



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

SECOND MERCURY OEWG CONVENES IN NAIROBI

The second meeting of the *ad-hoc* Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) to Review and Assess Measures to Address the Global Issue of Mercury is convening from 6-10 October 2008, in Nairobi, Kenya. During the OEWG, delegates will review and assess options for enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments to address mercury and consider the report on activities under the UNEP Mercury Programme. Delegates are also expected to consider the broad elements needed to address mercury globally. Once the elements are agreed, delegates will then consider the balance and/or combination of legally-based and voluntary or partnership components of a package to deliver these elements, and in what overarching framework those legally-based and voluntary components could best be organized. As of 7 October, delegates were considering elements to be included in a mercury framework including measures to reduce supply, demand and trade of mercury. The outcomes will be considered by UNEP's Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) at its 25th session, which will convene in February 2009. The OEWG's mandate, as set out in Governing Council Decision 24/3, requires it to develop options for addressing mercury and a final report reflecting all views expressed, presenting options and any consensus recommendations. Should consensus recommendations not be reached, delegates will put forward to the GC/GMEF a small range of clearly identified alternative options, explaining their implications (<http://www.iisd.ca/chemical/merc2/>).



L-R: Per Baaken, UNEP; John Roberts (UK); and John Whitelaw, UNEP

MEA Clusters In This Issue

- **Chemicals and Wastes**
Rotterdam Calls for Trade Information Page 2
- **Biodiversity and Wildlife**
CBD Launches Online Discussion; CMS Secretariat Posts Draft Resolutions; CITES Calls for Submissions for Scientific Meetings Pages 2-3
- **Forests, Deserts and Land**
UNCCD Prepares for CRIC and CST Page 3
- **Water, Oceans and Wetlands**
New Ramsar Sites Designated; DOALOS Announces Accessions; IMO Continues Work on Regime to Control GHG Emissions Pages 3-4
- **Climate and Atmosphere**
CDM Board Rejects Several Projects; Ozone Secretariat Prepares for MOP20 and COP8 Page 4
- **Intergovernmental Organizations**
UNEP Co-Hosts Global Forum for Sport and Environment Page 5
- **Sustainable Development**
DSD to Co-Host Climate Change Technology Conference Page 5
- **Trade, Finance and Investment**
WTO Public Forum Addresses Climate-Trade Interface; World Bank Climate Change Funds Receive Pledges for US\$6.1 Billion Page 6

GUEST ARTICLE

Clean Energy Investment in Developing Countries

By Aaron Cosbey, Jennifer Ellis, Mahnaz Malik and Howard Mann, IISD

Abstract

There is a flurry of activity, funding and political capital being directed at the challenge of clean energy technology, aimed at influencing investors as they make decisions in developing countries that will have climate change impacts for generations to come.

Continued on page 2

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

OUR PLANET

(UNEP, 2008) This issue of UNEP's magazine is titled 'Living Legacy: The future of forests.' It contains articles and editorials from political, NGO and academic leaders addressing a range of forestry issues. In his article, Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director, focuses on financial arrangements that can incentivize reduced deforestation and forest degradation (<http://www.unep.org/OurPlanet/2008/sept/en/>).

Continued on page 3

The *MEA Bulletin* © is a publication of IISD <info@iisd.ca>, publishers of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* © <enb@iisd.org>. This issue was researched and written by Soledad Aguilar, Melanie Ashton, Alice Bisiaux, Reem Hajar, Amber Moreen, Ph.D., Renata Rubian, Chris Spence, Elsa Tsioumani, and Lynn Wagner, Ph.D. The Digital Editor is Diego Noguera. The Editor is Lynn Wagner, Ph.D. <lynn@iisd.org>. The Deputy Director of IISD Reporting Services is Chris Spence and the Director of IISD Reporting Services is Langston James "Kimo" Goree VI <kimo@iisd.org>. The *MEA Bulletin* is published by IISD in cooperation with UNEP's Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DEL/C). Opinions expressed in *MEA Bulletin* are those of the authors and not the publishers. Excerpts from the *MEA Bulletin* may be used in non-commercial publications with appropriate academic citation. For information on IISDRS publications, including requests to provide reporting services, contact the Director of IISD Reporting Services at <kimo@iisd.org>, +1-646-536-7556 or 300 East 56th St., 11A, New York, NY 10022, USA.

GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

The World Bank has established its Clean Investment Funds, Japan has announced its Cool Earth Partnership, the UK and US have followed suit with billions of dollars committed. Other multilateral development banks and individual donor countries are also active in supporting dissemination of technology to address climate change concerns.

The related theme of technology transfer is also attracting an increasing amount of attention. For the first time in UNFCCC negotiating history it is a key issue, having been incorporated in the Bali Action Plan commitments. Negotiators are searching (with varying degrees of success) for ways in which to give effect to the technology transfer obligations to which they have subscribed under the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Bali Action Plan.

In the area of clean energy investment the two agendas come together. The problem of technology transfer is essentially an investment prob-

lem; not enough investment is taking place in transformative technologies that will both provide new sources of energy, and do so at a significantly lower cost to the environment. Successfully addressing the barriers to clean energy investment, making host countries more attractive for that investment, is essential for technology transfer. It is, in fact, arguably one of the most effective policy options that governments have available for fostering technology transfer. Governments cannot muster the scale of resources necessary to make them the primary drivers of technology transfer. Some argue further that they are ill-equipped because ownership of the requisite intellectual property rights rests with the private sector. In any case, improving the domestic investment environment for clean energy technology is an entirely appropriate role for governments, multilateral development banks and aid agencies in the pursuit of both development and environmental benefits. It is therefore surprising that in all the activity related to clean energy investment and technology transfer

there has not been more attention paid to this challenge.

More attention also should be paid to the implications of international investment agreements for climate-related investment. The uncertainties of interpretation, particularly with respect to indirect expropriation but also with respect to obligations on fair and equitable treatment, may in the final analysis chill new regulations designed to address climate change. And there may be potential for international investment agreements to take on an unprecedented proactive role in promoting clean investment, as opposed to any and all investment, but this possibility needs more thoughtful analysis.

Link to the full article: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/guestarticle55.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.

▶ CHEMICALS AND WASTES

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION CALLS FOR TRADE INFORMATION

The Rotterdam Convention Secretariat, in line with the process for collecting information on ongoing international trade adopted by the Chemical Review Committee, invites parties and other stakeholders to submit information on ongoing trade and use of azinphos

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION



– methyl, paraquat, methylparathion, mirex, phorate, hexachlorobenzene and hexachlorobutadiene. Parties are requested to provide information on the last

time they imported the chemicals, if they manufacture the chemicals and, if so, whether they continue to export the chemicals. Other stakeholders are requested to provide information on the manufacture and trade of the chemicals. Information should be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 January 2009 (<http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=t&id=271&sid=1>).

▶ BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

CBD LAUNCHES ONLINE DISCUSSION, CALLS FOR INFORMATION ON CBD/ RAMSAR STREAMLINING

In preparation for the first meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Biodiversity and Climate Change, to be held from 17-21 November 2008, in London, UK, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is launching an internet-based discussion group at: <http://www.cbd.int/climate/forums/public/>. The discussion group will run from 6-10 October 2008, and then on the basis of a compilation of views for additional questions, from 13-17 October 2008. In addition to the discussion group, parties are invited



to submit views on ways to integrate biodiversity consideration into climate-change related activities, from 6-17 October 2008, at: <http://www.cbd.int/climate/forums/party/>. In related news, CBD and Ramsar Convention parties are invited to submit their views on ways and means to streamline and make more explicit the roles of the two Conventions, and their respective scientific bodies and Secretariats, as part of the in-depth review of the work programme on inland water biodiversity (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2008/ntf-2008-125-water-en.pdf>).

to submit views on ways to integrate biodiversity consideration into climate-change related activities, from 6-17 October 2008, at: <http://www.cbd.int/climate/forums/party/>.

