

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below periodic thematic digest on Climate Change from the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN). I hope the following updates would be useful to enrich ongoing discussion on 'Climate Change in Mountain Areas of Asia: What are our priority issues for the Copenhagen meeting (CoP 15)?'. Looking forward to receive APMN community's views on mountain climate change.

Regards,

APMN team

NEWS

[1] Climate Change Risks Could Cost Developing Countries Up to 19% of GDP by 2030

September 14, 2009

A report from the Economics of Climate Adaptation Working Group indicates that climate risks could cost nations up to 19% of their GDP by 2030, with developing countries most vulnerable. The report concludes, however, that cost effective adaptation measures already exist that can prevent between 40 and 68 percent of the expected economic loss with even higher levels of prevention possible in highly target geographies.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/pressRelease/idUS89284+14-Sep-2009+PRN20090914>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/qr3m63>

[2] Wind could meet China's electricity needs by 2030: study

September 10, 2009

China could meet all of its future electricity needs with wind power if the government continues to subsidize the development of wind farms with price guarantees, a study published Thursday has found. Already the world's largest emitter of carbon dioxide, China's electricity needs are expected to double in the next two decades and it is currently adding several new coal-fired power plants to its grid every week.

Source:

http://www.winddaily.com/reports/Wind_could_meet_Chinas_electricity_needs_by_2030_study_999.html

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/mgb7ym>

[3] 21 countries call for cleaner production policies

September 10, 2009

Twenty-one countries from the Asia-Pacific region agreed yesterday to promote “ecologically sustainable pattern of development” through cleaner production technologies and practices in the face of the growing concern over global warming and climate change.

In the first day of the International Conference on Green Industry in Asia held at the Philippine International Convention Center, ministers and senior officials signed the Manila Declaration calling for cleaner production policies in national development plans. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) hosted the event in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UN Environment Program (UNEP), and UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

Source:

<http://www.philstar.com/Article.aspx?articleId=503928&publicationSubCategoryId=63>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/l5mhsz>

[4] EU considers 15 bln euros to help poor nations on climate

September 9, 2009

The European Union will propose giving developing countries 15 billion euros annually to help fight climate change, Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt said Wednesday.

Reinfeldt said that the figure, which represents a target annual contribution to be reached by 2020, is a "starting-point" in negotiations on a new global deal to combat climate change after Kyoto Protocol requirements expire in 2012. "The (European) Commission has presented 15 billion (euros) as the European part of the global response," said Reinfeldt, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency.

Source:

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/EU_considers_15_bln_euros_to_help_poor_nations_on_climate_999.html

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/nukbxr>

[5] Climate change brings natural disasters and disease

September 9, 2009

Climate change has set in, with global temperatures projected to rise up to 4 degrees Celsius by 2100. We must prepare for climate change bringing more natural disasters that favour mosquito-borne disease, says Jai P. Narain from the WHO.

Source:

<http://www.scidev.net/en/health/climate-change-insect-borne-disease/opinions/climate-change-brings-natural-disasters-and-diseas.html>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/pb8fum>

[6] Japan vows big climate change cut

September 7, 2009

Japan's next leader has promised a big cut in greenhouse gas emissions, saying he will aim for a 25% reduction by 2020 compared with 1990 levels.

"With such a target, Japan will take on the leadership role that industrialized countries have agreed to take in climate change abatement," Yvo de Boer, head of the UN Climate Change Secretariat, told the conference. Japan is the world's second-largest economy and fifth-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, which are a major contributor to climate change.

Source:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8241016.stm>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/ly8zj4>

[7] ADB Supports Clean Waste to Energy Project in China

September 7, 2009

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed an agreement to lend up to \$200 million to China Everbright International Limited to develop waste-to-energy plants in secondary cities across the People's Republic of China (PRC). It will mark ADB's first private-sector municipal solid waste management project.

Source:

http://thegovmonitor.com/world_news/asia/adb-supports-clean-waste-to-energy-project-in-china-3812.html

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/lputrb>

[8] World Climate Conference-3 Agrees to Establish Global Framework for Climate Services

September 4, 2009

The World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3) convened at the Geneva International Conference Centre in Geneva, Switzerland, from 31 August-4 September 2009, under the theme “Better climate information for a better future.”

WCC-3 was sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and a number of other international bodies, and was attended by more than 2000 participants, including delegates from 165 countries.

Source:

<http://climate-l.org/2009/09/08/world-climate-conference-3-agrees-to-establish-global-framework-for-climate-services/>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/mqovw8>

[9] Will tribes gain from climate change talks?

September 6, 2009

Indigenous peoples (IPs) have gained ground in their fight to have their rights recognized in a new mechanism against climate change, as backed strongly by the Philippine delegation in the ongoing climate change negotiations.

REDD emerged as a viable instrument for limiting carbon discharge in the 2007 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia.

Under this scheme, developing countries would be paid by first-tier nations to reduce carbon emissions from deforestation. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimated that around 15-20 percent of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions come from deforestation.

