

**United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the
Energy Planning Agency of the Ministry of Mines and Energy of Brazil (EPE)**

Conference on

"Biofuels: an option for a less carbon-intensive economy"

4-5 December 2007

**Hotel Windsor Barra
Av. Sernambetiba, 2630
Barra da Tijuca, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

Global concerns about the impact of climate change, particularly its adverse effect on developing countries, and the related significant economic costs associated with inaction, have put climate change very high on the international agenda. The current post-Kyoto climate change negotiations are generating important emerging trade and investment opportunities for developing countries, particularly in the area of bio-energy.

Developing countries, in working towards achieving energy independence, may wish to explore investment opportunities, which could drive economic stability, growth and sustainability. The use of alternative fuels such as biofuels may be an option. However, in realizing its full potential, certain criteria such as positive energy balance, proven climate change benefits, adequate land requirements, job creation and available technologies, among others should be considered. If done right, the biofuels option opens up an opportunity to mitigate both unemployment and climate change, while providing developing countries with new tradable exports and a means to partially substitute oil imports.

The conference is a pre-event of both the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XII), which will take place in Accra, Ghana from 20 to 25 April 2008 and the International Conference on Biofuels, which the Brazilian Government is organizing in November 2008 in São Paulo.

Final Programme

4 December

9:00 – 10:00

Opening remarks

1. Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Acting Deputy Secretary-General and Director, Division on International Trade in Goods and Services and Commodities, UNCTAD
2. Mr. Mauricio Tolmasquim, President, EPE – Empresa de Pesquisa Energética, Brazil
3. Ambassador Antonio Simões, Director of the Energy Department, Foreign Affairs Ministry, Brazil

10:00 – 13:00

Panel 1 - Climate change as a development challenge

- How can trade provide support for climate change mitigation?
- How can trade policy contribute to an orderly transition to a less carbon-intensive economy?
- Can active climate policy be compatible with, and enhance trade competitiveness?

Facilitator: Mr. Mauricio Tolmasquim, President, EPE

Speakers:

1. Ms. Gifty Ohene Konadu, Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Private Sector Development & Private Sector Investment of Ghana
2. Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Acting Deputy Secretary-General and Director, Division on International Trade in Goods and Services and Commodities, UNCTAD
3. Mr. Egon Krakhecke, Ministry of Environment, Brazil

General Discussion

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch at the Hotel Windsor hosted by EPE and UNCTAD

14:30 – 18:00

Panel 2 - Overview of the global biofuels market

- What is the size, main trends and future prospects for the biofuels market?

Facilitator: Mr. Lucas Assunção, UNCTAD

Speakers:

1. Mr. Daniel de la Torre Ugarte, Associate Director, Agricultural Policy Analysis Center, The University of Tennessee, USA
2. Mr. Guilherme Schuetz, Bioenergy Coordinator, FAO Office - Latin America
3. Mr. Mauricio Tolmasquim, President, EPE – Empresa de Pesquisa Energética
4. Professor José Roberto Moreira, University of São Paulo

- Prospects for the second generation of biofuels technologies

Speaker:

Dr. Eric Larson, Research Engineer, Energy Technology Assessment/Energy Policy Analysis Group, Princeton University, USA

General Discussion

18:00

Cocktail with Brazilian flavours

5 December

Panel 3 – Relevant trade and sustainable development aspects of the biofuels market

Facilitator: Mr. Amilcar Guerreiro, EPE

9:00 – 10:30

Certifying biofuels

- Can current proposed certification schemes work for inclusive sustainable development?
- Would the growing interest in certification enable, or prevent the participation of developing country producers in the emerging biofuels market?

Speakers:

1. Mr. Eduardo Leão de Sousa, Executive Director, UNICA – Brazilian Sugarcane Association
2. Mr. Alfredo Carlos Orphão Lobo, Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade, National Institute of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality
3. Mr. Roberto Smeraldi, Director, Friends of the Earth- Brazilian Amazon, Brazil
4. Ms. Nienke Smeets, Directorate of International Affairs, Environment Ministry, The Netherlands

General Discussion

11:00 – 13:00

Ensuring climate change benefits of biofuels

- Can the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) be made to work for biofuels?
- How to involve more developing countries in CDM for biofuels?
- Can carbon trading be used as an incentive for energy diversification?

Speakers:

1. Mr. Thierno Bocar Tall, Directeur Projet Fonds Africain des biocarburants et de energies renouvelables, Investment and Development Bank, Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS)
2. Professor Suani Teixeira Coelho, Cenbio/University of São Paulo, Brazil
3. Mr. Glenn Hodes, United Nations Environment Programme (RISOE Centre)
4. Mr. Roberto Schaeffer, Professor, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (COPPE)

General Discussion

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch at the Hotel Windsor hosted by EPE and UNCTAD

14:30 – 18:00 **Panel 4 - Roundtable on Recommendations for UNCTAD XII**

Facilitator: H.E. Mr. Arsene M. Balihuta, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Uganda in Geneva

(a) What impact would biofuels have on development strategies and how could UNCTAD support developing countries in the formulation of national biofuels strategies?

(b) Potential for South-South cooperation, particularly with respect to technical assistance and R&D.

(c) What can be done to help in the organization of the currently fragmented international biofuels market? How to de-couple biofuels/feedstock prices and food prices?

Speaker:

Prof. Ignacy Sachs, Professor Emeritus, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris and Chairman, International Advisory Expert Group, UNCTAD Biofuels Initiative

Interactive discussion

Closing remarks:

Ms. Lakshmi Puri, UNCTAD

Mr. Mauricio Tolmasquim, President of EPE