



ESEE NEWS

Newsletter of the European Society for Ecological Economics

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ESEE News is published by the European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE). Its purpose is to inform ESEE members of developments both within the Society and in other areas of potential interest. It is published up to four times a year and is sent free to ESEE members. The views expressed are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Society as a whole.

The European Society for Ecological Economics is a not-for-profit organisation devoted to the development of theory and practice in ecological economics in Europe. Membership is open to all interested individuals working in Europe or in other areas on request. For membership details please contact the Secretariat.

Lisbon 2005 conference draws worldwide crowd

Two years of planning were successfully brought to fruition in June with the Sixth ESEE biennial conference hosted by the ECOMAN group at the New University of Lisbon. More than 250 delegates attended the conference at the Gulbenkian Foundation's beautiful city centre campus, and over the course of three days more than 100 paper and poster presentations were made in a wide range of sessions. Several well attended plenaries indicated the quality of keynote speakers and the high level of enthusiasm amongst attendees.

Details of presentations made at the

conference are still available for download from the conference website, giving the extended abstract of papers and posters; many of these have now also been updated to include the full papers accompanying presentations.

During the conference plenaries were heard from out-going ESEE president Clive Spash, ISEE President Charles Perrings and ISEE President-Elect Joan Martinez Alier, who thanked the organising committee for their superb work in the running of the conference; further plenaries covered the fields of environmental policy, environmental politics, ecology and systems theory.

The attention to detail of conference organiser Paula Antunes and her team was evident in their invitation to Portuguese company ECOCARB to provide an opportunity to make the conference carbon neutral through purchasing of carbon credits. An intense debate at the Society's Ordinary General Meeting concerning the appropriateness of carbon trading as a means of addressing environmental impacts indicated the importance of revisiting this issue for the 2007 conference.

Alongside the academic programme, a splendid conference dinner followed by a unique fado recital in the ancient Palacio de Santa Catarina ensured that delegates could leave Lisbon having appreciated its cultural as well as its intellectual tradition.

For details see: <http://www.esee2005.org/>



The Seventh ESEE Biennial conference will be hosted by UFZ, Centre for Environmental Research, Leipzig in June 2007.

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*ESEE Administration
and Society
Development and
Planning Matters*

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Discussions on future conference formats (Committee Meeting held Tuesday, June 14th, 2005, at the New University of Lisbon, Lisbon)

The ESEE committee met for a General Meeting in Lisbon just before the start of the biennial conference. Many issues were discussed, including in particular the Society's communication and conference activities. The following points were raised:

The format of the ESEE biennial conference:

The tension between quantity of papers and their quality was discussed, and how people might be accepted to the conference (and be eligible for funding from their institutions) without them giving a paper. One suggestion was that papers might be accepted for discussion, but not be given space in the programme. Another suggestion was that 5-10 minute papers be presented with a poster. A final suggestion was that parallel mini-conferences might be organised.

A big event was considered useful since there is clearly interest in big events and they are good for recruitment for the society.

The need for a better evaluation process was discussed. A number of issues were suggested including: double blind reviewing; guidelines for reviewers; full papers for review for some sessions; a 2 stage process where those submitting papers respond to reviewers comments.

It was suggested that organisers of future conferences should be members of the board for 2 years before the conference, so that they understand the aims and concerns of the Society, board and the conference.

Space for project meetings could be provided at conferences. Sessions should not be project meetings. To ensure they do not turn into this, external discussants are necessary.

It may be possible and fruitful to associate main sessions of the conference with special journal issues.

If you have any thoughts on the issues discussed above, please email committee members with your views.

ESEE 2007 heads to Leipzig

The European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE), in co-operation with the German speaking associations for ecological economics VÖÖ and VÖW, invite you to meet in Leipzig for a three day conference, organised by the UFZ, Centre for Environmental Research Leipzig-Halle.

The Conference will explore contemporary scientific approaches for putting the concept of Sustainable Development into research and into practice, and focus on bridging nature and society. It will address interdisciplinary problems such as climate change and biodiversity loss on all institutional levels. It will examine the many boundaries – between disciplines, between ecosystems and political entities – that structure our approach to such environmental problems, and will assess the impact these boundaries have on research, education and governance for sustainability.

The conference programme will comprise plenary sessions with eminent speakers from different disciplinary backgrounds. It will have parallel sessions, poster sessions and symposia. A selection of the papers presented will be published in relevant international peer-reviewed journals. Symposia may be organized on any topic relevant to the conference theme, and may take a variety of forms including round-table discussions, panel sessions, or tutorials. They may also be a forum to demonstrate successful inter- and transdisciplinary projects.

Further details of the conference will be appearing here and on the ESEE website soon!

News from the Community Research and Development Service

COMMISSION NEWS

New report looks at EU social and environmental impact research

The European Commission has published a report assessing the social and environmental aspects of European research. Its authors concede the difficulty in monitoring such qualitative impacts, but are nonetheless confident of the fact that all major areas of potential impact are being addressed, and that a number of success stories have arisen.

The report notes how advances in technology have led to fears of a breach in human rights. Life sciences, nanotechnologies, and advanced information technologies have all raised ethical issues. The EU's Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) for research is addressing such questions by including a mandatory section on ethical issues in the evaluation process.

To access the report, please consult the following web address:

<http://www.cordis.lu/citizens/publications.htm>

Eighty-nine environmental innovation projects to receive funding

The European Commission is to provide funding for 89 environmental innovation projects across the EU under its LIFE-Environment programme, which aims to demonstrate new methods for dealing with environmental problems.

