



2nd CC-Newsletter

of the SDC Climate Change & Environment Network, November 2010

FOCUS

At the Brown Bag Lunch of the Global Cooperation of SDC, which took place on November 25 - so to speak on the eve of the **16th Conference of the Parties (COP 16)** which starts on November 29 in **Cancun/Mexico** - Anton Hilber shared his expectations and concerns. He gave an overview of the actual tensions marking the preconditions for any agreement in Cancun. Striking a balance between funding from developed countries and accountability from developing countries is proving difficult for negotiators looking to broker a climate deal in Cancun. On the one hand, some developed countries say they will only agree to a deal if the biggest developing nations agree to make their mitigation actions subject to monitoring, review and external verification. On the other hand, these 'BASIC' countries (*Brazil, South Africa, India and China*) say that the offer on the table of financial and technological support falls far short of what is needed. They also claim that rich countries have not lived up to past promises (see the IIED Briefing for the [Climate Watchlist: key issues for Cancun negotiations](#)). The negotiation mandate given by the Swiss Federal Council aspires to the establishment of a comprehensive new climate regime that would involve commitments for all industrialised states and the most important newly industrialised nations. ([more](#))

SDC Funded Climate Change Projects & Programmes

Vertical Shaft Brick Kiln (VSBK) Technology Reduces Air Pollution in Bangladesh

SDC initiates and supports the transfer of the VSBK technology from China to other Asian countries like Bangladesh. According to World Bank studies, VSBK technology is the most promising energy efficient clean technology suitable for the Bangladesh context. Consequently, a VSBK demonstration package was implemented as a pilot whose results created a substantial interest among the major stakeholders in the brick industry of Bangladesh. ([more](#))

Community Forests Increased by Fivefold in Bhutan

As announced in the Bhutan Observer in September 2010, the number of community forests in the country has increased by almost fivefold since the start of the second phase of the SDC funded participatory forest management project in 2007. This project contributes to the improvement of rural livelihoods through the empowerment of local communities to manage their forest resources in a sustainable manner. ([more](#))



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Promoting Energy Efficient Technologies in Small Scale Industries in India

India ranks among the top ten energy consumers in the world and faces the enormous challenge of meeting the rapidly growing energy needs in a sustainable and equitable manner. More specifically, within the industrial sector, the micro and small & medium enterprises face particular difficulties in meeting their increasing energy requirements. In response, SDC has been promoting clean and energy efficient technologies for India's small industry sector for over 15 years. Joint efforts have resulted in substantial CO₂ reductions, improvements of health and security conditions and emerging markets for new technologies and energy services. A network of Indian, international and Swiss partners continues to spread the benefits of energy efficient technologies in India, South Asia and some African countries. ([more](#))



Getting more out of wood: Biomass gasifier for silk reeling (SDC Asia Brief 02/2010)

Health and Climate: Common Agenda for New Sino Swiss Cooperation

Switzerland was recently invited by the Chinese Ministry of Environment to support the revision of the national air pollution law. Currently more than 400'000 premature deaths per year in China are caused by air pollution. Especially particles from diesel engines (black carbon) cause severe adverse effects on human health besides being a major driver of the greenhouse effect. Consequently, the focus of the sino-swiss cooperation will primarily be on the air pollutants from the transport sector. It will contribute not only to identifying a right set of policies and measures but also support their implementation through the transfer of best available technologies for reducing emissions of such particles. The technology transfer component based on a public-private partnership was initiated last week. ([more](#))

South America's First Refrigerator Recycling Plant

At the beginning of September 2010 South America's first refrigerator recycling plant which captures, destroys and transforms CFCs on-site and saves hundreds of thousands of GHG emissions annually was inaugurated. The plant in the state of Sao Paulo is part of the *Swiss Climate Protection Initiative* supported by SDC, FOEN and SECO. It is hoped that this innovation will be replicated in other parts of South America. For more information on the project, [click here](#). This recycling initiative is supported by the 2nd largest Swiss retail group coop ([more](#)).



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A Programme with Potential for Scaling-up: The Climate Change Adaptation Plan (PACC) in Peru

Climate change has had particularly devastating effects on water resources and threatens other natural resources such as crops in Peru's High Andean Plateau - to the point that it compromises past achievements in the area of food security of the already vulnerable Andean population. In response, a cross-sectoral initiative is being implemented by a variety of actors including the Peruvian government, research institutions (Swiss & Peruvian) and NGOs. [SDC](#) in collaboration with the Peruvian Ministry of Environment initiated this programme in 2008 which combines local and scientific knowledge in order to identify the most suitable adjustment measures. Some examples are: increasing the number of water reserves, introducing crop varieties that are capable of enduring extreme weather conditions, and integrating specific disaster prevention measures in regional planning. For more information on the PACC and its achievements so far, see the [fourteenth edition of the climate change and food security bulletin](#). Peru will be present with the Swiss funded PACC in their national side event at the COP 16 in Cancun.

Also, thanks to the positive results of the PACC including advocacy at several levels, a new policy requiring all public investment projects to assess climate related risks is being considered ([more](#)).



