

## **FORUM**

- "As much as peace may cost, it is never too expensive" - a Security Address

## **POLICY & RESEARCH**

- Is there a life after conflict? The new World Development Report
- Land grabbing in Ethiopia: Risk or opportunity for food security?
- Toward conflict-sensitive adaptation in Nepal
- South Stream and Nabucco: The politics of gas

## **CONFERENCE REPORTS**

- World Water Day in Washington: Toward a more water secure world?
- Speculation in agricultural commodities: One cause of hunger
- Building bridges in South Asia: Water security and climate change

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- "Green Diplomacy", web-based course (16 May - 24 June)
- "Threatened Island Nations: Legal Implications of Rising Seas and a Changing Climate" in New York, NY (23-25 May)
- "The New Politics of Water: Water security and economic growth in emerging economies" in London, UK (14-15 June)

## **IN BRIEF**

- A resource school in Kyrgyzstan, pollution warriors in a Chinese village, a new water-related Master's program in the UK, as well as a book on preventing the environmental and economic collapse

## **IMPRINT/CONTACT**

- Imprint
  - Contact
- 
-

## FORUM

### **"As much as peace may cost, it is never too expensive" - a Security Address**

*By Christina Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*

We all agree that all nations need stability to flourish. In its context, it is alarming to admit that if the community of nations is unable to fully stabilize climate change, it will threaten where we can live, where and how we grow food and where we can find water. In other words, it will threaten the basic foundation - the very stability on which humanity has built its existence.

Let us look at some factors:

1. Reduced water supply and growing demand will in some places lead to increasing competition among different sectors of society, different communities and different countries. Already, one-third of all people in Africa live in drought-prone regions. The IPCC estimates that by 2050, up to 600 million Africans will be at risk of water stress.
2. On a global level, increasingly unpredictable weather patterns will lead to falling agricultural production and higher food prices, leading to food insecurity. In Africa, crop yields could decline by as much as 50% by 2020. Recent experiences around the world clearly show how such situations can cause political instability and undermine the performance of already fragile states.
3. Changes in sea-level, more frequent and more severe natural disasters and water shortages have the potential to cause large-scale, destabilizing population movements. Migration, especially within a country, is not inherently problematic and is quite common in Africa. But what we have seen historically in terms of international migration will be tiny compared to the migration brought about by the magnitude of future pressures on vulnerable populations.

All these factors taken together mean that climate change, especially if left unabated, threatens to increase poverty and overwhelm the capacity of governments to meet the basic needs of their people, which could well contribute to the emergence, spread and longevity of conflict. These are the reasons why militaries around the world are planning for climate change, adjusting their budgets, their strategies and their priorities. This is understandable, but the very scale of the security problem in a world that begins to panic over the advanced impacts of climate change could overwhelm any single country's ability to defend against it, let alone pay the cost to do so. There are two keys that need to be turned to maintain the type of stability that will help nations flourish: the one is adaptation and the other is mitigation. Adapting to the impacts of climate change is a must. Many adaptation options exist that can help people cope in a changed world, and ultimately contribute to preventing conflict. But mitigation - the reduction of greenhouse gases - is critical to limit the severity of climate change and its potential to cause conflict in the long-term. The more greenhouse gases are reduced, the more climate change impacts will be limited in the long-term, and the less climate change will contribute to conflict.

The recent UN Climate Change Conference in Cancun put in place a solid framework for the adaptation and mitigation keys to be turned and for them to be turned on an increasing scale going forward. In terms of adaptation, the conference established the Cancun Adaptation Framework, which will strengthen action on adaptation in developing

countries through international cooperation. The conference also established an Adaptation Committee to promote the implementation of stronger action on adaptation through providing technical support and guidance to countries. In terms of mitigation, governments recognised a 2C temperature limit, with a possibility of a 1.5C limit. Importantly, the conference officialised the mitigation targets of industrialised countries which had been put forward during 2010. Industrialised countries also committed to develop low-carbon development plans. Additionally, 37 developing countries officialised their mitigation measures that aim to significantly change emission levels for 2020. This was an encouraging breakthrough. However, for the mitigation key to unlock the door to a climate-safe world, more is needed. This is primarily because the level of ambition currently on the table amounts to only 60% of what is needed to limit the temperature increase to the agreed 2 degrees Celsius. Furthermore, a 2 degree increase is in fact no guarantee for the survival of small island states or the limitation of water stress in Africa. Similarly, no agreement was reached on the year in which global emissions need to peak. Science tells us what is needed: a global peaking in 2015 and a 50% reduction compared to 2000 levels by 2050.

