



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

UN CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS CONCLUDE IN BONN



Consultations during one of the AWG-KP plenary sessions

The first in a series of UN climate change negotiating sessions this year, comprising the fifth session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) and the seventh session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP), convened from 29 March-8 April 2009, in Bonn, Germany. Discussions under the AWG-KP centered on the scale of the reductions, improvements to emissions trading, the Kyoto Protocol's carbon offset mechanism and options for the treatment of land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF). Under the AWG-LCA, delegates discussed a "focus document" prepared by the Chair that describes areas of convergence in the ideas and proposals from parties, explores options for dealing with areas of divergence, and identifies any gaps that need to be filled to reach an effective and ambitious climate change deal. Among other decisions, parties decided to convene two additional meetings in 2009 and they mandated the new AWG-KP Chair John Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda) to prepare a proposal for amendments to the Kyoto Protocol under Article 3.9 (Annex I further commitments) and a text on other issues, such as LULUCF and the flexibility mechanisms (<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/ccwg5/>).

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GUEST ARTICLE

Why Global Environmental Problems Entail Ethical Obligations

By Donald A. Brown, Associate Professor, Environmental Ethics, Science, and Law, Program on Science, Technology, and Society, Penn State University

Abstract

Ethics is understood to be the domain of inquiry that explores what is right or wrong, obligatory or non-obligatory, or when responsibility attaches to human behavior.

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

FACING THE CHALLENGES

(UNESCO, 2009) This volume of case studies was published in conjunction with UN World Water Development Report 3. This volume includes 20 studies from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Latin America, where conditions of water-related stress and socio-economic settings vary widely. It seeks to provide an analysis of the state of freshwater resources and related challenges that directly affect the livelihoods of people (http://webworld.unesco.org/water/wrap/wdr/wdr3/case_studies/index.shtml).

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GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

Are there features of global environmental problems that call for classifying them as essentially ethical problems with even greater force than some local or regional environmental problems? If so, what are these features?

Some global environmental problems are caused by people in one part of the world but are most harshly experienced by others who are separated from those causing the problem by great space and time. In addition, those most vulnerable to global environmental problems are often least responsible for causing them. Climate change is a strong example of this feature of global environmental problems. The same separation between victim and cause is also true of other global environmental problems, including upper atmospheric ozone depletion, some ocean degradation problems including destruction of global fisheries, some biodiversity and forest problems, and exposure to toxic substances that are deposited around the world by long-range air transport.

The second reason why global environmental problems call for classification as ethical problems stems from the fact that their consequences are often catastrophic to those who are most harmed by them. Climate change, for instance, directly threatens human life and health and resources to sustain life as well as species of plants and animals and ecosystems around the world. Loss of global fisheries can be devastating to subsistence fishermen, global desertification and drought are likely to cause mass starvation, loss of atmospheric ozone can cause skin cancer in millions, and long-range transport of persistent organic chemicals can cause deadly diseases and birth defects. Because ethics requires people to be particularly careful to not harm others when the harm is great, global environmental problems need to be seen as ethical issues.

Governments are expected to protect their citizens from life-threatening dangers. At the local, regional or national scale, citizens can petition their governments to protect them from environmental harms. But at the global level, no government exists

whose jurisdiction matches the scale of global environmental problems. In fact, according to a leading foreign policy theory called "realism," national governments should limit the scope of their international engagements to the pursuit of national interest alone. Yet global environmental problems require people in one part of the world to consider the interests of others outside the jurisdiction of their national governments. Because there is no duty of national governments to protect foreigners from global environmental problems unless they bind themselves voluntarily in treaties, an appeal to ethical and moral responsibility is particularly important to motivate national actions in regard to global scale environmental problems.

