

Newsletter

of PROMITHEAS Net
on energy and climate change
policy research issues



General Info

This bimonthly newsletter of the PROMITHEAS Network is distributed **free of charge** to more than 23,000 recipients in one hundred seventy (170) countries. It includes information about the network activities, its members and events concerning energy and climate change research. Its content reflects the network views. **Sponsorships for its circulation are welcome.**

PROMITHEAS Network, the origin of which is the Project Development Fund of BSEC, aims to promote scientific cooperation on the energy and climate policy issues between the countries of BSEC and EU and thus to contribute in knowledge transfer to that region, as a basic precondition for the development of human potential that will materialize policies of cooperation.

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Messages

Editorial note

by

Prof. Dimitrios MAVRAKIS
Coordinator of
PROMITHEAS Network and
BSEC-Green Energy Network



Strolling through the submitted INDCs, it is obvious that the global target of 2°C is impossible unless a new agreement will impose the necessary mechanisms and secure the required financing tools capable to increase the level of effort.

With the planet already experiencing 0.85°C increase of the global atmospheric temperature, it is recognized that even if we could stop emitting GHG, the temperature would increase another 0.8°C before stabilizing.

That means that under the present conditions an 1.65°C is the threshold of any effort to abate the increase of the atmospheric temperature.

Regardless of the political declarations and the complicated scenarios forecasting the various pathways of the future the reality is that on April 13, 2016, 408,70 ppm/daily CO₂ were measured compared to 404,84 ppm/daily CO₂ on April 2015, which means an average increase of 3,86 ppm/year. If this rate of increase will be kept for the coming years, then the 450ppm limit will be reached around 2027. At this time the optimistic likely chance to meet the 2°C goal will be 50%. Our political leaders may congratulate each other for the Paris Agreement but the reality is different. The global bomb of climate change is ticking and the time margins are short. We have no time for celebrations and glorious receptions. The 21st century brings misery and catastrophes if we do not decide to confront the challenges. Time to act.

United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI)

by

Ramu DAMODARAN
Chief, United Nations Academic Impact
Secretary, Committee on Information



The United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) is an initiative that aligns institutions of higher education with the United Nations in actively supporting, and contributing to the realisation of, universally accepted principles in human rights, literacy, sustainability and conflict resolution. UNAI was launched in November 2010 by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Some thirty international networks of universities and other institutes of higher education and research have endorsed UNAI and encouraged their members to join. Nearly a thousand individual institutions have done so, representing a global diversity of regions and a thematic wealth of disciplines.

We seek affiliation from two types of institutions: Those which already have courses in, or undertake research on, the United Nations system. Such studies are usually located in schools or centres dealing with international affairs, political science or history. Second, is the spectrum of institutions whose programmes may not immediately suggest a United Nations link, but whose scholarship and experience has a direct relevance on what we, as an Organization and system, are working to achieve. For example, schools of medicine can have bearing in our work in health-care; and study in architecture for instance, can lead to innovative models for swift, economical housing in the wake of natural disasters. Every subject and discipline can have a UN imprint.

We want relevant institutions to recognize this link,
Continued in next page

New

Invitation

If you are established in one of the member states of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and you are engaged in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources, join us in the "BSEC-Green Energy Network" and benefit from it. Contact: promitheas@kepa.uoa.gr

HERON Project

The HERON partners conducted a questionnaire-based online survey concerning the barriers that affect the implementation of Energy Efficiency (EE) policies in the building and transport sectors. Inputs were from national experts and stakeholders. The questionnaire comprised both closed and open questions. The closed questions were mainly aimed to obtain a rating of the barriers. The open questions were aimed to collect suggestions on additional barriers, their importance and possible ways to overcome them.

The survey was open from 2 February 2016 until 7 March 2016. It was disseminated to 370 EE organizations spread in the partner countries, representative of key target groups and stakeholders of EE policies, in particular experts and policy makers.

Overall, 174 responses from target groups of the building sector were collected, 139 from the transport sector and 128 from respondents with expertise in both sectors.

In the building sector, the categories involved and in order of importance were government institutions (23%), universities and research centers (11%), non-profit organisations (9%), energy utilities (6%) and consumer associations (only 1%), while a 21% of respondents preferred not to indicate their type of organization. In the transport sector, the shares were similar, respectively government institutions (26%), universities and research centers (14%), non-profit organisations (10%), energy utilities (6%). The share of respondents preferring not to declare their type of organization was about 10%.

