

UNEP in Asia Pacific NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2011

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

CONTENTS

News in the Region

- o Thais Tense As Floods Set To Swamp More Of Capital
- o China may emit more carbon per person than U.S. by 2017
- o Pacific islands to map coastal hazards
- o Indonesia Green Power Steams Ahead As Economy Booms
- o Growing energy demand key challenge for Asean

What's News in UNEP Asia-Pacific

- o UNEP Joins UN Day Celebrations in China
- o Indonesian and Philippines Students Co-Winners of 2011 Bayer Young Environmental Leader Award
- o Centre on Sustainable Buildings in Southeast Asia
- o Asia Pacific Major Groups and Stakeholders Meet on Rio+20
- o Cities Lead Change towards Resource Efficiency and Green Economy
- o Royal Launch in Bhutan for New Ozone and Climate Plan

...and more...

Inspiring Stories

- o Carbon Bank and Village Development Project
- o Improving Productivity of Marginal Lands in Mountainous Areas - MDI – Sasakawa Prize Laureate 2011
- o Reducing the Environmental Impact of Bangladesh's Ship Breaking Industry

On the Move

Get Involved

DID YOU KNOW?

Over one quarter of the world's total CO₂ emissions from transport in 2008 were from Asia and the Pacific.

- ESCAP Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2011 Statistical Yearbook 2011



News in the Region

PG. 2



Photo: Reuters



Photo: Global Warming Images / Alamy

Thais Tense As Floods Set To Swamp More Of Capital

Date: 25-Oct-11, Author: Apornrath Phoonthongphiphat and Martin Petty

More districts of Thailand's capital were on high alert on Monday with floods bearing down from northern Bangkok as authorities raced to pump water toward the sea and defend the business district.

Hundreds of people were evacuated over the weekend as water in residential areas of the northern Lak Si and Don Muang suburbs reached levels as high as two meters (six feet), testing flood defenses and spilling out of swollen canals and rivers.

<http://www.grist.org/>

China may emit more carbon per person than U.S. by 2017

by Christopher Mims for <http://www.grist.org/>

29 Sep 2011 China is now the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world, but its per-capita emissions are still less than those of the average U.S. citizen. In six years, that could flip, says a new report from the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency that was sponsored by the European Commission.

Current U.S. per-capita emissions are 16.9 tons, down from a peak of 19.7 tons. A host of factors, including peak travel, the decimation of the U.S. economy, and the continued shift toward moving manufacturing overseas could continue the downward trend, even as China's emissions continue to rise. Those two trend lines could cross in 2017.

<http://www.grist.org/>



Flickr/mrlins

Pacific islands to map coastal hazards

Cherelle Jackson, 18 September 2011

[APIA, Samoa] Pacific Island researchers will be trained in skills such as coastal hazard mapping as part of a programme to use science to make coastal communities safer and more resilient.

The US\$1.3-million programme is part of an expansion of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Storms Program (CSP) into US-affiliated Pacific Islands, beginning next month (October) and led by the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program.

[Read Full Story](#)



Photo: Shutterstock

Indonesia Green Power Steams Ahead As Economy Booms

Date: 25-Jul-11, Author: David Fogarty and Alfian

Indonesia can't get enough power to feed its booming economy and fortunately for Mochamad Sofyan, investors are lining up to invest billions of dollars in the country's growing green power sector.

Sofyan, head of the new and renewable energy division at state utility PLN, is busier than ever as an increasing number of foreign and local firms file into his office looking to invest in geothermal, hydro and biomass power projects.

[Read Full Story](#)



<http://www.eco-business.com>

Growing energy demand key challenge for Asean

August 5th, 2011, By : Jenny Marusiak

Asean's energy demand is projected to grow nearly 50 per cent by 2030. Member countries need to take bold and swift action to manage its energy requirements in a sustainable way.

Asean nations must connect its economies and energy networks to meet the bloc's future energy needs, said experts at the fourth Asean and Asia conference yesterday.

