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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY INAUGURATES PPP DEPARTMENT AT FINANCIAL UNIVERSITY IN MOSCOW

Ján Kubiš, UNECE Executive Secretary, inaugurated a special Public Private Partnership (PPP) Department at the Financial University of the Government of the Russian Federation on 17 May in Moscow. This Department has been created by Vnesheconombank (VEB) and will ensure the training of the future experts working in the area of PPP in the country's administration.



Public-Private Partnerships and Vnesheconombank in the area of PPP capacity building. Concretely this cooperation could include the following items:

- Development, adaptation and translation of the UNECE PPP toolkit to be used and delivered by the faculty of this newly created PPP department at the Financial University;
- Mobilizing leading international experts with practical knowledge of PPPs as visiting professors for the training courses organized by the PPP Department;
- Fostering the use of the PPP Department as a training centre for experts coming from CIS countries; and
- Assisting VEB to eventually turn this Department into a specialist Centre associated with the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence. □

Public-private partnership has become a well-established model for delivering infrastructure projects around the world. Russia is now actively using this model for its own infrastructure modernization. However, PPPs are complex and usually require the implementation of specific training modules for the public sector in order to be successfully implemented.

The launch of this Department reflects the increasing cooperation between the UNECE Team of Specialists on

For further information, please visit: <http://live.unece.org/ceci/ppp.html>.

2ND UNECE PUBLIC-PRIVATE ROUNDTABLE ON GREEN ECONOMY PARIS, 24 MAY

As part of the preparations of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012, UNESCO and UNECE, together with Collegium International, will co-host the UNECE Public-Private Roundtable on Green Economy on the theme Challenges for a Green Economy and Green Societies: Attitudes, Policies, Governance, on 24 May, 2-6 p.m. at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

The United Nations system has responded to the environmental, economic and social spheres crises by forming a vision of the green economy that aims to improve human well-being and social equality, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. The green economy is expected to stimulate economic growth and job creation while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants, enhancing energy and resource efficiency, and sustaining biodiversity and ecosystem services. As such the green economy could be one important element of the pathways towards achieving sustainable development.

The Roundtable will further the discussion on the green economy and green societies through an interdisciplinary lens, which cuts across its different economic, environmental, health, educational, social,

cultural and ethical dimensions. It will bring together high-level public and private sector figures to forge the way forward towards a collective and actionable outcome which will put the world on the path towards a green economy and green societies through improved international governance.

Ján Kubiš, UNECE Executive Secretary, will open the discussions alongside Irina Bokova, Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Keynote speakers and panellists will include, among others, Sha Zukang, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Pierre Ducret, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, CDC Climat/Caisse des Depots, Philippe Rosier, President, Orbeo and Rhodia Energy Services, Danilo Türk, President of Slovenia, Michel Rocard, Former Prime Minister of France and Co-President Collegium International, Edgar Morin, Philosopher and Sociologist, Emeritus Research Director, CNRS and Peter Sloterdijk, Philosopher and Rector, Karlsruhe University of Arts and Design. □

*For further information, please visit:
http://unece.org/press/pr2011/11env_p19e.htm
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UNECE WORKS ON NEW STANDARDS TO INCREASE THE SAFETY OF TRUCKS AND COACHES

UNECE's World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) is working on a new Regulation to increase the safety of trucks and coaches that could save thousands of lives.

This UNECE Regulation will lay down the technical requirements for the approval of Advanced Emergency Braking Systems (AEBS) fitted on trucks and coaches. AEBS employ sensors to monitor the proximity of the vehicle in front and detect



situations where the relative speed and distance between the two vehicles suggest that a collision is imminent. In such a situation, emergency braking can be automatically applied to avoid the collision or at least to mitigate its effects.

According to a European study, the fitting of AEBs on trucks and coaches could save up to 1,000 lives per year and 4,000 serious injuries in the European Union alone, and many more worldwide since it will encourage manufacturers to fit AEBs as standard on trucks and coaches for a wider range of markets.

The new Regulation is being prepared by the Working Party on Braking and Running Gear (GRRF), which should finalize its work by the end of 2011. As part of this work, GRRF hosted a live demonstration of trucks and coaches fitted with Advanced Emergency Braking Systems on 12 May 2011 in Geneva. The demonstration with heavy duty vehicles fitted with AEBs of 12 May 2011 was organized by the

European Association of Automobile Suppliers (CLEPA) at Touring Club Suisse - Centre de Conduite du Plantin.

The European Union (EU) has already announced that these systems will become mandatory for new vehicles from 2013. The EU will use the UNECE Regulation as a basis for the approval of such systems.

Once the regulation is adopted, GRRF may elaborate further requirements for other categories of vehicles (cars, vans, etc). Furthermore, the capability of such systems could be expanded in the future to cover other types of accident (for example, pedestrian accidents or even head-on collisions).

The Working Party on Braking and Running Gear (GRRF) is one of the six subsidiary bodies of UNECE's World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29). It deals in particular with worldwide vehicle regulations for braking systems and tyres. These Regulations are applied by many countries, i.e. the European Union, Russian Federation and Japan. □

For more information, please visit:
<http://live.unece.org/trans/main/wp29/wp29wgs/wp29grf/grfpage.html>



See a video on UNECE's YouTube channel at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sB1Xh9if4H4>.

UNECE LAUNCHES PROJECT TO ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN THE DANUBE DELTA TOGETHER WITH MOLDOVA, UKRAINE AND ROMANIA

Ukraine, Moldova and Romania have officially started a United Nations cooperation project to improve the management of industrial hazards and crisis situations in the Danube Delta at a meeting in Kiev on 12 May. This project is coordinated by UNECE under its Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.



The numerous industrial operations in Ukraine, Moldova and Romania along the Danube and its tributaries constitute a risk for severe pollution and damage of the Danube Delta. The project seeks to reduce these risks by preventing accidents in the first place and by improving crisis management in case an accident does happen. In particular this project will focus on the safety of oil terminals in the region.

June 2013. The high-level representatives of the Ministries of Environment expressed the importance of the project for each country and prioritized closer cooperation between Ukraine, Moldova and Romania to protect the Danube Delta. They pointed out that while the Danube Delta is a unique natural heritage of global relevance, it is Ukraine, Moldova and

Romania who depend most on its natural and economic value. As such they jointly assume their responsibility to improve environmental protection from industrial accidents in the Delta region.

The delegations of the three countries met in Kiev to officially endorse the project implementation plan that determines the activities over the coming two years until

The main donor for the project is Germany's Federal Ministry for Environment through its Technical Advisory Assistance Programme for Environment. □

The Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents was adopted in Helsinki on 17 March 1992 and entered into force on 19 April 2000. It has been ratified by 39 countries plus the European Union: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Convention helps countries reduce the likelihood of industrial accidents occurring and minimize their effects, particularly on neighbouring countries, if accidents do occur. In recent years, an Assistance Programme for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and South Eastern Europe has been created to better support them implement the Industrial Accidents Convention.

For more information please visit:
<http://www.unece.org/env/teia/welcome.html>
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