This should be a wake-up call to the world! For if we do not manage to constrain carbon to the recommended level, we will collectively lose the ability to turn the mitigation key and miss the opportunity to put the world on a pathway that does not hold a large potential for conflict. It is critical that the Cancun Agreements are speedily built upon and that every opportunity is used by all sectors of economies to implement the agreements. Cancun provided a clear policy direction towards global low-carbon economic growth, which primarily means low-carbon energy. Although they come from different directions, this is where the international response to climate change and national defence policies mesh together, because the world desperately needs a new model of human development that is sustainable and stable - a model that breeds peace, not war. Global, low-carbon growth is the only realistic and achievable model that we now have on the table. Growth because the developing world needs it. Low-carbon because the whole world needs it. Governments, the military and business all have a common and urgent cause in bringing forward quickly the very real and broad-based political, economic and social benefits that climate change solutions offer. For nations to flourish and for the keys to be turned effectively, now is the moment to decide where best to put time, money and resources. Decisions on future defence spending are intricately linked to decisions on immediate climate investment through the different future risk assessments.

What will be better? To continue to support a traditional global military budget that has risen 50% in real terms from 2000 to 2009 and continues to increase? Or to increase a preventive military budget investing into adaptation and low-carbon growth and avoid the climate chaos that would demand a defence response that makes even today's spending burden look light? Even under current trends, the rate of defence spending growth could account for a major part of the money needed to cut global emissions and to help the vulnerable, often in the most unstable areas of the world, to protect their societies from crumbling under climate pressures.

I am encouraged that defence establishments worldwide - from the United States to China, from Europe to India - are now very much awake both to the strategic implications of climate change for future military readiness and to the crippling cost to themselves of continued reliance on fossil fuels. The Pentagon estimates that it costs at least US \$400 to put one gallon of fuel into combat vehicles and aircraft in Afghanistan. Protecting fuel routes from attack is also one of the major causes of US casualties there. But I would ask defence chiefs everywhere to take the next step and press directly for

investment in low-carbon technology, both at home and abroad, and to press for investments in adaptation, especially in developing countries. The defence industry has had an important historical role in developing technologies. This is an opportunity for the military industry to become the cutting edge of clean technologies that are urgently needed. This is not only the wiser response to the climate threat but also the best option they have to avoid the worst future scenarios of global instability. Por mucho que la paz cueste nunca es cara - As much as peace may cost, it is never too expensive.

*This is the shortened version of a speech by Christina Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, to the Congress of Deputies of Spain at the Centro Superior de Estudios de la Defensa Nacional in Madrid on 15 February 2011. The original version is available [here](#).*

▲Top

## **POLICY & RESEARCH**

### **Is there a life after conflict? The new World Development Report**

Is it possible to escape the destructive circle of violence? The new World Development Report (WDR) "Conflict, Security and Development", published in April, gives profound answers following a new method of preparing the World Bank's flagship publication. As Sarah Cliffe, Director and Special Representative of the WDR 2011, points out, "Findings emerged less through our analysis and policy documents than through the consultations we held around the world. Essentially, we reversed the conventional order of WDR consultations. Instead of drafting the report and then going out to get feedback in the final stages, we worked from the outset with civil society and government reformers in different countries, and with partners in the UN system and regional institutions." According to Cliffe, Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Rwanda are useful examples to illustrate how countries have successfully emerged from violent conflict and have made substantial progress in key areas such as combating poverty. Key drivers of conflict such as injustice, human rights abuses, and bad governance, but also corruption or unemployment, need to be addressed by creating institutions to build new confidence or to plan for cross-border infrastructure projects to establish a regional perspective, as well as opportunities for income generation.

