

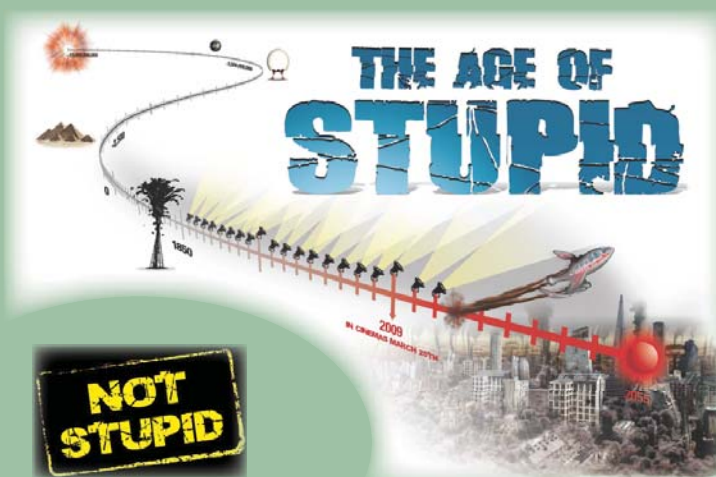
# SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NEWS

Newsletter for **INFORSE** International Network for Sustainable Energy

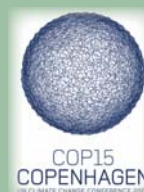
No. 65, July 2009



## INFORSE-Europe NGO Seminars



## G8 towards COP15 in Copenhagen



## Theme: Women Climate & Energy



5♀/5♂ Campaign



Inside:  
4 pages

Newsletter  
of the Low  
Carbon  
Societies  
Network



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**INFORSE**

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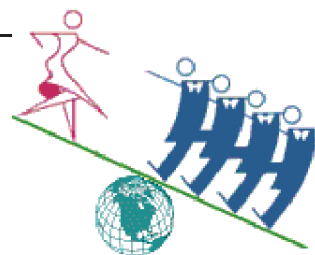
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# Women in Focus



In this issue we publish a *Women Theme* for the 4th time in Sustainable Energy News. Since the first time, the focus on gender issues is increasingly recognised internationally and within many countries. When you look through the articles in this Theme you can see that there has been progress towards improving the situation. In this respect, at least part of the world has been changing for the better.

In the UN climate process, GenderCC and other NGOs lobby for integration of gender issues into the outcome of the negotiations. They speak with negotiators, organize side events, submit positions, etc. The NGO Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) actively works to change the CDM project framework to allow easier participation for smaller projects with a focus on poverty reduction, which could benefit many poor women. WECF, Gender CC and other NGOs also protest any attempt to finance nuclear power through climate financing mechanisms.

Publication and readership of resource guides and of books on gender and energy are booming. Many of them are published by the Global Gender and Climate Alliance, which includes the UN and NGOs like the INFORSE member ENERGIA. In addition, the Boell Foundation has just published a book that offers great recommendations on all levels to realise the goal of equal participation by women.

At the same time, Gro Harlem Brundtland and two other well known women have launched "road-to-copenhagen.eu", using internet-based methods to involve the public in the UN Climate negotiation process.

In EU, the Swedish Presidency wants to speed up the process to balance gender representation on boards of private companies as well as in leadership of public institutions.

In the energy sector, women often feel like a "special species". This happens, though, not only in Brussels, and not only in the energy sector, but also in most other places.

To reform the UN, 307 NGOs launched a campaign called GEAR towards a gender balance in the UN system.

Also on the EU level, the European Women's Lobby's 50/50 Campaign for democracy, to get more women into the European Parliament, has reached a major milestone, having delivered fact sheets, analyzed legislation, and obtained 19,000 signatures so far on a petition on the issue. After the election, the Campaign continues for the European Commission and other "EU top" jobs.

Through all these efforts, the world is slowly changing. However, at the G8 meeting there was only 1 woman present among the all the leaders - There is still a long road ahead before equality is reached!

But why is gender equality important at all? One basic argument is that half of the world's human population is women and therefore they have the right to be represented fairly in all levels of society. But more importantly, studies show that women are more concerned about environment, family well-being, social justice and peace than men.

Women as 'mothers' are more concerned about their children's environment than men are. Women are more concerned about stopping a development that could lead to an environmental and health catastrophe caused, e.g., by radiation from a nuclear accident or from nuclear waste.

Also, women and children are more vulnerable to climate changes and suffer more from poverty.

Therefore, we need not only a better balance of the two sexes among decision-makers but also more focus on women's problems concerning climate change and poverty for sustainable development.

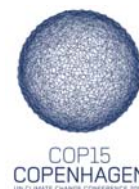
In preparation for the UN climate conference in Copenhagen in December, it is crucial to support initiatives to include gender issues in the results, and to try to have a greater number of concerned women take part in the decision-making processes together with the men.

Only then can we hope for an outcome that will lead to a more stable global climate and to improvements for those worst affected, not the least of whom are women living in poverty.

Judit Szoleczky  
Editor







# Towards a Copenhagen Deal via Bonn and G8

**In the first 12 days of June, 2009, climate negotiators met in Bonn to prepare for COP15 in Copenhagen. They did not make large breakthroughs; rather, they made small steps forward. Hardly any text was agreed.**

In the negotiations on cooperation among all countries (Long-term Cooperative Actions, or LCA), the result was 199 pages of negotiating text, mostly not agreed. The major points are:

- Global greenhouse-gas reduction targets, ranging from 50% to 95% reduction by 2050, and related limits of global warming (limited to 1.5 - 2°C warming with 50% or higher probability).
- Development of greenhouse-gas reduction mitigation strategies) with development of low carbon strategies for all countries, including industrialised countries also outside the Kyoto Protocol (USA) and developing countries. For developing countries it is proposed that they will get support for the more costly actions to reduce their emissions. This will be based on plans that they shall develop.
- Special treatment of reduction of deforestation and degradation, plus conservation of natural carbon stocks (now referred to as REDD+).
- Development & transfer of technology
- Capacity-building.
- Adaptation to climate change.
- Financing of actions in developing countries for above-mentioned activities.

## Financing is Key

There are several alternative numbers in the draft text for support to developing countries, from about 70 billion US\$/year or less up to 140 billion US\$/year for adaptation alone. Unfortunately, there is no consensus yet on this point among the industrialised countries. Both EU and USA were remarkably silent on this particular. EU has postponed its internal decision on its contribution until October.