The projects are led by 'beneficiaries' in 17 EU countries, and represent a total investment of 220 million euro, of which the EU will provide 71 million euro. The 89 successful initiatives were selected from among 534 proposals received from a wide range of public and private organisations.

For further information, please consult the following web address:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/life/environment.htm>

MEPs launch a new initiative to promote the development of hydrogen fuel

MEPs from the all major political groups put forward their 'Hydrogen Manifesto' on 12 September, calling for a fundamental shift away from fossil fuel dependency and towards the green hydrogen economy.

The call comes at a time when the soaring price of oil is fuelling protest from different economic sectors. The cross party group of

MEPs expressed their will to see the creation of a fully integrated EU hydrogen economy, 'in the shortest possible time.' According to the MEPs, this move will herald a 'third industrial revolution' as early as 2025.

For more information on the hydrogen economy, please visit:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/energy/nm/nm_rt/nm_rt_hlg/article_1261_en.htm

New project on economic impacts of climate change in sectors of Europe

The Joint Research Centre's (JRC) Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS) is launching a project on the monetised sectoral impacts of climate change in Europe. The project will try to provide monetary valuations of the expected impacts of climate change in Europe, potentially useful for policymakers, given the state-of-the-art of today's methods and knowledge on the physical impacts of climate change. This project, called 'Projection of economic impacts of climate change in sectors of the European Union based on bottom-up analyses, PESETA', intends to demonstrate the value of synthesizing the current available sectoral impact studies in Europe under a consistent climatic and socio-economic framework.

For further information, please see:

<http://www.jrc.cec.eu.int>

New regionally disaggregated research backs further CAP reform

New research on the impact of CAP on Europe's regions provides support for furthering reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The study concludes that the current distribution of farming subsidies will lead to even greater inequalities between rich and poor regions in Europe, working against the European Union's cohesion objectives.

The report's findings show that, even after the CAP reforms were agreed in 2003 and 2004, rich, core regions in Germany, the UK, France and the Netherlands are collectively taking a greater slice than poorer, peripheral regions in Spain, Italy, Poland and southern and eastern Europe.

To download the final report 'The Territorial Impact of the CAP and Rural Development Policy (2002-04)', see:

<http://www.espon.lu/online/documentation/>

projects/policy_impact/2901/fr-2.1.3_revised_31-03-05.pdf

Follow-up to UK farm scale GM study shows results persist for 2 years

A follow-up study to the UK's farm scale evaluations of genetically modified (GM) crops has found that the impacts on wildlife seen in the early results can persist for two years.

In the original farm-scale evaluations, scientists studied the effects on biodiversity of four GM species - spring oilseed rape, winter oilseed rape, sugar beet and maize. They concluded that while GM spring rape and sugar beet are more harmful to the environment than their conventional equivalents, GM maize is actually better for biodiversity.

Having continued to monitor the amount of weed seeds in the soil of these crops, the new study suggests that the original results observed for GM rape and maize continue to persist for up to two years.

For further information, please consult the following web address:

http://www.pubs.royalsoc.ac.uk/bio_let_home_link_3.shtml

EU project successfully trials broadband by high altitude balloon

An EU funded project has made a significant breakthrough in proving the viability of delivering broadband Internet access via high altitude platforms in the stratosphere, following successful tests in Sweden.

The CAPANINA consortium, made up of 13 partners from Europe and Japan, carried out the trial using radio and optical communications equipment on board a 12,000 cubic metre balloon flying at an altitude of 24 kilometres. The first priority of the CAPANINA project is to demonstrate how high altitude platforms (HAPs) such as balloons and airships can be used to deliver low cost broadband access to remote and rural areas across Europe. The success of the trial suggests that the technology could become a reality within three to five years. Meanwhile the CAPANINA consortium will continue its research, with further trials planned for 2006 in conjunction with the project's Japanese partners.

For further information, please consult the following web address:

<http://www.capanina.org/>

PROFILE

A fire-side chat with a leading figure in Ecological Economics about life, the universe, and everything

Joan Martinez Alier was born in Barcelona, Spain, in 1939, where he subsequently grew up. He first studied Economics and Law at the University of Barcelona, and went on to take his doctorate in Economics at UAB. Thereafter his research included several years as a Fellow at St Antony's College, Oxford, and Visiting Professorships at the Free University of Berlin (1980-81), Stanford University (1989) and Yale University (1999-2000). In 1991 he published 'Ecological Economics', which remains one of the seminal works in modern ecological economics; his most recent text, 'The Environmentalism of the Poor', was published in 2003. He is currently President-Elect of the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE), a Member of the Scientific Committee of the European Environment Agency, and Professor in the Department of Economics and Economic History at the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

What was your impression of your local environment when you were a child?

I was born in 1939 in the right place - Barcelona - but at the wrong time. I like the Barcelona of today, although I write against her urban sprawl, and I love the anarchist revolutionary Barcelona of 1936 that George Orwell depicted and that I know was true. I also like the Barcelona of 1931 when the Catalan Government was briefly independent. I like the medieval Barcelona and the Barcelona of Gaudi and Domenech i Montaner. I was born in a place I love, but I was born at a very wrong time - the beginning of the Franco dictatorship after the Civil War. So the main impression was of poverty, silence, blackness. I also spent time as a child in a beautiful corner of the Ebro River, in Ginestar and Miravet, under the castle, but this had also been the seat of the terrible Ebro battle of 1938. War and death were everywhere in Europe when I was born. So it is a much, much better Europe now. Now poverty and deaths are outside, in the walls of Melilla...

Can you identify a point when you realised you wanted to work on environmental problems?