Although the role of natural resources such as strategic minerals and forests is only a minor topic of the report, it is a core aspect when it comes to defining new directions for international support. Especially fragile states need to be protected from food and resource shocks, according to the authors. However, it is also stressed that new analytical efforts are needed to examine the state of scientific knowledge about the availability of key resources, including oil, food, water, and land. In addition, the question of how climate change will affect each of the elements needs to be considered. To this end, a World Resources Outlook should be compiled by relevant agencies to provide policy makers with an integrated analysis they currently lack. Without such an analysis, further violent conflicts can be caused as an unintended consequence of policy making - as can be learnt from the expansion of bio-fuels production and its negative food security implications mentioned by the report. In light of the report's sensitivity to potential negative implications of global change and environmental degradation, it is, however,

somewhat surprising that there is no examination of the ways in which sustainable resource management or the establishment of a clean energy infrastructure may serve as a useful pathway to provide new means of income generation. (*Dennis Taenzler*)

For the World Development Report 2011, please see

<http://wdr2011.worldbank.org/fulltext>.

See also [Sarah Cliffe's blog](#).

▲Top

### **Land grabbing in Ethiopia: Risk or opportunity for food security?**

Despite its high agricultural potential, Ethiopia is the largest recipient of international food aid. The lack of transport infrastructure, poor development of irrigation structures, and soil degradation are just some of the reasons.

The Ethiopian government is currently staking its hopes on foreign direct investment in farmland. Critics talk of "land grabbing", but Ethiopia sees this as an opportunity to bring agricultural technology, know-how, and infrastructure into the country. As such, in early February this year, Ethiopia's agriculture minister announced that 3 million hectares would be leased to foreign investors.

It is doubtful, however, that the present 2.8 million recipients of humanitarian food aid will benefit. Experiences with existing lease agreements do not provide much ground for optimism. According to a report by IIED, FAO, and IFAD, the leases extend for several decades and the maximum price amounts to US \$10 per hectare. Ethiopian farmers, on the other hand, often do not possess land certificates and have only land use rights, which they can be deprived of at any time.

Leasing has frequently resulted in exacerbating existing land conflicts. One example is the fertile but conflict-ridden Gambella region where the Ethiopian government is relocating 45,000 families. The local population has no legal means to fight the land grab because the land is owned by the state.

The big question is whether the government will be able to regulate the investment projects in such a way that the local population will actually benefit.

One of the key issues is whether the food produced will even stay in the country. The main investors are from countries such as India, China, and Saudi Arabia, which are themselves battling hunger and malnutrition. Leasing can only serve as a long-term remedy for Ethiopia's food insecurity if the agreements include binding commitments on the inclusion of indigenous farmers, environmental impact assessments, and export restrictions. Moreover, a revised and binding system of land tenure needs to be implemented. (*Lena Donat*)

Current information concerning the debate around land grabbing in Ethiopia can be found here: <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=92292>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/mar/21/ethiopia-centre-global-farmland-rush>.

You can find a detailed description of the situation in the Gambella region [here](#).

▲Top

## **Toward conflict-sensitive adaptation in Nepal**

*Interview with Ivan Campbell, Senior Advisor at Saferworld, UK*

### **ECC: Ivan, from your perspective: what is the most difficult challenge communities face in Nepal in an age of climate change?**

Nepal's vulnerability to climate change is well known, with temperature increasing at a consistently high rate since the mid-1970s. This has caused an estimated two-thirds of glaciers to retreat, while many glacial lakes are at risk of bursting their natural dams. Nepal has also experienced more intense monsoons and dry seasons in recent years. These changes are affecting communities most immediately through flooding and drought. Frequent flooding in recent years has led to loss of productive agricultural land, destroyed crops, damaged houses and infrastructure, and loss of life. Droughts have resulted in declining crop productivity and the drying of water sources (wells, ponds, and springs). The consequences for communities in Nepal include reduced food security, reduced access to water resources, and increased vulnerability of marginalised and poor people.