Regarding the ways to generate the funds, the views also differ: should it be mainly public funds, mainly private funds, funds from emission-trading schemes, and/or larger proceeds from CDM projects.

An important question is how the funds should be managed: bilateral projects (like CDM), a new global fund, or through existing organisations like the World Bank. Many developing countries are now supporting the "Mexican proposal" of a new climate fund to which all countries contribute according to their ability.

Finally the question is still open as to which activities could be financed: Nuclear power? Carbon Capture and Storage? Efficient use of coal? Or, only the sustainable solutions?

## Kyoto Protocol

In the negotiations on the Kyoto Protocol after 2012 the industrialised countries presented their reduction proposals. For 2020 the targets that they presented are:

- EU-countries 20% reduction from 1990, up to 30% if a global deal is reached to stay below 2°C global warming.
- Norway 30% reduction from 1990.
- Iceland 15% reduction from 1990.
- Australia up to 25% reduction from 2000 (equal to up to 17% reduction from 1990) if a global deal is reached to limit atmospheric greenhouse gases to 450 ppm CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalents.
- Canada 20% reduction from 2006 (equal to 1% increase from 1990 or 25% increase from 1990 including land-use change).
- Japan, 15% reduction from 2000 (equal to 7-9% reduction from 1990).

Russia and some other countries have still not officially announced targets. USA is not part of the Kyoto Protocol.

In total, this will not lead to the reduction of 25-40% included in the Bali Action Plan from 2007. The lack of commitments was heavily criticized by 40 developing countries including China as well as by CAN and many other NGOs.

## Shipping and Aviation

Reduction of emissions from aviation and shipping is discussed in the climate negotiations as well. In June in Bonn a group of developing countries proposed a levy on international flight tickets and shipping fuel to help finance climate actions in developing countries. Australia made a similar proposal, but without specifying a use for the funds. Norway and many NGOs have made similar proposals.

## G8 Agree Long-Term Reductions

At the G8 meeting in Italy, July 8-10, the G8 countries agreed to 80% reductions of emissions by 2050, as part of a global 50% reduction. Together with Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, South Africa, South Korea, Mexico and others in the Major Economies Forum (MEF), they also agreed:

- to work towards substantial reductions of global emissions by 2050.

- to recognize the view that the increase in global average temperature ought not to exceed 2 °C.
- to work together to identify a global reduction goal for 2050 in December (the G8 failed to persuade China and others on a global goal of 50% reductions by 2050).

- to scale up financial resources to support actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change in developing countries "urgently and substantially."

- to form a Global Partnership to drive low-carbon, climate-friendly technologies, including Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) and efficient use of coal.

Compared with previous statements, this brings USA and Russia into more ambitious positions for 2050, and expands an agreement on the 2°C target to a large majority of the world's larger countries though with ambiguous wording. It does not, however, give new hope for ambitious targets for 2020.

### Next Steps to Copenhagen

- The UN climate negotiations with informal consultations, August 10-14, Bonn.
- A new round of preparatory talks, September 28 - October 9, Bangkok.
- The last official negotiations before COP15, November 2-6, Barcelona.
- The COP 15, December 7-18, Copenhagen.

## What to Expect from COP15 in Copenhagen

Based on the outcomes of the G8 meeting and others, it seems possible to reach a global agreement on 50% greenhouse gas reductions by 2050 with 80% reductions in industrialised countries along with commitments of funding from industrialised countries to developing countries for reductions in emissions and for adaptation to climate change. Other agreements are also possible, including emission limits for aviation and shipping. It will be hard to agree on the necessary targets for 2020, which will be crucial for keeping climate change to manageable levels. So we have to ask: could we call COP15 a success without proper targets for 2020?

As promoters of sustainable energy, we also have to ask how much such new agreements will promote renewable energy and energy efficiency, versus pointless investments in nuclear power and CCS.

Source: [www.g8italia2009.it](http://www.g8italia2009.it).

## EU Policy Update



Edited by Gunnar  
Boye Olesen

### Swedish EU Presidency

With Sweden taking over the presidency of the EU, a more ambitious tone is set for the Union's climate and energy policies for the rest of 2009. Sweden wants an ambitious climate deal in Copenhagen in December and it wants progress in EU regulation to reduce greenhouse gases. The present Swedish government is quite market-oriented, so it might favour market-based instruments in its solutions; but generally a Swedish presidency gives hope of results that are as good as they can be in EU politics.

### Recession Lowers Cost of Reductions and Compromises ETS

According to a new analysis by the London-based market analyst "New Carbon Finance", lower economic growth forecasts have reduced the cost of meeting the 20% reduction target for the EU Emissions Trading Scheme by 2020 by around a half. Another conclusion is that the cost of meeting the 30% reduction target is now lower than last year's prediction of the cost of meeting the 20% reduction. The costs according to the market model used is now 152 billion € (42 €/person per year) for 20% reductions in 2020 and for 30% reductions 205 billion € (57 €/person per year). Other models (e.g., micro-economic models) typically show lower costs for reductions.

With the recession the emission quotas allocated for emissions trading are now well above demand for the period 2008-2012. The power companies and industries can transfer excess allocations to the period 2013-2020 and then cover a large part of their reductions with "old" allocations. The over-allocations for 2008 are now documented in a report by the UK NGO "Sandbag", which concludes that a new target of 30% reduction in the ETS by 2020 is nearly equivalent in effort to the original 21% reduction target and is now cheaper.

See: [www.newenergyfinance.com](http://www.newenergyfinance.com) and  
[www.sandbag.org.uk](http://www.sandbag.org.uk).

### Revision of Energy-Efficiency Action Plan

The EU Commission is planning to update its energy-efficiency action plan from 2006, launching an improved plan this fall. INFORSE-Europe and many others have added their voices to the public consultation, deadline 3/8, that is organized by the Commission prior to the revision. While it is still not decided which new elements should be included, a closer look at the Energy Service Directive is very likely as it is not giving the results that many expected. This might lead to more emphasis on consumer information and, perhaps, levies on energy to support energy-efficiency campaigns. Better use of EU structural funds for energy efficiency is also a possibility. Further, it is possible that a scheme for white certificates for energy efficiency will be proposed.

From INFORSE-Europe we recommend not to go forward with such a scheme for EU, but only to set EU minimum criteria for national white certificate systems.

### Building Directive

Crucial decisions are ahead for the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD). Following the EU Parliament's agreement to strengthen the text in April, several countries have asked for weakening of the text, in particular on common rules for evaluating buildings' energy performance. The countries and the Parliament will have to agree, hopefully this fall.