With Asean's energy demand projected to grow nearly 50 per cent by 2030, the member countries of the Association of Southeast Asia Nations need to take bold action to manage energy requirements in a sustainable way, said panellists at the conference organised by the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA).

[Read Full Story](#)

Strong policy, corporate approach key to solving Asia's water problems

Published : Friday, July 8th, 2011
By : Jenny Marusiak

Asia's developing countries need to delink water management and politics - Professor Kallidaikurichi, Singapore's Institute of Water Policy. Photo: Singapore International Water Week

Asia's governments need to set good water policies, and then let the utilities do their jobs. A corporate approach, separate from politics, creates the stable business environments necessary for private sector investment in safe and clean water for Asian cities.

[Read Full Story](#)



What's New in UNEP Asia-Pacific



PG. 5

Support for Rio+20 Preparations in Asia Pacific

UNEP worked with member states and Major Groups and Stakeholder in the region for the Rio + 20 preparation process to ensure tangible results in 2012.

From the ASEAN Working Group Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production in Jakarta in April this year, to the Central Asian Interstate Sustainable Development Commission (ICSD) in May, the High-Level Symposium on UNCSD in Beijing in August, the South Asia Association of Regional Cooperation Meeting (SAARC) in Thimphu in September, and Sub-regional Chairs Dialogue on Environmental Policy (SEPD) along with the ASEAN Ministerial Roundtable on UNCSD in October, each of the five sub-regions, including Northeast Asia and the Pacific, were covered in a coordinated effort for sub-regional and regional preparation by partnering with UN ESCAP, ADB other related organizations and member states.

In addition, UNEP also supported Major Group participation in the Northeast Asia Ministerial Meeting and the Rio+20 meeting organized by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and UNDESA. The Asia Pacific Major Groups and Stakeholder consultation on Rio+20 was organized by UNEP with the support of the Asian Development Bank and UNESCAP in October.



UNEP Joins UN Day Celebrations in China

25 October 2011 –UN Day in China was marked with various activities in Diaoyutai State Guest House on October 24th, Organized by UN system in China and UN Association of China. UN SG, Mr Ban Ki-moon stressed the need for unity in his message for UN Day, marking the anniversary of the day the Organization was founded 66 years ago. “Global problems demand global solutions,” Mr. Ban said.

Ms. Tian Wei, CCTV Anchor, hosted the commemorative event and it was marked with speeches from the distinguished guests of UN Under Secretary-General Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and honorary President of the UN Association in China Ambassador Li Daoyu. One of the main highlights of the event was a speech delivered by Mr Wu Hailong, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, in which he reminded audience that October 25th is the 40th anniversary of the People's Republic of China's restoration of lawful seat at the UN.

UNEP joined the event as a member of UN System in China. Mr. Yuan Xikun, UNEP Patron for the Arts, and Environment representatives from various embassies, government leaders, NGOs, media and other UNEP partners in China attended the event to exchange ideas on how best to seek solutions for the key challenges facing humanity and strengthen cooperation between China and UN.

The event also saw the importance of cultural diversity, joined by performance from famous Chinese singer Ms. Song Zuying, Minority University Affiliated Middle School Choir and China Philharmonic Orchestra String Quartet.

On the occasion of the UN Day, UNEP China received congratulatory letter from Xinhua News Agency with appreciation for the joined action UNEP did with Xinhua's African Bureau, stressing the united efforts to promote peace and sustainability under the framework of UN MDGs.

What's New in UNEP Asia-Pacific



PG. 6



The four co-winners of the Young Environmental Leader Award receiving their prizes in Germany

Indonesian and Philippines Students Co-Winners of 2011 Bayer Young Environmental Leader Award

Sara Rudianto from Indonesia and Mary Jade Gabanes from the Philippines, along with two students from Ecuador and Kenya, were awarded the 2011 Bayer Young Environmental Leader Award.