### **ECC: Is it, in your view, possible that climate change can contribute to an outbreak of violent conflict?**

There is rarely a direct correlation between climate change and violent conflict, but the consequences of climate change – such as those identified above – may well interact with existing features of the context in a way that increases the risk of conflict. In other words, climate change has a threat-multiplying effect, and could potentially trigger violence. In the case of Nepal, although the war is over, there remain significant underlying drivers of conflict. In many communities daily life is characterised by poverty, entrenched inequalities, negligible state support and a sense of insecurity. Given these conditions, the additional stresses brought about by climate change may have a strong threat-multiplying effect. Climate change induced conflict would significantly undermine peace and stability in Nepal, as well as weaken the capacities of the Nepali state and people to adapt to climate change in the future.

### **ECC: How do you address these challenges, and what is, in a nutshell, the main difference of the "Saferworld approach" to other adaptation activities in this region?**

In recent years, Saferworld has examined how the relationship between climate change and conflict plays out in local communities. We have conducted field research in Bangladesh and Kenya, leading to recommendations for national and local actors to mitigate the risks of climate change induced conflict. We subsequently compared the findings of these studies and - despite the very different contexts - identified a common pattern regarding that combination of factors most likely to lead to insecurity and violence at the community level. Building on this, we formulated a framework for analysing, and responding to, the relationship between climate change and conflict. Saferworld's approach is distinguished by two characteristics:

- 1) While recognising the importance of analysis and action at higher levels, we have focused on the community level, both in terms of understanding the issue and identifying opportunities for action.
- 2) Recognising the risk of getting bogged down in debates about the nature of the relationship between climate change and conflict, we have tried to develop models that

accommodate the complexity and variability of the issue, and that support practical responses - since in those regions most vulnerable to climate change, this is not a matter of academic debate but of urgent practical consequence.

**ECC: Ivan, can you please describe how you address the need to adapt to changing climate conditions in Nepal?**

In Nepal the process of developing a national adaptation programme is well underway, so the window of opportunity to incorporate a conflict perspective is narrowing. In 2010, following consultations with stakeholders, Saferworld initiated a project to help make adaptation measures more conflict-sensitive, with a focus upon Nepal's Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA). Core groups of local stakeholders were identified in four districts where the LAPA was being piloted, including CBO representatives and local authorities. Over the course of six months, and three shared learning workshops, Saferworld worked with these groups to develop participatory analyses of the local context. These focused upon conflict issues and dynamics, as well as climate change impacts, and how these factors interact. The process strengthened participants' capacities to analyse the local context and raised awareness of the relationship between climate change and conflict. Participants explored how adaptation interventions may have negative or positive impacts upon the conflict situation, and the need therefore for conflict-sensitive approaches. Lessons learnt from the project will inform local adaptation planning in Nepal.

**ECC: Thank you very much for this interview.**

*(The interview was conducted by Stefanie Schaefer)*

Saferworld's research paper on climate change induced conflicts in Kenya is available at <http://www.saferworld.org.uk/smartweb/resources/view-resource/422>.

The Working Paper "Climate Change and Conflict: A framework for analysis and action" is available at <http://www.saferworld.org.uk/smartweb/resources/view-resource/458>.

▲Top

**South Stream and Nabucco: The politics of gas**

In recent months, Gazprom has been able to notch up some successes for its South Stream gas pipeline project. If the project is implemented, however, it poses risks for sustainability, competition, and supply security in the European energy market. The EU member states therefore need to adopt a more consistent approach for regulating the gas market and commit themselves to closer cooperation.

The events at Fukushima have also contributed to re-energizing the debate on energy security. About a quarter of the EU's primary energy requirement is met through gas, which is considered a relatively clean and cost effective fuel. At the same time, gas transported through pipelines can easily be exploited for political ends. Russia demonstrated this by cutting off supply during its dispute with Ukraine in 2006 and 2009. The EU states are therefore keen to tap the huge gas reserves around the Caspian Sea. The Nabucco Pipeline, a prestigious EU project, will transport the gas via Turkey and Southeast Europe. It will be financed and operated by an independent consortium. Gazprom's South Stream is to follow a similar route, but Gazprom is reluctant to give up control over South Stream and relinquish its political leverage. Russian Prime Minister

Putin secured support from Serbia and Slovenia in March this year. Moreover, BASF subsidiary Wintershall announced that it will participate in financing the project.