### Report on Energy Service Directive

The Energy Efficiency Watch initiative have evaluated national action plans of the Energy Service Directive (ESD).

In these plans, the countries explain how to achieve their 9% energy efficiency target by 2016. The evaluation showed some weaknesses and methodological uncertainties in the directive that negatively influence the implementation. The spectrum of new measures mentioned in the national action plans is quite impressive, but the study found reasons to be sceptical about whether these measures have been caused by the ESD or whether they would have been implemented anyway.

Consequently, in the national plans it is not clear how much the expected savings by 2016 will be realised in addition to the savings that would have occurred anyway in the business-as-usual trends.

See: [www.energy-efficiency-watch.org](http://www.energy-efficiency-watch.org).

### Ecodesign

The update of the Ecodesign is still ongoing, but the process continues to be delayed with the Parliament's rejection of a proposed mixed label whereby products that are more efficient than the A-label could get an A-20%, A-40%, etc. Instead, the Parliament wanted an upgrade of the scale for a product when too many products receive the A-label. Now the Commission is planning a consumer survey on consumers' understanding of a mixed label versus an updated label. The plan is then to continue discussions in September.

In the meantime there will be no new Ecodesign measures agreed for products, where labels are a part of the regulation, but preparatory work is still advancing with several new product groups. A proposal is also being prepared for the contentious product group of boilers and other heating sources. In June a Consultation Forum on boilers was more constructive than earlier meetings, and it is possible that an agreement can be reached before the end of 2009. Regulation of room air conditioners is advancing and a regulation might also be agreed for these products in 2009, with requirements higher than today's but lower than those urged by INFORSE-Europe and other NGOs.

More information on Ecodesign issues:  
[www.inforse.org/europe/eu\\_ecodesign.htm](http://www.inforse.org/europe/eu_ecodesign.htm)  
[www.ecostandard.org](http://www.ecostandard.org).



*Logos of the NGOs playing a significant role as progressive, independent experts challenging the industry's attempts to weaken the proposals.*

### Structural Funds

A small change in the regulation of structural funds is now allowing countries to use 4% of EU structural funds for energy efficiency and renewable energy in existing houses.

In the 12 "new" EU countries this adds to the 2% allowed for renovation of buildings in the existing regulation.

Now it is crucial that the countries start to use this option to increase energy efficiency and renewable energy.

The decision of whether to use this new option is entirely up to each country.

The regulation specifies that the funding should promote social cohesion, but it is up to each country to define this.



# INFORSE-Europe Activities

## European Sustainable Energy Seminar, November 10-14, 2009, Germany

This year's INFORSE-Europe's NGO seminar on sustainable energy at the Artefact in Germany will feature:

### November 10:

- Discussions among researchers and NGOs of sustainable energy visions and scenarios, at a one-day meeting, where elements of sustainable energy scenarios will be discussed.
- Presentations of sustainable energy scenarios, including brand new scenarios for UK (updated Zero-Carbon Britain) and for Denmark, progress on scenarios for Germany and France within the Low-Carbon Society Project, and others.

### November 11-13:

- EU sustainable energy policies with discussions on the latest developments in policies for renewable energy and energy efficiency, including structural funds.
- Climate policies globally and in the EU in the run-up to the meetings in Copenhagen: How do we ensure that a global agreement will favour sustainable energy solutions? What are the risks that a good agreement might produce bad results?
- Energy and poverty in Europe: what can sustainable energy policies do to reduce energy poverty, and how can problems be avoided or addressed?

- NGO cooperation on sustainable energy: cooperation on policies and on sustainable-energy education, including promotion of the SPARE project activities, campaigns, etc.

### November 14:

INFORSE-Europe General Meeting.

**INFORSE-EUROPE**  
International Network for Sustainable Energy



Reserve the dates and register for the seminars at [www.inforse.org/europe/seminar](http://www.inforse.org/europe/seminar).

## EU Policy Seminars: Bulgaria, Romania, Denmark, and Slovakia

During the fall, INFORSE-Europe members will organize sustainable-energy policy seminars in Bulgaria, Denmark, Slovakia, and Romania to discuss EU policies in national contexts.

In addition, the below-mentioned seminar in UK will include time for discussions of EU policies. The seminars will be held partly in the respective national language of each locale and partly in English. See [www.inforse.org/europe](http://www.inforse.org/europe) for dates and other details.

## Power & Place: Seminar on Good Practice in the Transition from Fossil Fuel Dependency, UK, October 2-4

The Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) in Wales and INFORSE-Europe are organizing a seminar for local initiatives for sustainable energy, at CAT's magnificent facilities in the centre of Wales.

The seminar will:

- give examples of how and why communities in the UK should develop their own energy projects,
- present ZeroCarbonBritain scenarios,
- present the database of good practices with sustainable energy solutions,
- discuss policies to support the transition, including EU policies, and

- be an opportunity to discuss future activities of the Energy21 network.



Pictures of CAT's magnificent facilities in Wales, UK. solar cells in the park, and the new conference center under construction.



## Belarus - Baltic Project

The cooperation among NGOs in Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, and Norway continues until the end of September, 2009.

From April through June, teacher training took place on sustainable-energy education in Belarus, and a Belarus exhibition on sustainable energy has been prepared. It will be shown in several places in Belarus during September. Also the practical training in Belarus is continuing at a demonstration site near Minsk.

The vision presentations in Belarus, Latvia, and Lithuania (mentioned to the right) are also part of the project, which receives financial support from Nordic Council of Ministers.

Read more: [www.inforse.org/europe/baltic\\_08.htm](http://www.inforse.org/europe/baltic_08.htm)



Photo: Belarus NGO group's sustainable energy study tour in Denmark.

## Sustainable Energy Visions

INFORSE-Europe and OVE, the Danish Organisation for Sustainable Energy, are developing a sustainable energy vision for Denmark, with input from experts and researchers. The vision will be presented at the Danish Parliament building (Christiansborg) in September, 2009.

Presentations of sustainable energy visions will be made in Bulgaria, Belarus, Lithuania, and Latvia as well, based on work completed in 2008 and on new documentation of costs of sustainable energy options.

Read more: [www.inforse.org/europe/Vision2050.htm](http://www.inforse.org/europe/Vision2050.htm).



INFORSE's Visions were part of the exhibition at the Green Week '09. The INFORSE team at the booth: (left to right): Hélène Connor, HELIO; Julia Verdun, CLER; Judit Szoleczky.