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Also regarding glaciers, in October EurasiaNet reported that **Kyrgyz glaciers** are melting three times faster than in 1950. This might jeopardize Kyrgyzstan's capacity to generate hydropower and adversely affect its downstream neighbours. ([more](#))

Policy Processes

The Road from Copenhagen

Expectations that the Copenhagen climate change conference would result in a new legally binding agreement to extend or complement the Kyoto Protocol were not fulfilled. Instead, a political agreement among around 120 countries was made.

Nevertheless, this agreement addresses all main elements that under negotiations (mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology, forestry and verification) which in itself can be considered an achievement. It also sets a long term aspirational goal of limiting temperature rise to no more than 2°C, establishes a process for recording mitigation targets and actions, as well as foresees mechanisms for supporting developing countries.

Consequently, the question that arises is not whether Copenhagen achieved an agreement for solving the climate change problem (because it didn't), but rather whether it brought the international community a step forward in the right direction in the current political environment.

The conference was set in a context where the two most important players – China and the United States – did not at all agree on the architecture of a new framework. Secondly, it was the **first conference** whose success depended on addressing the emissions of developing **and** developed countries, which **constitutes a fundamental change in the dynamics of the climate change negotiations**. Therefore, some weaknesses of Copenhagen can also be seen as strengths: China was satisfied by the political rather than legal nature of the agreement while the U.S. condition of having symmetric targets for developing and developed countries was also respected.

Nevertheless, the conclusion that the Copenhagen conference was a step in the right direction brings us back to the question of the path ahead. Should increased effort be put in the negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) or are there reasonable arguments to leave this globally legitimate forum and proceed under the auspices of the **Copenhagen Accord**? Or might yet another piecemeal approach be more appropriate in the current political realities? ([more](#))

The Conference of the Parties (COP), at its fifteenth session, took note of the Copenhagen Accord of 18 December 2009 by way of decision 2/CP.15. The text of the Copenhagen Accord can be found [here](#).



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Information provided by Annex I Parties relating to Appendix I of the Copenhagen Accord (quantified economy-wide emissions targets for 2020) can be found [here](#).

[See here](#) for information provided by non-Annex I Parties relating to Appendix II of the Copenhagen Accord (nationally appropriate mitigation actions of developing country Parties)

The development of the worldwide emission trade seems to be closely linked to the ongoing negotiations. [Click here](#) to see the a summary of the progress report, indicating where compliance initiatives stand as we enter the last quarter of 2010.

Swiss Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (Mid-term report)

In August 2009 the Federal Council commissioned the Department of *Environment, Transport, Energy & Communications* (UVEK) to analyse the climate related risks Switzerland faces and coordinate the elaboration of an adaptation strategy. The final strategy is expected to be presented towards the end of 2011. The mid term report summarises the terms of reference, describes the different roles of the involved institutions as well as the first achievements and further steps on weaving together the different strategies. ([more](#))

Swiss Mitigation Policies and Actions

The Swiss climate and energy policy is based on the Federal Energy Act (1999) which aims at ensuring sufficient, safe, diversified and environmental friendly energy supply and the CO₂ Act (2000) that defines binding targets for CO₂ reduction, giving priority to voluntary measures. These two legal instruments set the framework for the Swiss energy programme as well as the action plans for energy efficiency and renewable energy. A revision of the CO₂ act is under way and a subsequent introduction of new measures foreseen. ([more](#))

Workshop Report: Forest Governance, Decentralisation and REDD+ in Latin America

This country-led initiative in support of the *United Nations Forum on Forests* (UNFF) was led by the governments of Mexico and Switzerland. The main objectives of the Oaxaca workshop were to identify trends, facilitate the sharing of experience and distil lessons learn on the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), forest governance and decentralisation in light of REDD+. A further objective was to identify opportunities and threats to livelihoods and poor people and contribute to the 9th session of the UNFF session scheduled for January 2011. It was also hoped that the workshop would inform discussion during the COP 16 (Conference of the Parties) in Mexico and hereby influence the further design of REDD+.



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Fourteen recommendations to countries and seven to UNFF came out of the workshop. Key recommendations to UNFF include: 1) strengthening the inclusion of local people, including indigenous peoples and women in decision-making and preservation of their cultural and social values through SFM/REDD+; 2) promote synergies between climate change adaptation and mitigation in forests through SFM; 3) emphasise the particular role of SFM in combating forest degradation and its potential for enhancing forest carbon stocks. ([more](#))

Also [click here](#) to see the new section of the UN REDD website - launched in October - on the benefits of REDD+.

