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Dear Reader,

Welcome to the first edition of our new-look UNFCCC newsletter.

We hope it will be a valuable source to keep you informed of developments in the international climate change process on the road to an agreed outcome in Copenhagen in December 2009.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Y. de Boer'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Yvo de Boer, *Executive Secretary*
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

[VIEW VIDEO MESSAGE HERE](#)

IN FOCUS

WORK ON REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES GETS UNDERWAY

Deforestation, which results in the immediate release of CO₂ emissions into the atmosphere, is a significant contributor to human-induced climate change. The agenda item “Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries and approaches to stimulate action” was first introduced at COP 11 in Montreal in December 2005. It was two years later, in Bali, that governments adopted a major decision on the issue, which provides a mandate for governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders to stimulate actions on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries. [More...](#)



MITIGATION

According to the IPCC, worldwide emissions of greenhouse gases need to peak in the next 10–15 years and be dramatically cut by 50% below 1990 levels by 2050. In Bali, both developed and developing country Parties agreed to step up their efforts to combat climate change, under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Mitigation is therefore one of the main building blocks of a future climate change deal, being discussed in the Ad hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action. In addition, the Ad hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol is focusing this year on the means available to developed countries to reach their emission reduction targets. Important work has also begun on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries.



For further information click on the links below

- [Recent developments on Mitigation at the Bonn Talks and looking ahead to Accra](#)
- [Parties to the Kyoto Protocol begin participating in the Kyoto mechanisms](#)
- [New REDD web portal to be launched soon](#)
- [GHG Data Interface Updated](#)
- [International Civil Aviation Organization \(ICAO\) launches new aviation carbon calculator](#)

ADAPTATION

Adaptation, together with mitigation, is one of the two central approaches in tackling climate change, and is one of the main pillars of a future climate change agreement. Impacts of climate change are already being witnessed and will intensify over time, affecting poor countries most. Work is continuing on adaptation action, including on National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) to help the most vulnerable communities cope with the effects of climate change. The UNFCCC secretariat has created an interface on its website to interlink the growing body of work being carried out on adaptation worldwide.



For further information click on the links below

- [Recent developments on Adaptation at the Bonn Talks and looking ahead to Accra](#)
- [Agreement between the UNFCCC and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification \(UNCCD\) on adaptation action](#)
- [National Adaptation Programmes of Action \(NAPAs\) submitted for funding](#)
- [Adaptation Practices Interface on website](#)

FINANCE

A report published last year by the UNFCCC secretariat showed that current levels of funding under the Convention are insufficient to address the future financial flows estimated to be needed for adaptation and mitigation under a strengthened international climate agreement. An update of last year's publication, which was entitled "Investment and Financial Flows to Address Climate Change," will be released later this year. Securing adequate financing for climate change mitigation and adaptation is therefore a key challenge in reaching a future climate change agreement. The launch of the Kyoto Protocol's Adaptation Fund has been hailed as "ushering in a new era in environmental financing." The Adaptation Fund is the topic of this



For further information click on the links below

- [Recent Developments on Finance at the Bonn Talks and looking ahead to Accra](#)
- [UNFCCC publication on Investment and Financial Flows to be updated](#)

edition's guest column.
(See below.)

- [Funding under the Convention and the Protocol: an overview](#)
- [Launch of the Kyoto Protocol's Adaptation Fund signals new era in environmental financing](#)

TECHNOLOGY

Technology is another key element of a future international climate change regime. The UNFCCC's Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT) is tasked with identifying ways to advance the development and transfer of environmentally friendly technologies under the Convention. The Group is working on a number of issues, including the development of performance indicators to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of the technology transfer framework under the Convention. It is also developing the terms of reference for a long-term strategy paper on the development and transfer of technologies under the Convention beyond 2012. The UNFCCC's specialized technology website – TT:CLEAR – has just been relaunched.



For further information click on the links below

- [First regular meeting of the Expert Group on Technology Transfer \(EGTT\)](#)
- [Recent developments on Technology at the Bonn Talks and looking ahead to Accra](#)
- [Relaunch of TT:CLEAR website](#)

KEY UNFCCC STATEMENTS

WORLD PETROLEUM CONGRESS, 03 JULY 2008, MADRID, SPAIN

Speaking at the World Petroleum Congress held in Madrid, UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer stressed the vital role played by the petroleum sector in addressing climate change, given that fossil fuel combustion, especially petroleum, is by far the largest contributor to total greenhouse gas emissions.

