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PRESS RELEASE

From refrigerators, to cable cars, to solar lights, Kyoto Protocol mechanism evolves to meet demand for clean, sustainable development

(Bonn, 26 September 2008) – The way is clear for the launch of a wide array of new projects in the energy efficiency and renewable areas, ranging from refrigerators to solar-power high-efficiency lights and geothermal heat for developing country households, under the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), opening significant opportunities to cut greenhouse gas emissions and support sustainable development at the same time.

The CDM Executive Board, which regulates approval of projects that allow developed nations to offset a part of their own carbon emissions by investment in carbon-reducing projects in the developing world, agreed to four new methodologies and revised a fifth under its approval process that will allow these new types of projects to be considered under the CDM.

"These new methodologies greatly expand the range of emission reduction projects under the CDM. They could go a long way to scaling up the mechanism and spreading the sustainable development benefits of the mechanism to more countries in two important areas, energy efficiency and renewables," said CDM Executive Board Chair Rajesh Kumar Sethi.

Under the CDM, greenhouse gas emission reduction projects in developing countries can earn emission offset credits, called certified emission reductions (CERs). There are now more than 1160 CDM projects in 49 countries. Countries with an emission reduction or limitation commitment under the Kyoto Protocol can use CERs, each equivalent to one tonne of carbon dioxide, to meet a part of their obligations under the Protocol.

Each registered CDM project makes use of a methodology for establishing baseline greenhouse gas emissions and for monitoring ongoing emissions. There are currently



about 120 methodologies approved for use under CDM, covering a broad range of project types, or scopes.

“Together these methodologies are a practical example of the innovation, flexibility and wide-ranging applicability possible under the CDM,” said Mr. Sethi at the close of the Board’s forty-second meeting.

The Executive Board on Friday approved the following:

AM0070: Manufacturing of energy efficient domestic refrigerators

This methodology targets the use of appliances in the household sector, an area where great potential for reducing GHG emissions remains unexploited. Under this methodology, manufacturers of more efficient refrigerators can earn credits for efficiency gains compared to the norm.

This methodology is especially noteworthy because it applies an innovative and simple approach to assessing additionality of the project. To demonstrate this, a relevant industry sector benchmark is used to both identify the baseline and to calculate the emission reductions. The benchmark is also updated annually.

Under the CDM, emission reductions must be real, measurable, verifiable and “additional” to what would have occurred without the project. The innovative approach to additionality in AM0070 responds to a request from Kyoto Protocol Parties for the Executive Board to “consider new proposals to demonstrate additionality with a view to including approved approaches for the demonstration of additionality in baseline methodologies”.

AMS III.U: Cable cars for mass rapid transit system

This new small-scale methodology covers public transport projects involving a new cable car line as part of a mass transit system that displaces fossil fuel based transport modes. Cable cars for mass transit is a novelty in developing countries, indeed anywhere (Roosevelt Island Tramway and Portland aerial tram, both in the United States, are perhaps the only operating systems). The project for which the methodology was submitted, if registered, would involve implementation in Ciudad Bello, Colombia, of a 2.05 km system, moving 3000 people per hour (half a million per month) at 21.6 km/hour.

AM0071: Manufacturing and servicing of domestic refrigeration appliances using a low ‘global warming potential’ refrigerant

This methodology is the first to promote alternatives to HFC-134a, a very potent greenhouse gas. It is hoped that approval of the methodology will encourage development of more methodologies and project activities aimed at introduction of climate-friendly alternative technologies and substances in domestic appliances and commercially used equipment.



AM0072: Fossil fuel displacement by geothermal resources for space heating

Under this methodology, project participants can earn credits by using geothermal energy for household space heating.

AMS I A: Electricity generation by the user

Also at its forty-second meeting, the Executive Board approved a significant revision to small-scale methodology AMS I A, which will facilitate distribution of efficient renewable energy lighting equipment, such as solar powered LED lamps to low-income households, to displace the use of kerosene for lighting.

Note to journalists:

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