



## RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

### ▶ CHEMICALS AND WASTES

#### CHEMICAL AND WASTE ExCOPs CONVENE IN BALI



Presidents of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions gavel a decision simultaneously

The Simultaneous Extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (ExCOPs) convened under the theme “Greater Strength in Sync,” from 22-24 February in Bali, Indonesia. The meeting was the first time three independent treaty conferences convened simultaneously. The meeting took decisions on, *inter alia*, joint services, activities and managerial functions, and a review mechanism and follow up. Debate on joint managerial functions revolved around the potential of immediately appointing an interim joint Head of the three Secretariats. Delegates agreed to the appointment of a joint Head, and to review the position and its effectiveness.

In addition to the synergies negotiations, the UN Environment Programme launched chemical and waste related initiatives during the ExCOPs, including “Safe Planet: the United Nations Campaign for Responsibility on Hazardous Chemicals and Wastes,” a global public awareness and outreach campaign of the Joint Services of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (<http://excops.unep.ch/>; <http://www.iisd.ca/unepeg/unepss11/>).

#### GUEST ARTICLE

##### The New Future of Human Rights and Environment: Moving the Global Agenda Forward – High Level Experts Meeting

By Christopher Holmes, Intern, Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, UNEP\*

#### Abstract

The relationship between a safe and healthy environment and human rights was first raised on the global agenda during the preparations for the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment,

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#### RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

##### CHEMICALS SNAP SHOT

(UNEP, 2010) This publication forms part of “Safe Planet: the United Nations Campaign for Responsibility on Hazardous Chemicals and Wastes,” which aims to ensure the safety of the environment and human health from hazardous chemicals and wastes. The document’s objective is to increase global public awareness on ways to take responsibility for keeping the planet safe from harmful substances (<http://excops.unep.ch/documents/brochure-chem-snapshot.pdf>).

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**GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)**

when the 45th session of the Economic and Social Council noted the effect of environmental factors on “*the condition of man, his physical and mental well-being, his dignity and his enjoyment of basic human rights in developing as well as developed countries.*” Principle 1 of the 1972 Stockholm Declaration states that man’s natural and self-made environment is “*essential to his well-being and to the enjoyment of basic human rights and the right to life itself,*” but human rights-based arguments have not been followed in subsequent environmental declarations.

In the absence of a global approach, the link between human rights and the environment has developed in a fragmented manner across national, regional and international levels in case law, regulations and international agreements. As a result, much of the linkage between human rights and environmental law has been highlighted through decisions of national courts and regional human rights bodies. The piecemeal development has lacked a comprehensive framework linking human rights and the environment.

In general, there are three broad approaches to linking human rights and the environment. The first is to view a quality environment as an underlying

precondition for the enjoyment of existing human rights, rather than a specific right in itself. The second approach involves focusing on the procedural rights of people in relation to control over their environment, such as rights to participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice. The final, and most contested, approach involves a substantive justiciable right to a certain quality of environment.

Several efforts have sought to clarify the linkage between these concepts at the international level, but limited progress has been made. Recently, growing recognition of the human impact on environmental problems and the spectre of climate change has placed this issue on the international agenda once more. A key event for moving this process forward was the 2009 resolution (10/4) of the Human Rights Council that, for the first time, acknowledged at the international level that climate change has both direct and indirect effects on the enjoyment of human rights.

To provide guidance to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on how to move forward on this issue, these organizations convened the *High Level Expert Meeting on the New Future of Human Rights and Environment: Moving the Global*

*Agenda Forward*. This 30 November-1 December 2009 event, which took place in Nairobi, Kenya, gathered 40 experts. The discussions resulted in a roadmap for the future of Human Rights and the Environment, which advises UNEP and OHCHR on how to move forward and outlines what further work is required. The first proposed step is a Joint Report between OHCHR and UNEP consolidating existing legal approaches to linking on Human Rights and the Environment. Other areas of inter-agency cooperation are also being identified. This experts’ meeting provided a clear outline of the various pathways that could be followed to carry the global agenda forward and the advantages and disadvantages of each. It is now up to the international community to step up to the challenge.

To see the full article, including footnotes and links to further information, visit: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle87.html>

\*This article reflects the views of the author; it does not present the official views of the UN or UNEP.

