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## FORUM

### 'Environmental' Refugees?

*by Kate Romer, Senior Country Programme Coordinator, World Vision Australia*

*Are governments in the Asia-Pacific region doing enough to support those at risk of displacement from climate change? Should they be regarded as refugees?*

For more than thirty years the people of the Carteret Islands – six tiny islands just 1.5 meters high – have struggled to prevent salt water destroying their coconut palms and waves crashing over their houses. In November 2005 the fight was abandoned. The Papuan New Guinean government decided to relocate the entire population to Bougainville, a larger island 62 miles away. By 2015 the islands are expected to be permanently submerged.

Of all developed nations, Australia should be among the first to recognize the enormous potential for large-scale migration and disruption as a result of climate change. The Asia-Pacific region is likely to witness unprecedented migratory movements as a result of rising sea levels and destruction of low-lying islands by increased cyclonic activity. Of the 50 million people expected to have to flee their homes as a result of environmental factors by 2010 a large proportion will be in Australia's backyard. Tuvalu, Kiribati, Fiji and Tonga are among the island states which could become uninhabitable. Anticipating population displacement, these governments have negotiated a migration agreement with New Zealand to enable those displaced to move to a safer environment.

According to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in their *World Disasters Report 2001*, more people are now forced to leave their homes because of environmental disasters than war. Civil society actors in Australia have joined international lobbies pressuring governments to recognize the group increasingly called 'climate refugees'. A recent publication by Friends of the Earth Australia and Climate Justice argues that Australia has a disproportionate responsibility for creating them – Australia has about 0.03% of the world's population but produces about 1.4% of the world's greenhouse gases – and hence an onus to recognize them officially as a separate category of refugee.

No international or national legislation explicitly recognizes or defines 'environmentally displaced persons' and there are no bodies mandated to offer them protection. The Guiding Principles for Internal Displacement covers those displaced by natural or human-made disasters. Principles 10-27 detail the protection that should be provided during displacement but this only applies to those who have not crossed an international border. In order to address these gaps advocacy groups are seeking expansion of the term 'refugee'. However, it needs to be asked whether this is the best way to offer protection to those displaced by environmental degradation.

The first key point is that 'environmental/climate refugee' is legally incorrect. A 'refugee' is defined as someone who has a "well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion" and "is outside the country of his/her nationality". Currently this definition does not include those displaced by environmental factors. Use of the term without any legal expansion of the definition potentially exposes groups and individuals to accusations of naivety and failing to produce a sound legal basis for their argument. Use of incorrect terminology gives governments grounds to disregard advocacy on behalf of the environmentally displaced.

There is also the risk that use of the term 'climate refugee' will reduce the viability and utility of the term for those who are currently eligible for protection under the legal definition of refugee provided by the 1951 Convention. Politicians and the public may judge 'economic' or 'environmental' refugees to be taking illegitimate advantage of refugee protection mechanisms. In Australia, as elsewhere, this has provided justification for an increasingly narrow definition of the term 'refugee' and has reduced adherence to international standards. Therefore, far from encouraging the government to recognize an expanded group of persons in need of protection, the incorrect use of the term could in fact lead to reduced opportunities for all refugees to obtain recognition and protection.

Given the recognized protection needs of the environmentally displaced in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as the current legal and political obstacles of recognizing this group as 'refugees', the following points may serve as a starting point for developing more effective advocacy for the protection of 'environmentally displaced persons':

- develop a clear definition of an 'environmentally displaced person' (EDP) as a basis for advocacy and the development of policy
- encourage governments to recognize the plight of EDPs and support the development of migration agreements to assist potentially displaced persons. New Zealand's agreements with Pacific states could provide an example
- encourage governments to sign up to and adhere to the Guiding Principles for Internal Displacement and to recognize their applicability to the protection needs of those displaced as a result of climate change within country borders.