Link to the full article: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle67.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

In other UNFCCC news, the Secretariat has released a number of documents in the past two weeks, including several submissions from Australia on: additional views on emissions trading and the project-based mechanisms regarding support for ambitious differentiated mitigation commitments, and actions, comprehensive coverage and governance (FCCC/KP/AWG/2009/MISC.3/ADD.2); a submission on their national ambition and economic cost as an indicator for comparable efforts (FCCC/KP/AWG/2009/MISC.1/ADD.2); and in Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/MISC.1/Add.2). Other documents released include: a submission from Chile on definitions, modalities, rules and guidelines for the treatment of LU-LUCF in the second commitment period (FCCC/KP/AWG/2009/MISC.3/ADD.1); Proposed Mitigation Actions from the Philippines (FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/MISC.1/Add.2); a corrigendum regarding a proposal submitted by Iceland for an amendment to decision 16/CMP.1 on LU-LUCF (FCCC/KP/AWG/2009/MISC.5/Corr.1); the report of the individual review of the greenhouse gas inventory submissions of Hungary submitted in 2007 and 2008 (FCCC/ARR/2008/HUN); and information on Japan's considerations of quantified emission limitation and reduc-

tion commitments (QELROs) (FCCC/KP/AWG/2009/MISC.1/ADD.2). The in-session workshop reports on potential environmental, economic and social consequences, including spillover effects of tools, policies, measures and methodologies available to Annex I Parties (FCCC/KP/AWG/2009/CRP.2) and on economic and social consequences of response measures (FCCC/KP/AWGLCA/2009/CRP.1) have also been released. Finally, the UNFCCC Secretariat has issued a notification to parties and observer States regarding the upcoming climate talks that are scheduled to take place from 1-12 June 2009, in Bonn, Germany (ICA/PART/JUN/09) (<http://unfccc.int/2860.php>).

IPCC RELEASES DOCUMENTS FOR 30th SESSION

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Secretariat has released new documents for its 30th session, which will take place from 21-23 April 2009, in Antalya, Turkey. The meeting will focus on the future of the IPCC, in particular the scoping of the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5). Documents for the session include the report of the Task Group on the future of IPCC, with suggestions to help the production of the AR5 and proposals for two expert meetings submitted by Co-Chairs of IPCC Working Groups I and II. The first proposed expert

meeting relates to assessing and combining multi-model climate projections, and would explore the possibility of establishing a framework for using and assessing the AR5 model set to enhance interaction between Working Groups I and II. The other proposed expert meeting would address detection and attribution related to anthropogenic climate change. Additional new documents address IPCC Observer Organizations and the possibility of granting the European Community Special Observer Status as a Regional Economic Integration Organization. This document collates results of informal consultations and comments from governments on this proposal. The Secretariat also prepared a draft Trust deed, following the decision of IPCC 29 to set up a scholarship fund for climate change research with the funds from the Nobel Peace Prize. New documents for IPCC 30 also include the report of the workshop "New Science Directions and Activities Relevant to the AR5 of the IPCC." The workshop, jointly organized by the IPCC, World Climate Research Programme and International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, convened from 3-6 March 2009, in Honolulu, Hawaii (<http://www.ipcc.ch/meetings/session30.htm>). Finally, the dates and venue for IPCC 31 have been set for 26-28 October 2009, in Bali, Indonesia (<http://www.ipcc.ch/>).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

IWRM GUIDELINES AT RIVER BASIN LEVEL

(UNESCO, March 2009) These Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Guidelines were produced as a contribution of UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme towards the World Water Assessment Programme, with dedicated support from the Japanese Government. They consist of two parts: overarching Principles of IWRM at River Basin Level for policy-makers; and practical keys for success and good examples intended for practitioners of IWRM at River Basin Level. Part 1 Principles: http://www.unesco.org/water/news/pdf/Part_1_Principles.pdf; Part 2-1 Guidelines for IWRM Coordination: http://www.unesco.org/water/news/pdf/Part_2-1_Guidelines_for_IWRM_Coordination.pdf; Part 2-2 Guidelines for Flood Management: http://www.unesco.org/water/news/pdf/Part_2-2_Guidelines_for_Flood_Management.pdf; Part 2-3 Invitation to IWRM for Irrigation Practitioners: http://www.unesco.org/water/news/pdf/Part_2-3_Invitation_to_IWRM_for_Irrigation_Practitioners.pdf.