Tribal communities have been lobbying to be recognized as stakeholders in REDD because forests essentially form part of their ancestral domain. With REDD entering the picture, however, their claims could be challenged.

Source:

<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/special-report/09/05/09/ip-rights-climate-change-talks>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/l2dy55>

[10] Asia Pacific region in peril of Climate Change Energized debate awaits Copenhagen Summit

September 2, 2009

The Asia Pacific region is in peril of the global warming and climate change and the western (and industrialized) countries should (must) bailout the developing countries to cope up with the devastation of sea level rise, flood & drought and salination of surface water in those populous countries-those were some highlights, which were discussed and resolved unanimously in an international environmental journalists' conference in Bangladesh.

Source:

<http://www.lankaweb.com/news/items/2009/09/02/asia-pacific-region-in-peril-of-climate-change-energized-debate-awaits-copenhagen-summit/>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/lywqs3>

EVENTS

[1] CN Net Virtual Conference; 25 September 2009

The Climate Neutral Network (CN Net) has announced the inaugural CN Net Virtual Conference organized by the United Nations Environment Programme in collaboration with the City of Arendal. Held in conjunction with the Global Climate Week (21-25 September), the conference will present the first online knowledge-sharing opportunity for 160-plus CN Net participants around the world, including countries, regions, cities, major companies, leading NGOs, universities and UN agencies.

The conference will provide an update on the state of play in the climate negotiations less than 80 days before the crucial Copenhagen conference where world leaders must Seal the Deal on a comprehensive new agreement that puts the global economy onto a low-carbon path.

The conference will also present best practices in moving towards climate neutrality in the transport sector and provide a forum to discuss standards and criteria for climate neutrality.

Participation is facilitated through the service www.GoToWebinar.com

To register online, <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/820997779>

For more information

<http://www.unep.org/climateneutral/Jointhenetwork/Events/tabid/874/Default.aspx>

[2] Eurasian Strategic Foresight Network ; 15 - 16 October 2009

This project aims at developing a Eurasia Strategic Foresight Network: a network of experts committed to enhancing strategic knowledge and warning capabilities regarding critical Eurasian energy and environmental security issues as well as the impact of such issues on other security challenges in the region.

As part of this broad project a two-day conference on Energy, Environment and Future of Security in Central Asia will be held in Rome (Italy) on October 15th and 16th 2009. The event will involve 35 participants from different cultural backgrounds and with diverse types of expertise. Experts from Central Asia, Russia, China, Europe and North America will be invited. Participants will be from governments, academia, think-tanks, NGOs, and the business community.

The overarching goal of the conference is to enhance decision-makers' knowledge and understanding of how developments in Central Asia's energy sectors and environmental systems will affect the region's future security and stability (for further information see Rome conference concept paper http://globaleese.org/uploads/s31_eurasiaInitiativeConceptPaper.pdf).

Source: <http://globaleese.org/static/initiatives/post/31>

[3] International Conference on "Trade, urbanization and the environment" in Beijing; October 28-30, 2009

Registration is open for "Trade, urbanization and the environment", an international conference to be held on October 28-30, 2009 in Beijing PRC. The conference will explore the interactions of both trade and urbanization processes with environmental protection imperatives. It will focus in particular on the case of China. China is experiencing major transitions: an accelerated economic growth, a rapid urbanization - it is estimated that more than 200 new cities will sprout up between now and 2020 - while dealing with environmental resources that are threatened and unevenly distributed.

The full conference programme can be found at: <http://www.tradeurbanizationenvironment.com>

The forum's main objectives are to:

- (1) Provide a platform for far-reaching dialogue between the government, scientific experts, operators, multi-lateral agencies, and civil society organizations;
- (2) Share international experiences in reconciling the need for environmental protection, clean trade, as well as for environmental friendly management of cities;

(3) Raise concern and awareness for “trade-urbanization-environment” issues among all levels of Chinese society;

(4) Promote quality research in China and internationally related to “Trade, Urbanization and the Environment”, thereby providing firmer factual bases for dialogue between interested parties;

(5) Contribute, ultimately, to the formulation of “trade-environment” and “urbanization-environment” related strategies, policies and programs, so as to assist government policy-making and decision-making in China and other related countries.

[4] Bangladesh to host centre for climate adaptation knowhow

Bangladesh is set to host a new international centre for research and training in climate change adaptation activities. The International Centre for Climate Change and Development's official launch is planned for late November, at the end of its first course, Terry Cannon, the centre's visiting director of studies, told SciDev.Net.

A Master's degree in climate change and development is planned for September next year. The centre will be housed at Independent University on the outskirts of the capital, Dhaka, and is a collaborative effort , the university will be responsible for teaching, training and facilities; the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies will lead research; and the London-based International Institute for Environment and Development will be responsible for overall management, including both finances and faculty members.

For more information

<http://www.scidev.net/en/news/bangladesh-to-host-centre-for-climate-adaptation-k.html>