South Stream's impact on energy policy must not be underestimated. Market analysts doubt that South Stream and Nabucco can both operate profitably. If the Nabucco project falls through, the envisaged competition will not materialize. This is precisely why the EU needs to stand firm on its energy strategy of unbundling pipeline operators and gas producers. Only then can it ensure that there will be no problems in transporting gas from other sources through South Stream. Supply security can be further improved through depoliticisation by augmenting infrastructure for emergency reserves and liquefied natural gas (LNG) and by increasing cross-border gas trade between EU countries. This would be in the interest of all member states, but it will happen only if the EU states finally speak in one voice. (*Stephan Wolters*)

More information on the European Commission's strategy "Energy 2020 - A strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy" can be found at [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/strategies/2010/2020\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/strategies/2010/2020_en.htm).

An overview of the pipeline projects can be found [here](#).

▲Top

## CONFERENCE REPORTS

### **World Water Day in Washington: Toward a more water secure world?**

It's World Water Day, so let's - together with United States Secretary of State Clinton - consider the facts: More than 5,000 people die each day due to insufficient sanitation services. Most of them are children. Millions of women walk for hours every day to collect water for their households - some of them putting their lives at risk. And, finally, by 2025, about two-thirds of the world's population is likely to be affected by water stress. These trends are reason enough to be concerned, but there is also a foreign policy consideration, as outlined by Clinton during a joint event with World Bank President Robert Zoellick in Washington: "[W]ater security for us is a matter of economic security, human security, and national security, because we see potential for increasing unrest, conflicts, and instability over water." Based on this risk analysis, it is more than reasonable to use World Water Day, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, to announce increasing efforts to provide for global water security.

The US government did so by joining forces with the World Bank and signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support developing countries to address the areas of water security and water quality. Apart from convening a high-level review of programs under the MoU to monitor and advance progress annually, the partners, however, only went the first step by listing potential activities to be supported. No doubt, the activities listed are all worthy of support: To improve irrigation practices to promote water efficiency, to utilise remote sensing data to improve water forecasting and water resources management, or to identify areas for potential regional and transboundary cooperation. In light of present and future risks of water-related tensions and conflicts, however, the MoU remains somewhat vague and insufficient.



This is all the more surprising because Clinton illustrated during her remarks how to support regional water cooperation. One example is the joint approach of USAID and the Qatar National Food Security Program to create a regional network in 10 countries across the Middle East and North Africa to share technical knowledge to address existing and future water challenges. And Robert Zoellick? The President of the World Bank did outline the importance of giving water a price. There are definitely good reasons to examine all the ways to stop the inefficient use of water. However, in light of the crucial trends in the global water sector and expected developments such as climate change and population growth, it is doubtful if such an understanding is complex enough to avoid conflicts and insecurity around the globe. (*Dennis Taenzler*)

For more information on the MoU of the US Government and the World Bank, please see <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2011/03/158774.htm#>.

For the speech given by Secretary Clinton, please see <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2011/03/158833.htm>.

For the remarks of Robert Zoellick, please see <http://go.worldbank.org/B5AKNJR180>.

▲Top

### **Speculation in agricultural commodities: One cause of hunger**

The food crisis in 2007-2008 sparked a heated debate on the causes of increasing volatility in food prices. The World Bank and the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) estimate that the crisis pushed at least 130 million people into extreme poverty and an additional 50 million people into hunger. The current record high levels of the FAO food price index only underline that this remains a burning issue. A discussion on "Food Speculation and the Right to Food" organised jointly by the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Misereor, Oxfam, and WEED on 31 March 2011 turned the spotlight on the causes of the crisis. The discussion had participants from the political sphere, civil society, and from the financial and agricultural commodities sectors. The issue of the role of financial speculation in the price trends for agricultural commodities elicited a broad spectrum of views.

