



July/August, 2011

The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) is pleased to provide to you its Climate Change News Update. This is a compilation of major new events internationally and regionally. It also includes updates on new studies, reports and resource material on climate change. Please note that information provided is sourced from other news links. The source and link to the original news material is provided.

International News

1. Concerns ahead of S. Africa climate talks

Source: AFP

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's preparations to host the next major round of climate talks have met with scepticism from activists critical of what they say is the country's lack of leadership on environmental issues.

The high-level meeting of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, scheduled for November 28 to December 9 in the eastern port city of Durban, is seen as the last chance to renew the Kyoto Protocol, the only international agreement with binding targets for cutting greenhouse gases.

But environmentalists have voiced concern that South African organisers are not doing enough to lay the groundwork for an ambitious conference that will make hard commitments on climate change and raise the cash to achieve them.

Read more at website:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hGK7wNQHcFzzn3nELhxJWoFK9zjA?docId=CNG.36dce69df0a155bfd2fa1a3a5f92f6e1.f61>

2. China set to cap energy use in national low-carbon plan

Source : Beijing (Reuters), Aug 4 2011

A cap on Chinese energy consumption is expected to be the highlight of a comprehensive low-carbon plan to be issued later this year, but it might not be as tough as expected, experts say.

Capping energy use will form the cornerstone of China's efforts to curb surging greenhouse gas emissions, the world's highest and making up a quarter of the global total.

China is using the fight against climate change to make its economy more efficient and kick-start emissions trading schemes over the next five years.

A five-year plan to improve energy efficiency, cut greenhouse gases and tackle pollution was approved "in principle" last month by a panel set up by China's cabinet, the State Council, and chaired by Premier Wen Jiabao.

Read More at website: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/08/04/us-china-carbon-idUSTRE7731DF20110804>

3. UNESCO to Launch Course on Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development

Source , IISD 20 July 2011

The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) will launch a Teacher Education Course on Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development (CCESD) in late 2011. The course is being developed for UNESCO by professors at Sustainability Frontiers, an international alliance of sustainability and global educators.

The course will be launched in advance of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, or Rio+20) and is designed to build the capacity of teachers in facilitating CCESD with the aim of helping young people to: understand the causes and consequences of climate change; change their attitudes and behaviors to mitigate future climate change; and build resilience in the face of existing climate change impacts, including through disaster risk reduction (DRR).

Read more at website: <http://climate-iisd.org/news/unesco-to-launch-course-on-climate-change-education-for-sustainable-development/>

Regional News

4. Small islands launch “SIDS DOCK”

Source: IISD

3 August 2011: The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) has announced the launch of SIDS DOCK, an international organization intended to catalyze sustainable energy projects in small island developing States (SIDS).

With US\$14.5 million in funding from Denmark's parliament, SIDS DOCK will operate as a "docking station," connecting small islands with US and EU technologies, capital and carbon markets. SIDS DOCK is expected to be operational by September 2011.

According to Vince Henderson, Dominica's Ambassador to the UN, and Chair of the SIDS DOCK Steering Committee, the majority of small islands currently rely on fossil fuel imports and face growing debt as a result. In order to "radically transform" their economies, SIDS DOCK was developed jointly by AOSIS, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). SIDS DOCK will be led by an Executive Director and overseen by a Board of Directors, including AOSIS members, development partner organizations and technical experts. The organization also will partner with the World Bank and UN Development Programme (UNDP).

National Coordinators of SIDS DOCK will be responsible for coordinating the development of national, regional and inter-regional priorities in renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation projects, and for ensuring successful project coordination and outcomes. The first meeting of the SIDS DOCK National Coordinators, held from 27-28 July 2011, served as the launch.

According to AOSIS, SIDS DOCK aims to facilitate the development of a sustainable energy sector in small islands, providing the foundation for low carbon economic growth and adaptation to climate change, with the result of assisting small islands to generate at least 50 percent of their electric power from renewable sources, decrease petroleum use by 20 to 30 percent, and increase energy efficiency by 25 percent (using a 2005 baseline) by 2033.