In related news, CBD and Ramsar Convention parties are invited to submit their views on ways and means to streamline and make more explicit the roles of the two Conventions, and their respective scientific bodies and Secretariats, as part of the in-depth review of the work programme on inland water biodiversity (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2008/ntf-2008-125-water-en.pdf>).



Governments and relevant organizations are also invited to submit to the CBD Secretariat: examples of best practices for addressing the risks associated with the introduction of alien species such as pets, aquarium and terrarium species and live bait and food (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2008/ntf-2008-127-ias-en.pdf>); and information related to several aspects of conservation of agricultural biodiversity (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2008/ntf-2008-130-agro-en.pdf>).

With regard to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the CBD Secretariat invites parties to submit views on a strategic plan for the Protocol, no later than 31 December 2008 (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2008/ntf-2008-129-bs-en.pdf>).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN OVERALL HEALTH STRATEGY IN THE AREA OF GMOs

(European Commission Joint Research Centre, September 2008) This study assesses the current state of knowledge in the field of potential health impacts of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). It contains an expert opinion stemming from an international workshop on assessment and monitoring of health effects of GMOs (http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/downloads/jrc_20080910_gmo_study_en.pdf).

STATE OF THE WORLD'S BIRDS

(Birdlife International, 2008) This new publication and website report that common birds are in decline across the world, providing evidence of a rapid deterioration in the global environment. The publication states that too few resources are allocated to fight biodiversity loss, and the 2010 target will be missed. The website outlines why birds and biodiversity are important, and examines current knowledge about the changing state of the world's birds, why birds are declining and what can be done to improve their status (<http://www.biodiversityinfo.org/sowb/default.php?r=sowbhome>).

MAKING CERTIFICATION WORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: THE CASE OF BIOFUELS

(UNCTAD, 2008) This UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) publication reviews biofuel certification schemes that are already in place or are being developed, including: benefits and drawbacks of such schemes; implications for developing countries; and possible ramifications of certification in the context of the World Trade Organization. The study concludes with some suggestions on how to ensure that biofuels certification is indeed conducive to sustainable production (http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/ditcted20081_en.pdf).

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

CMS SECRETARIAT POSTS DRAFT RESOLUTIONS, ACCOBAMS CONVENES WORKSHOP ON BYCATCH

In preparation for the ninth Conference of the Parties (COP9) to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), to be held from 1-5 December 2008, in Rome, Italy, the CMS Secretariat has posted a list of draft resolutions and recommendations (http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop9/documents/CoP9_Resolutions_List.pdf).

The Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), an agreement concluded within the framework of CMS, has convened an international workshop on bycatch within the ACCOBAMS area (17-18 September 2008, Rome, Italy). The workshop



The dais during the International Workshop on Bycatch within the ACCOBAMS Area (Photo courtesy of the ACCOBAMS)

adopted two decisions on: the extension and adaptation of the draft protocol for data collection on bycatch and depredation to other species concerned by the same type of problem; and the use of the "Task 1" database (a multidisciplinary data and information database) in order to collect data relative to incidental catches (<http://www.accobams.org/2006.php/news/show/64>).

adopted two decisions on: the extension and adaptation of the draft protocol for data collection on bycatch and depredation to other species concerned by the same type of problem; and the use of the "Task 1" database (a multidisciplinary data and information database) in order to collect data relative to incidental catches (<http://www.accobams.org/2006.php/news/show/64>).

CITES SECRETARIAT CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR NEXT AC AND PC MEETINGS

The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) issued a notification listing a number of subjects, including sharks, orchids and bigleaf mahogany, on which information is required from parties with a view to facilitate discussions at the forthcoming 24th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC) and 18th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC). The deadline for submission of the required reports is 15 November 2008 (<http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2008/E058.pdf>).

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND



Banner courtesy of UNCCD

UNCCD PREPARES FOR CRIC AND CST

The Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has posted documents for the upcoming seventh meeting of the Committee of the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC7) and special session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST). Provisional agendas for the two meetings along

with documents related to the multi-year work plan and costed two-year work programme, reporting principles, monitoring and future format of CRIC are available (<http://www.unccd.int/cop/officialdocs/cric7/doclist.php>).