*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](mailto:lynn@iisd.org), for further information.*

► **CHEMICALS AND WASTES**



The dais during the CSD Thematic Seminar on Chemicals (photo courtesy of the Stockholm Convention Secretariat)

**STOCKHOLM CONVENTION PREPARES FOR CSD18, PCB ELIMINATION NETWORK MEETING CONVENES**

The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention participated in the Thematic Sem-

inar on Chemicals organized by the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) Secretariat on 23 February in New York, US. The Seminar aimed to present scientific and technical information on the issues under review by the CSD at its 18th and 19th sessions (<http://chm.pops.int/Convention/Meetings/Preparationforthe18thCSDsession/tabid/704/language/en-US/Default.aspx>).

The first meeting of the Advisory Committee of the PCBs Elimination Network (PEN) convened in Geneva, Switzerland, from 18-20 January 2010. The meeting

agreed to establish four thematic groups under PEN related to inventory of PCBs, maintenance of PCBs equipment, disposal of PCBs, and PCBs in open applications. For each thematic group, the rationale, organization, planned activities, outcomes and proposed budgets have been developed. The Advisory Committee and the Secretariat also agreed to actively seek funding for the implementation of the work plans of the Thematic Groups and to support the cost for holding upcoming Advisory Committee meetings (<http://www.pops.int/pen>).

► **FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND**

**UNCCD NATIONAL REPORTING AND REVIEW SYSTEM UNDERWAY**

The Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has announced that the new reporting and review system is underway. Parties at the ninth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD, which convened in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 21 September-2 October 2009, adopted a new performance review and assessment of

implementation system (PRAIS). To facilitate the new system, parties also called for a comprehensive capacity development programme. A large portion of the funding for the project was approved by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council on 4 February 2010, and the implementing and executing agencies have planned services to be rendered to affected country parties and other reporting entities in time for report submission scheduled for mid-July 2010, with a view

to having reports reviewed by the early November 2010 session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) (<http://www.unccd.int/prais/>).

The newest issue of UNCCD News is also now available. The January-February 2010 issue includes stories about the UNCCD’s multi-disciplinary approach and the first sustainable land management (SLM) Ambassador (<http://newsbox.unccd.int/>).

## RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

### RAMSAR ADVISORY MISSION NO. 62: MOZAMBIQUE

(Ramsar, 2010) This report summarizes the findings of the Ramsar Advisory Mission that visited the Marromeu Complex Ramsar Site in Mozambique from 16-20 August 2009, to undertake consultations there and at the national, provincial and district levels. The report also presents 24 recommendations for short- and long-term action, including suggestions for sources of further external support. The Mission included a representative of the Secretariats of the Convention on Migratory Species and of the Agreement on African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds ([http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/ram/ram\\_rpt\\_62e.pdf](http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/ram/ram_rpt_62e.pdf)).

### FLYWAY CONSERVATION AT WORK – ACROSS AFRICA AND EURASIA

(Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) UNEP-GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project, 2010) This newsletter provides an overview of the WOW project and the latest achievements of this flyway initiative in the African-Eurasian region. The newsletter showcases the flyway-scale conservation work and materials being developed under the project. It includes sections on: bird migration and flyways; the Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool; the flyway training programme; and demonstration projects ([http://wow.wetlands.org/Portals/1/documents/communication/wow\\_project\\_newsletter\\_2010.pdf](http://wow.wetlands.org/Portals/1/documents/communication/wow_project_newsletter_2010.pdf)).

### LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR REDD: DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

(IUCN, December 2009) The IUCN Environmental Law Centre has completed a comprehensive study on national legal frameworks for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD). Using case studies from Brazil, Cameroon, Guyana and Papua New Guinea, the report identifies main themes for ensuring successful REDD legal regimes and elaborates relevant legal and policy considerations with regard to each ([http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/eplp\\_77.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/eplp_77.pdf)).

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### DSD ORGANIZES e-DISCUSSIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION, CHEMICALS

Following the Multistakeholder Dialogue on implementing sustainable development, which the Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) organized, on 1 February 2010, to discuss follow-up to the decisions taken at the 17th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), the DSD has organized an e-discussion focusing on the implementation of CSD-17 decision on agriculture. Five questions have been posted on the DSD LinkedIn Group, and answers will serve as one of the many inputs into this process ([http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd\\_csd17\\_followup\\_edisc.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd17_followup_edisc.shtml)). DSD has also organized an e-discussion on chemicals, following the 23 February 2010 seminar on chemicals that it convened at UN Headquarters in New York, US ([http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt\\_toxichemi\\_ss0210\\_edisc.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt_toxichemi_ss0210_edisc.shtml)).