As an academic, this came in the mid-1970s. I wrote on agrarian issues in Andalusia, and also on Cuba and Peru, as a research fellow of St. Antony's College, Oxford in the 1960s and early 1970s. I spent 10 years off and on in Oxford. First I had done Economics and Law in Barcelona, then I left Spain, though I came for fieldwork in Andalusia and to see friends. I only came back to stay in 1975. When I was in Peru in the early 1970s I did research on agrarian history, peasant resistance, and I met ecological anthropologists who explained the economy of the Andes in terms of exchanges among different heights, so that from the top, meat and wool were exported down, while maize went up. One could express this in terms of calorie flows. These exchanges had long been non-market exchanges. I was very much

influenced by Ecological Anthropology. In 1973 I was teaching Rappaport's "Pigs for the Ancestors", when the oil crisis started. As an agricultural economist, I learnt to count calories at 22 years of age; unusual for an economist.

Who were the most influential writers for you when you were a student?

At a practical level, my own family was deeply involved in the 1960s and 1970s - when I was not in Catalonia - in fights in the Ebro river against a dam (in Xerta) and against nuclear power stations (in Ascò). The dam was not built, but the power stations were built. Retrospectively, these were already environmental movements. And in 1973, my friend Jose Manuel Naredo, at a meeting in Paris in Ruedo Iberico, an exiled Spanish publishing house, told me to read Georgescu-Roegen's book. I had read his articles on peasant economics - very continental. I was interested in his ideas. With Naredo, we started working on Podolinsky's 1880 energy accounts in the mid-1970s. We published the first article on energy, agriculture, Podolinsky and Engels in 1979. Georgescu-Roegen came for a short visit to Barcelona in 1980. I have not stopped since then; totally involved in the growth of ecological economics.

Which environmental problems concern you the most at the moment?

There are so many important partial questions - whether bio-invasions and local pollutions, or tigers vanishing in India, beautiful tigers lost for ever. But in fact the two main general questions to my mind are, first, the relations between the growth of the economy and the energy and material input - there is no progress towards dematerialization in absolute terms, on the contrary, hence more resource depletion, more carbon dioxide - and second, the resource conflicts in tribal and poor areas - how we are destroying peoples and nature in the commodity frontiers, whether in Orissa in India

or in Ecuador in Latin America. International corporations are often involved. These are facts, despite all the greenwashing.

If you had a year off to do whatever you wanted, what would you spend it doing?

I would travel around the world and study ecological distribution conflicts from close distance. I would prefer two years to one, with some months in China.

Are you generally optimistic or pessimistic about the future? Has your view changed over time?

I want to be optimistic; I am a believer in social action. Also, I know that history changes all the time, sometimes in ways unexpected. But I see the oil peak approaching; the greenhouse effect growing, the crazy nuclear policy in India (one or more breeder reactors). If I knew how to draw, I would summarize my views for the near future with a drawing of President Bush with Texan hat and boots and one pistol in each hand, shooting his way down the Hubbert Curve.

What sort of local environmental problems are you faced with where you live now?

I am right now writing these answers by email in a visit to India. I am with friends at Icrisat, in Hyderabad, a CGIAR ex-situ conservation place for chickpeas, groundnuts - very interesting. A bit out of this world; outside lies real India. But even at Icrisat they have a (controlled) invasion of pandanium, Congress grass, and there is often a terrible smell from chemical pollution in Patancheru. I mean, there are local problems everywhere.

What places (cities, regions, companies) have impressed you with their quality of their environmental management?

The question is the scale, isn't it? Not to

COMMISSION NEWS

*CORDIS News
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Japanese minister discusses ITER progress with Potocnik

EU Science and Research Commissioner Janez Potocnik met with Japan's Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Nariaki Nakayama in Brussels on 6 October. EU-Japan scientific cooperation was discussed, and in particular, cooperation within the international thermonuclear experimental reactor (ITER) project.

Both Mr Nakayama and Mr Potocnik welcomed the progress made in technical discussions on ITER. Since the decision was taken to locate the reactor in France - a decision that allows for a 'privileged partnership' between the EU and Japan - experts from the six ITER partners have been working on the final details that need to be decided before an agreement can be signed.

Mr Nakayama brought the Commissioner up to date on current discussions in Japan on the selection of scientific projects to be undertaken with the EU as part of the 'international broader approach' to fusion energy. The approach is aimed at the rapid realisation of fusion energy for commercial use. The Commissioner reiterated the EU's conviction that the International Fusion Materials Irradiation Facility forms an essential part of a fast track approach to fusion energy.

The meeting was also an opportunity to discuss broadening and intensifying cooperation between the EU and Japan. Mr Potocnik told his visitor of his hope that Japan will soon complete the remaining procedural steps needed for the conclusion of the Science and Technology Agreement between the two parties.

New study supports emissions trading in order to cut ship pollution

Acid gases sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) from ships could feasibly be curbed via an EU-wide permit trading scheme, according to a consultancy report by PricewaterhouseCoopers. The report addresses the Commission's concerns over the practicalities of implementing an EU-wide trading scheme for land and sea-based emissions of NO_x and SO_x, as proposed by Swedish ship owners three years ago.

The report outlines how ship emissions of SO₂ and NO_x can be monitored, verified and automatically reported and highlights the potential to substantially reduce emissions in a cost-effective manner.

For further information see:
<http://www.seaat.org/DemoProject/>

High oil prices and Hurricane Katrina sow winds of change in political climate

Record oil prices and now the unfolding disaster of Hurricane Katrina on America's southern seaboard are producing a new political climate on energy efficiency and global warming policies.