Read more at website: <http://larc.iisd.org/news/sids-dock-launched-to-catalyze-renewable-energy/>

5. OECS & the US launch US\$14.5M climate change project

Source: RJR News, July 29, 2011

The United States has launched a US\$14.5 million project to help the nine-nation Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) adapt to climate change.

In a statement marking the launch of the project, funded by the US aid agency, USAID, Sr. Lucian Prime Minister Stephenson King said as the CARICOM head of government with lead responsibility for sustainable development, and having lived through a hurricane in 2010, he remains constantly reminded of the threat that this phenomenon poses to the region's aspirations for sustainable development.

The project – “Reducing Risk to Human and Natural Assets Resulting from Climate Change” – is intended to spark other projects in the Eastern Caribbean to respond to climate change and help the region become more resilient to its effects.

The project will conduct assessments of coastal resources, coastal water quality and dynamics in at least four participating states, and support improvements in management and protection of ports, marinas and other coastal settlements.

In addition, the project will support the implementation of vulnerability reduction and resilience building activities in selected coastal areas, according to the project document.

Where appropriate and feasible the project will seek to promote ecosystem management of coastal resources and sharing of best practices among local fisher-folk and tourism operators, it added.

Read more at website: <http://rjrnewsonline.com/news/regional/oecs-us-launch-us145m-climate-change-project>

6. AOSIS Revises Website

Source: IISD July 2011

The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) has recently revised its website. The revised website highlights the 20th anniversary of AOSIS and the “1.5 to stay alive” campaign, among other sections.

Read more at website:

http://sids-liisd.org/news/aosis-revises-website/?referrer=small-island-developing-states-update&utm_source=lists.iisd.ca&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Small+Island+Developing+States+Update+-+20+July+2011+-+SIDS+Policy+%26+Practice

7. Jamaica taps into Adaptation Fund

Source: Jamaicaobserver.com , August 03, 2011

JAMAICA recently won the endorsement of the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB) for the implementation of a programme designed to strengthen the island's capacity to deal with climate change.

The board gave the go-ahead for the programme —v Enhancing Resilience of the Agriculture Sector and Coastal Areas to Protect Livelihoods and Improve Food Security — at its 14th meeting, held in Bonn, Germany between June 21 and 22.

As such, US\$9.995 million has been earmarked for the programme, making Jamaica the first in the Caribbean to benefit from the fund, which was set up to finance adaptation projects in the developing world.

Read more at website: http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/Jamaica-taps-into-Adaptation-Fund_9364281

8. Suriname: Government launches new agency to formulate climate change policies

Source: Jamaica Gleaner, 2011-08-04 11:39:40

PARAMARIBO, Suriname, CMC – Suriname has launched a Climate Compatible Development Agency (CCDA) tasked with formulating government’s climate change policies.

President Desi Bouterse speaking at the launching ceremony said “the government made a strong commitment to protect our precious environment.

CCDA director John Goedschalk said the task of the agency will be to “consolidate all existing climate change efforts.

“By implementing the agency, Government signals to the world that it’s serious about facing climate change. The establishment of the Climate Compatible Development Agency puts us in the fraternity of developing countries that are signaling their seriousness regarding adaptation,” said the US-trained economist.

He said one of his first goals is to accelerate the first carbon assessment programme in Suriname.

“We will introduce a strategy that is climate change compatible and goes parallel with Government’s development initiatives,” he said, adding that funds would also be sought under the REDD+ programme, designed to use financial incentives to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases from deforestation and forest degradation.

Read more at website: http://go-jamaica.com/news/read_article.php?id=30691

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Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
2nd Floor Lawrence Nicholas Building , Ring Road
Belmopan , Belize
Tel: + (501)822-1104 / 1094; Fax: + (501) 822-1365
Website: www.caribbeanclimate.bz
Email: info@caribbeanclimate.bz