*Kate Romer is a Senior Country Programme Coordinator with World Vision Australia ([kate.romer@worldvision.com.au](mailto:kate.romer@worldvision.com.au)). The views expressed are the author's own and may not reflect the position of World Vision Australia. This article was first published in "Forced Migration Review" Issue 25. For more information please see [www.fmreview.org](http://www.fmreview.org).*

*For the Institute for Environment and Human Security of the UN University, please see: <http://www.ehs.unu.edu/index.php?page=12> October - UN Disaster Day*

*For additional information on the issue of "environmental refugees", see also "A Citizen's Guide to Climate Refugees" by Friends of the Earth and Climate Justice: [www.safecom.org.au/FOE\\_climate\\_citizens-guide.pdf](http://www.safecom.org.au/FOE_climate_citizens-guide.pdf)*

*For information on a proposed protocol on environmental refugees, please contact Michael See ([mikepsee@yahoo.com](mailto:mikepsee@yahoo.com)).*

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## **POLICY & RESEARCH**

### **Foreign Secretary Beckett: Berlin Speech on Climate and Security**

The Foreign Secretary, Margaret Beckett, gave a speech on climate and security at the British Embassy, Berlin, 24 October 2006. The following are excerpts of the speech:

" [...] The basic science of climate change is no longer in dispute. But what we have been hearing over the past weeks and months is that the scale and urgency of the challenge we face is worse than we had feared. Last month, the British Antarctic Survey and the US National Snow and Ice Data Center both reported that polar ice was breaking up faster

than glaciologists had thought possible. And NASA scientists warned that another decade without a reduction in emissions and it will probably be impossible to avoid catastrophic effects of climate change. [..]

I am in no doubt – and the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, was in no doubt when he offered me the job – that today being a credible foreign minister means being serious about climate security. Because the question for foreign policy is not just about dealing with each crisis as it hits us. Our obligation to our citizens is to put in place the conditions for security and prosperity in a crowded and interdependent world. An unstable climate will make it much harder for us to deliver on that obligation. This is why. The foreign policy community has long understood that the stability of nations is to no small degree predicated on the security of individuals. When people are exposed to the stresses caused by overpopulation, resource scarcity, environmental degradation, as they feel the security upon which they and their families depend progressively slipping away, so we see the slide down the spectrum from stability to instability. What should concern us here in the foreign policy community is that an unstable climate will place huge additional strain on these tensions which we spend our time trying to resolve. They are already at breaking point and climate change has the potential to stretch them far beyond it. [..]

Or take conflict. Wars fought over limited resources – land, fresh water, fuel – are as old as history itself. By drastically diminishing those resources in some of the most volatile parts of the world, climate change creates a new and potentially catastrophic dynamic. The Middle East is a case in point. Five per cent of the world's population already has to share only one per cent of the world's water. Climate change will mean there is even less water to go round. Current climate models suggest that – globally – Saudi, Iran and Iraq will see the biggest reductions in rainfall. Egypt – a pivotal country for regional stability – will suffer a double blow. Drastic loss of Nile flow from the South and rising sea-levels in the North destroying its agricultural heartland across the delta. The same pattern emerges elsewhere. [..]

The added stresses of climate change increase the risk of fragile states dropping over the precipice into civil war and chaos. And it edges those countries that are not currently at risk into the danger zone. In short, a failing climate means more failed states. [..] So climate change is not an alternative security agenda. It is a broadening and deepening of our understanding as to how we best tackle that existing agenda. [..]

Our task is nothing less than to build the biggest public-private partnership ever conceived. We must construct the mutually reinforcing frameworks of incentives and penalties, of opportunities and burdens equitably shared, that will drive private capital towards low carbon solutions. And these frameworks will need to be built simultaneously at every level – national, regional and global." [...]

For the complete speech, please see here

<http://www.britischebotschaft.de/en/news/items/061024.htm>

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### **Alarming: The Atlas of Climate Change**

Imagine you want to compile in one book the findings about global warming as collected in the assessment reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the knowledge of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) or the World Bank on the status and perspectives of human and global development. In addition, you do not want to go without the expertise of the World Resources Institute, the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), or the World Health Organisation (WHO) in order to capture the global trends of today and tomorrow in a

holistic way. Finally, you do not only want to cover the global trends, but also individual countries, giving specific examples. For instance: which countries will face decreases in their cereal production in 2050 and to what extent are these countries affected by malnutrition or threatened water supplies already today?