Calling for "greater political focus" on ways to deal with soaring oil prices, EU energy commissioner Andris Piebalgs said he intended to increase pressure on member states to implement the EU buildings directive, and agree the

energy services directive before the end of the year. Mr Piebalgs said the Commission would push for more research in green energy sources, adding that he also expected to see an increase in investment in nuclear energy. The Commission will table a biomass energy action plan by the end of the year and a communication on national renewable energy support schemes should also be published this year, and a biofuels communication will follow in 2006.

For more information, refer to:
<http://europa.eu.int/comm>

Scotland takes stock of the impact of a levy on plastic bags

A proposed Scottish levy on plastic shopping bags could lead to a net increase in waste, according to a study carried out for the Scottish executive. Such an environmental levy would have the most positive environmental impact if paper bags were also subject to a charge.

According to the study, placing a 10 pence (€0.15) charge on plastic bags would reduce net ground-level ozone pollution, litter and non-renewable energy consumption. But it would lead to a net increase in waste of 5,400 tonnes per year as shoppers switched from plastic to paper. Putting the charge on paper bags as well would have the same environmental benefits, while also resulting in lower greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption and water eutrophication. For further details, see:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/>

(continued from page 4)

mistake local cleanliness with good environmental management. For instance, the Netherlands seems often such a nice, clean, quiet place, but one has to remember that there are 400 people per square km, many, many pigs, cows and cars, so that there must be something wrong somewhere, right?

Which figures from the past do you most admire (not just in the environmental field), and why?

Gandhi, and some Gandhians in India today. Some Latin American women, environmental activists, who are good friends of mine - they are not from the past, they are very much alive at present. Because they are effective, clever, cheerful and disrespectful. Like Gandhi was at a much larger scale.

Do religious beliefs influence your life and work?

No, I became long ago a lapsed Roman Catholic. Then I became a lapsed Economist.

Do you think of yourself as a rural or as a city person?

Rural.

How do you relax at the weekend?

I work (read theses, write projects), read articles or books, write, and walk. I sometimes cook "paella de quinoa". Invented it. No property rights.

Do you have a favourite motto or saying about the environment?

It is not about the environment as such, but about how to study the environment. I am totally in favour of course of a detached scientific approach. But if you need an aphorism, I say that "activism is often a good source of environmental knowledge".

What is the best piece of advice you've been given?

I do not remember. I like to think that I have organized my life myself. I know this is a bit silly, so much depends on chance.

Kyoto CDM could be improved

A new paper by environmental policy experts at Germany's Wuppertal Institute discusses new opportunities for improving the Kyoto protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), concluding that a move from a project-specific to a broader "sectoral" approach could be positive.

Through the CDM, industrialised countries with greenhouse gas limitations in place can fund emission abatement projects in developing countries and claim resultant "certified emission reductions" towards their Kyoto target.

In practice, the CDM has been controversial, with heightened concern over the cost involved and there is a growing movement for change. The Wuppertal paper explores the potential of the "sectoral" approach to reduce costs per tonne of greenhouse gas abated and encourage projects with development benefits to host countries beyond pure greenhouse gas reductions.

For more information please refer to the project website: <http://www.wupperinst.org/Sites/Projects/rg2/1078.html>

Global warming "to hit Mediterranean tourism"

Mediterranean summer holidays could suffer from climate change, even if the EU target of limiting a rise in global temperatures to two degrees above pre-industrial levels is met, according to a report from environmental group WWF. The report estimates that, from mid this century, when WWF estimates the two degree threshold will be reached, the increasing frequency of drought, forest fires and heat-waves on the Mediterranean could see the holiday season shifting to spring and autumn. See website for full report: http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/climate_change/news/news.cfm?uNewsID=21530

Spanish energy saving and efficiency plan

The Spanish government has approved an €8bn, three-year energy saving and efficiency plan designed to cut consumption by 8.5% and reduce CO2 emissions by 32.5m tonnes. Launched on 8 July, the plan includes a 0.8% levy on consumers' electricity bills to finance the replacement of 2m low-efficiency domestic appliances and creation of green transport schemes for large workplaces. Included in a long list of other actions are energy audits in selected industrial sectors and improved building insulation.

LOOK ROUND

Each issue we take a look round the continent to catch up on the latest environmental

Aviation "could enter climate trading from 2008"

Including airlines in the EU's carbon emission trading scheme is the best way of tackling the sector's climate impacts, the European Commission confirmed in a recently published policy paper.

The new paper does not say when aviation might enter the emission trading scheme (ETS), but does not rule it out from the second phase starting in 2008.

The Commission has sidestepped its consultant's recommendation that allowances should be distributed centrally rather than by member states and instead the paper simply proposes a "harmonised allocation methodology", stating that airlines should be the entities responsible for trading since they have most influence over emission levels. All airlines operating from EU airports should be covered and the inclusion of other aviation 'greenhouse gases', other than CO2, will also be discussed.

For further details please see: http://europa.eu.int/comm/index_en.htm<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1192>

Italy boosts emission-busting forestry schemes

Italy's environment, economy and agriculture ministries have allocated €7.5m to public and private afforestation projects as part of the country's attempts to cut its net carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions in line with commitments under the Kyoto protocol. Italy saw its CO2-equivalent emissions rise by 15m tonnes in 2003. This roughly equates to the volume of emissions estimated to be absorbed annually by Italian forests. The new projects will be evaluated during the 2008-2012 Kyoto compliance period in terms of emissions absorbed against investment made. See <http://gazzette.comune.jesi.an.it/2005/164/10.htm> for further details.

CLIMATE &

Dutch research calls for auctioning of EU carbon allowances

A Dutch research centre is calling for radical changes to the EU's carbon emissions trading scheme in its second phase, including auctioning of emission allowances. The report by ECN questions the current system of free allocation, complaining that this does not encourage power firms to invest in low carbon technology.