Sara Rudianto's developed a small bioreactor for cooking in households, an alternative source of fuel for the firewood while Mary Jade Gabanes established an environmental education programmes for children with special needs

[Read the full story](#)

Centre on Sustainable Buildings in Southeast Asia

The Building and Construction Authority of Singapore (BCA) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) finalized an agreement to collaborate on work to promote and establish sustainable building policies and practices in the Southeast Asia region. On 14 September, at the International Green Building Conference 2011, held during Singapore Green Building Week, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed, formalizing cooperation between BCA and UNEP to provide policy advice and outreach activities related to sustainable resource management in the building sector.

[Read the full story](#)

Cities Lead Change towards Resource Efficiency and Green Economy

Mayors and city officials from 80 cities meeting in Gwangju, Korea, Oct 11-13 agreed to steer cities of the 21st century onto a green, resource efficient and low-carbon trajectory.

In the Gwangju Cities Declaration, at the end of the three-day Summit of the Urban Environmental Accords in Gwangju, Korea, Mayors and city officials agreed to work towards an Urban Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and a common benchmarking system, in the context of an Urban Environment Framework, to assess progress towards making their cities sustainable.

[Read Full Story](#)

Royal Launch in Bhutan for New Ozone and Climate Plan

The Royal Government of Bhutan has unveiled a new commitment to phase out ozone-depleting substances.

The initiative, which is supported by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), was launched last week by Bhutan's Royal bride-to-be, Ashi Jetsun Pema, in the courtyard of Tashichho Dzong, the seat of the nation.

[Read the full story](#)

World Young Tell Governments to Bank on the Green Economy

The world's young, meeting at the UNEP International Children and Youth Conference on the Environment in Bandung, Indonesia, today made an impassioned plea to world leaders to safeguard their world and future and 'move' to a green economy.

What's New in UNEP Asia-Pacific



PG. 7

Released at the closing ceremony of the Conference, the Bandung Declaration, penned by children and youth the ages of 8-24 years from some 126 countries, applauded the achievements of the Earth Summit that took place in 1992 and asked governments and corporations to deliver on the promises made at the meeting 20 years ago, at the upcoming Rio+20 meeting that will take place June 4-6, 2012, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

[Read the full story](#)



Trisha Co Reyes

13-Year-Old Artist from Philippines Wins UNEP International Children's Painting Competition

A love of walking in forests in her home country of the Philippines inspired the winning entry of 13-year-old Trisha Co Reyes in the 2011 International Children's Painting Competition on the Environment. Trisha beat over 600,000 other young people to win first place in the competition, which is organised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

[Read the full story](#)

Asia-Pacific – Big Resource Efficiency Gains Key Opportunity for 21 Century Prosperity

A new 'green' industrial revolution is needed in the Asia-Pacific region that catalyzes dramatic improvements in resource efficiency if the countries

and communities there are to prosper in the 21 century.

A new report launched today estimates that per capita resource consumption of 'materials' in the region, such as construction minerals and fuels, needs to be around 80 per cent less than today if sustainable development is to be achieved.

[Read the full story](#)

China Commits to Landmark Agreement with Dual Ozone and Climate Benefits

China, the largest producer and consumer of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), which not only harm the ozone layer but also the climate due to their high global-warming potential, has been granted US \$265 million to cut its use of these gases by 2015.

The funding approved by the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol will support China's commitment to make a real change to the global environment as well as a contribution to the Green Economy. China and its HCFC-consuming industries have made a significant step towards achieving the first reductions in HCFCs mandated by the Montreal Protocol, the world's most successful environmental agreement.

[Read the full story](#)

Meeting of Experts on Marine Biodiversity and Eutrophication

The Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Centre (NPEC) organized a meeting on biodiversity and eutrophication on 4-5 August 2011 in Toyama, Japan. Experts at the meeting

What's New in UNEP Asia-Pacific

PG. 8



were from NOWPAP member countries (China, Japan, Korea and Russia), Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the United States. The two-day meeting was devoted to discussions on current and future activities for the Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre (CEARAC) of NOWPAP. The suggested activities was presented to the Focal Points Meeting of CEARAC on 6-7 September in Toyama for adoption and to the 16th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting later this year for final approval.