Photos and Quiz: [www.inforse.org/europe/GreenWeek09.htm](http://www.inforse.org/europe/GreenWeek09.htm).

## Eco-documentary Film to Change History, 89 minutes

**We are in 2055** - We watch an animation starting from the Big Bang and follow the Earth's history through dinosaurs, mammals, and humankind. The animated timeline stops in 2055 in a devastated world. Only an old man, "the Archivist", is alive, who is looking through a digital representation of human history and wondering why humanity didn't stop climate change when it had a chance.

Next, we can watch the films and historical data how our species got it all wrong in the "Age of Stupid", which is the period between 1988-2015, when humanity had become aware of the likely consequences of continuing to increase greenhouse-gas emissions and still had time to avert global catastrophe but largely chose to ignore the warning. We watch documentaries of several stories that the Archivist collects before beaming them out into space.

### Wake UP!

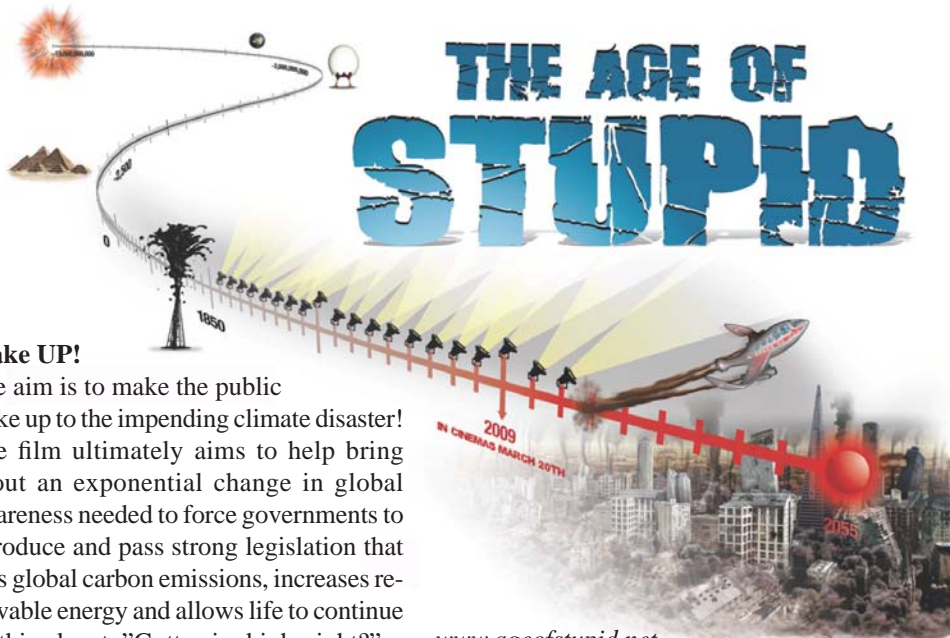
The aim is to make the public wake up to the impending climate disaster! The film ultimately aims to help bring about an exponential change in global awareness needed to force governments to introduce and pass strong legislation that cuts global carbon emissions, increases renewable energy and allows life to continue on this planet. "Gotta aim high, right?"

### Crowd funding:

#### You Can Still Buy A Share!

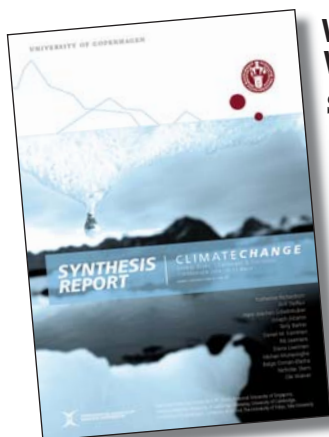
The film-makers introduced an interesting way of funding called "crowd funding". Hundreds of people invested in a share or donated money to cover the film's ex-

# THE AGE OF STUPID



[www.ageofstupid.net](http://www.ageofstupid.net)

penses. In turn, people got a credit on the film's website and will get a percentage of the profit, if there is any. Now, in July, 2009, you can still buy a share to help cover final costs for the Global Premiere on September 21-22, 2009.



## What Science Tells Us Today, and What Can We Do? *Inspirations for Politicians*

**Synthesis Report: "CLIMATE CHANGE: Global Risks, Challenges & Decisions" - The International Scientific Congress in Copenhagen, March 10-12, 2009.**

Background for and the explanation of six key messages towards COP15.

The report is intended to be an inspiration for politicians and a tool for broadening the understanding of global warming, its causes and consequences with only six months to go before the COP15 takes place in Copenhagen.

The report gives an important overview of what science can tell us today about global warming, and perhaps most importantly, what we can do about it. The report presents the very newest scientific evidence that has emerged since the IPCC report came out in 2007.

The report is based on the outcome of the Congress, where over 2000 scientists from over 70 countries participated in 16 plenary talks and 58 parallel sessions. The report has been written by a team of 12 international climate experts and it has undergone an extensive international review.

*Edited by Professor Katherine Richardson, Chair of the Scientific Steering Committee of the Congress, et al.*

*Published by Copenhagen University, Denmark, as part of the International Alliances of Research Universities.*

*June 2009, 39 pp., pdf file (5.6 MB)*

*ISBN: 978-87-90655-68-6*

*Translation to the UN languages is in progress.*

*Download from:*

*W: [www.climatecongress.ku.dk](http://www.climatecongress.ku.dk)*



*Katherine Richardson: "I hope the busy negotiators will have time to study the report carefully before they meet in Copenhagen, because a lot of new data have emerged".*

*The report was launched at a press conference in Bruxelles, Belgium, on June 18, 2009, where it was handed over to the host of COP15, the Danish Prime Minister. It was presented on June 3, 2009, at the UNFCCC meeting in Bonn.*

### The Filmmaker -

The director of the film is Franny Armstrong, who got the idea of making this documentary and managed it with exceptional commitment through about five years. Her enthusiasm for the film's idea attracted Oscar winner, John Battsek to the production of the film, and won over Oscar nominee Pete Postlethwaite, one of Britain's most respected and best loved actors, for the role of The Archivist. These leading lights along with the rest of the outstanding cast and crew contribute greatly to the film's success.



