► COMINGS AND GOINGS

- Robert Bolješić from Slovenia joined the Secretariat of the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** as its Senior Scientific Officer (<http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2008/rob.shtml>).

Photo: **Robert Bolješić** (Photo courtesy of CITES)



► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **ECOSOC SUBSTANTIVE SESSION:** 30 June-24 July 2008, New York, US. <http://www.un.org/ecosoc/index.shtml>
- **28th OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP FOR THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL:** 7-11 July 2008, Bangkok, Thailand. http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/oewg/28oewg/index.shtml
- **57th MEETING OF THE CITES STANDING COMMITTEE:** 14-18 July 2008, Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.cites.org/eng/news/calendar.shtml>
- **SECOND AFRICAN REGIONAL MEETING ON SAICM AND ASSOCIATED UNEP WORKSHOPS:** 14-19 July 2008, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. <http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/meeting/afreg/Dar%20es%20Salaam/Default.htm>



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