Advance, unedited versions of the reports for CSD 18 are now available, addressing topics such as mining, waste

management, chemicals, transport and the 10 year framework of programmes in support of sustainable consumption and production ([http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res\\_docucsd\\_18.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res_docucsd_18.shtml)).

In related news, preparations are underway to mark World Water Day, celebrated annually on 22 March. A UN-Water World Water Day 2010 event will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, under the theme “Water Quality,” with discussions focusing on how to address the challenges of degrading water quality around the world. A high-level interactive dialogue will take place in the UN General Assembly on the implementation of the International Decade for Action “Water for Life” 2005-2015 (<http://www.worldwaterday2010.info/>).



Banner courtesy of the World Water Day

## CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE



Yvo de Boer, UNFCCC Executive Secretary

### UNFCCC HEAD TO STEP DOWN

Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat, has announced that he will resign his position as of 1 July 2010. The announcement indicated that, following his departure, he will be joining the consultancy group KPMG as Global Adviser on Climate and Sustainability, as well as working with a number of universities ([http://unfccc.int/files/press/newsroom/press\\_releases\\_and\\_advisories/application/pdf/pr\\_20100218\\_ydboer.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/press/newsroom/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/pr_20100218_ydboer.pdf)).

In other UNFCCC news, the Secretariat has released a note informing parties, observer States and observer organizations that the 11th session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP 11) and the ninth session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA 9) will take place from 9-11 April 2010, in Bonn, Germany. The information note also indicates that the Bureau of the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) and of the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 5), which met on 22 February 2010, recommended that the two sessions be preceded by preparatory meetings of the Group of 77 and China, the African Group and the small island developing States and the least developed countries on 8 April ([http://unfccc.int/files/parties\\_and\\_observers/notifications/application/pdf/information\\_note\\_20100224.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/parties_and_observers/notifications/application/pdf/information_note_20100224.pdf)).

Regarding joint implementation (JI), the report of the 20th meeting of the JI Supervisory Committee (JISC) has been released. This meeting took place from 23-24 February 2010, in Bonn, Germany, and considered matters relating to the operation of JI ([http://ji.unfccc.int/Sup\\_Committee/Meetings/020/Reports/Report.pdf](http://ji.unfccc.int/Sup_Committee/Meetings/020/Reports/Report.pdf)).

## RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

### UNEP YEAR BOOK

(UNEP, 2010) This Year book reports on: progress in environmental governance; the effects of continuing degradation and loss of the world's ecosystems; impacts of climate change; how harmful substances and hazardous waste affect human health and the environment; environmentally-related disasters and conflicts; and unsustainable use of resources ([http://www.unep.org/pdf/UNEP\\_2009\\_ANNUAL\\_REPORT.pdf](http://www.unep.org/pdf/UNEP_2009_ANNUAL_REPORT.pdf)).

### DESIGN OF A REDD-COMPLIANT BENEFIT DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR VIET NAM

(UN-REDD Programme, January 2010) The UN-REDD Programme and the Viet Nam Department of Forestry have produced a study on the requirements for a REDD+ compliant benefit distribution system in Viet Nam. The study identifies constraints that need to be addressed in order to create such a system and outlines policy recommendations to address them ([http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=doc\\_download&gid=1409%Itemid=53](http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=1409%Itemid=53)).

## ► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

### IPCC TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE TO REVIEW PROCEDURES

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) held an informal briefing during the 11th Special Session of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. During the session, IPCC Chair Rajendra Pachauri highlighted the Panel's intention to establish an independent committee to review IPCC procedures. This informal briefing was followed up by an IPCC statement from Chair Pachauri, indicating that an independent committee of distinguished experts will be established to evaluate means by which IPCC procedures must be implemented fully and that they should also examine any changes in procedure that may be required. The mechanism by which such an independent review will take place is under active consideration. Details on the mechanism for setting up the proposed independent review will be shared in early March. The proposal to set up such an independent committee



Rajendra Pachauri,  
IPCC Chair

was conveyed to governments by the IPCC Secretariat in a communication dated 16 February ([http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/press/PA\\_IPCC\\_Chairman\\_Statement\\_27Feb2010.pdf](http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/press/PA_IPCC_Chairman_Statement_27Feb2010.pdf)).

