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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

Final Workshop for the NISD Partnership Project on Regional Economic Integration, 26-28 March 2008, Yokohama, Japan

From 26-28 March 2008, the Institute of Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) organized the final workshop for the NISD Partnership Project on Regional Economic Integration in Yokohama, Japan. The project entitled "Promotion of Sustainable Development in the Context of Regional Economic Integration: Strategies for Environmental Sustainability and Poverty Reduction" aims to provide policy-makers with strategic environmental policy options for promoting sustainable development in the context of East Asian regional economic integration. The initiative is led by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) 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 (UNEP-ETB).

The purpose of this three-day meeting was to present and discuss the final results of the research undertaken in three sectors (renewable energy, agriculture and waste) in Japan, China, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and Korea. The main issues raised during the meeting included implementability of policy recommendations and policy coordination and communication with stakeholders. Participants emphasized the importance of improving data quality and proposed other types of methodologies and sectors for the continuation of the research. The results of the research projects as well as the discussions held during the meeting will be published in a written report.

For further information: http://www.iges.or.jp/en/ltp/activity_rispo2.html
Contact: Dr. Mark Elder at elder@iges.or.jp.

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NISD Partnership Project on Integrated Water Management

NISD Partnership Project on Integrated Water Management Model on the Selenga River Basin, Phase I (May 2007 to April 2008)

In the framework of this project, the partners completed a number of activities over the last year, including a working group meeting, the launch of a capacity building programme, field research and two international workshops.

Working group meeting, 31 May - 1 June 2007, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

The Korea Environment Institute (KEI) in cooperation with the Institute of Geocology Mongolian Academy of Sciences (IGMAS) and the Baikal Institute of Nature Management Siberian Branch Russian Academy of Sciences (BINM SB RAS) organized the 5th working group meeting to review the preliminary study and to discuss a capacity building programme for partnership project. Professors from the Buryatia State University and the Mongolian National University, as well as environmental officials from the two nations were invited to offer valuable advice for the further development of the project and the integration of its results into research and policy development.

Based on an MOU between KEI and Myongji University (Republic of Korea), a capacity building programme was officially launched which offers two graduate students from Mongolia and Russia an opportunity to study advanced water management technology at the Department of Environmental Engineering & Biotechnology at Myongji University. The students were selected from candidates recommended by IGMAS and BINM SB RAS, for which they would serve as researchers after the capacity building programme.

Joint Field Study in the Selenga River Basin, 14 – 31 July 2007, Mongolia and Russia

The main objective of the 2007-2008's work plan is to conduct a study on water quality and water resources as well as socio-economic and hydrological impacts to identify the top priority problems in the territory of the Selenga River Basin. For this purpose, the three institutions conducted fieldwork in the area from the lake Hovsgul to the delta of the lake Baikal from 14 to 31 July 2007. During the field work, a total of 26 water samples were collected and analyzed by the water team composed of the experts from KEI, Myongji University, IGMAS and BINM SB RAS. In addition, the socio-economic team collected documents on the local socio-economic conditions and conducted interviews with the representatives of local governments and communities. The results of the field work and related analysis will be published in a final report on "Integrated Water Management Model on the Selenga River Basin-Phase I Status Survey and Prioritization" in April 2008.

Along with the field work, the 2nd International Workshop on "Driving Forces, Pressures and States of Integrated Water Management on the Selenga River Basin" was held on 15 July 2007, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. At the workshop, the water supply system and water quality of the transboundary watershed in the Selenga River Basin, principles of nature protection activities in Lake Baikal, and human impacts in the Tuul River Basin were discussed in depth.

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3rd International Workshop on Water and Land Management in the Selenga River Basin, 21 November 2007, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

On 21 November 2007, the 3rd International Workshop on “Water and Land Management in the Selenga River Basin” was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The purpose of this workshop was to identify the interrelated problems of land use patterns affecting water quality and quantity. Problems of irrigation and pasture water supply, territorial systems of land use, agriculture and forestry in the Selenga River Basin were also discussed among the researchers and government officials during the workshop. The researchers agreed to conduct further investigation on the impact of land use on water supply and sanitation in the river basin.