**Want to Change History?  
Join Not Stupid Campaign!**

*The "Not Stupid" Campaign is supported by Greenpeace, WWF, FOE, Low Carbon Communities, Transition Towns, Stop Climate Chaos, and others. It was launched in November, 2008.*

*If you'd like to get your charity/NGO/organisation onto the list of supporters, please contact Daniel Vockins at [daniel@ageofstupid.net](mailto:daniel@ageofstupid.net). <http://notstupid.org/>.*





## Women in Bonn'09

### Lobby for the Integration of Gender into the Copenhagen Outcomes

Women and gender experts are extremely busy lobbying for the integration of gender into the Copenhagen outcomes of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP15).

GenderCC, a global network of women, gender activists and experts working for gender and climate justice, organised the following joint efforts with several NGOs during the Preparatory Sessions in Bonn, June 1-19, 2009:

- **Daily Women's Caucus** to strategize and to share information, as well as to undertake further steps towards being recognized as a constituency in the UNFCCC process.
- **Side Event**, "*Gender Mainstreaming and Beyond. National Strategies to Engender Climate Change Policy*" on 5 June, organised together with Life eV. Achieving true justice between women and men in relation to climate change involves fundamental cultural, structural and institutional change and the strengthening of individual capacities. Women from various world regions presented their strategies for meeting challenges and overcoming obstacles.
- **Conference and film festival**, "*Survival at Stake? What is Needed in Copenhagen for the Most Vulnerable?*" on 6 June,

organised together with Germanwatch e.V., and several other NGOs. The event was geared to put a focus on those people, communities and countries whose survival is at stake, who are most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

• **Side Event**, "*Gender, Migration and Climate Change*" on 9 June, organised together with WECF. Climate-change-related migration patterns have different impacts on women and men: migration is influencing and changing social roles while increasing prevailing gender imbalances. Migration is perceived as a humanitarian challenge by the international community. At the same time, climate-change-induced migration is treated increasingly as a security issue by countries and international institutions.

• **Intervention** of the Women's Caucus during the closing plenary of the 8th session of the Ad-hoc Working Group of the future of the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) was presented by Khamarunga Banda, South Africa (ENERGIA/WEDO).

• On behalf of women and gender NGOs, GenderCC issued a joint statement with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), speaking on behalf of the trade unions at the Final Plenary Session of the Ad-hoc Working Group Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) 5th and 7th sessions.

### "Don't Nuke the Climate" Actions

#### Banner Rally

organized by  
Ecodefense,  
GenderCC,  
Life and WECF.



Carrying banners reading "No Nuclear in CDM, JI and technology transfer" and "More Equity in Climate Protection", activists from all over the world e.g. Russia, Georgia, Germany and the USA stood in front of the Maritim Hotel, where the UNFCCC talks took place, and asked the delegates for an intelligent and sustainable strategy to cope with climate change without resorting to nuclear power.

The action protested any attempt to finance nuclear power through market mechanisms like CDM/JI and technology transfer.

**Side Event:** "*Both Feasible and Nuclear-Free: A Safe and Sustainable Energy Scenario for post-2012*" organised by WECF on June 9, 2009.

GenderCC: [www.gendercc.net](http://www.gendercc.net)

WECF: [www.wecf.eu](http://www.wecf.eu)



## WECF to Simplify CDM Rules for Poor Community Projects



By Sabine Bock,  
WECF, Coordinator  
Energy & Climate  
Change

**Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) seek to influence the UN**

**Climate negotiations to create a simplified Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) for sustainable-energy projects in households and in communities, including improved funding conditions for smaller-scale and cutting-edge technology projects.**

Such projects should be developed in consultation with local communities, in particular with women, who are more vulnerable to climate change due to their limited access to resources and assets.

In order to achieve this, we see the need to introduce simplified registration

procedures for micro projects (<15,000 tCO<sub>2</sub> eq/year) and to appoint specialised Designated Operational Entities (DOEs) for small community projects.

**Background:** For many communities in the world who are living in poverty, survival is dependent on access to energy. Currently, many poor communities suffer health effects from the burning of dirty fuels, lack of heating in cold winters, and lack of energy for lifesaving medical devices and other supplies. Women bear the brunt of these negative effects.

Just in the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia region (EECCA), 21,000 people, mainly women and children, die of indoor air pollution every year, according to the WHO. These communities would require relatively little funding to improve greatly the health and life expectancies of their residents, if they were able to invest in safe renewable energy sources and ener-

gy-efficiency measures. At the same time, these investments would contribute significantly to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and, especially, would improve the situations of women and children. Currently, however, the poor communities have hardly any access to funding via the CDM.

### Keep Nuclear Out of CDM

WECF also calls for keeping nuclear power out of the CDM as a high risk technology.

In the coming months, world governments will take the decision on whether to make nuclear power eligible for the CDM under the UNFCCC. If the wrong decision is made, the nuclear industry will have secured access to new sources of financing.

WECF made a statement at UNFCCC talks in Bonn, Germany, June, 2009, along with joint submissions. See: [www.wecf.eu/english/issues/energy.php](http://www.wecf.eu/english/issues/energy.php).

5♀/5♂ No Modern European Democracy Without Gender Equality

## 50-50 Campaign for Democracy

### Launched by the European Women's Lobby

The European Women's Lobby (EWL) – an umbrella organisation of over 2,000 women's organisations in 30 countries across Europe – launched their 50/50 Campaign for Democracy on 16th September 2008 aimed at achieving gender balance in the EU Parliament and Commission.

The Campaign was very active in relation to the European elections of June 2009 and was successful in the sense that the number of women increased from 31% in the outgoing Parliament to 35% in the new Parliament.

The campaign now continues in relation to the nomination of the European Commission and "EU top jobs".

**A representative democracy without gender equality is a contradiction in terms!**

Women make up just over half of the voters in Europe. Logic dictates that they should account for half of the elected politicians and half of the top-level policy-makers, but this is not the case at present. Some exceptional governments, such as that of Spain, have achieved gender balance, but most European governments are largely made up of men. The same is true at EU level: less than one in three Members of the European Parliament is female; and only 10 out of 27 Commissioners are women.

It is high time we take action and urge European and national political parties, European governments and high-level European decision-makers to apply principles of gender balance, for there can be no modern democracy without gender equality.

*EWL was established in 1990. An organisation can be voting or associate member; individuals can be supporting members.*

## 19,000 Signatures

The Campaign is personally endorsed by Margot Wallström (EU Commissioner), together with over 150 well known personalities across Europe. 19,000 people had signed the petition by the time of this writing in July, 2009.

To support the Campaign, a 30-page Gender Audit Report, Summary, Press Release, and Fact Sheets were published, May, 2009, in English and in French.

The Campaign held a Conference on June 29, 2009.