Whilst acknowledging that auctioning allowances would not lead to a cut in electricity prices, it argued that revenues generated through auctioning could be used to offer tax breaks to industries paying high electricity prices, hence stopping the power sector from making "wind-fall profits" at the expense of other sectors already meeting their own trading caps.

So far no government has wanted to switch to an auctioning system because of fears that their industry would lose out to competition in countries where allowances are distributed free of charge.

For the full report, please see their website: <http://www.ecn.nl/>

UK warned on scale of climate change

According to experts, large chunks of Britain's economy must become carbon neutral if the country is to achieve a 60% cut in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050 while allowing for growth in aviation. The Tyndall Centre on Climate Change believes Governments' failure to count aviation and shipping emissions towards targets has led to serious underestimates of real emissions or required counter-measures.

For full details, see: http://www.e-collaboration.co.uk/tyndall/media/news/tyndall_decarbonising_the_uk.pdf

ND EUROPE

News. This issue we review some developments on the topic of climate change.

EMISSIONS

Tax-and-trade regulation "may be best for LCPs"

A review by the Commission of EU large combustion plant (LCP) emissions has come up with an innovative scheme to merge emissions taxes with emissions trading. The final report concludes that there are more cost-effective options available to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions than to cut sulphur dioxide emissions, and that derogations from emission limits given to power producers in the new EU member states are unlikely to distort the EU's electricity market.

In preparation for a possible revision of the 2001 LCP Directive, the European Commission is considering all market-based options - along with more traditional command-and-control measures, taking on board suggestions that a "carefully designed 'hybrid scheme' can be more efficient than a tax or tradeable permit scheme alone."

For details see the Commissions website: http://europa.eu.int/comm/index_en.htm

Portuguese budget links car taxes to CO2

The Portuguese government has approved linking vehicle taxes to carbon dioxide emissions as part of the 2006 budget. In a statement, it said the initiative, which enters force next July, "marks the beginning of a progressive reform to make vehicle taxation work to combat pollution". Definitive figures have not yet been released but the finance ministry said there would probably be a 10% reduction for cleaner vehicles. In July the European Commission proposed that all EU states should increasingly base car taxes on CO2 emissions.

For full details, refer to:

<http://www.portugal.gov.pt/Portal/EN/>

Drought blamed as Spanish CO2 hits new record

Spanish environment minister Arturo Gonzalo Aizpiri confirmed predictions that national CO2 emissions will reach 50% above their 1990 level this year. The minister blamed this summer's severe drought for the expected five percentage point rise this year alone. Lack of water has cut hydroelectric generation by 40%, forcing a 30% rise in production by fossil fuel power stations.

Norway's "costly climate challenge" analysed

An analysis by Norway's pollution control authority (SFT) concludes that it is technically possible to reverse the upward trend in national greenhouse gas emissions but only at the cost of "tough measures". At current rates emissions will rise to 35% above 1990 levels by 2020. Even stabilising them at those levels will cost up to Nkr200 (€25) per tonne of carbon dioxide, it concludes. Norway's target under the Kyoto protocol is for emissions to be no more than 1% above their 1990 level by 2008-12.

For full details, please refer to:

<http://www.sft.no/nyheter/dbafile14026.html>

France announces energy saving measures

French prime minister Dominique de Villepin announced a series of measures to cut energy consumption in a back-to-work speech after the summer break on 1 September. Measures include a €100m research and development programme to develop a high-efficiency car consuming just 3.5 litres per 100km within five years.

The prime minister said the government would pay for half of the cost of boilers using

renewable energy, including solar boilers. Tax incentives for high-efficiency condensing boilers are to be nearly doubled to 40%. He also announced an increase in tax credits for low-emission cars. Days before the announcement, the prime minister also decided to increase investments in a new generation of nuclear power stations.

European farming braced for climate change

In a joint meeting of EU environment and agriculture ministers, hosted by the UK Government in September, experts announced that climate change will have far-reaching impacts on European farming, due to a combination of lower rainfall in the south, more intense rainfall in the north, and more severe weather extremes.

A key challenge - and one that CAP reform is moving towards - is for agriculture to reduce its own output of greenhouse gases, whilst recognizing the potential for agricultural soils to sequester carbon from the atmosphere and the capacity for farming to produce substantial quantities of biofuels and other biomass energy. A new phase of EU research under the European climate change programme, to be launched in October, will focus on these possibilities and an EU action plan on biomass energy is also to be published in October.

For further details, see:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/>

EU-China climate deal fuels carbon capture hopes

The EU and China have agreed a partnership on climate change, including a pledge to develop a demonstration "zero carbon" fossil fuel power station by 2020. The deal is a further boost for the concept of carbon capture and storage, which could potentially reconcile continued large-scale coal and oil burning with big greenhouse gas emission cuts.

Priority areas for technical cooperation include cleaner coal combustion techniques, methane recovery, hydrogen and fuel cells and energy efficiency, energy conservation and renewable energy. The two sides agreed action plans on clean coal and energy efficiency and renewables earlier this year.

For full details see: http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/er/86119.pdf

News coverage is collected from the Environment News Daily Service (ENDS).

BOOKS

Please note that the details of the books listed here are provided by the publisher.