He pointed out that the IPCC had identified carbon capture and storage (CCS) as the most promising technology for the rapid reduction of global emissions, and called on the petroleum industry to further develop and refine this technology and to implement CCS demonstration projects.



Mr. de Boer also invited the petroleum industry to provide insights on a Copenhagen agreed outcome in 2009 that offers economic opportunities for greening the energy sector. [More...](#)

ELECTRIFYING THE FUTURE: BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY MARKET, 16 JUNE 2008, BARCELONA, SPAIN

Addressing executives from the European electricity industry gathered in Barcelona, UNFCCC Deputy Executive Secretary Richard Kinley called on the energy sector to actively engage in efforts to craft a future climate change agreement.

With the energy sector, in particular the electricity



According to the International Energy Agency, there will be a 60% increase in global energy demand by

sector, being responsible for a substantial amount of total greenhouse gas emissions in industrialized countries, Mr. Kinley said that investments in the sector needed to be shifted to low-carbon emitting technologies, such as the full range of renewable energies.

2030. Mr. Kinley said that energy supply worldwide needed to be greened in order to reach sustainable development goals, and that the mobilization of adequate resources to achieve this would form a central part of a Copenhagen climate change agreement. [More...](#)

THE HAGUE DEBATES, PEACE PALACE, 22 MAY 2008

In an address as part of the Hague debates series, Yvo de Boer spoke of the nexus between migration and climate change, and the possible security implications.

Insufficient access to water, food insecurity and rising sea levels, Mr. de Boer said, were among the impacts of climate change that could lead to movements of population, and possibly cause conflict. According to the United Nations University, there could be as many as 50 million environmentally displaced persons by 2010. With respect to future climate change impacts, projections range from 200 million to up to one billion environmental refugees.



Mr. de Boer also spoke of the critical importance of adaptation to climate change as a means of reducing the potential of mass migration and conflict, and stressed the need for the international community to secure appropriate funding for adaptation action. [More...](#)

FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION, 24 APRIL 2008, BEIJING, CHINA

In his speech delivered at the Forum, UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer stressed the importance of technology development and transfer in tackling climate change and its impacts.

The IPCC Fourth Assessment Report concluded that stabilization levels of greenhouse gas emissions can be achieved by deploying a portfolio of technologies that are either currently available or expected to be commercialised in coming decades if appropriate incentives are in place.



Mr. de Boer highlighted the need for additional investments from both the public and private sectors in R&D for future technologies, and stressed the importance of putting in place an effective international mechanism for the transfer of technologies. [More...](#)

OTHER UN CLIMATE NEWS

NEW 'COOL' INITIATIVE TO SLASH UN'S OWN EMISSION OF GREENHOUSE GASES

In a bid to have the United Nations lead by example, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has unveiled "Cool UN," a three-pronged initiative which seeks to limit the use of air conditioning, slash greenhouse gas emissions and save money. [More...](#)

UNEP REPORT HIGHLIGHTS SUBSTANTIAL NEW FUNDING IN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SECTOR

According to the report entitled “Global Trends in Sustainable Energy Investment 2008,” released on 1 July, over 148 billion USD in new funding entered the sustainable energy sector in 2007. Responding to the report’s findings, UNFCCC Executive Secretary, Yvo de Boer, said, “The positive trend in the renewable energy market is at least in part a business response to a policy expectation. If that expectation is not met, the conventional bottom-line will be the main driver for investment decisions.” [More...](#)

UN ATLAS SHOWS EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN AFRICA

An atlas showing the dramatic effects of climate change has been unveiled by UNEP. The publication entitled “Africa: Atlas of our Changing Environment,” launched in June, features over 300 satellite images taken in every country in Africa. The “before” and “after” photographs, some of which span a 35-year period, offer striking snapshots of environmental changes across the continent. Individual satellite images, maps, graphs and photographs can be downloaded [here...](#)

PHOTO EXHIBITION ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHALLENGES

A permanent exhibition of photographs entitled “Our Changing Environment: Global Climate Challenges” opened at UN Headquarters in New York on 10 June. The exhibition is designed to illustrate one of the UN’s top priorities: addressing the causes and the impact of widespread changes occurring in the Earth’s environment. The dramatic images have been captured by the roving lens of United Nations photographers, both past and present.

