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ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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PROGRESS REPORT WORKING GROUP III

(Submitted by the Co-Chairs of Working Group III)

Progress Report

(Submitted by the Co-Chairs of Working Group III)

1. The Fourth Assessment Report

The printed version of the Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) of Working Group III (WGIII) became available in November 2007, well in time for the Bali climate negotiations. Since the end of August, the full report in its final edited version is available electronically at the IPCC website and <http://www.mnp.nl/ipcc>. UNEP has produced a booklet with the conclusions of the WGIII report in simple language, which is available in English, Spanish and French. Several thousands of these have been distributed through WGIII authors and the WGIII outreach activities.

2. AR4 Outreach

The outreach activities on the AR4 as of the approval session in Bangkok (May 2007) have been reported to the 27th session of IPCC in Valencia (November 2007, <http://www.ipcc.ch/meetings/session27/doc8.pdf>). Although with less intensity than over the summer, the period since November 2007 still had a considerable number of presentations given by the authors, review editors, co-chairs and TSU on the AR4 report. The WGIII Outreach Programme, consisting of a series of outreach meetings developed and organized by the TSU of WGIII, and funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Environment, has resulted in the following events since November 2007:

- On Bali during the COP 13, authors and co-chairs of IPCC WGIII gave several presentations at side meetings on invitation by NGOs and IGOs. Especially the side event on mitigation of climate change co-organised with the International Energy Agency (IEA) was very well attended.
- On 6 and 7 March, 2008 two outreach meetings have been held in Japan. The main hosts were Keidanren and GISPRI, while METI facilitated the meetings. Over 200 participants attended the meeting on March 6. Various authors presented the general findings of their chapter, followed by a response from an IPCC Japanese author from the same chapter to put the conclusions into the Japanese context, followed again by another response from a Japanese industry specialist in each area. On Friday, 7th March, a two hour meeting with the key members of Keidaren's environmental committee provided another opportunity to discuss the WGIII conclusions.
- On March 11, 2008 an outreach meeting was held in Moscow to serve the Russian speaking countries. The Moscow outreach was well timed. It is expected that on May 12 a discussion will take place to outline the position of the Russian Federation with regard to the post Kyoto agreement. Several of the about 40 participants were involved in the preparations for this. The participants were a mix of representatives from ministries, the large energy companies and some scientists. There were six participants from other newly independent states (most from Central Asia). The meeting was characterized by very lively discussions. On March 12 a well attended press conference in one of Moscow's press centres attracted journalists from main news agencies, some specific environmental journals and one television station.
- At this moment workshops are under preparation to be held in Marrakech, Morocco on April 29 and 30, especially for African scientists, and (together with Working Group II) for Beijing, China on May 21 and 22.
- Funded from other sources and organised with only little support from the TSU of Working Group III are the outreach events in Budapest, Hungary (April 10 and 11) and in New Zealand (May).

3. The scoping meeting for a possible IPCC Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources

The Scoping Meeting for a possible IPCC Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation was held at Lübeck, Germany, Jan. 20th to 25th 2008. The meeting was prepared with the help of an international programme committee composed of twelve leading experts and IPCC Bureau members. The participating 118 experts from 43 IPCC member countries represented a very broad spectrum of experience from all regions of the world and many different fields of expertise.

With some additional funding from the German Federal State of Schleswig-Holstein, the host of the scoping meeting, it was possible to have a participation of almost 40 experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Several Co-Chairs and Vice Chairs of the IPCC were among the participants.

In his address to the participants, the IPCC Chairman pointed out that this special report may well become one of the most important documents of the IPCC. Three different possible structures of the suggested Special Report were discussed at length until the final structure was agreed upon by consensus of all experts present. The scoping meeting has discussed the content of each suggested chapter in detail. More than 95% of the experts present expressed their firm interest in and their availability for an involvement as possible Lead Authors of such a special report (cf. Agenda point 6).

4. New emission scenarios

Since November, the draft report on the Expert Meeting on New Emission Scenarios (Noordwijkerhout, 19-21 September 2007) was reviewed by 42 expert reviewers. The author team and the steering committee have taken the comments into account in their revision of the draft and have submitted the final report to the IPCC Chair in time (cf. Agenda point 11.3).