****NEW INTRODUCTORY TEXTBOOK****

Ecological Economics: An Introduction

Michael Common & Sigrid Stagl

Cambridge University Press. 646 pages. Hardback: £60 (ISBN-10: 0521816459 | ISBN-13: 9780521816458). Paperback: £30 (ISBN-10: 0521016703 | ISBN-13: 9780521016704)

Taking as its starting point the interdependence of human and natural systems, this book provides a comprehensive introduction to the emerging field of ecological economics. The authors, who have written extensively on the economics of sustainability, build on insights from both mainstream economics and ecological sciences. Part I explores the interdependence of the modern economy and its environment, while Part II focuses mainly on the economy and on economics. Part III looks at how national governments set policy targets and the instruments used to pursue those targets. Part IV examines international trade and institutions, and two major global threats to sustainability - climate change and biodiversity loss.

Institutions and the Environment

Arild Vatn

*Professor of Environmental Sciences,
Norwegian University of Life Sciences,
Ås, Norway*

Edward Elgar Publishing. 2005.

496 pages. Hardback. ISBN: 1 84376
100 9. \$135.00

This important text develops an institutional response to the core issues raised in public policy making and develops a distinct understanding of the role of institutions, not least in the study of environmental problems. It asks: how are conflicting interests shaped and taken into account in policy making? How should they be accounted for? What motivates the behaviour of firms and individuals, and how is it possible to change these motivations to produce the favoured common outcomes? The author addresses these questions by integrating elements from classical institutional economics, neoclassical economics, sociology and ecological economics.

JOBS

Post-Doctoral Position in Economics- Ecology Modelling The University of Paris-XI Paris, France

A postdoctoral associate is sought to join a young research team at the Ecology, Systematics and Evolution Lab- a CNRS laboratory at the University of Paris-XI, situated 30km south of Paris, France. The University hosts 27,000 students (2500 PhD) and 127 research labs, hosting 100+ staff. The position is for one year and may be renewed for a further year.

We are seeking a motivated postdoctoral fellow to construct and analyse a mathematical model at the interface of economics and animal or plant population dynamics. The ideal candidate would have an experience in mathematical modelling, ecological economics and conservation biology. However, candidates with less optimal profiles will be considered provided their motivation, work power and skills allow them to adapt rapidly to the project.

Salary: 1830 euros per months + health insurance.

Interested candidates should send a curriculum vitae, a brief summary of research experience and interests, and at least two references to:

Franck Courchamp (franck.courchamp@ese.u-psud.fr)

Lab ESE. UMR CNRS 8079

Batiment 362, Université Paris-Sud XI

F-91405, France

Tel: 0033 1 69 15 56 85 Fax: 0033 1 69 15 56 96

<http://www.ese.u-psud.fr/epc/conservation/pages/eoeco.html>

Research Fellows

Public Policy Institute of California San Francisco, USA

The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) currently has six positions available for researchers with a high level of expertise in one of the following areas: education, environment, infrastructure, immigration, political participation, and social policy. Applicants should hold a Ph.D. in Economics, Political Science, Public Policy, Sociology, Urban Planning, or a closely related discipline.

Applications will be considered as they are received and the positions will remain open until they are filled. Candidates seeking interviews at the Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA) meeting in January should apply by 1 December, 2005.

For detailed position descriptions and specific application instructions, visit:

[http://www.ppic.org/main/
opportunities.asp](http://www.ppic.org/main/opportunities.asp)

**Demand and Supply for
Ecosystem Services from
Tropical Forestry:
Market Actors,
Marketing and Institutions**

16th January, 2006
*Swiss Federal Institute of
Technology (ETH) Zurich,
Switzerland*

In this one day conference we focus on microeconomic aspects (demand, supply, market actors preferences' and marketing aspects etc) and institutional settings which help to coordinate the demand and supply for ecosystem services. The invited speakers will highlight in about eight presentations the issue from a theoretical and case study perspective. A plenum discussion on crunch issues will close the conference.

To register, email: thomas.koellner@env.ethz.ch by 15th December, 2005

For further details, please visit :

<http://www.uns.ethz.ch/res/ssedm/eco/conference06>

**“Management of Conflicts
between Wildlife and
Human Resource Use”**

25 - 27 January, 2006
Leipzig, Germany

The conference brings together both researchers and practitioners to discuss novel approaches in biodiversity conflict management. Parallel sessions will cover contributions from all relevant disciplines such as conservation biology, ecology, economics, law and other social sciences. A special focus will be on integrative approaches combining knowledge from different disciplines for successful conflict management as well as bridging science and society through the inclusion of stakeholders.

Motivation for the conference is the completion of the EU-funded project FRAP- 'Framework for biodiversity Reconciliation Action Plans'.

<http://www.frap-project.net/>

CONFERENCES

**IVth BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ECOLOGICAL
ECONOMICS**

**“ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY &
HUMAN WELL-BEING”**

15 - 19 DECEMBER, 2006
NEW DELHI, INDIA

**For full details visit the ISEE conference website at:
<http://www.isee2006.com>**

Deadline for Submission of Abstracts: May 31st, 2006

CALL FOR PAPERS

CSAE CONFERENCE 2006:

**REDUCING POVERTY AND INEQUALITY:
HOW CAN AFRICA BE INCLUDED?**
A conference on poverty and growth in Africa

19 - 21 March 2006
St Catherine's College, Oxford, UK

Papers addressing economic analysis of the broad issues relevant for growth and poverty in Africa are invited for the above conference. This conference will largely consist of parallel sessions, with two plenary sessions.

Paper submissions: All abstracts must be submitted online via the website.

PhD/DPhil students are requested to submit a full paper.

Deadline for submissions: 9 December 2005.