The 4th International workshop and the second field study are scheduled for June and July 2008 in Mongolia and Russia.

Contacts: Dr. Sang In Kang and Dr. Jong-Heon Jin, (Sustainable Development Division, KEI), sikang@kei.re.kr and jhjin@kei.re.kr.

TRAININGS, WORKSHOPS AND NEW INITIATIVES

Integrated Assessment

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

From 26 to 28 November 2007, UNEP-ETB organized the First International Review Meeting for the Country Projects on Integrated Assessment of Trade-related Policies and Biodiversity in the Agricultural Sector. This four-year initiative, launched in 2005, assists African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries through national level assessment projects to assess the economic, social and environmental impacts of trade liberalization in the agricultural sector, with a particular focus on biodiversity. The objective of the project is to enhance national capacities to develop and implement policies that maximise development gains from trade in the agriculture sector while minimising the impact on biodiversity.

Among the six countries selected for the projects in 2006, two NISD members are facilitating assessments: the Institute for Sustainable Development in Jamaica and the Centre for Environment and Development Studies of the University of Dschang in Cameroon. In the review meeting, they had the opportunity to present, jointly with their government counterparts, the main achievements and challenges encountered after one year of project implementation.

In Jamaica, the integrated assessment study focuses on the impacts of reforms of the EU-ACP Sugar Protocol on the sugar sector as part of EU-ACP negotiations on Economic Partnership Agreements. In Cameroon the study looks at the impacts of a national law (No.2004/025) liberalising trade in the cacao sector.

The main issues discussed during the workshop included: integrated assessment and biodiversity assessment methodology, stakeholder consultation processes, and influencing decision-making. The meeting helped the country teams to prepare for the next stage of the assessment study and draw an agenda for the activities planned in 2008.

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Presentation of Trade and Biodiversity Manual at the 27th International Association or Impact Assessment Annual Conference in Seoul, Korea, June 2007

As part of the above mentioned initiative UNEP-ETB is developing guidance on assessing the impacts of agricultural trade policies with a focus on biodiversity. To seek feedback on the current draft from the assessment community, a draft version of the manual was presented at the 27th IAIA Annual Conference in Seoul, Korea in June 2007 in the Session on Alternative Methodological Approaches to Assessing the Impacts on Trade.

The manual was developed in collaboration with experts from the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat and IAIA. The current version consists of two volumes: Volume I presents a practical step-by-step approach to undertaking integrated assessment of trade policy in the agricultural sector, and prioritising biodiversity. Volume II is an accompanying reference document that explains in detail the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the complex linkages that exist between trade in the agricultural sector and biodiversity. Volume II also contains additional information on both procedures and substance to support efforts in undertaking an integrated assessment focused on biodiversity, including indicators and valuation techniques.

For further information:

- <http://www.unep.ch/etb/initiatives/BiodivCountryProjects.php>.
- <http://www.unep.ch/etb/pdf/UNEP%20T+B%20Manual.Vol%20II.Draft%20June07.pdf>.
- <http://www.unep.ch/etb/pdf/UNEP%20T+B%20Manual.Vol%20I.Draft.June07.pdf>.

Contacts:

- Vera Weick: vera.weick@unep.ch
- Anthony Clayton (at ISD, Jamaica): anthony.clayton@uwimona.edu.jm
- Dieudonné Bitondo and Jean Pierre Mvondo Awono (at University of Dschang, Cameroon): bitondo@hotmail.com and jpmvondoa@yahoo.fr
- Rita Hamm and Johanna Treweek (at IAIA): rita@iaia.org and jo@treweek.fsnet.co.uk

First programme completed: Master of Science in Environmental Assessment at McGill University, Canada

In 2007, a total of 12 students successfully completed the Master of Science Programme in Environmental Assessment. From January 2008, a new programme has started with 18 full time students including a mix of Canadian and international students (from Korea, Chile, Peru, Bulgaria, India, Pakistan, USA) with different backgrounds (e.g. seasoned practitioners, masters or PhD degree graduates or recent bachelor degree graduates who have worked in closely related fields).