The Global Mechanism of the UNCCD has recently organized a number of workshops to build national capacities to elaborate and implement national and multi-country financing strategies. Reports from these workshops, in Turrialba, Costa Rica (29 September-3 October), Michoacán, Mexico (13-18 October), Paris, France (30 September), and Douala, Cameroon (30 September-1 October), are expected to be made available in the coming weeks (<http://www.global-mechanism.org/news--events>).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

IMO CONTINUES WORK ON REGIME TO CONTROL GHG EMISSIONS

The Marine Environment Protection Committee of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) is meeting in London, UK, for its 58th session, from 6-10 October 2008. Among the items on the Committee's agenda are the adoption of proposed amendments to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships

(MARPOL) Annex VI regulations to reduce harmful emissions from ships, the consideration of the draft ship recycling convention, and issues relating to the implementation of the 2004 Ballast Water Management Convention. The Committee will also continue its work on developing a mandatory regime to control greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from international shipping (http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1709&doc_id=10247).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS



Congo wetland area (Photo courtesy of Ramsar)

NEW RAMSAR SITES DESIGNATED, RAPID WETLAND INVENTORY IN DRC COMPLETED

The Ramsar Convention Secretariat has reported that 11 new Mexican sites have been added to the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance. On World Wetlands Day 2008, 2 February 2008, the Government of Mexico announced the designation of 45 new Wetlands of International Importance, and the paperwork for these new designations has gradually been cleared (http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.mexico_3new.htm; http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.mexico_8new.htm).

In related news, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat has supported, under the scheme of the Swiss Grants for Africa and technical assistance from WWF-DRC, the completion by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) of a rapid inventory of the representative wetlands of the coun-



Congo wetland area (Photo courtesy of Ramsar)

try, including 33 wetland priority areas (http://www.ramsar.org/swiss/sga_drc_inventory2008.htm).

Finally, the Secretariat has also posted the second and revised announcement for the World NGO Conference on Wetlands, which will take place in Changnyeong and Suncheon, Republic of Korea, from 25-27 October 2008, immediately prior to the Tenth Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Ramsar Convention (COP10). The Confer-



Congo wetland area (Photo courtesy of Ramsar)



Congo wetland area (Photo courtesy of Ramsar)

ence is organized by the Korea NGO Network for Ramsar COP10 under the theme “NGOs for Healthy and Sustainable Wetlands” (http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.world_ngo_conf_2008.pdf).

DOALOS ANNOUNCES ACCESSIONS

The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) has reported that the Government of Guyana has acceded to the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Part XI outlines the legal regime of the Area, the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. In addition, the Government of Liberia has ratified UNCLOS and expressed its consent to be bound by the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_agreements.htm).

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

CDM BOARD REJECTS SEVERAL PROJECTS; SECRETARIAT ISSUES POZNAŃ DOCUMENTS

The Executive Board of the Kyoto Protocol’s Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) held its 42nd meeting in Bonn, Germany, from 24-26 September 2008. The Board took up a range of issues, including accreditation of operational entities, methodological issues, and registration of CDM project activities. Five projects were not approved, and a considerable number of other project applications will be required to resubmit in order to demonstrate their “additionality” – the requirement that projects would not have happened under a business-as-usual scenario (<http://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/042/index.html> and IISD sources).

In other news, the UNFCCC Secretariat has continued to post online documents in preparation for the UN Climate Change Conference in Poznań, Poland, in December 2008. The new

documents include a report on capacity building in developing countries, views on carbon capture and storage under the CDM, the admission of observers in the Poznań talks, and privileges and immunities for individuals serving on constituted bodies under the Kyoto Protocol (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2008/sbi/eng/misc05.pdf>, <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2008/sbi/eng/misc06.pdf>, <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2008/sbsta/eng/inf03.pdf>, <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2008/cop14/eng/03.pdf>, <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2008/cmp4/eng/10.pdf>).