Subregional Environmental Policy Dialogue (SEPD-8)

Policy makers and experts from the five subregions of the Asia Pacific met on 17 October 2011 in Seoul, Republic of Korea to discuss key issues on Rio+20 in their region. The 8th meeting of the Asia Pacific Subregional Environmental Policy Dialogue discussed Global issues, Rio+20 preparatory process and the main themes of Green Economy, IFSD and Emerging issues. This document captures the main message and outcome of the meeting.

Rio+20 must reinvigorate efforts and commitments to achieve sustainable development. Rio+20 should focus on both strengthening the environmental pillar while also provide a more coherent and effective institutional framework for sustainable development and provide the pathway and the political buy-in for a Green Economy.

The meeting was organized jointly by the Government of Republic of Korea and UNEP.

Poverty and Environment: Institutionalising Poverty, Environment and Climate In National Planning and Budgeting

What can governments do to address the combined challenges of poverty, environmental degradation and climate change? Can poverty be reduced and the environment better managed – at the same time and how can poor women and men be made more secure from climate change?

These were some of the issues that were discussed when 50 senior government representatives and development partners of the UNDP-UNEP Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI) in Asia Pacific met in September in Thailand. The meeting, co-hosted by the UN with the government of Thailand, was organized to review lessons learned and experiences of institutionalising pro-poor environment and climate mainstreaming into national planning and budgeting processes. For more information, you can visit www.unpei.org

Special Feature: Rio+20

Poor nations 'need to find own path to green economy'

T.V. Padma, 6 October 2011

Delegates raised concerns over transfer of affordable sustainable technologies

[NEW DELHI] Developing countries should be given 'policy space' to tailor policies on the transition to a green economy that match their development priorities, an international meeting has heard.

There is no 'one size fits all' solution and national priorities should define each country's strategy for environmentally friendly growth, environment ministers and senior officials of more than 40 countries told a meeting organised by the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) and India's Ministry of Environment and Forests in New Delhi this week (3-4 October).

[Read Full Story](#)

Asia Pacific Major Groups and Stakeholders Meet on Rio+20

Nearly 124 Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS), representing nine Major groups participated in th Major Groups and Stakeholders Asia Pacific Meeting 2011, which was held from 17–18 October 2011. Discussions in the meeting were organized under four themes: Regional and Sub-regional priorities and emerging challenges, Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, Institutional framework for sustainable development, and Access to information, public participation and environmental justice.

A number of MGS who participated in the meeting also joined the Asia Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting that took place Oct. 19-20, 2011 in Seoul, where they shared the MGS Asia Pacific statement. Different major groups were also able to share their statements during the meeting.

[Read the full story](#)

Climate Conversations - Can Rio+20 save multilateral environment talks?

By Thin Lei Win | Thu., October 20, 2:37 PM

Climate talks are bogged down, carbon emissions are rising and concerns over the impacts of extreme weather events are increasing, with floods and storms dominating the nightly news in Asia.

By focusing on concrete, practical actions that promote sustainable development and reduce carbon emissions, the Rio+20 Earth Summit next June has the potential to bypass the politics of global climate negotiations and make real impact to the lives of people, activists say.

However, waning political commitment, foot-dragging by rich countries and a lack of trust and negotiation time might doom the Rio+20 meeting. And activists say failure in Rio could spell the death knell of multilateral talks to solve the pressing issue of climate change.

[Read Full Story](#)

Disgruntled Activists Meet in Seoul Ahead of Summit

By Zofeen Ebrahim, Oct 21, 2011 (IPS)

As extreme weather conditions, rising carbon emissions, unprecedeted global economic crises and widening social inequalities throw the planet increasingly off balance, the world is gearing up for another earth summit.

However, the big question on the table is whether the next Rio+20 U.N. conference on sustainable development, slated to be held in Brazil in June 2012, will be just another talking shop.