From 10-19 March 2008, UNEP delivered a series of lectures through videoconferencing from Geneva and Nairobi for the students on its assessment related activities such as: trade and biodiversity assessment, integrated assessment and policymaking, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the Global Environmental Outlook, and assessment and climate change.

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This Master of Science is offered by McGill University's Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences to environmental professionals and advanced environmental science students as an initiative of the McGill-UNEP Environmental Assessment Collaborating Centre. The one-year programme provides a comprehensive 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, exposing candidates to the techniques used worldwide in environmental assessment.

For further information: <http://www.mcgill.ca/nrs/graduate/environment/>
Contacts: Dr. Mark Curtis (at McGill): mark.curtis@mcgill.edu and Hussein Abaza: hussein.abaza@unep.ch.

Environmental Impact Assessment

UNEP's EIA Manual used in Capacity Building Programme in West Asia

In January 2008, UNEP's Regional Office in West Asia (ROWA) launched a two-year Capacity Building Programme on EIA and Promotion of Public Participation in West Asia, which aims to enhance the effective use of EIA procedures for developmental projects as well as public participation in the EIA process in the region. The regional start-up meeting for national focal points, held from 14-15 January 2008 in Manama, Bahrain, included an introduction to UNEP's EIA Training Resource Manual. The Arabic version of the Manual will be used for training on the requirements of EIA and the development of national EIA capacity building programmes. The project also aims to complement the Arabic version of the Manual with a compendium of case studies from the region.

For further information: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/publications/EIAMan2EdiAra.php>

Economic Instruments

Technical paper on economic incentives in the transport sector

With the help of Professor Nurul Amin from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), UNEP-ETB, jointly with other UNEP branches, is currently working on a technical paper on economic incentives in the transport sector. The paper aims at collating experiences and lessons of how different incentives, including economic, regulatory, and persuasive measures have been used in different parts of the world to change behaviours in this sector. The results of this are expected to motivate more governments, businesses and urban residents to make transport decisions in support of reducing emissions.

Contacts: Fulai Sheng: fulai.sheng@unep.ch and Prof. Nurul Amin (at AIT): amin@ait.ac.th

Fisheries Subsidies

The world's fish stocks are declining alarmingly. A root cause is fisheries subsidies, which encourage fleet overcapacity and overfishing. UNEP-ETB has been working jointly with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to promote the reform of fisheries subsidies through joint events, consultation processes and publications.

UNEP-WWF Symposium on Disciplining Fisheries Subsidies: Incorporating Sustainability at the WTO & Beyond, 1-2 March 2007, Geneva

Following a consultation process with WTO delegations on "Fisheries Subsidies – Work-in-progress" in 2006 (including topics such as artisanal fisheries, inland waters and subsidized access to foreign fisheries), UNEP and WWF jointly organized a High-Level UNEP-WWF Symposium in Geneva in March 2007 to discuss the elaboration of appropriate and workable "sustainability" conditions on fisheries subsidies at the WTO and beyond, including national and regional level fisheries policy.

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The event, intended as an informal meeting, was attended by more than 120 participants from national governments (including officials from environment, trade, and fisheries agencies) as well as intergovernmental organizations, regional fisheries management organizations, non-government organizations and academic institutions. The discussion confirmed the high level of interest among these diverse stakeholders in elaborating WTO rules that make a real contribution to sustainable fisheries through appropriate limits on fisheries subsidies.