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

MULTILATERAL FUND 57th EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING CONVENES

The Executive Committee's 57th Meeting convened in Montreal from 30 March-3 April 2009. The Committee approved US\$25.5 million for projects and activities to phase-out ozone depleting substances (ODS), including funds for the phase-out of HCFCs. In addition, six projects for ODS destruction were approved and the Multilateral Fund Secretariat will prepare a document on criteria and guidelines for ODS disposal projects. The Committee also discussed policy issues related to the cost considerations surrounding the financing of HCFC phase-out, including: prioritization of HCFC phase-out technologies to minimize other impacts on the environment (functional unit approach); and second stage conversions and determination of the cut-off date for installation of HCFC-based manufacturing equipment. The Committee also considered potential uses of a special funding facility within the Multilateral Fund that might potentially cover costs associated with climate benefits, as well as other additional environmental benefits, which are not required for compliance with the Montreal Protocol. Climate-related issues including the functional unit approach, the facility for additional income and resource mobilization will be considered at the 58th Meeting of the Executive Meet-

ing, scheduled to convene in July 2009 (IISD RS Sources).

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA OZONE CONSULTATION CONVENES

The ministerial consultation for Europe and Central Asia on hydrofluorocarbon (HCFC) policy measures and technology options convened in Belgrade, Serbia, from 23-24 March 2009, and was followed by a contact group meeting of Ozone Officers on the same subject, from 24-26 March 2009. The consultation was attended by high-level government representatives of six Balkan countries as well as Turkey and Georgia. The objective of the meeting was to raise high-level awareness on the need to introduce appropriate policy measures to achieve the HCFC freeze in 2013 and the initial 10% reduction in 2015 in Article 5 countries. Participants also discussed opportunities to contribute to climate protection from Montreal Protocol implementation through appropriate policy setting and technology choices (http://www.unepie.org/ozonaction/archive_features.htm).



Participants at the Ministerial Consultation for Europe and Central Asia (photo courtesy of UNEP)

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

FIRST MERCURY PARTNERSHIP MEETING CONVENES

The first meeting of the Partnership Advisory Group of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 31 March-2 April 2009. Participants heard reports from partnership representatives, reviewed

the overall progress of Mercury Partnerships and considered the overarching issues and lessons learned. Participants observed many opportunities for cooperation between partnerships, as well as the need to link specific actions to targets and to indicators to measure achievement and the need for additional

resources, including new partners with expertise. Participants agreed Mercury Partnerships are key mechanisms for continuing immediate action on mercury and that they could play an important role as a source of information for the intergovernmental negotiating committee (IISD RS Sources).

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

ITTO AND IUCN PREPARE GUIDELINES FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY IN TROPICAL FORESTS



Image courtesy of ITTO

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and IUCN have prepared guidelines for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in tropical timber production forests. These guidelines represent a complete revision and update of ITTO's original Biodiversity Guidelines, published in 1993. They set out the specific actions that policymakers, forest managers and other stakeholders should take to improve biodiversity conservation in tropical production forests (http://www.itto.int/en/policypapers_guidelines/).