### UNEP AND CENTRAL ASIA OZONE PROTECTION AWARD LAUNCHED

The Ozone Network for the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Network has launched the 2010 Ozone Protection Award. Individual customs and enforcement officers who successfully prevented illegal trade of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) or products/equipment relying on ODS to, or from, member countries of the regional ozone network for the ECA Network are eligible for nomination. Nominations are due by 30 June 2010 ([http://fr1.estis.net/builder/includes/page.asp?site=ecanetwork&page\\_id=B2D83AAA-8D62-4A09-8A67-0BA8EB57C45B](http://fr1.estis.net/builder/includes/page.asp?site=ecanetwork&page_id=B2D83AAA-8D62-4A09-8A67-0BA8EB57C45B)).

In other ozone news, the Secretariat has released the report of the co-chairs of the Workshop on Methyl Bromide Use for Quarantine and Pre-Shipment Purposes, which convened on 3 November 2009, immediately prior to the 21st Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol ([http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting\\_Documents/mop/21mop/MOP-21-INF-10E.pdf](http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/mop/21mop/MOP-21-INF-10E.pdf)).

## ► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

### RAMSAR SIGNS MoU WITH WORLD BANK

On 16 February 2010, Anada Tiéga, Ramsar Secretary General, and Hartwig Schafer, Acting Vice President, Sustainable Development Network, World Bank, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that aims to "establish a framework of cooperation between Ramsar and the World Bank in exchange of technical expertise and capacity building related to the development and implementation of climate change projects in wetlands in the context of the World Bank-financed climate change portfolio." According to the MoU, the Ramsar Secretariat will: provide technical support for the assessment, formulation, and development of climate change projects in wetlands in the geographical areas of wetland projects in the World Bank portfolio; assist in the development of tools and methodologies to assess the magnitude of carbon sinks in mangroves; support the development of the wetlands typology and protocol for assessing net carbon storage or carbon dioxide emissions under different conditions; and prepare

jointly publications on the findings of the cooperation ([http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/moc/world\\_bank\\_mou\\_2010.pdf](http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/moc/world_bank_mou_2010.pdf)).

In addition, the Ramsar Secretariat has launched a call for applications for the 2010 cycle of the Ramsar Small Grants Fund. Projects may be proposed and implemented by any agency, non-governmental organization or individual, with the endorsement of the Ramsar authority in the country. The deadline for sending draft proposals to receive advice from the Secretariat's Regional Teams is 30 April 2010 ([http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-activities-grants-rsgf-ramsar-sgf/main/ramsar/1-63-68-159%5E21043\\_4000\\_0\\_](http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-activities-grants-rsgf-ramsar-sgf/main/ramsar/1-63-68-159%5E21043_4000_0_)).

### IMO EXECUTES HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY FOR MARINE ELECTRONIC HIGHWAY

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is executing a hydrographic survey within the Traffic Separation Scheme of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, as part of the Marine Electronic Highway (MEH) Demonstration

Project of the Global Environment

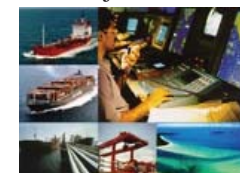


Image courtesy of the  
MEH Demonstration  
Project Website

Facility/World Bank. The MEH Project aims to establish a regional mechanism in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore for enhanced maritime safety and marine environment protection, in a cooperative arrangement with the three littoral States (Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore), as well as the Republic of Korea, the International Hydrographic Organization, the International Chamber of Shipping and the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners. The demonstration project will link shore-based marine information and communication infrastructure with the corresponding navigational and communication facilities aboard transiting ships, while also being capable of incorporating marine environmental management systems (<http://www.meh-project.com/>; [http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic\\_id=1859&doc\\_id=12540](http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1859&doc_id=12540)).

