

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



IISD
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUT INTERNATIONAL DU
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F A L L 2 0 0 1

The snow is falling in Winnipeg as I pen these words. While there might still be a few warm days remaining, it's clear that winter is just around the corner.



Just as the chill of winter awakens the senses, these times demand that we awaken ourselves to the new realities of our world. Now more than ever, it is critical that we look even beyond our research and our projects to remind ourselves in plain language—every day—what IISD is all about. We are working to help repair a broken world.

These times demand a very real and very human consciousness about what we do at IISD. In the months ahead we plan to rededicate ourselves passionately to addressing this planet's needs in ways that effect meaningful change.

It was this sort of uncommon passion that exemplified the life and work of Jim Leslie who passed away in September while hiking in Banff. As President of the IISD Business Trust, Jim played a critical role in the advancement of our work with corporate partners around the world. While Interim Director of our Climate Change strategic objective, he freely contributed his expertise and experience as IISD sought to develop a very solid program of climate change activities.

We will miss Jim greatly. His gentle wit was ever present, never malicious. He was a consummate professional whose work, by virtue of its quality, contributed to the cause of sustainable development. He was a team player who shared his energies on major, institute-wide matters such as strategic planning and our examination of innovation. We treasured his expertise and enthusiasm.

But we will remember him best as a superb human being. We will miss him greatly in the months and years ahead.

May his memory serve as an inspiration to us during these confusing times.

David Runnalls
President and Chief Executive Officer

IISD CHAIR ON WORLD BANK PANEL

Since February, IISD Chair Jacques Gérin has been a member of the World Bank's International Advisory Group on the Chad-Cameroon Petroleum Development and Pipeline Project. The IAG has been advising the World Bank Group and the two governments on overall progress in implementing the project, including the key objective of reducing poverty in Chad. Mr. Gérin serves as Executive Secretary of the group, which is headed by the former Prime Minister of Senegal, Mamadou Lamine Loum.

p
1

The work of the IAG is expected to continue for up to 10 years. It will visit Chad and Cameroon at least twice a year and report periodically to the President and Board of Directors of the World Bank Group. All reports will be made public the same day they are submitted to the World Bank Group.

You can follow the project's progress at <http://www.worldbank.org/afr/ccproj/>.

BOB PAGE JOINS BOARD

Bob Page, Vice-President of Sustainable Development at TransAlta in Calgary, has been elected to IISD's Board of Directors. Prior to joining TransAlta in 1997, Page served as Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Design at the University of Calgary. He is recognized internationally for his work on energy and the environment. He has served on numerous boards and committees and currently serves as the Vice-Chairman of the International Emissions Trading Association of Geneva, Switzerland, and is a member of the environment committee of the National Chamber of Commerce. We are delighted to welcome Bob Page to our Board as we pursue an exciting Climate Change and Energy agenda.



ON THE ROAD TO QATAR

In advance of the World Trade Organization's Fourth Ministerial Conference, scheduled to begin November 9 in Doha, Qatar, the Trade and Investment team has published a series of "IISD Viewpoints," expressing opinions on major issues including investment, trade liberalization, and trade and the environment. The series can be downloaded at <http://www.iisd.org/trade/qatar.htm>



SOUTHERN AGENDA ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT

After facing personnel recruitment challenges, the Southern Agenda on Trade and Environment project is moving ahead. Based out of the Geneva office, the Trade and Investment team is completing phase one of the project, a review of relevant documents and proposals from developing countries. Under the guidance of an international, three-person advisory panel, the project will produce a number of outputs including a regionally-sensitive series of catalogues of ideas and policy proposals, representative of southern interests.

p
2

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PROVINCE RELEASES TASK FORCE REPORT, PRAISES IISD

The Manitoba government released *Manitoba and Climate Change: Investing in Our Future*, the report of its climate change task force, on September 17. Manitobans need to understand the implications of climate change and take early action to reduce emissions and slow the rate of change, according to the Manitoba Climate Change Task Force.

"The speed and scale of climate change predicted for Manitoba is unprecedented in human history. How Manitoba adapts to climate change will be crucial for future economic development, particularly for agriculture, transportation, forestry and energy. It will also show the way for other regions of Canada to begin a more concerted effort to reduce the harmful impacts of climate change," the report says.

The task force was chaired by former Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy. IISD Board member Jim Carr and I were also privileged to serve on the task force. Several IISD staff people played key roles in the task force's work.

"This Winnipeg-based organization has an outstanding reputation around the world for its work in climate change," the report said of IISD, "and is an exceptionally valuable asset for Manitoba and Canada."

The report can be found at http://www.iisd.org/taskforce/pdf/final_report.pdf.

