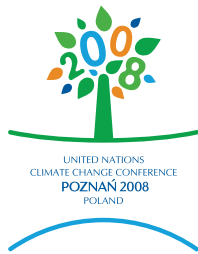


awards and events

Climate Change Conference, Poznan



Around 8,000 delegates from around the world will gather in Poznan, Poland, 1–12 December for the 14th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The conference – which follows on from the Bali meeting in December 2007 – will see UNFCCC continue negotiations on a post-Kyoto deal on climate change ahead of the key deadline of the December 2009 Copenhagen meeting. Key areas of focus include reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation to climate change, the introduction of new technology and new funding sources.

www.cop14.gov.pl

The newly-launched Green Star Awards, which will be presented in May 2009 for the first time, will recognize excellence in responding to environmental disasters. Jointly organized by UNEP, the Green Cross and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the prize will go to individuals, governments or organizations that have shown exemplary efforts and initiatives to prevent, prepare for and respond to environmental emergencies and disasters, especially in anticipation of the impact of climate change. The Award will serve as a form of advocacy for environmental emergency prevention and response by generating positive attention for those who assist with missions and who provide experts on the ground. It seeks to highlight the environmental impact of natural or man-made disasters and the critical importance of humanitarian assistance in responding to these emergencies.

www.unep.org

VI World Forum for Sustainable Development



The World Forum for Sustainable Development will take place in Brazzaville, Congo, 27–31 October 2008. Among the issues for discussion is the economic devaluation of natural wealth, as in the case of the hydrological basins and forests of the Congo. These issues will be increasingly prominent in international discourse in the lead up to the 2009 climate change negotiations and the 2011 International Year of Forests, whose aim is to “promote sustainable management, conservation and development of forests worldwide”. Forest-related economic activities provide livelihoods for 1.6 billion people worldwide and forests also play a critical role in mitigating the effects of climate change and protecting biodiversity. Some 350 square kilometres of forest cover are lost every day through conversion to agricultural land, unsustainable timber harvesting, unsound land management practices and creation of human settlements, among other factors.

<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/2011/2011.html>

IUCN World Conservation Congress



IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, will hold its World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, 5–14 October 2008. 8,000 leading decision makers in sustainable development from governments, NGOs, business, the UN and academia will participate in debates, workshops and training courses on topics including ‘A new climate for change’ and ‘Safeguarding the diversity of life’. The Congress will also elect the next IUCN President and Council.

www.iucn.org/congress/

Green Star Awards



Tierramérica, an environmental newswire sponsored by UNEP, has been awarded the Zayed Prize for the Environment for “environmental action leading to positive change in society”. The wire’s weekly news insert and radio broadcasts are carried by 20 newspapers and 400 radio stations across Latin America, bringing environmental news to thousands of people since 1995. The newswire recently opened the Tierramérica International Centre for Sustainable Development and Environmental Defence in Manaus, a city in the heart of the Brazilian Amazon. The Centre will take Tierramérica into the areas of research and training, to reflect what Latin America has to offer in the dialogue between academics, journalists, international bodies and society in the area of sustainable development. The Centre’s Consultative Council is headed by three Latin American former environment ministers: Brazil’s Marina Silva, Uruguay’s Mariano Arana and Ecuador’s Yolanda Kakabadse.

www.zayedprize.org.ae

Rock and jazz festivals go green



Two top Norwegian music festivals have joined the international fight against climate change by signing on to UNEP’s Climate Neutral Network (CN Net) – the online community of countries, cities, companies and organizations that are striving to cut their emissions. The first is the Hove Festival, a rock event that this year featured acts including Beck, Duffy, and rapper Jay-Z. The second, Canal Street, is a jazz and blues festival whose 2008 edition featured legends John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers, and The Waterboys. Together, the two summer festivals believe they could become a blueprint for a green global music festival movement in partnership with UNEP. The ultimate goal is to create a network of music festivals that can learn from each other and push each other to become even more sustainable in the future – in Europe to start with, and eventually in Asia and North America as well.

www.hovefestival.com
www.canalstreet.no

IPCC 20th anniversary



The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), created in 1988 by UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization, marked its 20th anniversary with a special session in Geneva from 31 August to 4 September. The IPCC shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former US Vice-President Al Gore “for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change.”

www.ipcc.ch/meetings/session29.htm

Zayed Prize for the Environment

