

WECF-News**Gender in Energy and Climate Change**

by Ulrike Roehr, co-ordinator of the working group (contact: roehr@life-online.de)

Towards CSD 14

Sustainable energy, climate change, atmosphere/air pollution and industrial development are the issues of CSD 14 and 15. The Review Year (2006, CSD14) will evaluate progress made in implementing sustainable development goals and identifying obstacles and constraints, while the Policy Year (2006, CSD15) will decide on measures to speed up implementation and mobilize action to overcome these obstacles and constraints. Gender equality is one of 12 cross cutting issues, to be taken into consideration any time.

ENERGIA and WEDO, as official organising partners for the Women's Major Group, together with LIFE/WECF and IUCN have agreed to join efforts and conform a Women's Working Group in order to promote and integrate the gender perspective into the topics of energy and climate change.

We decided to carry out several activities together, from discussions papers to side events at the CSD. The first one is a mailing list which is already set up – if you want to join, please send an email to women_csd14and15-owner@yahoogroups.com The second one is the discussion paper of the Major Group women, which has to be distributed to the UN-CSD secretariat till November 15, 2005. The first draft of the paper will be posted to the mailing lists around October 10, comments are requested till end of October.

Because Georgia will have the lead of the CSD-bureau in the next year, co-lead by the Netherlands, WECF supports Georgian NGOs in fundraising for capacity building. A workshop is scheduled to take place, in which a session on gender mainstreaming in the CSD-process is integrated. We will keep you informed about further developments.

Updates on the activities you will find at our csd14-website

www.genanet.de/index.php?id=454&L=1

Update UNFCCC COP11/MOP1 gender activities

In the beginning of September we invited gender & climate change researchers from all over the world (there are not so many) to participate in the workshop we want to host in cooperation with IPCC at COP11/MOP1. We got very positive reactions, but the problem is a lack of funding for travel. It is not only people from developing countries or EECCA region asking for subsidies, but also those e.g. from US. We asked several organisations, e.g. Rockefeller Fund and Ford Foundation, but also the Swedish Development Ministry and the Environmental Ministry for support. The first ones told us they currently don't have environmental or climate change programmes, the others did not answer until now.

Furthermore we asked for a stall at the exhibition side and for a slot for a 'climate talk' on gender and climate change. Decisions will be taken by the UNFCCC secretariat in early October.

Updates on the activities regarding COP11/MOP1 and the decisions you will find at

www.genanet.de/unfccc.0.html?&L=1

Gender and climate change expert meeting in Germany (BMU)

In Germany, gender and climate change experts met in a workshop at the Environmental Ministry in the beginning of August 2005. Aiming to explore strategies and to build cooperation, a draft research agenda was developed, which will be further developed during the Workshop at COP11.

FIFA World CUP supports Gold Standard Project by Women for Sustainable Development in India

I am really not a fan of soccer/football, anyway I want to attract your attention to a project of the FIFA World Cup, taking place in Germany 2006. The FIFA World Cup Organising Committee agreed in the concept of climate neutrality ("Green Goal"). The tournament is expected to generate approximately 100,000 incremental tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions in Germany, due largely to increased road traffic and stadium energy requirements. The emissions will be balanced by investment in eco-friendly projects ("Gold Standard" CDM-Projects) in emerging nations. The first project decided on is one developed by "Women for Sustainable Development (WSD)", India and provides a source of energy using micro-scale biogas units. The project will offset a third of the emissions associated with the FIFA 2006 and will provide income, shelter and access to environmentally friendly and healthier energy resource in a tsunami affected area. The facilities convert cow dung into biogas, conveyed by a short length of piping to a cooking plate within the hut. Eco-friendly biogas thus replaces kerosene and wood, protecting local forestation and reducing damage to the global climate and will protect women's and children health.

For more information please have a look at:

http://fifaworldcup.yahoo.com/06/en/050906/1/4k5h_pf.html

First reports on gender impacts of Hurricane Katrina in the US

Increased intensity and frequency of hurricanes are one of the impacts of climate change. Hurricane Katrina showed us quite plainly, that is not only far away, developing countries who are affected and who have problems to deal with the catastrophe. Same is in highly industrialised countries like the US. the following section from a report by the gender and disaster expert Elaine Enarson provides us an insight into the impacts on women:

"It was low-income African American women, many single mothers among them, whose pleas for food and water were broadcast around the world from the Superdome, women more than men who were evacuated from nursing homes, and women more than men whose escape of sorts was made with infants, children and elders in tow. Now we see on nightly TV the faces of exhausted women standing in seemingly endless lines seeking help of any kind. In the long run, as we have learned from studies of past disasters, women will be at the heart of this great city's rebirth and the emotional center of gravity for their families on the long road to the "new normal." They will stitch the commemorative quilts, organize community festivals and hurricane anniversary events, support their schools and faith-based organizations and relief agencies, and compose and sing many of the Katrina songs to come. Though not this simple it is often said that men rebuild buildings while women reweave the social fabric of community life." (Elaine Enarson, see the full report at: www.public.asu.edu/~yma14/Katrina/The%20broader%20picture.htm)