Enquiries: Enquiries should be marked 'CSAE conference 2006' and sent to:

Email: csae.conference@economics.ox.ac.uk

Fax: +44 (0)1865 281447

Postal: CSAE

Dept of Economics, Oxford University

Manor Road Building, Manor Rd

Oxford, OX1 3UQ, UK

<http://www.csae.ox.ac.uk/conferences/2006-EOI-RPI/>

CALENDAR EVENTS

November

3-6 November, 2005

Democracy and Economy, PEKEA Fourth International Conference.

Rennes, France.

Organised by: PEKEA (Political and Ethical Knowledge on Economic Activities)

<http://www.pekea.org>

8-10 November, 2005 (**NEW**)

NanoSolutions 2005: The Launch Event of the EU-funded NanoRoadMap.

Cologne, Germany.

Organised by The Institute of Nanotechnology

<http://www.nanosolutions-cologne.com>

9-10 November, 2005 (**NEW**)

Celebrating the first steps towards the implementation of the European Research Council (ERC).

Paris, France.

Organised by: Initiative for Science in Europe

<http://www.initiative-science-europe.org>

15 November, 2005

International Congress On Coastal & Marine Tourism.

Izmir, Turkey.

Organized by: Dokuz Eylul University

http://www.deu.edu.tr/DEUWeb/Etkinlik/Etkinlik.php?etkinlik_no=707&title=guncel#

21 November, 2005 (**NEW**)

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Aviation Conference.

London, UK.

Organised by: Economics for the Environment Consultancy & Green Budget Germany.

For details contact Ece Ozdemiroglu at: ece@eftec.co.uk or tel: +44(0) 20 7580 5383.

<http://www.eftec.co.uk/home.php>

21-22 November, 2005 (**NEW**)

Carbon Connections: Climate Change Opportunities In Agriculture.

Calgary, Canada.

Organized by: Climate Change Central

<http://www.climatechangecentral.com>

29-30 November, 2005

International Convention on Micro Finance and Sustainable Enterprise Development

Cochin, Kerala, India

Organized by: Institute of Small Enterprises and Development - Small Enterprises Observatory (ISED-SEO)

<http://isedonline.org>

December

1-2 December, 2005 (**NEW**)

Patenting Lives.

London, United Kingdom.

Sponsored by: Queen Mary Intellectual Property Research Institute

The Conference will examine intellectual property protections and restrictions on life forms, and particularly the ethical and moral concerns, but also questions of cultural, social, and economic development.

<http://www.patentinglives.org/conference.htm>

2-3 December, 2005 (**NEW**)

International Organisations and Global Environmental Governance.

Berlin, Germany.

Organised by: the Global Governance Project (GLOGOV.ORG) of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Institute for Environmental Studies), the Freie Universität Berlin (Environmental Policy Research Centre), the University of Oldenburg and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.

<http://www.fu-berlin.de/ffu/akumwelt/bc2005/index.html>

17-18 December, 2005

COE/JEPA Joint International Conference

Towards a New Economic Paradigm: Declining Population Growth, Labor Market Transition and Economic Development under Globalization.

Kobe, Japan.

Organized by: 21st Century COE Programme of Kobe University and Japan Economic Policy Association

http://www.econ.kobe-u.ac.jp/new_paradigm/

2006 2006 2006 2006

January

9-12 January, 2006 (**NEW**)

Second International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability.

Hanoi, Vietnam.

Organised by: Common Ground

<http://sustainabilityconference.com/>

16 January, 2006 (**NEW**)

Demand and Supply for Ecosystem Services from Tropical Forestry:

Market Actors, Marketing and Institutions.

Zurich, Switzerland.

To register, contact: thomas.koellner@env.ethz.ch by 15 December 2005.

<http://www.uns.ethz.ch/res/ssedm/eco/conference06>

25 - 27 January, 2006 (**NEW**)

Management of Conflicts between Wildlife and Human Resource Use.

Leipzig, Germany.

Website: <http://www.frap-project.net/>

February

2-3 February, 2006

GREEN POWER-5.

New Delhi, India.

Organized by: Council of Power Utilities

<http://www.indiapower.org>

14 February, 2006 (**NEW**)

Towards a Sustainable Future.

Calcutta, West Bengal, India.

Organized by: EcoSeminar 2003 Association

Deadline for abstracts: 15 January 2006

http://www.geocities.com/ecoseminar2003_association/sustainable_development.html

CALENDAR EVENTS

February 26- 2 March, 2006

Sharing the Fish - Allocation Issues in Fisheries Management.

Fremantle, Australia.

Organized by: Conference Secretariat - EventEdge International Management Group
Deadline for abstracts/proposals: 15 November, 2005

<http://www.fishallocation.com>

March

19 March, 2006 (**NEW**)

GPRG CONFERENCE 2006: Equity, Opportunity & Identity.

Oxford, UK.

Organised by: Global Poverty Research Group
All abstracts to be submitted online via: <http://www.csae.ox.ac.uk/conferences/2006-EOI-RPI>

Deadline for abstracts: 9 December, 2005

<http://www.gprg.org/events/2006-03-gprgconf/default.htm>

19-21 March, 2006 (**NEW**)

CSAE Conference 2006: Reducing poverty and inequality: how can Africa be included?

Oxford, UK.

Organised by: Centre for the Study of African Economies

Deadline for submissions: 9 December, 2005

<http://www.csae.ox.ac.uk/conferences/2006-EOI-RPI/>

April

6-8 April, 2006 (**NEW**)

The 12th Annual International Sustainable Development Research Conference 2006.

Hong Kong, China.

Organized by: Centre of Urban Planning and Environmental Management (CUPEM), The University of Hong Kong

Deadline for abstracts/proposals: 30 November 2005

<http://www.hku.hk/sdconf06>

24-26 April, 2006 (**NEW**)

Scottish Economic Society Annual Conference.
Perth, Scotland.