The resulting publication is not necessarily a tome of several thousand pages: one hundred pages can be enough, as the newly published "Atlas of Climate Change" shows. With more than 50 maps and graphics, Kirstin Dow and Thomas E. Downing successfully integrate an overwhelming richness of information into an overall picture that illustrates the global landscape of extreme weather events, the destruction of livelihoods, global inequity, and unequally distributed adaptive capacities in an alarming way. In times when the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights recommended to the recently established UN Human Rights Council to appoint a Special Rapporteur on the legal implications of the disappearance of states and other territories for environmental reasons, there is one place where this Atlas should be displayed: on the desk in front of the delegations in Nairobi, which come together in November to negotiate the future design of the climate change regime. *(by Dennis Taenzler)*

For more information, please see the press release by Earthscan Publications: <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/news/pdf/PressReleaseAtlasofCC.pdf> or get in touch with Gudrun Freese [gudrun.freese@earthscan.co.uk](mailto:gudrun.freese@earthscan.co.uk)

For the UN press release "Rapporteur proposed on states disappearing for environmental reasons", please see

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=19630&Cr=rights&Cr1=council>

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### **Navigating Peace: New Policy Brief Series on Water Conflict and Cooperation**

Rivalries over water have been the source of disputes since humans settled down to cultivate food. But while users *within* a nation often fight over water, no nations have gone to war specifically over water resources for thousands of years. International water disputes are resolved peacefully, even as conflicts erupt over other issues. Warnings of coming "water wars" have diverted attention from the benefits that can flow from the world's transboundary river basins. By coming together to jointly manage their shared water resources, countries can build trust and help prevent conflict. To bring these little-known opportunities to a wider audience, the Environmental Change and Security Program's Navigating Peace initiative has designed a series of short policy-friendly briefs that examines how water can contribute to cooperation between states, while addressing water's role in conflict within states. The briefs offer policy recommendations for using water resources management to head off conflict and to support sustainable peace among countries. Released in time for the annual World Water Week meetings in Stockholm, Sweden, the first and second policy briefs, "Water Can Be a Pathway to Peace, Not War" and "The Challenges of Groundwater in Southern Africa" were distributed to water stakeholders, policymakers, and activists. In the near future, three more briefs will be published on the new dynamics of water conflict; lessons from the Nile River Basin; and the Niger River Basin.

In addition, already in March 2006, the Navigating Peace initiative launched "Water Stories," an interactive website addressing small-scale water and sanitation projects. In recent decades, many projects in the water and sanitation sectors have performed poorly. While the international community has increasingly turned to small-scale and community-based projects, research and information on these methods are limited. To

help fill this research gap, "Water Stories" offers papers and audio/video presentations exploring lessons learned and assessing NGO and community-based water and sanitation efforts. The papers will be compiled into a forthcoming book. *(by Meaghan Parker, Environmental Change and Security Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars)*

For the "Navigating Peace initiative", please see <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/water> and for the water stories <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/waterstories>

For the policy brief "Water Can Be a Pathway to Peace, Not War", please see [http://www.wilsoncenter.org/topics/pubs/NavigatingPeace\\_1.pdf](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/topics/pubs/NavigatingPeace_1.pdf)

For the policy brief ""The Challenges of Groundwater in Southern Africa", please see [http://www.wilsoncenter.org/topics/pubs/NavigatingPeace\\_2.pdf](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/topics/pubs/NavigatingPeace_2.pdf)

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### **Protests and Conflicts on the Rise in Latin America**

Protests against mega infrastructure projects in a number of Latin American countries have intensified during the last few months. The main victims of projects, such as dams, road developments through tropical forests, and mining projects are poor communities. In addition, the projects cause – together with illegal logging and deforestation - significant environmental damage. This trend is magnified by the impact of climate change, which makes it more difficult for poor communities to cope with changing conditions. Consequences are increased poverty and serious health impacts caused by the spread of diseases and pollution. Especially in the mining sector the international boom in metal prices has increased revenues and resulted into new investments. As a result, conflicts between the mining executives, workers, and nearby residents have intensified in a number of Latin American countries and in some cases erupting into violent clashes.

