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The Network of Institutions for Sustainable Development (NISD) is a network of 46 institutions, including all regions, that have agreed to jointly promote the integration of environment and sustainability issues into economic and trade policies through capacity building activities at international, regional and national levels. Member institutions play a leading role in capacity building at national and regional levels and have a wealth of experience in training, research, formal education and outreach activities. The network builds on existing capacities and knowledge of its members to create synergy while also ensuring that activities respond to national and regional needs and priorities.

For further information about NISD: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/DesNISD.php>.

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NISD Partnership Project on Regional Economic Integration in Asia

The progress of the NISD Partnership Project on Regional Economic Integration (“Promotion of Sustainable Development in the Context of Regional Economic Integration: Strategies for Environmental Sustainability and Poverty Reduction”) was discussed in several national and regional workshops and summarized in the first progress report for 2006. The initiative is led by the Institute of Global Environmental Strategies (IGES, Japan) within the framework of the RISPO II project (“Research on Innovative and Strategic Policy Options Second Phase”) and conducted in collaboration with McGill University (Canada), the Korea Environment Institute (KEI, Republic of Korea), the National Institute for Environmental Strategies (NIES, Japan) and UNEP’s Economics and Trade Branch.

National Workshops, February and March 2006

National stakeholder workshops were held in collaboration with the partner institutes in Indonesia, Viet Nam, Japan, China, Thailand and Korea to share the preliminary results of the policy review and trend analysis undertaken for each country with government officials, NGOs and specialized researchers. The workshops also helped to build consensus on key economic sectors and environmental issues likely to be affected by regional economic integration in East Asia, to present and discuss research methodologies, and to identify relevant regional and sub-regional environmental issues that could serve as basis for country case studies.

First and Second Progress Workshops

IGES organised the First Progress Workshop for the research project at the IGES Hayama Office on 27-29 March 2006. Representatives from the core group institutes and partner institutes, resource organisations and the Ministry of Environment of Japan gathered to discuss the outcomes of the national workshops, the policy analysis methodologies and the different scenarios of regional economic integration. The research design was further refined with specific focus areas, detailed research activities, and methodologies suggested for the research using the environmental issues identified by the partner institutes in each country as a basis. As an output of the Workshop, IGES produced a Progress Report.

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In 2007, IGES organised the Second Progress Workshop with participation of the same representatives in Bangkok, Thailand on 21-23 March. The partner institutes, KEI, McGill University and IGES reported on the preliminary findings from their research for both the modelling and policy analysis studies specified under RISPO.

Familiarisation Working Group Meetings

During the past year, IGES also organised three Familiarisation Working Group Meetings corresponding to each of the three sectors (waste, renewable energy, and agriculture) specified for policy analysis research under RISPO II with the purpose of facilitating collaborative research activities with the partner institutes and KEI. IGES presented the adjusted research design and plans for the regional study for the three sectors.

For further information: www.iges.or.jp/en/itp/activity_rispo2.html. For more information on activities in China: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/NWChina.php>.

Contact: Mark Elder at elder@iges.or.jp.

NISD Partnership Project on Integrated Water Management Project

The NISD Partnership Project on Integrated Water Management of the Selenga River Basin was launched in 2006 by the Korea Environment Institute (KEI, Republic of Korea) in cooperation with the Korea Institute of Water and Environment (KIWE, Republic of Korea), the Institute of Geocology - Mongolian Academy of Sciences (IGMAS, Mongolia), and the Baikal Institute of Nature Management - Siberian Branch Russian Academy of Sciences (BINM SB RAS, Russia).

The objective of this partnership project is to support sustainable water resource usage and environmentally sound human settlement by developing an integrated model that takes into account the natural environment of the river basin, the socio-economic impacts in Russia and Mongolia as well as transboundary issues.

The partners in this project have created a strong research network through international conferences and working group meetings that were held in Ulanbaatar, and Seoul. During these meetings, the partners emphasized that the sustainable use of water resources requires legal and policy changes, appropriate funding and adequate management of water resources, basins and ecosystems. The researchers also identified recent problems in the Selenga River Basin, which have a direct impact on the surrounding ecosystem and environment, as the Selenga River rises in the Khangai Mountains in Mongolia and flows into Lake Baikal, which constitutes a major freshwater resource in the world.

