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PRESS RELEASE

Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism reaches milestone at 4,000 registered projects

(Bonn, 13 April 2012) – The Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), the international market-based tool that incentivizes greenhouse gas emission reduction projects in developing countries, has registered its 4,000th project. The wind power project in Maharashtra state, India, expects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 21,807 tonnes a year; the equivalent of removing the emissions from 4,275 cars each year.

“The CDM continues to evolve and improve, and deliver on a scale well beyond initial expectations,” said UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres. “Governments, the international Board that oversees the CDM, and the UNFCCC secretariat have worked continually to simplify the mechanism, broaden its reach, safeguard its environmental integrity and prepare the CDM for the future.”

There are now CDM projects registered in some 74 countries worldwide, ranging from projects that reduce emissions by replacing inefficient wood stoves, to wind power projects that displace fossil fuels, to large industrial projects that destroy extremely potent greenhouse gases.

Projects registered under the CDM must produce real and transparent reductions in greenhouse gas emissions while contributing to sustainable development. Last December, when they met at the UN Climate Change Conference in South Africa, governments agreed a second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol and confirmed a continuing key role for market-based approaches like the CDM.

“The agreement of a second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol was vital in furthering international collaboration on climate change,” said Figueres. “Wherever the future climate talks lead, private sector engagement will be essential, and as such so will mechanisms like the CDM.”

The number of CDM projects has risen briskly since the first project was registered in 2004. In 2011, 2,740 projects were registered, a 50 percent increase from 2010. In February 2012 alone, 256 CDM projects were registered, the second highest monthly number on record.

At the behest of governments, a great deal has been done by the international Executive Board that oversees the CDM to safeguard its environmental integrity, streamline its processes, and extend its reach to under-represented countries and regions. Among the improvements have been guidelines on setting broad, standardized emissions baselines against which projects can be judged and emission reductions assessed; procedures for programmes of activities that allow an unlimited number of projects over a wide area to be run under a single administrative umbrella; and guidelines on so-called



suppressed demand, which allows projects in under-developed areas that do not have significant emissions to potentially qualify for registration.

“Much work has been done, especially in the past two years, to release the potential of the CDM,” said Maosheng Duan, Chair of the CDM Executive Board. “At 4,000 projects, the CDM has reached an important milestone. The threat posed by climate change requires that we continue, that we do much more and go much farther.”

To date, some 1500 projects in 47 countries have been issued a total of more than 900 million certified emission reduction credits. (See below)

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About the CDM

The clean development mechanism (CDM) allows emission-reduction projects in developing countries to earn certified emission reductions (CERs), each equivalent to one tonne of CO₂. CERs can be traded and sold, and used by industrialized countries to meet a part of their emission reduction targets under the Kyoto Protocol.

With 4,000 registered projects in 74 developing countries, the CDM has proven to be a powerful mechanism to deliver finance for emission-reduction projects and contribute to sustainable development.

About the UNFCCC

With 195 Parties, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has near universal membership and is the parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol has been ratified by 193 of the UNFCCC Parties. Under the Protocol, 37 States, consisting of highly industrialized countries and countries undergoing the process of transition to a market economy, have legally binding emission limitation and reduction commitments. The ultimate objective of both treaties is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system.

See also: cdm.unfccc.int
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