As the "Resource Center of the Americas" and news agencies such as IPS (Inter Press Service) repeatedly reported, large-scale mineral resource exploitation has had a devastating and irreversible impact on both ecosystems and local communities throughout Latin America. Dangerous workplaces and large inequities in payments, for example, have lead to strikes and protests, affecting the world's largest copper deposit in Chile and Latin America's biggest gold mine in Peru. In Mexico, labour disputes between miners and the government continue after five months, and in further Central American countries activists and residents announced their intention to block mining sector developments because they feel that miners do not pay attention to the rights of workers and residents. Similarly, conflicts between industry, environmental groups and local communities occurred in the Honduran Río Telica Valley. In this region, forest sustainability, environmental impacts like the degradation of water resources, and local livelihoods have been ignored by officials issuing permits to logging companies, according to the report "Up in Smoke? Latin America and the Caribbean". *(by Christiane Roettger)*

For more information on resource conflicts in Latin America, see, for instance "[The Resource Center of the Americas](#)" or IPS News at <http://www.ipsnews.org>

For the report "Up in Smoke? Latin America and the Caribbean", please see [www.foe.co.uk/resource/reports/upinsmokelatamerica.pdf](http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/reports/upinsmokelatamerica.pdf)

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## Huge Illegal Logging losses - Time for Dialogue

According to the World Bank the annual global market value of losses from illegal cutting of forests exceeds US\$10 billion, causing annual losses in government revenues of about US\$5 billion. Widespread failure of forest governance – characterized by illegal logging, associated illegal trade, and corruption – undermines country's attempts to achieve sustainable economic growth, social balance, and environmental protection. This is the main result of the report "Strengthening Forest Law Enforcement and Governance - Addressing a Systemic Constraint to Sustainable Development", released by the World Bank during its Annual Meetings in September held in Singapore. In the light of the results of the report Katherine Sierra, Vice President for Sustainable Development, World Bank, pointed out: "With more than 90 percent of the 1.2 billion people living in extreme poverty dependent on forests for some part of their livelihoods, good forest sector governance is integral to the Bank's mission of poverty reduction, and a key component of the Bank's fight against corruption." Against the background of this situation a new international initiative on forest governance - the G8 Illegal Logging Dialogue - was launched during the meeting.

This Dialogue will be facilitated by GLOBE (Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment) and Com+, Alliance of Communicators for Sustainable Development with the support of the World Bank, the UK Department for International Development and a number of socially responsible companies. It will draw together legislators from the G8, China, India and other key timber producing countries including Indonesia, Malaysia, Ghana, Cameroon, Gabon, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Brazil, and Peru with senior timber industry representatives, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and opinion leaders to agree on a practical plan of action to address illegal logging. The plan will focus on the introduction of financial transparency, support for progressive companies committed to sustainable production and the development of a discerning market for legal and sustainable timber in the EU and G8 markets. In recent years, efforts to curtail forest sector crime have increased significantly; one example is the high-level ministerial regional Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) processes in East Asia (2001), Africa (2003), and Europe and North Asia (2005). *(by Dennis Taenzler)*

The complete report and additional information on FLEG is available at: <http://www.worldbank.org/fleg>

For more information, please see <http://www.globeinternational.org/logging-about.html> and [www.complusalliance.org](http://www.complusalliance.org)

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## CONFERENCE REPORTS

### Private Sector Development and Peacebuilding

In Mid-September, the German Federal Ministry for Development and Economic Cooperation (BMZ), the British Department for International Development (DFiD), the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), and International Alert organized a two-day conference in Berlin. During these two days some 140 experts in the fields of private sector development (PSD) and peacebuilding discussed how to promote a private sector role in peacebuilding. Discussions also explored how to integrate the two disciplines to

develop conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding PSD interventions. The conference concentrated on the relation between conflict and business, highlighting the domestic private sector's potential to contribute to peacebuilding. International institutions like the World Bank addressed emerging international experience in PSD programming in conflict affected countries.

So far, research and politics in the realm of war economies has mainly focused on the links between the exploitation of natural resources, economic interests of state or non-state armed forces, and the potential negative impacts for foreign investments and business practices. The debate on "business and conflicts" has contributed to important developments in international politics, e.g. the generation of new normative frameworks for business activities, restrictions for the trade of conflict resources, and stricter controls to prevent money laundering. It is also increasingly recognized that many local and international businesses also have an interest in securing peace.

Hence, at the core of the conference a study by International Alert was discussed, which on the basis of several case studies examined the significance of local businesses in securing peace. So far PSD interventions have been handled as "second generation" interventions, i.e. scheduled after political institution building and humanitarian interventions. However, PSD is not only the engine for long-term, sustainable economic growth but certain PSD interventions can target postconflict, short-term economic needs like employment creation and provision of public services. PSD and peacebuilding practitioners should reach out proactively to the domestic private sector to create awareness of its own conflict impacts through conflict-sensitivity and do-no-harm approaches as well as opportunities for contributing to peace.