Launching of the UNEP-WWF Publication on Sustainability Criteria for Fisheries Subsidies: Options for the WTO and Beyond, 26 September 2007, Geneva

As a result of the Symposium, UNEP and WWF jointly published a guide on "Sustainability Criteria for Fisheries Subsidies: Options for the WTO and Beyond" that discusses the potential design of sustainability criteria to qualify fisheries subsidies upon their harmfulness to the fishery and the environment. A launching event in September 2007 provided the opportunity to present the main conclusions at a very timely moment of WTO negotiations to more than 30 attendees, mainly WTO delegates.

Technical Workshop on WTO Disciplines on Fisheries Subsidies: Elements of the Chair's Draft Text, 29 January 2008, Geneva

Following the event in September 2007, UNEP and WWF, in collaboration with Oceana and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), hosted an informal workshop to offer a forum for informal dialogue outside of the official WTO negotiating context and enable participants to exchange views on important technical issues related to the draft text. The event was attended by more than 90 Geneva-based and capital-based officials from 35 national governments (including officials from trade and fisheries agencies) as well as from the FAO, the OECD, and from six non-government organizations.

For further information:

- <http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/2008FishSubWorkshop29Jan08.php>
- http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/2007LaunchWWF_UNEPPubli.php
- http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/2007fish_symposium.php
- http://www.unep.ch/etb/publications/fishierSubsidiesEnvironment/UNEPWWF_FinalRevi09102007.pdf

Contacts: Anja von Moltke: anja.moltke@unep.ch and Aimee Gonzales (at WWF): agonzales@wwwfint.org

International Payments for Ecosystem Services

Since October 2006, UNEP and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), have been promoting the scaling up of Payments for Ecosystems Services (PES) at the international level. The objective of this joint work programme is to take the first step towards an eventual international system, comparable or linked to carbon trading, but with a clear focus on the conservation of terrestrial and marine ecosystems that host significant biodiversity and related services.

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UNEP-IUCN Side Event on Developing International Payments for Ecosystem Services: Avoided Deforestation at the WGRI 2, 11 July 2007, Paris

The Side Event on "Developing International Payments for Ecosystem Services: Avoided Deforestation" was organized during the Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris, France. More than 40 delegates from governments, inter-governmental organizations, and NGOs participated in the event. The purpose of the event was to explore the opportunities and challenges avoided deforestation represents, as a form of International Payments for Ecosystem Services (IPES), to address climate change and its impacts on biodiversity conservation and rural livelihoods.

International Payments for Ecosystems Publication Review Meeting, 28-29 January 2008, Geneva

The objective of the two-day expert meeting was to discuss the first draft chapters of the forthcoming IPES publication, to share the preliminary results, provide comments to further improve the draft as well as establish the first conclusions. The publication is a comprehensive document that summarizes the current state of IPES. It contains 11 contributions from key experts from all over the world who are involved in the cutting edge development of this new policy instrument. Each contribution addresses the different dimensions of the IPES development (e.g. how IPES can be a tool for biodiversity conservation and what are the institutional mechanisms for its practical implementation). The IPES publication should be available mid 2008.

Understanding the private demand for International Payments for Ecosystem Services

Following a request of the Geneva International Academic Network (GIAN), the Geneva School of Business Administration (HEG) jointly with UNEP and IUCN have been carrying out a study entitled "Understanding the Private Demand for International Payments for Ecosystem Services – A study of public attitudes and preferences towards avoided deforestation", which will be published mid 2008. The objective of the study is to assess the level of public concern and interest in western societies in the conservation of tropical forest, with a special focus on the role of avoided deforestation through Payments for Ecosystem Services mechanisms.

For further information:

- <http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/ipes.php>
- <http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/pdf/Microsoft%20Word%20-%20WGRI%20%20Side-Event%20Agenda11July2007.pdf>
- http://www.ruig-gian.org/research/projects/project_f.php?ID=161

Contacts: Fulai Sheng: fulai.sheng@unep.ch as well as Dr. Joshua Bishop and David Huberman (at IUCN): joshua.bishop@iucn.org and david.huberman@iucn.org

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Trade and Environment

During 2007, the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) and UNEP-ETB, jointly with other partners, organized two meetings addressing the interface of trade and environment with a particular focus on climate change issues.