UNCCD ANNOUNCES PHOTO CONTEST

The Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has invited photographers to participate in the Second UNCCD International Photo Contest, which seeks to raise awareness

for the issues of land degradation and desertification in drylands and their social consequences. Photos should conceptually and artistically depict either the efforts of people conserving soil, land and/or water in drylands, or the relationship between affected people and ecosystems in drylands. Entries should be submitted by 17 June 2009. The winner will receive a prize of 1,500 euros and will be invited to participate in an award ceremony during the UNCCD's Convention of the Parties to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in September 2009 (<http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/photocontest/menu.php>).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE WORLD BANK GROUP: EVALUATION OF WORLD BANK WIN-WIN ENERGY POLICY REFORMS

(World Bank, 2009) The World Bank's Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) released a report that finds, among other issues, that fuel pricing is a key policy affecting emissions and that important information for the design and management of emissions-related policies is missing. The report constitutes the first phase of a broader analysis of the Bank's impact on combating climate change. It focuses on policies that combine gains at the country level with globally beneficial greenhouse gas reductions (<http://go.worldbank.org/P79E45L5G0>).

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNWTO CONVENES INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TOURISM STATISTICS

The UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) International Conference on Tourism Statistics convened in Bali, Indonesia, from 20 March-2 April 2009. The conference discussed tourism as a reliable tool for sustainable job creation and concluded that the tourism industry continues to be amongst the most dynamic economic sectors, generating a wide range of benefits including a growing contribution to GDP. Participants found that the key challenges are to establish sustainable policies to enhance both the quantity and quality of employment in the tourism industry (http://www.unwto.org/media/news/en/press_det.php?id=3891&idioma=E).



Image courtesy of the UNWTO

UNEP JOINS TASK FORCE TO CREATE GREEN JOBS

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has joined the Task Force to Create a New Green Economy, launched ahead of the Group of 20 (G-20) Summit, in London, UK, on 31 March 2009. Over 50 businesses and 30 experts and organizations have joined the Task Force, which will work with governments and organizations to identify how to create "green jobs" and to steer global economic growth onto a more sustainable, low-carbon pathway (<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30345&Cr=g-20&Cr1=>).



Image courtesy of the UN

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DSD POSTS POLICY BRIEFS, BUREAU MINUTES

The Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) has contributed to two UN-DESA policy briefs. Policy Brief #12, which was co-authored by Tariq Banuri, Director of DSD, addresses "A Global Green New Deal for Sustainable Development." It suggests three main elements for a Global Green New Deal: financial support to developing countries; national stimulus packages in developed and developing countries aiming at reviving and greening national economies; and international policy coordination to ensure that the developed countries' stimulus packages are effective in creating jobs in developed



Image courtesy of UN-DESA

countries, and that these jobs will also facilitate generating strong developmental impacts in developing countries (<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/policybriefs/policybrief12.pdf>).

Policy Brief #13 is titled "A Trillion Dollar Plan." This brief notes that the UN has estimated that developing countries will need around \$1 trillion for 2009 and 2010 to address the global financial crisis, and it identifies how this finding could be delivered through existing mechanisms and within existing commitments (<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/policybriefs/policybrief13.pdf>).

The minutes of the fourth meeting of the Bureau for the 17th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), for which the DSD serves as Secretariat, have also been posted. During the high-level segment at CSD17, two dialogues will be organized on the theme of "implementing sustainable development." One will

involve a discussion between ministers and representatives of Major Groups, and the other between ministers and the policy research community. Informal dialogues will be organized on the side of the high-level segment between ministers, Heads of UN agencies and chairs of Executive Boards/ Governing Councils of UN organizations. Themes for roundtables during the high-level segment will be: responding to food crisis through sustainable development; realizing sustainable green revolution in Africa; and integrated management of land and water resources for sustainable agriculture and rural development. The Bureau also learned that the President of COP 14 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) requested that an informal ministerial meeting on climate change take place in the evening of the second day of the high-level segment (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd_csd17_buremeet_4th.shtml).

WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

NEW RAMSAR SITE DESIGNATED, REPORT FROM TRAINING WORKSHOP RELEASED

The Ramsar Secretariat has announced that the Government of Kazakhstan has designated as its second Wetland of International Importance, effective 10 March 2009, the Ural River Delta and adjacent Caspian Sea coast, which is part of the North Caspian Nature Reserve (http://www.ramsar.org/archives/archives_trans_kazakhstan_ural.htm).