*Do you agree that women and men should be equally represented in all EU institutions?*

*Support the 50/50 Campaign!  
Sign the Supporting letter on-line at  
[www.5050democracy.eu](http://www.5050democracy.eu)  
[www.womenlobby.org](http://www.womenlobby.org)*

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY

Join the EWL 5♀/5♂ Campaign

## Swedish EU Presidency: Full Speed on Gender Equality

**When Sweden takes over the EU Presidency in July, 2009, it intends to highlight gender and equality issues in Europe.**

### Learning from the Norwegians: Quotas actually helped!

Presently the percentage of women among top leaders in the 27 EU countries is *very low; only 11% are women*. Norway is an exception, where 41% of the persons in private companies' boards are women. This development was sparked by the implementation of new legislation a few years back that requires at least 40% representation of women in company boards. "We can learn from the Norwegian example", says Margot Wallström, who is the vice-chairman in the EU Commission. She is Swedish and ensures that Sweden will put full speed to gender and equality issues when it takes over the EU Presidency in July, 2009: "I am a strong supporter of a quota system in favour of greater women representation. This is very important! We strongly need more women in top positions in order to get a positive change in development."

Women are underrepresented in top leadership positions despite the fact that 60% of all graduates of universities and of other higher education in Europe are women.

### Quota or Not Quota

"I think quota is a useful tool to improve equality. We are now in a situation where there are enough of qualified women to take over top positions in the boards," says Margot Wallström, who also acknowledges that the EU does not have the mandate to impose quota legislation onto its member countries, but has to work through various methods of pressure on each country. One example is that the Danish Ministry for Gender Equality launched a Voluntary Charter for More Women in Leadership to be signed by at least 100 bigger companies. Other examples are mentor, and motivation programs.

One important factor is to promote equality in the homes. Women do not look for the top leading positions if they also have to shoulder primary responsibility for running the homes. The EU-equality report from March, 2009 spells out what we already know: Women are by far the

main caretakers responsible for the homes. On average, women spend 25.5 hours per week working in the home whereas men only lay down 7.8 hours. M. Wallström continues: "If women shall have equal chances as men to get top leader positions they need to have the practical possibilities to do so!" As long as they work three times more than men in the homes this will never happen. The EU needs to work intensively to change this scenario.

### Gender Equity Benefits the Environment and Thereby Everyone

Women tend to be more concerned about the environment and about social inequalities. They are often particularly gifted peacemakers. Evidence shows that when women form a "critical mass", legislative priorities reflects the women's interests in social policy.

Therefore, in the long run, the participation of more women should have an impact on issues of environment as well. There can be no sustainable development without equitable development; and there can be no equitable development without gender equity.

Source: Politiken.dk 19.06.2009 and blog and publications by M. Wallström.





The Road to Copenhagen is a unique initiative enabling YOU to contribute to the UN negotiating process that we very much hope will result in a new international climate-change agreement for the post-2012 period, to be agreed in Copenhagen in 2009. This initiative is chaired jointly by Margot Wallström, current Vice President of the European Commission, and former Environment Commissioner; by Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Prime

## Road to Copenhagen Conference, Forum via Wiki

Minister of Norway, current UN Special Envoy on Climate Change and member of the Club of Madrid's Global Leadership for Climate Action (GLCA); and by Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland, Vice President of the Club of Madrid and member of the GLCA.

On the website you can listen to the avatars to hear why these three eminent women are chairing this unique initiative. A Communiqué will be developed from the input to the forums, via the Wiki, and during the final Road to Copenhagen III Conference in 8-9 December 2009.

[www.roadtocopenhagen.org](http://www.roadtocopenhagen.org)

## Create a Strong UN Women's Agency Now!

The UN General Assembly will make a decision on the structure of a new gender equality entity in September, 2009. Sign the Petition to the UN and to the EU countries urging decision-makers to create a strong UN agency for women's rights. The desired agency will not only speak for women but will ensure that at long last, women's own voices can be heard at all levels of society and in the decisions that affect their lives.

[www.un-gear.eu/takeaction.shtml](http://www.un-gear.eu/takeaction.shtml)

[www.thepetitionsite.com/1/GEAR](http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/GEAR)



GEAR stands for Campaign for "Gender Equality Architecture Reform" at the UN.

GEAR became a network of 307 civil society organisations.

It was launched in 2008 to follow up a UN reform started in 2006.

It is a result of pressure from all over the world to put gender equality on the agenda of the UN's current reform process.

## Environmental Polls in Estonia

July 2009 - A poll made in Estonia shows that 76 % of women and 39 % of men are against a nuclear power plant. In average 60 % of Estonian residents are against establishing a nuclear power plant in Estonia. In opposition to the majority of the population, the state owned Estenergo wants to build a nuclear power plant, either in Estonia or together with other power companies in Lithuania.

More on Sustainable Energy Scenarios in Lithuania, and Latvia:

[www.inforse.org/europe/vision2050](http://www.inforse.org/europe/vision2050).

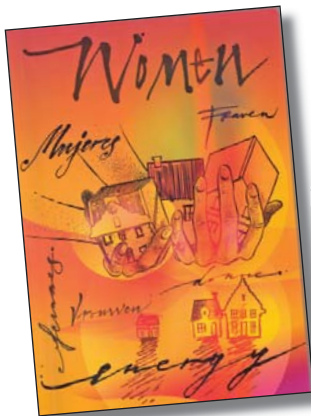
Only 21 % of all employees in the German energy and water sectors are women.

Of middle- and top managers, only 2.8 % are women.

Even within the construction sector, which typically is dominated by men, women hold 14% of management positions, close to the average rate of 15.4 %.

(From the Women's Energy Club Book)

## Women's Energy – Brussels Women's Energy Club, 1999 - 2009



This book contains a series of articles written by 28 women who are energy experts based in Brussels,

networking informally to exchange information and experiences in the Women's Energy Club since 1999.

The network includes women from many roles relevant to the energy business, representing many different views. The book is dedicated to all women, who comprise more than half the world's population.

It offers women's essays on combatting climate change and on achieving energy security, as well as historical views and insights into the world of lobbyists in Brussels.

The authors are struggling to cope with the fact that women are an exotic species in the male-dominated energy sector: Why is it so? What does it imply? Would the world have been different if it were rather ruled by women?

- Margot Walström urges that ensuring gender equality be placed at the forefront of energy policy initiatives, which is a must to reach democracy. Democracy means including stakeholders, and excluding women from decision-making means excluding half of all stakeholders. She makes it clear that women's increased participation in decision-making is a key to the fight against climate change and to struggles for peace, as women are more concerned about environment, social policy, and peace-building than men are.