Strategic coordination *within* development agencies and *between* all relevant stakeholders is even more important in a post-conflict situation to ensure not only successful economic development but also sustainable peace. Therefore there is a need to foster a network of partnerships and dialogue between public sector, private sector, civil society, donors, and NGOs. (*ECC-editors on the basis of the GTZ conference report*)

For further information and full documentation on the conference, please see [here](#)

For the publication with case studies by International Alert, please see [http://www.international-alert.org/our\\_work/themes/LBLP.php#download](http://www.international-alert.org/our_work/themes/LBLP.php#download)

For further information on the topic "Business and Conflict" please see <http://www.gtz.de/de/themen/uebergreifende-themen/krisenpraevention/3347.htm>

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### **Managing large river basins: Solutions that benefit both people and nature**

In China, 100 million people need to share the water of the Yellow river basin, and find the best ways of doing so. In the Pangani river basin in Tanzania, conflicts are emerging between water users, such as commercial farms, small farmers and livestock keepers. The countries that share the waters of the Mekong basin are actively negotiating flow regimes, whilst recognizing there are different opinions about the best way to use and further develop the water resources shared by six countries.

To tackle these issues, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) convened a workshop at the International Water Association's (IWA) Beijing World Water Congress (10-14 September 2006). Speakers included experts from WWF China, World Bank Institute, Mekong River Commission, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology, and the University of

Melbourne. The workshop explored the complex and dynamic processes that are ongoing in key river basins around the world including those in East Asia.

"We urgently need to ensure equitable water allocation in the Mekong river basin. Increased food security can be achieved through more efficient land and water use, including more irrigation. Appropriate development of the basin's hydropower potential is essential to meet the increasing need for energy," said Olivier Cogels, CEO of the Mekong River Commission. The need to apply Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) in China was pointed out. "IRBM is a new concept in China. But stakeholders are starting to move from traditional river management to IRBM. It is essential that the different stakeholders understand clearly their role and responsibilities in managing IRBM processes. Initiatives such as the relatively new Yangtze Forum show great promise," said Li Lifeng, Head of WWF Freshwater Programme in China.

Major challenges were presented in all areas, as rapid population and economic growth, urbanisation and climate change are significantly impacting both water quantity and quality. "Poverty, environmental degradation, transboundary conflicts can only be tackled with a shared vision. In order to implement effective IRBM, capacity building and institutional strengthening are vital but first, there must be respect established between the people involved," said Jan Janssens from the World Bank Institute.

"The river basin scale is critical if we are to manage the whole land and water system. We need to ensure all people with a right, risk, or responsibility for water are represented in negotiations" concluded Ger Bergkamp, Head of the IUCN Global Water Programme. *(by David Alix, Water Programme, IUCN)*

For the complete article on the workshop, please see [here](#)

For more information on the IUCN water programme, please see [www.iucn.org/water](http://www.iucn.org/water)

The website of the Beijing World Water Congress, please see [here](#)

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### **How Secure is the Future? The Dangers of Selective Climate Policies**

Although decision makers at the policy level as well as in industry and civil society paint an almost rosy picture of climate protection activities in Germany and Europe, they must increasingly face up to the need for adaptation to – now inevitable – climate change. This was one of the key conclusions of the panel discussion on "How secure is the future? Climate change and Risk Prevention," organized in Berlin this September by the *Netzwerk des Stiftungskollegs für internationale Aufgaben e.V.* as part of a new series of seminars on "Future Global Issues". A debate on these issues has become imperative in view of the rapid pace of climate change currently being recorded almost every week by the climate sciences as well as by socio-economic research, which reveals that preventive policies are threatening to exacerbate social disparities.