The third NISD-Selenga Partnership Project Meeting organised by KEI on 29-31 January 2007 in Seoul, along with the International Symposium on Transboundary Water Management in Northeast Asia, provided project partners with an opportunity to discuss the Preliminary Study of Environmental Information for the Integrated Water Management of Selenga River Basin. The purpose of this study is to prepare a survey of the Selenga River Basin which could be used to draw up an integrated model for river basin management in the Lake Baikal nature reserve. The final result of this preliminary study will be released around May 2007.

Contact: Dr. Yuri Mun at yrmun@kei.re.kr or Dr. Sang In Kang at sikang@kei.re.kr.

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Integrated Assessment

International Workshop on Integrated Assessment of Trade Policies, Islamabad, Pakistan, 15-16 May 2006

This two-day workshop was organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI, Pakistan) with the financial and technical support of UNEP's Economics and Trade Branch. The workshop was designed to disseminate the concept of integrated assessment to policy makers, develop interest of the public and private sectors as well as civil society, and identify potential sectors and key issues for an integrated assessment at national and regional levels. Thirty participants including government representatives from the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Environment and the Economic Affairs Division, as well as representatives from the private sector, civil society and the media attended the workshop.

The workshop programme consisted of presentations on Integrated Assessment by SDPI, Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe – India), and the East West University (Bangladesh). The workshop also provided an opportunity to discuss the benefits of integrated assessment, stakeholders' roles, as well as key sectors and key issues of Pakistan-India bilateral trade liberalisation and regional trade liberalisation through the South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA).

For further information: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/2006IAPakMay1516.php>.

Contact: Mr. Moeed Yusuf at moeed@sdpi.org.

Project on Integrated Assessment of Trade-Related Policies and Biodiversity in the Agricultural Sector in Jamaica and Cameroon

In July 2006, UNEP's Economics and Trade Branch launched a major initiative entitled 'Integrated Assessment of Trade-related Policies and Biological Diversity in the Agricultural Sector'. The objective of the initiative is to build national institutional and governmental capacities in African, Caribbean, & Pacific (ACP) Countries to assess environmental, social and economic impacts of trade-related and other policies in the agriculture sector, with a particular emphasis on the protection of biological diversity and the promotion of sustainable trade.

The core of the initiative is the implementation of country projects in six countries (Cameroon, Madagascar, Mauritius, Uganda, Papua New Guinea and Jamaica) which are undertaken by national institutions in close cooperation with national government ministries and regional partners. In the case of Cameroon and Jamaica, two NISD members have the overall responsibility for project implementation: the Centre for Environment and Development Studies (CEDC), affiliated with the University of Dschang in Cameroon; and the Institute of Sustainable Development (ISD) in Jamaica. In collaboration with relevant government departments, these national institutions are in charge of conducting an integrated assessment of agricultural trade policies and to develop national policy action plans, which seek to balance trade, development and biodiversity goals. In Jamaica, ISD will undertake an integrated assessment of agricultural trade policies in the sugar cane sector, with a specific focus on the likely impacts of changes in the sugar price following reform of the EU-ACP Sugar Protocol. Specific attention will be paid to addressing issues of unsustainable resource use and related biodiversity loss. Similarly, the project in Cameroon will focus on a comprehensive integrated assessment of trade policies in the cocoa sector, with particular emphasis on the conservation and protection of biodiversity.

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A launch meeting and capacity-building workshop were held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, on 5-7 March 2007. The workshop for Jamaica will follow in May 2007.

For further information: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/initiatives/BiodivCountryProjects.php>.

Contact: Ms. Vera Weick at vera.weick@unep.ch.

Project proposal: an Assessment of the Impact of Desert Expansion and Lake Recession on Africa's Agricultural Trade and Livelihoods

Following a proposal developed by the Centre for Agriculture Management and Environmental Economics of the University of Agriculture (UNAAB), Abeokuta, Nigeria, a group of NISD members is currently seeking funding for a project entitled 'Assessment of the Impact of Desert Expansion and Lake Recession on Africa's Agricultural Trade and Livelihoods'. The project proposal was prepared in collaboration with UNEP and a number of NISD members in Africa, including the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER), the Centre for Environmental Research and Studies of the Cairo University (Egypt), the Centre International des Technologies de l'Environnement (CITET – Tunisia), the Institut des Sciences de l'Environnement of the Université Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar (ISE - Senegal), the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), the Agence Internationale pour le Développement de l'Information Environnementale (ADIE), Gabon, and The University of Dschang (Cameroon).