- Sabina Froning calls for a European energy revolution involving more than just technical innovation. After brief historical views of energy crises, she points out that all crises are, at the same time, opportunities. She admits that targets and research in new technologies are important to success, but she believes that we all need to change our habits even though it is not always comfortable, and to accept that sustainable living has a price.

- Teresa Luis-Ruis's children tell her that energy is a treasure to preserve, as it has great importance in our daily life. She concludes that, to avoid global warming, "We have to act!", to produce and use power

more efficiently and to exploit wind, solar and energy crops. It is not an easy task, but what is life without challenges?

Unfortunately, women's critical views against nuclear energy are not included in the essay collection, even though many women have been active politically against nuclear power, realising its danger to health and environment after the Chernobyl catastrophe. We can read about women who were active in nuclear-energy research, but the historical view of women finding out the dangerous sides of nuclear energy and radiation are not part of the book. There are no authors from the renewable-energy industry either. It is a pity, because including these two angles would have made the book more worth reading.

2008, 175 pp. 24 EUR.

Published by Energiewirtschaft und Technik Verlagsgesellschaft mbH (ETV), Germany.

ISBN: 978-3-925349-56-0

Contacts: ETV: [pia.toben@tevessen.de](mailto:pia.toben@tevessen.de).

Contact for the editorial committee:

[sabine.froning@euroheat.org](mailto:sabine.froning@euroheat.org).



Grameen Shakti, an INFORSE member in Bangladesh, won Zayed Future Energy Prize

Dipal Chandra Barua, the managing director of the non-profit organisation Grameen Shakti (INFORSE member), was awarded the first Zayed Future Energy Prize in Abu Dhabi in January 2009.



The Prize was given in honour of his innovation and commitment through Grameen Shakti, which enabled more than 200,000 homes of rural poor to purchase solar energy systems through micro-credit schemes.

The Prize includes a cash award of US\$1.5 million, which Dipal plans to use to fund a scholarship programme for women entrepreneurs helping to create 100,000 green jobs in Bangladesh. Grameen Shakti is part of the Grameen



Bank, which developed the micro-credit scheme into an important instrument in the struggle against poverty. Micro-credit has proved to be an important liberating force in societies where women in particular have to struggle against repressive social and economic conditions. In honour of these efforts, Grameen Bank and its founder of Muhammad Yunus received a Nobel Peace Prize in 2006.

Grameen Shakti plans to install one million solar energy systems by 2015. It has created technology centers to train rural women as solar and improved-cook-stove technicians.

## Prize of US\$ 1.5 Million to be used to Benefit Bangladeshi Women

As part of INFORSE-South Asia, Grameen Shakti contributed to a manual on the role of renewable energy in reducing poverty; the book is available in several South-Asian languages.



More info is available on the back page of this issue of SEN, in previous articles on

Grameen Shakti in Sustainable Energy News, and at [www.gshakti.org](http://www.gshakti.org), [www.grameen-info.org](http://www.grameen-info.org), as well as at [www.inforse.org/asia](http://www.inforse.org/asia).

## Publications: Women, Climate & Bioenergy



### Gender and Climate Finance: Double Mainstreaming for Sustainable Development

This is a study on the need for financing instruments and mechanisms committed to climate-change activities to take gender-differentiated impacts into account.

It includes an overview of cost estimates for global mitigation and adaptation measures.

It also presents an analysis of gender points of view, looking closely at the climate finance mechanisms, the new climate and environment funds, CDM, adaptation finance, REDD, and domestic emissions permit sales or auctions.

Key recommendations are offered to eliminate decision-makers' reluctance to consider, and ignorance about, the relevance of gender in making climate financing mechanisms effective contributors to long-term sustainable development.

On the global level, one of the main recommendations is:

- **Shift the focus** of the global discussion on climate change away from a primarily technocratic exercise to one employing the language of global justice and human rights, including the right to development and gender equity.

**This is more than a semantic shift;** it acknowledges that a North-South deal on climate change can only be completed when it incorporates a financial agreement that considers the questions of equity and fairness on par with the need to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions fast. In such a climate-just deal, gender-equity will have to feature prominently.

On a multilateral level, the recommendations are e.g.:

- Develop a set of gender-sensitive criteria for all new climate-finance mechanisms supporting adaptation, mitigation, capacity-building and technology transfer. This includes the funds administered under the UNFCCC and the GEF as well as the bilateral funds.
- Strive to incorporate gender-specific language and gender considerations in

the outcome document of the COP15 in Copenhagen so that gender does feature explicitly in a post-Kyoto agreement under the UNFCCC, specifically with reference to financing, capacity-building and technology transfer.

- Require the UNFCCC Secretariat to develop a Gender Plan of Action.
- Ensure the generation and collection of sex-disaggregated data in all sectors relevant to climate change by governments, international organizations and financial institutions.
- Demand mandatory periodic gender-audits, the workings and results of which should be publicly accessible.
- Develop publicly disclosed gender budgets for projects and programs financed via recent and future publicly financed climate-funding mechanisms.
- Improve the participation of women in stakeholder and consultation processes for climate-finance instruments.

Edited by Liane Schalatek Associate Director, HBF North America  
Published in Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF).

29 pp. May 2009, pdf 1.6 MB.

Contact: HBF, [www.boell.org](http://www.boell.org),

Download link: [www.boell.org/docs/DoubleMainstreaming\\_Final.pdf](http://www.boell.org/docs/DoubleMainstreaming_Final.pdf)





## Resource Guide on Gender and Climate Change

Poor women's limited access to resources, restricted rights, limited mobility, and muted voices in shaping decisions make

them highly vulnerable to climate change. This resource guide aims to inform practitioners and policymakers of the linkages between gender equality and climate change.

The themes of the book are: Climate change: reference framework; Gender and climate change; Energy and gender; and Mitigation and adaptation.

The publication includes a 40-page bibliography, and a section including specialized guides and manuals, information sheets, web sites and portals. Every entry includes a web-site link.