The Secretariat has also released the report from the training session coordinated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme in partnership with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and IUCN Oceania, held from 10-13 March 2009, in Nadi Fiji. The informal session was attended by the five Pacific Island signatories to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Fiji, Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, and Samoa). The training was designed to enhance sustainable management of their

wetland sites (http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.sprep_fiji_workshop2009.htm).

Finally, the Ramsar Secretariat has reported that the Government of Japan indicated that it will continue to provide voluntary support for the Ramsar Small Grants Fund. Japan has committed up to CHF 37,969 funding for the 2008 SGF round, which will be invested in the promotion of the wise use of the wetlands in the southwest coast of Bangladesh (http://www.ramsar.org/index_bulletin.htm).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

IMO PUBLISHES CODE ON AIR POLLUTION FROM SHIPS

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has published the revised Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) containing the Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships, and the revised nitrogen oxides (NOx) Technical Code 2008, which were adopted by IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee in October 2008, and that will enter into force on 1 July 2010 (http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1773&doc_id=11234).

UNDOALOS RELEASES ADVANCE ICP10 AGENDA AND SUBMISSIONS TO CLCS

The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) has released the advance, unedited annotated and provisional agenda for the tenth meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP10), scheduled to take place at UN Headquarters in New York, US, from 17-19 June 2009. The agenda was prepared by Co-Chairpersons Paul Badji (Senegal) and Don MacKay (New Zealand), on the basis of consultations with delegations and of an informal pre-

paratory meeting held at the same venue on 25 March 2009. The agenda details the areas of concentration for the discussion panel on the topic "Implementation of the outcomes of the Consultative Process, including a review of its achievements and shortcomings in its first nine meetings" (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/consultative_process/documents/icp_advance_unedited_format.pdf).

UNDOALOS has also released new submissions made to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) by France, Ireland, the UK and Yemen (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/clcs_home.htm).

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

CBD ABS WORKING GROUP NEGOTIATES INTERNATIONAL ABS REGIME, ONLINE CONSULTATION ONGOING

The seventh meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) met from 2-8 April 2009, at UNESCO headquarters, in Paris, France. The meeting continued the negotiation of an international regime on ABS, focusing on operational text on the objective, scope, compliance, fair and equitable benefit-sharing, and access. The Working Group is expected to finalize the international regime and to submit it for consideration and adoption by the tenth Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the CBD, to be held from 18-29 October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan.

The Working Group encountered several procedural obstacles, most of

which related to the structure of the negotiating document agreed upon at ABS 6 and CBD COP9, consisting of sections on the main components, and lists of items "to be further elaborated with the aim of incorporating them in the international regime" in the case of agreement in principle ("bricks"), or "for further consideration," in the case of disagreement or need for further clarification ("bullets"). Although this structure had assisted negotiations in the past, it provoked prolonged debates in Paris, with regional groups accusing each other of trying to promote bullets to bricks through their textual proposals under each item. Two days before the end of the meeting, the Working Group agreed to abandon the bricks and bullets concept but work directly on textual proposals under the existing structure (<http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/abs7/>).

In other CBD news, the Secretariat has prepared an online consultation to gather inputs for consideration at the upcoming Liaison Group meeting of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, which will convene from 26-28 May 2009, in Dublin, Ireland. The online consultation will be open from 1-30 April 2009, at: <http://www.cbd.int/gspc/survey>.

In biosafety-related news, the Secretariat has made available the report of the first meeting of the Group of the Friends of the Co-Chairs on liability and redress in the context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held from 23-27 February 2009, in Mexico City, Mexico (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/bs/bsgflr-01/official/bsgflr-01-04-en.pdf>). In addition, Comoros has acceded to the Protocol, bringing the number of parties to 156 (<https://www.cbd.int/biosafety/signinglist.shtml?sts=rtf&ord=dt>).