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE



Logo courtesy of the CITES Secretariat

**CITES SECRETARY GENERAL RELEASES STATEMENT ON ELEPHANTS AND IVORY**

Willem Wijnstekers, Secretary General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), has released a statement responding to allegations questioning the integrity of the CITES Secretariat with regard to the wording of the nine-year moratorium on trade in elephant ivory, adopted at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 14) to CITES, and the ivory-related proposals to be considered at COP 15, to be held from 13-25 March 2010, in Doha, Qatar. These refer to a proposal submitted by Tanzania and Zambia seeking an authorization to trade in stockpiled ivory, and a proposal by Congo, Ghana, Kenya and other African countries opposing such trade ([http://www.cites.org/eng/news/press/2010/20100226\\_statement\\_elephant.shtml](http://www.cites.org/eng/news/press/2010/20100226_statement_elephant.shtml)).



Willem Wijnstekers, CITES Secretary General

The CITES Secretariat has also published the national export quotas for 2010 (<http://www.cites.org/common/quotas/2010/ExportQuotas2010.pdf>), as well as the export quotas for specimens of Acipenseriformes species in Appendix II, including caviar, from March

2010 to 28 February 2011 (<http://www.cites.org/common/quotas/2010/SturgeonQuotas2010.pdf>).

Finally, the 19th issue of the CITES newsletter, focusing on e-commerce in specimens of CITES-listed species, is now available on the CITES website (<http://www.cites.org/eng/news/newsletter.shtml>).

**CBD EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ADDRESSES GREEN ECONOMY ROUNDTABLE, WORKSHOP ON JOURNALISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) addressed the “Green Economy” roundtable held at the 11th Special Session of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Forum, as well as the UNEP workshop on journalism and the environment. He underscored that a green economy requires the sustainable use of natural resources and, therefore, the full implementation of the three CBD objectives. He also drew attention to the outputs of the third CBD meeting on business and biodiversity held from 30 November-2 December 2009, in Jakarta, Indonesia, namely the Jakarta Charter on Business and Biodiversity, and comments for a strategy to advance the 2020 business and biodiversity agenda. In the workshop on journalism and the environment, he stressed that one of the reasons for the failure to reach the 2010 biodiversity target is that the value of biodiversity



Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary

remains widely unappreciated among both the general public and policy makers, and drew attention to the process for revising and updating the Convention’s Strategic Plan, which is expected to include a 2050 biodiversity vision and 2020 targets and sub-targets (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2010/sp-2010-02-25-bali-en.pdf>; <http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2010/sp-2010-02-22-bali-en.pdf>).

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**BOOK ON THE SIBERIAN CRANE LAUNCHED**

Launched at UNEP GCSS-11/GMEF, the book “Safe Flyways for the Siberian Crane” describes a 10 year-project on the conservation of the Siberian Crane, a critically endangered species, along its two main flyways in Eastern and Western Eurasia. China, Iran, Kazakhstan and Russia, four countries along the bird’s migratory routes, participate in the project, which is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the International Crane Foundation through UNEP. The project is the first of its kind to use a “flyway” approach to stabilize and sustain the remaining 3,000-3,500 Siberian Cranes and millions of other migratory waterbirds along their migratory paths. It has also played a catalytic role in boosting the conservation and rehabilitation of critical wetlands. It is recalled that the main framework for international cooperation on the Siberian Crane is provided by the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane concluded under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) (<http://www.unep.org/Documents/Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=612&ArticleID=6477&l=en&t=long>).

► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

**WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION**



Logo courtesy of the WTO Secretariat

**WTO SEEKS COMMENTS ON TRADE IN NATURAL RESOURCES**

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is providing a discussion forum for stakeholders to present opinions on trade in natural resources, and has invited comments on an article on trade and deforestation posted online. Comments will be taken into account in the World Trade Report, an annual publication that aims to deepen understanding

about trends in trade, trade policy issues and the multilateral trading system. The theme of the next edition, to be published in July 2010, is “Trade in Natural Resources: Challenges in Global Governance” ([http://www.wto.org/english/res\\_e/publications\\_e/wtr10\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/wtr10_e.htm)).

In other WTO news, a Special Session of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE-SS) convened in Geneva, Switzerland, on 19 February 2010, to continue negotiations on the liberalization of environmental goods and services. The meeting saw a renewed focus on liberalizing trade in climate-friendly products, such as solar energy-related parts and components, wind and hydroelectric energy and gas-turbines, natural gas and clean-diesel

vehicles, and products used in Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects. The negotiations on trade and the environment are part of the Doha Development Agenda launched at the fourth WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar, in November 2001. The overarching objective is to enhance the mutual support of trade and environmental policies. The negotiations focus on three main themes: the relationship between the WTO rules and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs); the collaboration between the WTO and MEA Secretariats; and the elimination of tariffs and non-tariff barriers on environmental goods and services ([http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/envir\\_e/envir\\_negotiations\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/envir_e/envir_negotiations_e.htm)).

## ► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

### WORLD BANK CONVENING CONSULTATIONS ON NEW ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

The World Bank is undertaking a consultative process towards the adoption of its new corporate Environment Strategy. According to the Bank, the new Strategy will take into account a set of principles,

realities and challenges faced in the implementation of environmental activities such as climate change and urbanization. As part of the consultation process, meetings were held during February 2010 in Spain, Antigua and Barbuda, the UK, the Netherlands, Belgium, Kazakhstan, India, Jordan, the US, Tunisia, Ne-

pal, Mexico, Sri Lanka, India, Afghanistan, Australia and France. The results of the consultations with stakeholders across the world will be incorporated into the new World Bank Group Environment Strategy, which is expected to be finalized by December 2010 (<http://go.worldbank.org/SL6ULAV720>).

## ► INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

### UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL CONCLUDES WITH NUSA DUA DECLARATION

The 11th Special Session of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GCSS-11/GMEF) convened from 24-26 February 2010, in Bali, Indonesia. The meeting considered the theme of "environment in the multilateral system." During the meeting, Ministers agreed to the Nusa Dua Declaration, which underscores the importance of biodiversity, the urgent need to combat climate change and work towards a good outcome in Mexico in November-December 2010,

and the key opportunities from accelerating a transition to a low-carbon resource-efficient green economy. The Declaration also highlights the need to improve the overall management of the global environment, accepting that the "governance architecture" has become complex and fragmented. Delegates at the GCSS-11/GMEF also adopted eight decisions on: international environmental governance; enhanced coordination across the UN, including the Environmental Management Group; a follow-up report on the environmental situation in the Gaza strip; the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services;

strengthening the environmental response in Haiti; oceans; the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes; and guidelines on environmental law (<http://www.unep.org/gc/gcss-xi/>; <http://www.iisd.ca/unepgc/unepss11>).

The Sasakawa Prize, which aims to incentivize sustainable and replicable grassroots environmental efforts, was awarded during a side event at the GCSS-11/GMEF. Two grassroots climate-projects operating in Africa and South America were awarded the prestigious UNEP award (<http://unep.org/sasakawa/>).



The dais during GCSS-11/GMEF

## ► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **GEF Replenishment and STAP Meetings:** 8-11 March 2010. Rome, Italy. <http://www.thegef.org/gef/node/1899> and <http://thegef.org/default.aspx>
- **AIMS Regional Meeting for the MSI +5 High-Level Review:** 9-10 March 2010. Maldives. [http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd\\_aofw\\_sids/sids\\_milemajomeetmsi5\\_aims.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_sids/sids_milemajomeetmsi5_aims.shtml)
- **CITES COP 15:** 13-25 March 2010. Doha, Qatar. <http://www.iisd.ca/cites/cop15/>
- **Second Climate Investment Funds (CIF) Partnership Forum and Related Meetings:** 15-19 March 2010. Manila, Philippines. <http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/climate/cif2010/>
- **Rotterdam Convention Sixth Meeting of the Chemical Review Committee:** 15-19 March 2010. Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=b&id=166&sid=18&tid=42>
- **International Expert Group Meeting: UN Forum on Climate Change Mitigation, Fuel Efficiency and Sustainable Urban Transport:** 16-17 March 2010. Seoul, Republic of Korea. [http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt\\_tran\\_egm0310.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt_tran_egm0310.shtml)
- **Ninth Round of Informal Consultations for States Parties to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement:** 16-17 March 2010. New York, US. <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/>
- **Caribbean Regional Meeting for the MSI +5 High-Level Review:** 17-18 March 2010. Grenada. [http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd\\_aofw\\_sids/sids\\_milemajomeetmsi5\\_carr.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_sids/sids_milemajomeetmsi5_carr.shtml)
- **Fourth Policy Board Meeting of the UN-REDD Programme:** 17-19 March 2010. Nairobi, Kenya. <http://www.un-redd.org/Events/tabid/590/language/en-US/Default.aspx>