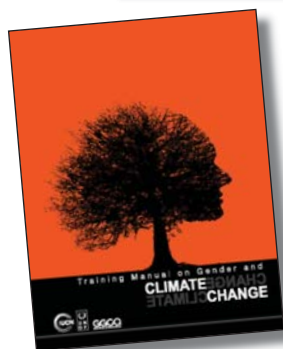
*Edited by Lance W. Garmer. The book is a collaborative effort between the UNDP Gender Team in the Bureau for Development Policy and the UNDP Country Office in Mexico. The original version is in Spanish.*

*Published by UNDP.*

*May 2009, 151 pp., 2.9 MB pdf file.*

*ISBN: 978-92-1-326031-9*

*Download: [www.undp.org/women/publications.shtml](http://www.undp.org/women/publications.shtml).*



## Training Manual on Gender and Climate Change

To meet the demand for improving skills in gender and climate change, and to build up a pool of trainers in different regions and

countries, the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) has developed this training manual.

The purpose of presenting the concepts in this manual is to inform policy- and decision-makers such that efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change will be more gender-sensitive. The training manual draws on existing in-house materials (research data, analyses and extracts from international frameworks) that have been

adapted or expanded, but also includes newly compiled case studies to illustrate the concepts in each module. It presents key conceptual and methodological advances in gender relations in the context of climate change. The topics covered in this manual relate to the topics covered in the Bali Action Plan.

*Edited by Lorena Aguilar*

*Produced by the IUCN and UNDP in partnership with the Gender and Water Alliance, ENERGIA (INFORSE member), UNESCO, FAO, WEDO as part of GGCA.*

*March 2009, 262 pp. pdf 5.98 MB*

*Contact: GGCA [www.gender-climate.org](http://www.gender-climate.org)*

*Download from: [www.iucn.org/resources/publications/](http://www.iucn.org/resources/publications/)*



## Report: Small-Scale Bioenergy Initiatives

Brief description and preliminary lessons on livelihood impacts from case studies in Asia, Latin America and Africa.

15 case studies are examined to assess the impacts that different types of local-level bioenergy initiatives can have on rural livelihoods. The report concludes with recommendations for further work.

*Edited by Steven Hunt, Practical Action Consulting.*

*Published by FAO and PISCES Project. PISCES (Policy Innovation Systems for Clean Energy Security - New Knowledge for Sustainable Bioenergy) is an Energy Research Program Consortium (2007-12) coordinated by the African Centre for Technology Studies.*

*January 2009, April update, 142 pp.*

*Contact: PISCES, [www.pisc.es.or.ke](http://www.pisc.es.or.ke)*

*Download: [www.fao.org/bioenergy/home/en/](http://www.fao.org/bioenergy/home/en/) (1.2 MB), or (2.4 MB April): [www.pisc.es.or.ke/pubs/index.html](http://www.pisc.es.or.ke/pubs/index.html).*

## Biofuels for Sustainable Rural Development and Empowerment of Women



This book is a collaborative effort to explore the potential of biofuels to provide sustainable livelihoods and local sources of energy for people in rural areas of developing countries, with a special emphasis on women. The book includes case studies from Cambodia, Nepal, Ghana, India, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. Although there are many forms of bio-energy that can be useful in this regard, our focus in this book is on plant products, mostly seeds, used to produce oil that is then either utilized directly in engines or equipment or processed into biodiesel. The book was presented at the current 17th session of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD 17) in New York and was developed with support from IUCN.

*Edited by Gail Karlsson and Khama-runga Banda.*

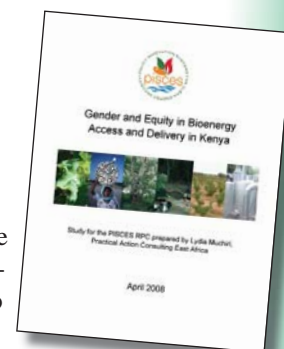
*Published by ENERGIA, the Netherlands.*

*May 2009, 54 pp. pdf 2.7 MB.*

*Contact: ENERGIA, [www.energia.org](http://www.energia.org)*

*Download: [www.forestrynepal.org/publications/reports/4287](http://www.forestrynepal.org/publications/reports/4287)*

## Gender and Equity in Bioenergy Access and Delivery in Kenya



A comprehensive assessment of gender as it relates to bioenergy access, delivery, supply, and production. Policy dimensions and other issues are also considered.

*Edited by Lydia Muchiri, Practical Action Consulting East Africa*

*Published by PISCES. April 2008, 24 pp., pdf file 268 kB, Download: [www.pisc.es.or.ke/pubs/index.html](http://www.pisc.es.or.ke/pubs/index.html).*

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## IRENA on Two Continents

At the meeting of the Preparatory Commission for the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), June 22-23 in Egypt, it was decided that IRENA's headquarters should be in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. It was also decided that Bonn would host IRENA's centre of technology and innovation, and that the Agency's liaison office for cooperation with other organisations active in the field of renewables would be established in Vienna. With these decisions, the parties hope to give the Agency the necessary spirit of cooperation and to start activities in all three towns that were candidates to host the headquarters. (Denmark had withdrawn its proposal of a headquarter in Copenhagen before the meeting.) After considering four candidates, the Commission chose Hélène Pelosse of France to serve as Interim Director-General.

The selections of headquarters and of Bangladesh, and Japan. With these new Director-General shall be confirmed by signatories, it is increasingly covering the first conference of member states after ratification, probably in the spring of 2010.

One of the most surprising developments of IRENA is that a total of 136 countries have signed the statute to become members, including USA, Australia, India, Bangladesh, and Japan. With these new Director-General shall be confirmed by signatories, it is increasingly covering the first conference of member states after ratification, probably in the spring of 2010.



Now a crucial phase starts with the practical establishment of the organisation and the formulation of practical activities promoting renewable energy. See: [www.irena.org](http://www.irena.org).



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## INFORSE South-Asia CD

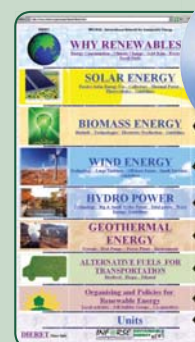
**Manual on Solutions Using Sustainable Energy to Reduce Poverty (in English, Hindi, Nepalese, Bangladeshi, and Singalese) and Financial Manual (in English).**

These manuals were produced through an INFORSE South Asia project using input from INSEDA, AIWC, WAFD and SDA from India, Grameen Shakti from Bangladesh, CRT from Nepal and IDEA from Sri Lanka as well as OVE and DIB from Denmark.

Published: January 2008;  
Price: 15 €/CD,  
1 year SEN + CD costs 35 €



**DIERET - CD Distant Internet Education on Renewable Energy Technologies**



Published: 2007-2008;  
Price: 15 €  
1 year SEN + CD costs 35 €

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