Deadline for proposals: 16 December, 2005

Contact: Anne Gasteen, Conference Committee

Co-ordinator, a.gasteen@gcal.ac.uk

<http://www.scotecsoc.org/>

May

14-18 May, 2006 (**NEW**)

VALDOR (Values in Decisions on Risk) Symposium.

Stockholm, Sweden.

Deadline for abstracts: 27 October, 2005

<http://www.congrex.com/valdor2006/>

23-25 May, 2006 (**NEW**)

Integrated Water Resources Management and Challenges of Sustainable Development.

Marrakech, Morocco.

<http://www.ucam.ac.ma/gire3d>

25-26 May, 2006 (**NEW**)

Third Scientific Conference on Economic Globalization and Environmental Policy.

Warsaw, Poland.

Organized by: Warsaw School of Economics, The Ellison Center University of Washington, European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists.

Deadline for abstracts/proposals: 10 December, 2005

<http://www.globalization.waw.pl>

June

4-7 June, 2006

Participatory Approaches in Science & Technology (PATH) Conference.

Edinburgh, Scotland.

Organised by: The Macaulay Institute, Aberdeen, as part of the PATH project.

<http://www.macaulay.ac.uk/serp/research/path/index.html>

July

3-7 July, 2006 (**NEW**)

Third World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists.

Kyoto, Japan.

Organized by: the Japanese Association of Environmental Economists, The Association of Environmental and Resource Economists & the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, with the Latin American and Caribbean Association of Environmental and Resource Economists.

Deadline for Paper Submission: 1 February, 2006

<http://www.worldcongress3.org/>

August

23-27 August, 2006 (**NEW**)

International Conference on Science & Technology for Sustainable Development.

York, United Kingdom.

Organised by the University of York Science Education Group

<http://www.sustained2006.org>

December

15-19 December, 2006 (**NEW**)

IXth Biennial Conference of International Society for Ecological Economics: 'Ecological Sustainability and Human Well-Being'.

New Delhi, India.

Deadline for Abstracts: May 13th 2006

<http://www.isee2006.com>

Please send details (preferably with a website) to b.davies@macaulay.ac.uk

Take Note

NanoSolutions2005: The Launch Event of the EU-funded Nano Road Map

The Institute of Nanotechnology is organising a three-day Nanotechnology conference in Cologne, Germany from 8-10 November 2005: NanoSolutions2005. The Launch Event of the EU-funded NanoRoadMap will showcase new and emerging nanotechnology companies and will cover a number of sectors including nanobiotechnology, nano-technology for communication and energy applications and new nanomaterials.

2nd Issue of Iberoamerican Journal of Ecological Economics available on-line

The Iberoamerican Network for Ecological Economics announces the publication of the 2nd Issue of the on-line and peer-reviewed Iberoamerican Journal of Ecological Economics (Revista Iberoamericana de Economía Ecológica). The journal publishes articles in Spanish and Portuguese. The 2nd Issue is devoted to the most relevant papers presented at the 2nd Meeting of the Argentinean-Uruguayan Society for Ecological Economics, which took place in November 2004 at the Universidad Nacional de Lujan, Argentina.

<http://www.redibec.org>

Mobile devices developed that can identify owners by their walk

A new, consumer-friendly technology that provides security for mobile devices has been developed in Finland. This innovative approach to user recognition makes it possible to identify the owner of a device based on the gait of his or her walk.

The new technology, developed by VTT, Technical Research Centre of Finland, prevents the unauthorised use of mobile devices, such as laptops, PDAs or mobile phones.

For details, see: <http://www.vtt.fi/>

New Report Released on EEA Website

Technical report No 5/2005, *Environmental Policy Integration in Europe - Administrative culture and practices* published by EEA (European Environment Agency) OPOCE (Office for Official Publications of the European Communities) in July 2005 is now available to download from their website.

This paper presents an overview of administrative culture and practices for EPI in Europe, and investigates some of the main management styles used. It reviews institutional structures and practices in the EU-25, the candidate and applicant countries, the countries of the European Free Trade Area (EFTA) and the countries of eastern Europe, Caucasus and central Asia (EECCA).

The report is available to download at: http://reports.eea.eu.int/technical_report_2005_5

New Report: Behavioural Economics: Seven principles for policy-makers

The New Economics Foundation has published this briefing as part of their wider programme of work on Theoretical New Economics. It distils many concepts from behavioural economics and psychology down to seven key principles, highlighting the main shortfalls in the neoclassical economics model of human behaviour. It is aimed primarily as an aid for policy-makers who use economic tools, but it should also be of interest for people trying to promote behaviour change more generally. For information see: http://www.neweconomics.org/gen/economics_theoreticalneweconomics.aspx.

ESEE 2007

The Seventh ESEE Biennial conference will be hosted by UFZ, Leipzig, in June 2007. See Page 2 inside!

Food for Thought: More Past Greats

The important thing in science is not so much to obtain new facts as to discover new ways of thinking about them.

Sir William Bragg

An economist is an expert who will know tomorrow why the things he predicted yesterday didn't happen today.

Laurence J. Peter

Ask five economists and you'll get five different answers (six if one went to Harvard).

Edgar R. Fiedler

An expert is a man who has made all the mistakes which can be made, in a narrow field.

Niels Bohr

Basic research is what I'm doing when I don't know what I'm doing.

Wernher Von Braun

Discovery consists in seeing what everyone else has seen and thinking what no one else has thought.

Albert Szent-Gyorgi

Probable impossibilities are to be preferred to improbable possibilities.

Aristotle

I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work.

Thomas Edison

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