Will governments deliberate endlessly on how to save the earth, end poverty and emerge from the global recession through a series of multilateral negotiations, or will they provide the urgent impetus for international momentum on swift solutions to the world's social and environmental crises?

[Read Full Story](#)

Inspiring Stories

PG. 10



<http://www.seedinit.org>

SEED Award Winner 2009

Carbon Bank and Village Development Project

The Carbon Bank and Village Development Project (VDP) enables successful climate change adaptation, local socio-economic development, and biodiversity conservation in rural Thailand.

Since 2005, the initiative has encouraged, supported and enhanced community-based indigenous forestry through carbon offsets. Trees planted in the project community forests generate carbon credits which are sold to local, national and international businesses and individuals. Businesses and individuals increasingly purchase carbon credits to offset emissions and the project's innovative product provides more value for today's demanding market since it combines village development with market-based carbon trading.

[Read Full Story](#)

Sasakawa Prize Laureate 2011

Improving Productivity of Marginal Lands in Mountainous Areas - MDI

by Christopher Mims for <http://www.grist.org/>

Manahari Development Institute – Nepal (MDI-Nepal) has introduced agroforestry to help improve crop productivity and water irrigation systems as well as reduce soil erosion on the forested hills and mountainous areas. The organisation's approach helps reduce soil erosion and its consequences that can include aquatic habitat alteration, coastal contamination, and loss of productive farm land. With the involvement of the indigenous community, MDI-Nepal delivers economic and social benefits to more than 2,000 households by improving the productivity of marginal lands with the planting of various fruit crops, and by providing clean energy technologies, such as solar home systems, improved cooking stoves and biogas stoves.

[Read Full Story](#)

Reducing the Environmental Impact of Bangladesh's Ship Breaking Industry

Syeda Rizwana Hasan

Goldman Environment Prize Winner 2009 [Read Full Story](#)

“The best thing one can do to secure the future of her children is to leave behind a livable earth – a place that allows us to breathe, dream, evolve, assist and when necessary, resist.”





Japan

The former Justice Minister of Japan, H.E. Mr. Satsuki Eda, has been appointed Minister of Environment of Japan and succeeded H.E. Mr. Ryu Matsumoto's previous environmental duties.

Nepal

H.E. Mr. Sunil Kumar Manandhar is Nepal's newly appointed Minister of Environment. He succeeded H.E. Mr. Thakur Prasad Sharma.

Papua New Guinea

H.E. Mr. Thompson Harokaqveh was recently appointed as Minister of Environment and Conservation for Papua New Guinea.

Republic of Korea

H.E. Dr. Young-sook Yoo is currently the Republic of Korea's Minister of Environment. Prior to her appointment, Dr. Yoo was Vice President, Research Division, Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) as well as an advisor to the Presidential Advisory Council on Education, Science & Technology.

Viet Nam

H.E. Mr. Nguyen Minh Quang succeeded H.E. Mr. Pham Khoi Nguyen as Viet Nam's newly elected Minister of Natural Resources and Environment.

Get Involved

7 Billion Actions – A Global Movement for All Humanity



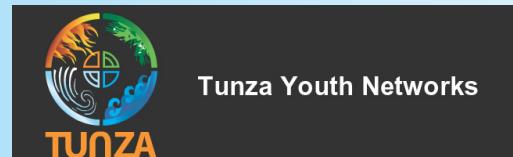
7 Billion Actions, established by the United Nations Population Fund, inspires change that will make a difference by highlighting positive action by individuals and organizations around the world.

Pledge and Plant, Join the Billion Tree Campaign



Under the Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign, people, communities, organizations, business and industry, civil society and governments are being encouraged to plant trees and enter their tree planting pledges on this web site. The objective is to plant at least one billion trees worldwide each year.

Be In - informed, inspired and inspire! Join the UNEP Asia Pacific Tunza Youth Network



As a Tunza Youth Network Member you will join a dynamic group of young people who not only are talking but taking action to make a positive difference in their world.

 Join us on Facebook