The dais during one of the plenary sessions of ABS 7. L-R: Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary; Timothy Hodges (Canada); ABS Working Group Co-Chair, Fernando Casas (Colombia); ABS Working Group Co-Chair, Jochen Flasbarth, German Ministry of Environment and Representative of the COP9 President; and Walter Erdelen, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO.

► **TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT**

IDB AND WORLD BANK FUND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS IN BRAZIL

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved, on 5 March 2009, a US\$1.3 billion loan to support Brazil in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Brazilian environmental management system; and further integrating sustainable development in the development agenda of key sectors (<http://go.worldbank.org/YT0WT-PF2E0>).



Photo courtesy of the World Bank

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) approved, on 27 March, a project to provide Brazil's Usiminas steel company a loan amounting to US\$200 million, to finance investments in a new power cogeneration plant and reduce carbon emissions (<http://www.iadb.org/am/2009/index.cfm?lang=en>).

In other IDB news, the Board of Governors of the IDB adopted a set of initiatives to promote green growth at its 50th Annual Meeting held in Medellín,

Colombia, from 29-30 March 2009. Finance ministers and central bank presidents from IDB's 48 member countries discussed the current financial crisis and addressed the IDB's reform, calling for a capital increase that contemplates a strategy to make effective use of additional resources to support social safety net programmes, poverty and inequality reduction, infrastructure investment and measures related to climate change (<http://www.iadb.org/am/2009/index.cfm?lang=en>).

In other World Bank news, the Bank's "Energy Week 2009" focused on the theme "Energy, Development, and Climate Change." The 31 March-2 April 2009 event brought together policymakers and practitioners engaged in energy and development to analyze issues including: energy innovations for clean transport; securing a climate-sensitive energy supply; integrating wind energy development; and scaling up energy



Image courtesy of the World Bank

efficiency for climate change mitigation (<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTENERGY/Resources/335544-1232567547944/program.htm>).

GEF STAP WORKSHOPS PROVIDE ADVICE FOR GEF5

The Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) has recently convened workshops in Washington DC, US, to prepare guidance for the Fifth GEF Replenishment (GEF5). A workshop held on 23 March 2009 evaluated novel project designs to improve GEF's impact on the ground. Another, on 30 March, developed STAP's guidance for strategic programming on climate mitigation policies and technologies. The meeting produced a summary of the state-of-the-art understanding of mitigation science, technology and policy with relevance to GEF5. On 31 March, a workshop developed guidance for the strategic programming on REDD, forest conservation and sustainable forest management, including concepts based on new science and the Bali Action Plan (http://stapgef.unep.org/activities/technicalworkshops/CC_GEF5).



Photos of the IDB 50th Annual Meeting held in Medellín, Colombia (photos courtesy of IDB)

► **COMINGS AND GOINGS**

- The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOLAOS) has announced that, effective 1 April 2009, Václav Mikulka, **UNDOALOS Director**, assumed the post of the Director of the Codification Division, Office of Legal Affairs (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/reference_files/new_developments_and_recent_adds.htm).

► **KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS**

- **Sustainable Land Management & Agricultural Practices in Africa: Bridging the Gap between Research & Farmers:** 16-17 April 2009. Gothenburg, Sweden. http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt_agri_egm0409.shtml
- **Seventh Meeting of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Implementation Committee:** 16-17 April 2009. Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.saicm.org/index.php?menuid=26&pageid=257>
- **Second Meeting of the CBD AHTEG on Biodiversity and Climate Change:** 18-22 April 2009. Helsinki, Finland. <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=AHTEG-BDCC-02-02>
- **CITES AC24:** 20-24 April 2009. Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.iisd.ca/cites/ac24/>
- **UNFF8:** 20 April-1 May 2009. New York, US. <http://www.iisd.ca/forestry/unff/unff8/>
- **IPCC30:** 21-23 April 2009. Antalya, Turkey. <http://www.ipcc.ch/meetings/session30.htm>