# UNEP-SBCI Co-Hosts Joint Workshop with UNFCCC and World Bank

On Monday, March 14th technical experts and high-level representatives from the UNFCCC, the World Bank and UNEP-SBCI gathered in Bonn, Germany, for a special workshop on the building sector and flexible mechanisms. Beginning in 2009, UNEP-SBCI and the UNFCCC Small Scale Working Group (SSC-WG) have developed a close cooperation: UNEP-SBCI submitted two official submissions on the role of buildings in flexible mechanisms in 2009, and in 2010, the UNFCCC and the World Bank participated in the UNEP-SBCI Fall Symposium in Shanghai, presenting opportunities for further collaboration.

The workshop brought together more than 40 participants representing the UNEP-SBCI Secretariat, the UNFCCC Secretariat's Small Scale Working Group (SSC-WG) and Methodology Panel members, Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project participants, World Bank climate finance experts, and other experts to share experiences and gain familiarity with each other's work as well as assess, in detail, the opportunities and challenges for buildings under flexible mechanisms. The discussion included: role of buildings in the CDM, the opportunity of promoting building energy efficiency through NAMAs, the possibility for the UNEP-SBCI's Common Carbon Metric (CCM) to help shape future CDM methodology, as well as the challenges and opportunities of building energy modelling in measuring, verifying and reporting greenhouse gas reductions under UNFCCC flexible mechanisms.

UNEP-SBCI's Niclas Svenningsen chaired the day's activities while UNEP-SBCI stakeholder expertise was represented by one of UNEP-SBCI's long time contributors, Stéphane Pouffary. Further inputs from UNEP-SBCI consultants Chia-Chin Cheng, lead author of UNEP-SBCI's report on CDMs and the Building Sector and Rajat Gupta, the CCM Phase I consultant and a renowned energy modelling expert, were delivered to highlight UNEP-SBCI's activities and progress. Other presentations covered practical experience and insight from a number of existing CDM projects, including the Masdar City project in United Arab Emirates and a NAMA project for the Government of Mexico.

Later in the afternoon our colleagues and technical experts with the World Bank provided several technical presentations on the role building energy modelling can play in the CDM process. Workshop members engaged in a number of vigorous discussions on the full range of technical aspects covered throughout the day and worked to identify critical next steps.

A number of important issues were identified for further exploration including: the need to identify monitoring and recalibration/verification requirements for building energy simulations so that the CDM and Certified Emission Reductions (CER) can maintain their integrity and validity; the need to identify methods to include suppressed demand; identifying a way to include top-down methodologies in future NAMAs; how CDMs can be developed or structured so that they support national policies; the potential for using the CCM to develop local capacity; and the need for future workshops to resolve specific technical and procedural challenges.

The UNFCCC secretariat, recognizing the critical role buildings play, is truly giving the building sector high priority and their full attention. Further, UNEP-SBCI's CCM was recognized for its potential to provide capacity building and base-lining and participants identified specific needs and requirements for the future development of building-specific NAMA and CDM methodologies. UNEP-SBCI is now working jointly with the World Bank, the UNFCCC and other technical experts to identify and plan for further cooperation and collaboration as we work to transform this challenge into an opportunity over the coming year. We expect to have further participation from UNFCCC and the World Bank at the UNEP-SBCI Annual General Meeting and Symposium in May as we continue strengthening our cooperative relationship.

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