Climate Science & Dealing with New Realities

Climate Change: A Summary of the Science

The aim of this paper, published in September 2010 is to summarise the current scientific evidence on climate change and its drivers. It lays out where the science is well established, where there is wide consensus but continuing debate, and where there remains substantial uncertainty. ([more](#))



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Decentralised Power Generation with Renewable Energy Sources: A study of the Use of Jatropha Oil in India

As access to electricity is a primary requirement for communication and small scale industries, it is a major driver for economic development and social prosperity. In rural areas, accessing electricity poses specific challenges. One promising technique for decentralised power generation seems to be the implementation of a power generation plant fuelled by straight vegetable oil from the *jatropha curcas* scrub. This study assesses the environmental sustainability of a jatropha-based electrification project in Chhattisgarh and aims to provide a scientific basis for policy decisions on electrifying remote villages. ([more](#))

Climate Change Threatens Food Security

According to a new study by an international team of scientist, it is likely that the production of rice will be thwarted due to the increase in the temperatures in rice-growing areas and the subsequent loss in yields. In fact, the study shows that rising temperatures over the past 25 years have already cut the yield growth rates by 10-20 percent in several places. The data for the study was gathered in field experiments all over Asia with the support of SDC and was analysed using an econometric approach ([more](#)).

Considering that more than 60 percent of the world's one billion poorest and undernourished people who live in Asia depend on rice this climate induced change on the production of rice is worrying. Unless rice production methods are adapted or new rice strains developed, it is likely that even more people will suffer from hunger and poverty which may also lead to social and political unrest.

Since 2008 a disturbing increase in the number of food riots in food importing (developing) countries has made the headlines. In India, violent street protests erupted at the end of 2009 due to the double digit food price inflation. Frequent public protests caused by the increase in wheat prices followed in 2010 in Egypt, Serbia, Pakistan and Mozambique. Mozambique imports over 60 per cent

of the wheat its people needs and is very vulnerable to extreme weather conditions which provoke drastic changes in global basic commodity prices and changes in the policies of exporting countries (e.g. wheat export bans) as well as the related effects of global commodity speculators. Mozambique's street protests in September coincided not only with a 30 per cent increase in the price of wheat (i.e. bread) but also with double-digit electricity and water hikes. These higher and often unbearable living costs caused by global warming and the related policy responses are expected to keep fuelling social unrest ([more](#)).

The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Reform and the IPCC Annual Plenary Meeting in a Nutshell

The IPCC is a scientific body which reviews and assesses the most recent scientific, technical and socio-economic information produced worldwide relevant to the understanding of climate change. Every six years it releases a report with overarching conclusions of the science related to climate change. Due to strong criticism towards its fourth report (released in 2007), an independent review team of scientists was commissioned by the UN to conduct a review of the IPCC. The conclusions of this review were released at the end of August this year and include calls for adopting a rigorous conflict of interest policy, stronger enforcement of review policies to avoid errors and many [more](#).

During annual plenary meeting of the IPCC in South Korea last month it adopted new guidelines on dealing with scientific uncertainties and delegated the review of other proposed reforms to committees. A decision from the panel on those reform proposals is expected in May 2011. Chairman Rajendra Pachauri confirmed his intention to stay in his post until the next assessment is published in 2014 ([more](#)).

This report, also known as AR5 (fifth assessment report), will focus on factors that materially affect people's lives, such as the Asian monsoon. It will also look at what aspects of climate change might be irreversible e.g. lead to transformations of the Earth's land, air and oceans that are irreparable on human timescales ([more](#)).

Climate Change Chat

SDC hosted a 2nd Climate Change Briefing with Ken Chomitz, Senior Advisor in the Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) of the World Bank on the Monitoring & Evaluation of Adaptation Approaches. With the increasing interest in climate adaptation and the growing financial support for adaptation efforts, monitoring and evaluation (also ex ante) is essential in order to ensure that adaptation needs are met in the most effective and efficient manner. Do specific efforts aimed at promoting adaptation actually bring the intended results in an efficient way? How do we deal with efforts that may promote adaptation (even though they are not labelled as such)? [More](#)

This Climate Change Newsletter distributes internal news of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), as well as Swiss and international news related to climate change and development cooperation relevant for the work of SDC. The newsletter includes links to sites or documents giving further information in the internet, SDC IntraWeb and the Data Management System (DMS). Do not hesitate to ask the [Global Programme on Climate Change](#) (GPCC) for articles you do not have access to.

Send us Climate Change related news you consider essential for the SDC for the January 2011 newsletter! However, please note that in order not to exceed the size of 4 pages, we need to screen the news and make a selection. Help us by making a pre-selection, by already translating to English, shortening, eventually simplifying text, adding links - you will have a greater chance of find your news here!

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Any SDC staff member concerned by Climate Change can be a Climate Change Briefer or nominate someone from partner organisation dealing with a climate change relevant program! For more information see: ["How to proceed for a good CC Briefing"](#)!

Key Resources

Below is a list of resources worth looking at regularly or subscribe to:

- [Follow the preparations for the Cancun negotiations within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#)
- [Get the daily news on the development of international climate change policy development](#)
- [Multilateral Environmental Agreements \(MEAs\) Bulletin](#)

Special thanks go to the following network members for submitting articles for this edition of the CC&E Newsletter:

- **Veena Joshi from the COOF in New Delhi**
Article on Promoting Energy Efficient Technologies in Small Scale Industries in India)
- **Jean Gabriel Duss from the GPCC**
Article on Health and Climate: Common Agenda for New Sino Swiss Cooperation
- **Markus Schäfer** from Eastern Europe/CIS section
Article on Kyrgyz Glaciers

Please send your climate change related news for the January 2011 Newsletter:

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