



United Nations

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UNECE PARTICIPATION AT COP-15

UNECE is participating actively in the United Nations Climate Change Conference taking place in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 7-18 December, the core component of which will be the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

On this occasion, UNECE has released *Catalysing Change - The UNECE response to the climate countdown*, highlighting the pivotal role of the UNECE region — which spans 56 countries — in climate change. Historically the region has been a large emitter of greenhouse gases that cause global warming and it will be particularly affected by a changing climate. At the same time, the region is also leading global efforts to combat climate change.

The publication presents the main impacts of climate change in the region, as well as the regional response to climate challenge, mitigation measures and adaptation strategies.



It shows that UNECE's activities cover many key areas relevant to mitigating or adapting to climate change. These include sustainable energy, transport, buildings, forestry, integrated water management and public participation. UNECE's sectoral work, its development of relevant norms and standards, and its multilateral environmental agreements are all important pillars that strengthen national, regional and global efforts to confront climate change. In addition, as one of the United Nations regional commissions, UNECE acts as a convener of regional action on climate change. ■

UNECE participation in side events
http://www.unece.org/press/pr2009/09env_p32e.htm

Sunday, 13 December

Forest Day 3

Monday, 14 December

Building capacity for effective public engagement in climate change governance.

UNECE gave a presentation on climate change and Aarhus Convention.

Advancing Work on Adaptation to Climate Change: A UN System Perspective

Cities, population dynamics and climate change

Ján Kubiš, UNECE Executive Secretary, opened the session and introduced an UNECE film on energy efficiency in housing. Launch of UNECE publication on Global Energy Efficiency 21, (financing mechanisms and programmes prepared by UNECE in cooperation with other regional commissions under the framework of UN Energy)



Ján Kubiš argued that the global effort to mitigate climate change must focus more on improving the energy efficiency of residential housing

Tuesday, 15 December

Cutting the carbon knot: Raising public awareness for GHG emission cuts through pollutant registers

UNECE gave a presentation on the Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR)

Wednesday, 16 December

Supporting Regional Action: Regional Initiatives and Strategies in Support of Country Efforts on Climate Change

Regional perspectives and efforts to meet climate change challenges, including adequate and accessible information services; private-public partnerships on energy efficiency; assessing economic impacts of climate change; low-carbon development pathways and; sustainable management of natural resources.

Opening remarks by Ján Kubiš in his capacity as current Coordinator of the UN regional commissions and a presentation on "Achieving energy efficiency through public-private partnerships: experiences from the UNECE region"

Launch of UNECE Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change

Addresses from Ms. Huizinga, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, The Netherlands, and Mr. Ashimov, Minister, Ministry of Environment, Kazakhstan



The complete list of side events is available on the website of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):

http://regserver.unfccc.int/seors/reports/events_list.html?sessionid=COP15

The UN System Delivering as One on Climate Change

This event will be chaired by the UN Secretary-General and all heads of organizations present at COP 15 will be present on stage.

It will provide an overview of UN system capacities and confirm the system's commitment at the highest level to further assist Parties to UNFCCC in planning and implementing measures to address climate change in adaptation, capacity building, technology transfer, REDD and other areas.

Thursday, 17 December

Climate neutral cities

The event features the launching of video on climate neutral cities and plans and programs for reducing emissions in urban areas, including on transport, housing, urban forests and financing. Speakers from the Italian Ministry, UNECE and other organizations. ■

FOLLOW UNECE ON TWITTER!



You can now follow what's going on at UNECE on the web or your mobile phone via Twitter, the 140-character social network. UNECE thus joins the UN family on Twitter, which according to some estimates should count some 18 million users by the year-end. While the bulk of users are still from the US, traffic from other countries is expanding rapidly. ■



UNECE PROMOTES ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY VEHICLES IN INDIA

Romain HUBERT, UNECE focal point on global warming and transport, participated in the fourth Environmentally Friendly Vehicle (EFV) conference held in New Delhi, India on 23-24 November 2009. The EFV Conference is a biannual international event, with earlier conferences held in Tokyo (2003), Birmingham (2005) and Dresden (2007).

The Conference objective is to share experiences on measures to promote or introduce environmentally friendly vehicles. It is a forum where participants exchange knowledge on how to develop problem analysis of the legal and economic frameworks needed to introduce EFVs and innovative energy efficient vehicle technologies into the global market.

What makes a vehicle environmentally friendly?

Many concepts on what constitutes an EFV have been considered, but a single solution has yet to emerge. The 4th EFV Conference concluded that multiple environmental aspects including low emission of pollutants, reduced noise levels, alternative fuels, drive train efficiency, electric power sourcing and manufacturing efficiency all contribute to the construction of an environmentally friendly vehicle. In line with this multiplicity approach, the informal group on EFV, established in March 2008 by the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations, will continue under the chairmanship of India to develop a dynamic methodology to evaluate EFVs.

The Conference was hosted by six Ministries of India –Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises; Shipping, Road Transport and Highways; Urban Development; Environment and Forests; New and Renewable Energy; Petroleum and Natural Gas – in association with a large number of industry bodies.



This Conference will facilitate efforts by the six Ministries to have India adhere to the UNECE 1958 Agreement concerning the Adoption of Uniform Technical Prescriptions for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be fitted and/or be used on Wheeled Vehicles and the Conditions for Reciprocal Recognition of Approvals Granted on the Basis of these Prescriptions. It is of high importance to the automotive industry of India that the country becomes a Contracting Party to the 1958 Agreement.

An exhibition organized in parallel to the Conference showcased related technologies. ■

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