The proposed study will assess the impact of desertification and lake recession on agricultural and livestock trade, gender, and livelihoods of populations in selected parts of Africa. The study will consider the social, economic, political, as well as environmental impacts of desertification and lake recession and serve as a basis for policy recommendations, notably with the aim of contributing to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Contact: Prof. Peter Okuneye of the University of Agriculture, Nigeria: b_okuneye@yahoo.com.

Environmental Impact Assessment

Master of Science in Environmental Assessment - McGill University

Since January 2007 McGill University's Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Canada, is offering a new Master of Science in Environmental Assessment. This one-year, non-thesis program offered by the Department of Natural Resource Sciences is an initiative of the McGill-UNEP Environmental Assessment Collaborating Centre.

The programme is aimed at environmental assessment professionals and advanced environmental science students planning for careers in government, corporations, and NGOs working on environmental assessment and sustainable development in Canada and internationally. It includes coverage of environmental assessment through an intensive programme of graduate courses, internships, field trips and other activities in cooperation with public and private sector partners, and provides participants with a comprehensive exposure to the techniques used in environmental assessment practices worldwide.

During the first semester, UNEP delivered lectures from 16-23 March 2007 through video conferencing from Geneva and Nairobi on various themes, including:

- Overview of UNEP's Assessment work
- Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

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- Trade, Fisheries, and Economic Instruments
- Integrated Assessment in Policy
- Global Environmental Outlook

For more information: <http://www.mcgill.ca/nrs/graduate/environment/>.

Contacts: Dr. Mark Curtis (Program Director) at mark.curtis@mcgill.edu or Brandee Diner (Program Coordinator) at brandee.diner@mcgill.ca.

UNEP Training Manual on Environmental Impact Assessment

The second edition of the UNEP Environmental Impact Assessment Training Resource Manual is now also available in French (CD-ROM) and Arabic (CD-ROM and hard copy): <http://www.unep.ch/etb/publications/enviImpAsse.php>. The translation into Arabic was done by the University of Cairo. Hard copies and CD ROMs can be obtained from UNEP (Contact Ms. Désirée Leon at desiree.leon@unep.ch).

Development of Open Educational Resources on Environmental Impact Assessment by UNU

Since April 2007, the United Nations University (UNU) Online Learning is offering Environmental Impact Assessment Open Education Resources (EIA-OER) which build on the UNEP EIA Training Resource Manual. The EIA-OER aims to provide capacity building materials and open educational resources for higher educational and training institutions, primarily in developing countries, to be utilised in graduate/post-graduate programmes and continuous education for EIA professionals. The material was developed jointly with the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), the University of the South Pacific and UNEP.

They include three parts: (1) an EIA Course Module defining the needs and objectives and illustrating the processes involved in EIA; (2) an information resource (EIA Wiki) including case studies, legislation, guidelines, assessment techniques and sectors related resources; and (3) an Instruction Guide to assist partnering institutions in adapting the educational resources to their institutional requirements, learning styles and local course content requirements. The course module includes seventeen videos and animations and a large number of built-in assignments and activities that support class room teaching, online learning and self-study.

The new EIA Open Educational Resources are available online at <http://eia.unu.edu>.

Contact: Mr. Brendan Barrett at barrett@hq.unu.edu.

The Second Advanced Training Workshop for Environmental Assessment Practitioners from the Mashrek Countries, Damascus, Syria, 16-20 December 2006

The METAP Regional EIA Centre of the Tunis International Centre for Environmental Technologies (CITET) organised this workshop with the support of UNEP and the World Bank. The objective of the training workshop was to build capacities for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) practitioners in the private sector. Twenty-seven participants from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria took part in the training sessions.

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The workshop consisted of scientific presentations and exercises on conducting EIA studies, with emphasis on the technical aspects of impacts identification and analysis as well as the management of the EIA process. Emphasis was put on the identification and evaluation techniques of impacts related to water, air, health and ecosystems, and public participation in the EIA process. The presentations were based on practical case studies on real environmental problems in the Mashrek countries such as air pollution, solid waste, wastewater, noise, etc. Special sessions were held on the use of new information technologies for EIA and the environmental and social safeguard policies of the World Bank. The Arabic version of the UNEP EIA Training Resource Manual was used by participants during the workshop. A similar EIA training workshop for EIA practitioners from the Maghreb countries was held on 2-6 April 2007 in Rabat, Morocco.