Some participants continued to ascribe rising food prices to the physical markets—that is, to declining growth in the agricultural sector coupled with an increase in world population, rising oil prices, droughts, and growing demand for biofuels. They thus felt that the role of financial markets was secondary.

However, Heiner Flassbeck, Chief Economist at UNCTAD, in particular, was of the view that the basic laws of supply and demand had been completely invalidated by the activities of financial investors in commodities futures markets. He felt that the take-over of the commodities markets by the financial engineers had led to artificial price rises and to a de-linking from physical markets.

The participants agreed that the financial markets were not solely responsible for the global food crisis and that the debate on speculation should not divert attention from the need to promote agriculture. Yet it would be criminal not to intervene if futures trading were actually driving up prices, concluded moderator Harald Schumann. The paucity of independent experts and accessible data has made it difficult to obtain a clear picture and therefore hampered attempts at regulation. Consequently, there was unanimity that the first step must be market transparency.

Critics of commodity speculation are now pinning their hopes on the French government, which has put the topic high on the current G20 agenda and called for a meeting of the agriculture ministers in June. (*Lena Donat*)

A documentation of this conference can be found [here](#).

The study "Towards a Global Finance System at the Service of Sustainable Development. Assessing the development impact of European and global financial reforms" conducted by WEED, AITEC, SOMO, Glropolis, nef, Védegylet can be downloaded [here](#).

An Oxfam Factsheet regarding food price speculation is accessible [here](#).

▲[Top](#)

### **Building bridges in South Asia: Water security and climate change**

Countries in South Asia are facing a shared challenge when it comes to the impacts of climate change on the region's peace and stability. How these impacts may further aggravate water-related conflicts was the subject of an Indo-German Roundtable Discussion on "Water, Climate Change and Conflict in South Asia", held as part of the India Water Forum 2011 in mid-April in New Delhi. Supported by the Federal Foreign Office and organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and adelphi research, the roundtable included representatives from different countries of the region and aimed to shed light on the specific needs to avoid future tensions and conflicts. "Political boundaries are purely artificial in the light of what water means to ecosystems and humans", as TERI's Executive Director, R. K. Pachauri, outlined in his opening remarks. The floods in Pakistan in 2010 and in Mumbai in 2005 gave a first impression on how climate change may affect the region in the future and how important the sustainable management of natural resources will be.

So far, however, the regional scope of the political answers has been limited, according to Prof. Ramaswamy Iyer, former secretary of the Ministry of Water Resources in India. He identified the need to go beyond the existing bilateral treaties and design a comprehensive regional treaty. As Dr. Deepak Gyawali, Research Director of Nepal Water Conservation, noted, one entry point in this regard can be a stronger focus on marginalised rivers which are very important for regional water supply but which are not as politicised as rivers such as the Indus or the Ganges. In addition, the participants identified a number of further potential bridges for cooperation related to South Asian water resources that have so far been neglected. They include the need to expand rainwater harvesting infrastructure, to address the problem of water pollution, and the improvement of data availability. Addressing these issues in a regional setting can help build capacities for early warning and early action and thus strengthen regional conflict prevention. By also considering examples from other river basins around the world, the Roundtable can be seen as a starting block both for increased cooperation within the region, and engagement between Germany and South Asia on water conflict issues. (*Dennis Taenzler*)

For more information on the India Water Forum 2011 and the Roundtable, please see <http://www.teriin.org/events/iwf/index.php>.

▲[Top](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming events are also regularly published at <http://www.ecc-platform.org/>.

### **"Green Diplomacy", web-based course (16 May - 24 June)**

This web-based course aims to facilitate the integration of environmental considerations into all spheres of multilateral diplomacy. The course is primarily targeted at national government officials involved in international negotiations, diplomats, and representatives of inter-governmental institutions as well as of non-governmental institutions. It is organised by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

Further information is available at <http://www.unitar.org/event/green-diplomacy>.