OZONE SECRETARIAT PREPARES FOR MOP20 AND COP8

The Ozone Secretariat has released: an advance copy of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) Final Report: Evaluations of 2008 Critical Use Nominations for Methyl Bromide and Related Matters – October 2008; an advance copy of

the Supplement to May 2008 TEAP Replenishment Report; a revised information note for participants in the 20th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (MOP20) and the Eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention (COP8); and the Report of the 28th meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG28) of the Parties. The TEAP supplement focuses on further replenishment issues called for at OEWG28, including the funding implications of inflation, funding for institutional strengthening and the costs of destroying, or re-deploying confiscated chlorofluorocarbons and halon stocks. The TEAP Final Report highlights issues for consideration of the parties, including language relating to national efforts to find alternatives to methyl bromide, varied interpretations of the quarantine exemption, and the possibility of developing Action Plans for full phase-out of methyl bromide (<http://ozone.unep.org/highlights.shtml>).

► INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS



Logo courtesy of UNEP

UNEP CO-HOSTS GLOBAL FORUM FOR SPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP), with the Global Sports Alliance of Japan and Volvo, hosted the 2008 Global Forum for Sport and Environment (G-ForSE) in Alicante, Spain, from 4-6 October 2008. The theme for this year's forum was "Climate Change: Changing our Carbon Footprint." Participants focused on the connection between sport and



Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director, addressed participants (Photo courtesy of UNEP)

climate change, and considered how sport organizations and sporting events could reduce their carbon footprints, as well as how sport could be used to raise awareness of climate change (http://www.unep.org/sport_env/Activities/Gs4E08.asp).



Teresa Ribera, Spanish Secretary of State for Climate Change (Photo courtesy of UNEP)



Alexis Gallice explained the impact of climate change on ski resorts (Photo courtesy of UNEP)

UNEP, with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), has also released an updated version of the YouthXchange Training Kit, which seeks to promote sustainable consumption among youth worldwide. The initiative aims to change purchasing patterns by reducing waste from discarded products such as mobile phones and outdated fashion, while engaging youth in the fight against climate change (<http://www.youthxchange.net/main/english-guide.asp>).

HIGH-LEVEL EVENTS CONVENE DURING OPENING OF 63rd UNGA SESSION

Two High-Level meetings and over 50 partnership events took place on 22-25 September 2008, at UN Headquarters in New York, US, during the general debate of the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). A High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Africa's Development Needs took place on 22 September 2008, under the theme "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward." On 25 September 2008, the UN Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly convened a High-Level Event on the Millennium Development Goals



UN Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon** greets Special Advisor **Jeffrey Sachs**

(MDGs), which evaluated progress towards achieving the goals at the half-way point towards the 2015 target. At the close of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Africa's Development Needs, participants adopted a UN General Assembly resolution with a political declaration on Africa's development needs. The High-Level Event on the MDGs generated commitments for an estimated US\$16 billion in funding, including over US\$4.4 billion for education, approximately \$1.6 billion to enhance food security, and over US\$750 million for climate change, along with renewed commitments to reduce deforestation (<http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/africa-mdgs/>).



The dais at the High-level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs (UN Photo/Marco Castro).

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Banner courtesy of UN DESA

DSD TO CO-HOST CLIMATE CHANGE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

The Division for Sustainable Development (DSD), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, has announced the "Beijing High-Level Conference on Climate Change: Technology Development and Technology Transfer," which it is co-hosting with the Government of China. The 7-8 November 2008 Conference will, *inter alia*: explore the advantages of

technology transfer for both developed and developing countries in combating climate change in the context of sustainable development; build on the work of the Expert Group on Technology Transfer and that of the Subsidiary Bodies to the UNFCCC; contribute to the global debate on the key barriers and obstacles that currently exist for the development and transfer of these technologies, and on options for new mechanisms that would enhance technology transfer to developing countries; serve as a platform for launching new partnerships, activities or projects, with active participation of both public and private enterprises; contribute

to strengthening international technology cooperation, including joint development and technology transfer; and provide a capacity-building opportunity for decision makers engaged in day-to-day management of technology research and development and international cooperation. At the close of the meeting, a Co-Chairs' summary of the main points raised in the course of the Conference will be forwarded as input to the December 2008 meeting of the 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) of the UNFCCC in Poznan, Poland (http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/energy/op/beijing_climatechange_workshop08.htm).

► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

WTO PUBLIC FORUM ADDRESSES CLIMATE-TRADE INTERFACE

The 2008 World Trade Organization (WTO) Public Forum considered the theme "Trading into the Future" during its 25-26 September 2008 meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. The gathering provided an opportunity for civil society to present its views to the WTO, and to discuss how the trading system may incorporate the needs and aspirations of the international community (http://www.wto.org/english/forums_e/public_forum08_e/programme_e.htm).

WORLD BANK CLIMATE CHANGE FUNDS RECEIVE PLEDGES FOR US\$6.1 BILLION, PROJECTS AND AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Leading industrialized nations met at the World Bank on 26 September 2008, and pledged over US\$6.1 billion to the recently created World Bank Climate Investment Funds (CIF). The CIF were created this year to invest in projects and programmes in developing countries that contribute to the demonstration, deployment and transfer of low-carbon technologies; and to test innovative approaches to climate change, for example by increasing climate resilience in developing countries (<http://go.worldbank.org/58OVAGT860>).

In related news, the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and GTZ announced US\$4 million in grants through the 2008 Development Marketplace competition. The winners, representing 16 countries, will use their awards as seed money to replicate or

upscale existing projects in developing countries to, for example: generate credits for reforestation in the Amazon; build renewable-energy powered milk coolers for Ugandan farmers; produce biofuel from indigenous non-edible nuts in Tanzania; sustain nitrogen-efficient rice production in Vietnam; and generate locally-made seed-oil fuel for farmers and fishermen in 40 Senegalese communities (http://gefweb.org/interior_right.aspx?id=22658).

The World Bank has also approved an Environmental Sustainability Policy Loan (DPL) for US\$300.75 million, to assist the Mexican Government in integrating sectoral policies and streamlining environmental considerations in public policy. The amount is complementary to previous loans for US\$501.25 million approved last April as part of an outcome-based programme to promote sustainable development in Mexico (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:21917902~menuPK:34463~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>).

entMDK:21924663~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html).

The World Bank and the GEF are funding a project to refurbish an obsolete and inefficient public lighting system in Croatia. Through this project, the power company HEP ESCO has received an award for "Best Energy Service Provider in Europe" by the European Energy Service Initiative (<http://go.worldbank.org/UEXROQKFE0>).

Meanwhile, World Bank and government officials, international scientists NGOs, and tiger conservation experts in the Russian Far East met in Vladivostok, Russia, to celebrate "Tiger Day" on 28 September 2008 and build on their collaborative efforts to protect tigers and their habitats through the new "Global Tiger Initiative" (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:21917902~menuPK:34463~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>).



2008 Development Marketplace winners (Photo courtesy of GEF)

► COMINGS AND GOINGS

- Two new Directors have been announced within the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Tariq Banuri will become the next **Director of the Division for Sustainable Development (DSD)**. Banuri is expected to take his post during October 2008, moving from his present position with the Stockholm Environment Institute. Jan McAlpine (US) will become the next **Director of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF)** Secretariat. Prior to this position, she has been employed by the US Government, working in the US Department of State as the lead for Forests, Deserts and Drylands in the Office of Oceans, International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (IISD RS sources).



Tariq Banuri



Jan McAlpine

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **FfD Process Informal Meetings:** 9-10, 14 and 17 October 2008. New York, US. <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/>
- **2008 IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings:** 13 October 2008. Washington DC, US. <http://www.imf.org/external/am/2008/index.htm>
- **Fourth Meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee:** 13-17 October 2008. Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.iisd.ca/chemical/pops/poprc4/>
- **Open-ended Legal and Technical Working Group of the International Conference on Chemicals Management:** 21-24 October 2008. Rome, Italy. <http://www.iisd.ca/chemical/picc4/>