High-level Dialogue on International Trade, Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Transition -- Advancing Sustainable Development Objectives, 10 May 2007, New York

A high-level dialogue on International Trade, Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Transition was jointly organized by ICTSD in cooperation with UNEP and the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, on the occasion of the 15th Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development that took place from 30 April to 11 May 2007, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The objective of the meeting was to contribute to the dialogue on policy inter-linkages that took place during the Commission on Sustainable Development cycle and provide insights for a better understanding of the linkages between international trade, climate change and energy, addressing especially the opportunities international trade can offer to progress in the climate change and energy agenda.

Dialogue on International Trade, Climate Change and Global Competitiveness, 4 October 2007, Geneva

This dialogue was jointly organized by ICTSD, UNEP and the World Bank and gathered experts from academia, international NGOs as well as international organizations. The objective of the meeting was to examine the impacts of climate change policies, such as carbon taxes and energy efficiency measures, on international trade flows and global competitiveness. Participants also reviewed initiatives that are being considered in major economies to address competitiveness concerns, and discussed the implications of these measures for trade policy and sustainable development.

For more information:

- <http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/2007TradeDialogueOct04.php>
- <http://www.ictsd.org/dlogue/2007-12-05/2007-12-05-desc.htm>

Contacts: Benjamin Simmons: benjamin.simmons@unep.ch and Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz (at ICTSD): melendez@ictsd.ch

OTHER NEWS

New NISD Members

The following institution has recently joined the Network:

- **Ramboll Natura AB, Sweden**

A profile of the institution as well as its contact details are available at <http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/nisd.php>.

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

- Hotta, Y., Elder, M., Mori, H., and M. Tanaka. "Policy Considerations for Establishing an Environmentally Sound Regional Material Flow in East Asia." *Journal of Environment and Development*. Vol. 17, No. 1, March 2008.
- Kojima, S. and Bhattacharya, A. "Environment Impact Assessment of Future Regional Economic Integration in East Asia." *Proceedings of International Symposium of Eco Topia Science 2007, ISETS07, Japan*.
- Elder, M., Battacharya, A. and J. Romero. "Economic Integration and Renewable Energy in East Asia: Policy Implications." For presentation and inclusion in the *Proceedings of the World Renewable Energy Regional Congress & Exhibition II, 5-7 November 2007, Jakarta, Indonesia*.
- Elder, M., Battacharya, A. and J. Romero. "The Puzzle of Japanese Renewable Energy Policy: Why Japan is Lagging and How it Can Catch Up." For presentation and inclusion in the *Proceedings of the World Renewable Energy Regional Congress & Exhibition II, 5-7 November 2007, Jakarta, Indonesia*.
- Hotta, Y., Elder, M., and H. Mori. "International Flow of Recyclable Materials and the Prospects for an Asian Regional Recycling Network." Presented at the *Fourth International Conference of the International Society for Industrial Ecology, University of Toronto, Toronto Canada, June 17-20, 2007*.

TNO, The Netherlands, announces the following publication:

- Carlos Montalvo, René Kemp. "Special Issue on Cleaner Technologies Diffusion: Modelling, Case Studies and Policy", *Journal of Cleaner Production*, Special Issue, 16S1, S1-S6, January 2008

The article is available at :

http://www.tno.nl/groep.cfm?context=markten&content=publicatie&laag1=280&laag2=10&item_id=265

New UNEP-ETB publications:

Fisheries subsidies:

- Sustainability Criteria for Fisheries Subsidies: Options for the WTO and Beyond (2007)

Environment and Trade :

- Guide de l'environnement et du commerce - Deuxième édition (2007)

For questions about NISD News, please contact:

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