CHINA COUNCIL – PHASE II COMPLETE

Phase II of the China Council has wrapped up with a Working Group on Trade and Environment report recommending that the Chinese government pay increased attention to the environmental consequences of China's WTO accession and formulate policy to promote trade liberalization and sustainable development. The third phase of the China Council will probably establish a task force looking specifically at the WTO environmental impacts. If so, IISD will continue to play an active role.

MINING PROGRESS

Our institute serves as the regional partner facilitating the Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development (MMSD) project in North America. MMSD is an independent, international review to be completed in the spring of 2002. Its overall goal is to identify how mining and minerals and related communities of interest can best contribute to sustainable development.

Of particular interest is the first ever North American Mining Dialogue to be held November 7–9, 2001 in Vancouver. At press time, more than 60 people had committed to attend the program coordinated by IISD and the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue at Simon Fraser University.

IISD is assisted in the MMSD project by the Mackay School of Mines, University of Nevada. More information is available at <http://www.iisd.org/mmsd/>.

FIFTH GROUP OF INTERNS IN THE FIELD

Since 1997, IISD has placed more than 100 young interns around the world, including the current group of 29. Current participants come from across the country including four from northern Canada. Eight new host organizations are involved in this round of placements. While some intern travel was disrupted because of the events of September 11, all participants finally made it to their destinations.

PROVINCIAL SUPPORT RENEWED

On July 26, Manitoba Premier Gary Doer announced the signing of a five-year \$5.7 million funding agreement with IISD. Under the terms of the new funding agreement, the province will contribute \$4.6 million towards ongoing operating costs and up to \$1.1 million in project-specific funding.

“The government and the institute have enjoyed a close working relationship since the institute’s inception,” the Premier said. “We expect that relationship will continue and grow in the years ahead.”

WSSD PORTAL

In preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, IISD Reporting Services has created a portal site at <http://www.iisd.ca/wssd/portal.html>. The site links to our coverage of preparatory meetings in advance of the September 2002 summit to be held in Johannesburg.

PAPERS FOCUS ON LESSONS LEARNED

With continuing support from IDRC and the World Bank Institute, IISD is documenting the lessons it has learned about managing international knowledge networks. While final results will be released at the end of the year, working paper drafts can be read online at <http://www.iisd.org/networks/research.asp>.

DEVELOPING GUIDELINES FOR UNEP

The first draft of *Poverty and the Environment: A Role for UNEP and a Draft Working Model*, a concept paper for the United Nations Environment Programme, was delivered at an experts meeting held in Nairobi in September. Participants accepted as a novel approach the concept of using ecological and human elementary functionings as a conceptual framework to address poverty alleviation issues. A second draft has been completed based on the feedback and work on formulating a set of practical guidelines using the conceptual framework will begin shortly.

p
3

IISD ON THE MARRAKECH EXPRESS

IISD had a strong presence at the seventh Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Marrakech, Morocco, in late October and early November. As usual at key international negotiations, our Reporting Services team provided ongoing coverage of the proceedings. As well, IISD convened a productive meeting of the Climate Change Knowledge Network and performed some consulting work.

IISD HOSTS AND TRAINS ROMANIAN GUESTS

From September 4 to 19, IISD hosted eight guests from Romania as part of the CIDA/UNDP Local Agenda 21 project. The guests received extensive training in various areas of IISD expertise and then moved on to Calgary and Ottawa for additional learning. The project is intended to help Romanian officials build capacity, improve environmental policies, implement sustainable development strategies and assess performance.

TERI – CIDA PROJECT STUDYING IMPACTS

The IISD Economic Policy team is currently calculating the environmental and human health costs resulting from electricity production in India and Canada. A model is being developed to assess the impacts on various income groups of energy price changes due to climate change policy.

Detailed assessments of potential Clean Development Mechanism projects in India, China, Bangladesh and Indonesia—and the potential interests of Canadian investors in those projects—are being conducted.

P
4

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE ENERGIZED

IISD's Climate Change Strategic Objective is now known as the Climate Change and Energy Strategic Objective to more accurately reflect the area's evolving agenda.

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Visitors and IISD officials toast the training program's success: "...the Canadian training segment was one of the most professional events I've ever participated in," said one participant. "I can affirm that it changed my approach very much."

NEW FACES AT IISD

In recent months, a number of people have joined the team at IISD. We welcome:

Jennifer Bryant – Project Assistant
Brad Etlin – Project Officer
Kyle Fargey – Project Officer
Karen Goulding – Project Assistant
Kristen Hildebrand – Project Assistant
Jennifer Hirschfeld – Accounting Assistant
Peter Hughes – Business Communications Officer
Prisna Nuengsigkapan – Assistant Editor, IISD Linkages
Henry Venema – Research Officer

And we welcome back László Pintér who returned to our Measurement and Indicators Team after a year-long fellowship at Harvard University.

"The guests received extensive training in various areas of IISD expertise..."

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