Professor Stefan Rahmstorf of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) explained that global climatic changes are evident not just from satellite images and comparative climate studies. One compelling sign is the increase in unusual weather phenomena, for instance the increased occurrence of hurricanes in regions, which had formerly been spared such extreme events. Floods, desertification, and glacial melting are other unmistakable warning signs with disastrous social and economic consequences. Against this backdrop, environmental sociologist Professor Anita Engels from the University of Hamburg presented the case of Senegal to illustrate the impact of climate change on less developed countries. Adaptation policies for global environmental changes

therefore run the risk of being selectively directed towards specific, mostly urban areas. Areas that are economically less important tend to be overlooked because the regional populations are often under-represented within the political system. The key message consequently was that policymakers must consider the interests of different societal groups. They must also demonstrate a high capacity for learning as they did during the creation of the emissions trading regime, notwithstanding all the teething troubles that still exist in applying this instrument. *(by Dennis Taenzler)*

For more information on the "Netzwerk des Stiftungskollegs für internationale Aufgaben e.V." and the seminars on "Future Global Issues", please see <http://www.stiftungskolleg.org> (in German)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **"The Upside of Down: Catastrophe, Creativity, and the Renewal of Civilization" in Washington, D.C. (3 November)**

Please join the Environmental Change and Security Program for a discussion of the new book "The Upside of Down: Catastrophe, Creativity, and the Renewal of Civilization" featuring the author Thomas Homer-Dixon, Director, Pierre Elliott Trudeau Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, and Toronto Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto. Society is most likely to experience breakdown when it suffers from multiple severe pressures simultaneously, argues Thomas Homer-Dixon in his new book, *The Upside of Down: Catastrophe, Creativity, and the Renewal of Civilization*. He identifies energy, economics, demographics, environmental degradation, and climate impacts as five "tectonic stresses" that threaten today's global order.

For more information, please see [here](#)

If you unable to attend the event, please tune into the live or archived webcast at [www.wilsoncenter.org/ecsp](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/ecsp).

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### **"Towards a Fairer World: Why is Corruption Still Blocking the Way?" in Guatemala City (15 – 18 November)**

The guiding question of the 12th International Anti Corruption Conference will be: Why is corruption still blocking the way? With billions of people still mired in poverty and delivery on the promises of many new governments and anti-corruption campaigns yet to materialize, it is time for the movement to ask itself some serious and probing questions. After nearly two decades of research, advocacy and reform, why is corruption still such a huge problem? There is an urgent need to reflect and regroup, to look beyond our traditional coalitions, to find new voices and new faces, to energise this vital fight, upon which justice and the welfare of the global community depends.

For further information and the programme, please see <http://ww1.transparency.org/iacc/infocus.html>

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## **"Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes" in Bonn (20 - 22 November)**

This "4th Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes" will mark a milestone in the history of the Water Convention: the 10th anniversary of its entry into force. Parties will adopt new policy tools to support transboundary water management, such as the model provisions on transboundary flood management, the rules on payments for ecosystem services in integrated water resources management, the safety guidelines and good practices for pipelines and the Strategies for monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes, and groundwater.

For further information, please see <http://www.unece.org/env/water/mop4/info.htm>

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## **"Energy, Environment, and Development: Analysing Opportunities for Reducing Poverty" in Bangalore (14 - 16 December)**

This 3rd Future Environmental Trends Conference will focus on challenges for sustainable development that arise from the nexus between energy, environment, and poverty. It will provide an opportunity for researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and the donor community to engage in constructive dialogue on possible solutions.

For further information and the programme, please see <http://www.linux.teriin.org/events/eedconference/index.htm>

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## **FOCUS**

This section serves as a platform for institutions and initiatives to present their activities on Environment, Conflict, and Cooperation.

### **Peacebuilding & Development Institute**

The Peacebuilding & Development Institute (PDI) aims to provide cutting-edge training, research, and capacity-building opportunities for practitioners and scholars in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance, diplomacy, and conflict resolution. In addition, the Institute provides practical opportunities for students to complement their academic work while connecting peacebuilding and development actors via research, symposia, and forums. PDI has several components: Trainings & Symposia, the Summer Institute, the Children and Youth Division, the Peacebuilding Forums, and International Programs. These components integrate policy, practice, and theory to create new approaches to conflict-sensitive and transformative peace practice. One current example is the Humanitarian Practice & Training Program. This program comprises a series of professional skill seminars to provide humanitarian and relief workers with innovative and cutting-edge tools and techniques for providing effective, efficient, and accountable aid to beneficiaries.

For more information and the next seminars, please visit <http://www.american.edu/sis/peacebuilding>

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

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