For further information: www.citet.nat.tn.

Contact: Mr. Amel Makhoulf at citet.metap@citet.nat.tn.

Economic Instruments

Training Manual on Economic Instruments

UNEP's Economics and Trade Branch is about to finalize a Training Resource Manual on the Use of Economic Instruments for Environmental and Natural Resource Management. The Manual is currently being edited and will be available on the UNEP website in the coming months.

UNEP-IUCN Workshop on International Payments for Ecosystem Services (IPES), Geneva, Switzerland, 12-13 September 2006

The workshop was hosted jointly by UNEP and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and with the financial support of the German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. The workshop gathered experts from academia, the private sector, governments, international organisations, and NGOs with the overall aim of identifying opportunities for developing PES at the international level and establishing a common ground for further discussion on IPES.

The event was designed as a technical discussion, focusing on the key hurdles that stand in the way of developing IPES, and worked towards developing a plan of action for IPES over the coming years, including elements such as further research, pilot projects, awareness raising and capacity building.

One of the outcomes of the workshop was the establishment of an informal networking group active in discussing possible options for further action and research into PES.

For more information: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/2006-PESTD12-13Sep.php>.

Contact: Mr. Fulai Sheng at fulai.sheng@unep.ch.

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Biodiesel Summit: A Discussion Forum For Biodiesel Stakeholders, New Delhi, India, 29-30 January 2007

Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe, India) organised the Biodiesel Summit with the view of delivering an equitable and accessible biodiesel policy and providing technical know-how for commercial cultivation of oilseeds crops and biodiesel processing. The summit also aimed to serve as an information hub and to facilitate liaison and linkages among all stakeholders working on energy security and climate change mitigation. It was attended by eminent experts in the field as well as high level officials from relevant ministries (the Ministry of Petroleum, the Planning Commission, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Department of Biotechnology and Rastarpati Bhawanand) and proved a rare opportunity for experts, industries, policy makers, financial institutions and other stakeholders to arrive at a roadmap for the development of biodiesel in the country through collective deliberations.

The key issues which were discussed at the summit were the current Indian initiatives, the methods and best practices of Jatropha plantations and other oil-bearing trees, existing bio-diesel oil-extraction and processing techniques, Clean Development Mechanism opportunities for biodiesel, and Government policies on biodiesel.

Fourth International Training Programme on the Role of Renewable Energy in Energy Planning and Expanding Livelihood Options, New Delhi, India, 14-22 March 2007

Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe) organised this Training Programme for participants of Asia and Africa with support from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). The target audience for the Training Programme were mid-career professionals working in government organisations, diplomats, civil servants and administrators, financial organisations, non-governmental organisations, private and public sectors and those who wish to understand renewable energy and resource assessment in a global context. Training sessions covered a range of issues related to renewable energy sources and technologies, energy planning, stakeholder participation, policy-making, etc.

For further information: www.irade.org.

Contact: Dr. Jyoti Parikh at jparikh@irade.org.

Upcoming Event

The 5th Henry A. Wallace Inter-American Scientific Conference: "Sustainable Livelihoods Approach to Agricultural and Rural Development, Campus CATIE, Turrialba, Costa Rica, 14-17 May 2007

The Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Centre (CATIE, Costa Rica) jointly with Iowa State University (ISU, United States of America) will be hosting the Fifth International Scientific Conference in honour of Henry A. Wallace, former Vice-President and Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America. This conference is part of a series of conferences that have been taking place since 2001 focusing on issues of critical importance for sustainable agriculture and natural resources management in the tropics. This year the conference will focus on bringing together a varied group of scientists and practitioners from Latin America, North America and Africa, with considerable knowledge and experience in the application of the sustainable livelihoods approach (SLA) in rural development and poverty reduction.

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The diverse, international assembly will provide invaluable opportunities to promote international collaboration and South-to-South exchange of knowledge and experiences in agriculture, food security, natural resource management and rural community research and development.

For further information: www.catie.ac.cr.

Contact: Ms. Isabel A. Gutierrez-Montes at igutie@catie.ac.cr, and Ms. Edith Fernandez-Baca at eferbaca@iastate.edu.