More reports can be found here:

www.whrnet.org/docs/issue-katrina.html (Katrina and her Gendering of Class and Race)

www.nycagainstrape.org/research_factsheet_111.html (Katrina, Natural Disasters and Sexual Violence)

The paper "Gender equality in disasters. Six principles for engendering relief and reconstruction", elaborated and published by Gender and Disaster Network, may help to address gender issues in the follow up of disasters everywhere in the world in a proper way. See: www.unisdr.org/wcdr/preparatory-process/inputs/gender-broadsheet.pdf

News from the EU

Eurobarometer Nuclear Waste

A special issue of the Eurobarometer publishes results of a survey requested by DG Energy and Transport on Nuclear Waste. Some of the results show clear gender differences, e.g. the attitudes towards nuclear energy, but also (lacking) information about nuclear waste. Concerning information, on average, more men provide the correct answer, while more women give no response. Concerning attitudes: although 46% of men expressed a favourable opinion towards this type of energy, this was true of only 29% of women. Similar results we know from studies in Sweden, Finland, Germany etc. But we were amazed by one of the conclusions: those who are well informed about nuclear waste, are in favour with this form of energy production, those who don't know about nuclear waste, refuse it. Which could mean: if you teach women about nuclear waste, they will shift their attitudes and will be in favour with nuclears. I don't believe so!

A short version as well as the full report (special 227) can be downloaded at http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_en.htm#227

Green Paper Energy Efficiency or Do More With Less

The Green Paper on Energy Efficiency was adopted by the Commission on the 22nd of June 2005. It is the starting point of a thorough discussion with all stakeholders on the priorities in this field. The consultation on the Green Paper was expanded until the end of March 2006. The Commission will publish an Action Plan as the outcome of the consultation in which it indicates which actions should be undertaken, in what fields and in what order of urgency. The Commission, therefore, warmly welcomes your input on the 25 question.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/energy/efficiency/index_en.htm

We have heard that it would be good to write comments or a position until Nov. 9, 2005 latest. This will secure that the position will be taken into consideration in further negotiations. I will draft a statement on some of the questions with high gender relevance and will consult it in the working group/ mailing list.

Meetings, conferences...

The Second European Climate Change Program (ECCP II)

In the Communication "Winning the battle against climate change", the Commission announced it would launch a new phase of the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II). The European Climate Change Programme is the Commission's main instrument to discuss and prepare the further development of the EU's climate policy. As before, the Commission plans to run this Programme in close cooperation with a wide range of stakeholders. The Commission intends to launch ECCP II through a stakeholder Conference on 24 October 2005 in Brussels. In the Plenary Session, Commissioner DIMAS for the Environment will present the Commission's view on the further development of EU climate policy.

Because this conference will probably kick off the main process for stakeholder consultation on climate change in EU for the next year, two representatives from WECF resp. LIFE will take part in it: Minu Hemmati, who is currently living in Brussels, and me myself. We will report on the conference in the next newsletter.

For more information see: <http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/climat/eccp.htm>

First Annual Conference: Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign 2005-2008, 28 and 29 November 2005 in Brussels

Intelligent energy production and consumption are key strategies to successfully fulfilling the EU's commitment to change the energy landscape. The Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign 2005-2008 will contribute to the achievement of EU energy policy goals and targets in the field of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, clean transport and alternative fuels.

This launching conference will provide a high visibility platform to outline the sustainable energy policy framework in the EU and debate the specific challenges which Member States face. It will also provide an opportunity to discuss important sustainable energy policy issues with stakeholders and to analyse progress made in reaching the objectives at EU and national, regional and local levels. The first achievements of the Campaign and of Sustainable Energy Partners will be presented and debated.

Unfortunately the timing for the conference is in conflict with UNFCCC COP11/MOP1 in Montreal. If anyone from the WECF working group is going there and could report on the conference, this would be great!

More information: <http://www.sustenergy.org/suregnew.cfm>

Publications

Danyel Reiche (ed.): Handbook of Renewable Energies in the European Union. Case studies of the EU-15 States. Frankfurt am Main, Berlin, Bern, Bruxelles, New York, Oxford, Wien, 2005

This publication is the completely revised and updated second edition of the *Handbook of Renewable Energies*. The handbook is a collection of systematic case studies describing national renewable energy policies in the EU-15. All the recent developments in the field of renewable energies were integrated, such as new support schemes, for example in Austria, the Netherlands and Sweden, and changing administrative responsibilities as in Germany. As in the first edition, all chapters follow the same structure. At the beginning of each case study, a definition of renewable energies is given for the individual country and the starting position in energy policy as well as the main actors are described. The instruments for promoting renewable energies are shown and each section concludes with an analysis of current obstacles and conditions for future success. Finally, a service chapter informs the reader about the most important associations, websites, and journals pertinent to the subject matter and provides some general information about the EU-15 States. The book (price: 38 EUR) can be ordered on the website of the publisher with the following link:

<http://www.peterlang.com/Index.cfm?vID=53560&vHR=1&vUR=2&vUUR=1&vLang=EN>