[VISIT THE GATEWAY TO THE UN SYSTEM'S
WORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE](#)



GUEST COLUMN

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION FUND: A UNIQUE AND KEY FINANCING MECHANISM FOR ADAPTATION NEEDS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

By Richard Muyungi *Chairman of the Climate Change Adaptation Fund Board and Assistant Director, Vice President's Office, United Republic of Tanzania*

The decision to operationalize the Climate Change Adaptation Fund, taken in Bali last year, was of historic importance. It acknowledged the urgent need to address

the vivid adverse impacts of climate change – already being felt by developing countries, in particular the poorest and most vulnerable – through predictable and sustainable sources of funding.

The Adaptation Fund under the Kyoto Protocol is unique in the way its revenue is generated, namely through a two per cent levy on the emission permits known as Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) that are generated by emission reduction projects under the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). This unique source of funding makes it



predictable and reliable. The Adaptation Fund's other two sister funds under the Convention – the Special Climate Change Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund, on the other hand, are both reliant upon voluntary contributions from developed country parties to the Convention. The Adaptation Fund also has the potential to grow exponentially, depending on the agreed outcome next year in Copenhagen. [More...](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

WORLD'S CARTOONISTS SHARPEN PENCILS AND WIT ON CLIMATE-CHANGE AWARENESS

Fighting their battle with pencils, not pistols, more than 100 environmentally minded cartoonists have lent their skills to raising climate-change awareness. From polar bears shaving off their own pelts, to Father Christmas riding a camel, the cartoons drew attention to the need to act against climate change. [More...](#)

NORWEGIAN MUSIC FESTIVALS FIRST IN CLIMATE-FRIENDLY NETWORK

Two top Norwegian music festivals are joining the international fight against climate change. The two festivals, run from the southern Norwegian city of Arendal, are the first music festivals to sign on to the UN Environment Programme's Climate Neutral Network, known as CN Net. [More...](#)

GIANT KANGAROO IMAGE GIVES CLUES ON CLIMATE

Scientists in Australia hope a giant cardboard image of a kangaroo, photographed from space, will help them better understand how the earth reflects sunlight and give them new clues about global warming. [More...](#)

NEW VISION OF CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH GOOGLE EARTH

Google Earth users can now see how climate change could affect the planet and its people over the next century. One animation shows world temperatures throughout the next hundred years, along with stories of how people are already being affected by changing weather patterns. [More...](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

21 – 27 AUG

ACCRA, GHANA

ACCRA CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS 2008

The Accra Climate Change Talks will take forward work on a strengthened and effective international climate change deal under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as work on emission reduction rules and tools under the Kyoto Protocol. Over a thousand participants are expected to attend the Accra meeting – the third major UNFCCC gathering this year. [More...](#)

01 – 27 SEP

BONN

UNFCCC CENTRALIZED REVIEW

International teams of experts will undertake a review of the 2007 and 2008 annual greenhouse gas inventories of Annex I countries.

09 – 10 SEP

BONN

JOINT IMPLEMENTATION (JI) TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

The fifth JI workshop is intended to allow the Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee (JISC) to consider its experiences in supervising the verification procedure under the JISC (JI Track 2 procedure), including the experiences of the applicant independent entities. [More...](#)

11 – 12 SEP

BONN

JISC 12

Twelfth Meeting of the Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee. [More...](#)

24 – 26 SEP

BONN

CDM-EB 42

Forty-second meeting of the Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism.

29 SEP – 02 OCT

ADDIS. ETHIOPIA

LEG 14

At this fourteenth meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), the Group will discuss progress towards delivering on its work programme, including support to Least Developed Countries in implementing National Adaptation Programmes of Action.

06 – 10 OCT

BONN

COMPLIANCE 5

Fifth meeting of the Kyoto Protocol's Compliance Committee.

[CALENDAR](#)[VACANCIES](#)[RSS](#)[SUBSCRIPTION](#)[CONTACT](#)[DISCLAIMER](#)