▲Top

### **"Threatened Island Nations: Legal Implications of Rising Seas and a Changing Climate" in New York, NY (23-25 May)**

This conference is co-sponsored by the Law School of Columbia University and the Republic of Marshall Islands. It will examine legal questions surrounding the impacts of climate change on small island nations. Key issues include resettlement rights and practicalities of population displacement, liability for climate harm, and the potential role of a convention on climate-induced displacement. The conference will convene legal and policy experts and seeks to facilitate the exchange of ideas and knowledge between scholars and policy makers.

Further information is available [here](#).

▲Top

### **"The New Politics of Water: Water security and economic growth in emerging economies" in London, UK (14-15 June)**

Chatham House organizes a conference dedicated to examining the implications of economic development of emerging economies for their water security. Topics to be addressed include transboundary water management, innovative policy tools and technology to deal with water scarcity, and opportunities for investment partnerships. The conference envisages a broad audience with representatives from governments, the business community, and non-governmental organisations.

Further information is available at <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/water2011/>.

▲Top

## IN BRIEF

### **A resource school in Kyrgyzstan, pollution warriors in a Chinese village, a new water-related Master's program in the UK, as well as a book on preventing the environmental and economic collapse**

The University of Magdeburg and the OSCE Academy in Bishkek have issued a call for applications for the international summer school "**Geopolitics of Resources**" in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The summer school will take place from 10-24 July 2011. It aims to examine the multiple dimensions of conflict over water, oil, and gas in the South Caucasus and Central Asia, and how such tensions can be transformed into regional cooperation. The application is open to students from Central Asia and South Caucasus.

Yale Environment 360 has released a new **video entitled "The Warriors of Qiugang: A Chinese Village Fights Back"**. It tells the story of villagers who take up the fight against escalating local industrial pollution. The 40-minute video was nominated for the 2011 Academy Award in the Best Documentary (Short Subject) category.

Beginning in fall 2011, the University of East Anglia will offer a one-year **Master's program in water security and international development**. The program will cover both theoretical and practical facets of water security, and emphasize interactions with other security issues as well as livelihood implications.

The Earth Policy Institute has released a new book entitled "**World on the Edge: How to Prevent Environmental and Economic Collapse**". Authored by the Institute's director, Lester Brown, whose prior work includes the "Plan B" book series, the book follows the question of how to avert the collapse of our society in a world faced with ever increasing water scarcity, food shortages, and declining oil reserves.

The German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) has published a research paper entitled **Resource Scarcity – A Global Security Threat?** The authors aim to answer under what circumstances resource scarcity brings about conflict, and how such conflicts can be contained and regulated.

▲Top

## IMPRINT/CONTACT

### **Imprint**

The newsletter "Environment, Conflict, and Cooperation" is published every two months.

To subscribe or unsubscribe, please follow this link:

[http://ecc-platform.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=144&Itemid=71](http://ecc-platform.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=144&Itemid=71)

### **Disclaimer:**

adelphi research recommends visiting the websites linked to this newsletter. Following a judgment by the Hamburg Regional Court (Landgericht), we must, however, dissociate ourselves from the design and content of all linked pages in order to prevent any compensation claims.

## Contact

Publisher:

Dennis Taenzler  
adelphi research gGmbH  
Caspar-Theyss-Strasse 14a  
D - 14193 Berlin

Phone +49-30-89 000 68 0

Fax +49-30-89 000 68 10

[www.adelphi.de](http://www.adelphi.de)

### Editorial team:

Contact: [editor@ecc-platform.org](mailto:editor@ecc-platform.org)

Alexander Carius, Irina Comardicea, Lena Donat, Moira Feil, Kerstin Fritzsche, Annabelle Houdret, Annika Kramer, Achim Maas, Lukas Ruettinger, Stefanie Schaefer, Dennis Taenzler, Stephan Wolters

Translation support by Anya Malhotra, Editing by Alison Williams

This newsletter is financed in part by the German Federal Environmental Agency and the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety.

© adelphi research gemeinnützige GmbH and Germanwatch 2011

[▲Top](#)