Publications

Papers related to the **NISD Partnership Project on Regional Economic Integration in Asia/RISPO II**:

- Sano, Daisuke; Puja Sawhney; and Peter N. King (2006). *The Impacts of Introducing Eco-labelling to Asia: Opportunities and Challenges in Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture*. Paper prepared for the International Conference on Greening of Agro-Industries and Networks in Asia: Challenges and Opportunities, Bangkok, Thailand, 27-29 October 2006.
- Hotta, Y.; M. Elder; H. Mori; and M. Tanaka (2006), *Policy Considerations for Establishing Environmentally Sound Regional Material Flow in East Asia*. Paper presented at the International Conference on Sustainable Resource Management, Raw Materials Security, Factor-X Resource Productivity - Tools for Delivering Sustainable Growth in the European Union," Bruges, Belgium, 6-7 December 2006.

The **International Institute for Sustainable Development** announces the following publications (More information available on the IISD website: <http://www.iisd.org/publications/>)

- Arthur J. Hanson, Claude Martin (2006). *One Lifeboat: China and the World's Environment and Development*.
- Anantha K. Duraiappah (2007). *Markets for Ecosystem Services: A Potential Tool for Multilateral Environmental Agreements*.
- John Drexhage, Deborah Murphy, Oli Brown, Aaron Cosbey, Peter Dickey, Jo-Ellen Parry, John Van Ham, Richard Tarasofsky, Beverley Darkin (2007). *Climate Change and Foreign Policy: An exploration of options for greater integration*.
- Adil Najam, David Runnalls and Mark Halle (2007). *Environment and Globalization: Five Propositions*.
- Oli Brown, Mark Halle, Sonia Pena Moreno, Sebastian Winkler (2007). *Trade, Aid and Security: An Agenda for Peace and Development* (published with IUCN).
- *A Global Directory to Indicator Initiatives*
IISD is currently collaborating with the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) - Sustainability Indicators Initiative (SII) on this Compendium as part of a cooperative effort to advance the use of sustainability indicators worldwide. Available on <http://www.iisd.org/measure/compendium/>.
- Commentary: Maja Andjelkovic (2007). *Internet Governance Forum :A Commentary on the First Meeting*.

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The **Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Centre** (CATIE, Costa Rica) presents the following journals and publications:

- *The Journal of Agroforestry in the Americas* is an international publication on the advances and applications of agroforestry in the Americas. Its goals are to promote a better use of natural resources and the exchange of knowledge and further cooperation among groups and institutions involved in agroforestry activities in the region. For further information, please contact agrofor@catie.ac.cr; Tel. + 506 556 1789; Fax +506 556 7766.
- The main object of *The Journal of Integrated Pest Management and Agroecology* is to serve as a communication tool, discussion forum and dissemination media of experiences and research results. It has been in existence for 17 years, with a circulation of 1150. For further information, please contact cicmip@catie.ac.cr; Tel + 506 556 1632 or + 506 558 2408; Fax: + 506 556 6282 or + 506 556 1533.
- *Natural Resources and the Environment* is a technical-practical publication, dealing with subjects related to conservation, management and use of natural resources, environmental issues and rural development. The journal promotes the exchange of technical information and serves as a forum for the discussion of forestry and environmental problems in Latin America. For further information, please contact lorozco@catie.ac.cr; Tel: + 506 556 6784; Fax: + 506 556 6282 or + 506 556 1533.

Other Publications:

- Sadler, B. (ed.) (2005). *Recent Progress with Strategic Environmental Assessment at the Policy Level*, Czech Ministry of the Environment, Netherlands Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, REC, UNECE, Prague.
- Dalal-Clayton B. and Sadler B. (in press). *Sustainability Appraisal: A Sourcebook and Reference Guide to International Experience*, Earthscan, London. (draft available on www.iiied.org).

New NISD Members

The following Institutions have become new NISD Members:

- The Institute of Sustainable Development (ISD), Jamaica;
- Interdisciplinary Research in Environmental Assessment and Management (InteREAM), United Kingdom; and
- Baikal Institute of Nature Management – Siberian Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences (BINM SB RAS, Russia).

Profiles of these Institutions, as well as contact details of Members are available on <http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/nisd.php>.

For questions about NISD News, please contact:
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