An overview of the survey's outcomes will be announced. More details at: <http://heron-project.eu/>

and, often without additional effort or expense, undertake activities that can directly support United Nations mandates and objectives. These activities in the past have included events such as panel discussions, student workshops and forums.

More details, including the ten underlying principles of UNAI and the list of current membership can be viewed at <https://academicimpact.un.org>.

There is no cost or fee for joining UNAI. The sole responsibility is for each member institution to actively demonstrate support of at least one of those principles each year. It is our hope that this support can find reflection in the United Nations' own policies and programmes, allowing for a sharing of experiences and effective practices as well as the infusion of scholarship to the realization of social, economic and political objectives.

More information, including how to join can be found on our website. Alternatively, please contact us at academicimpact@un.org.

Ramu DAMODARAN is Deputy Director for Partnerships and Public Engagement in the United Nations Department of Public Information's Outreach Division and is chief of the United Nations Academic Impact initiative, which aligns institutions of higher learning and research with the objectives of the United Nations and the States and peoples who constitute it. He is also the current secretary of the United Nations Committee on Information. His earlier posts with the Organization have included the Departments of Peacekeeping and Special Political Questions, as well as the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. Ramu Damodaran has been a member of the Indian Foreign Service, where he was promoted to the rank of Ambassador, and where he served as Executive Assistant to the Prime Minister of India as well as in the diplomatic missions in Moscow and to the United Nations, and in a range of national governmental ministries. He has been actively involved in mass media in India, including print, radio and television, and was a recipient of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union award for the best radio documentary.

Armenia: The Methodology for performing energy audit in residential and public buildings was developed within the UNDP-GEF project "Improving Energy efficiency in buildings" and submitted to the National Institute of Standards for approval.

(Climate Change Information Center of Armenia, 22-4-2016) – Details at: <http://www.nature-ic.am/methodology-for-performing-energy-audit-in-residential-and-public-buildings/>

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved a US\$30 million loan for the Power Sector Financial Recovery Program-for-Results for Armenia. This Project will support governmental efforts to maintain adequate and reliable electricity supply by improving the financial condition and governance of the state-owned power generation companies and the private power distribution company.

(WB, 29-4-2016) – Details at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2016/04/27/world-bank-supports-improved-financial-standing-and-governance-in-armenias-energy-sector>

Bangladesh: The government signed a \$217 million financing agreement with the World Bank's International Development Association to upgrade a unit in the Ghorashal power station, which will increase the unit's existing electricity generation capacity by more than double.

(WB, 7-4-2016) – Details at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2016/04/07/bangladesh-receives-217-million-from-world-bank-to-increase-power-generation-improve-efficiency>

EU: The European Court of Justice ruled that energy-intensive industries have received too many permits under the EU's Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS). €24 billion in emissions allowances, were allocated by the European Commission to industries, such as chemicals, steel and refineries in 19 European countries for the period 2008-2014. Several companies from those industries went to court to demand more free permits so as to reduce the perceived risk of job losses to regions with less stringent pollution rules - so-called 'carbon leakage' - even though there has never been any evidence of such carbon leakage.

(WWF, 28-4-2016) – Details at: http://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?266453/EUs%2Dtop%2Dcourt%2Drules%2Dtoo%2Dmany%2Dfree%2Dpollution%2Dallowances%2Dgive%2Dto%2Dindustry

Germany: The Federal Environment Ministry supports China in introducing a national emissions trading scheme. Priorities include legal advice and training of staff from administration and industry.

(Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, 18-4-2016) – Details at: http://www.bmub.bund.de/en/press/press-releases/detailansicht-en/artikel/bmub-supports-china-in-emissions-trading/?tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=103&cHash=bf4badce2198975b237052b3f8b5b6d3

The country will give €1bn subsidy to boost electric car sales. Electric car buyers will receive €4,000 when they

choose a purely electric vehicle and €3,000 for a plug-in hybrid.

(Guardian, 28-4-2016) – Details at: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/28/germany-subsidy-boost-electric-car-sales>

India: Germany and India joined forces on India's Smart Cities programme. Gunter ADLER, State Secretary for Building, and India's Minister of Urban Development, Madhusudan PRASAD, agreed during a joint meeting in Delhi. Starting with 100 cities, technology-based innovations and transformations are to make urban spaces more efficient, sustainable and liveable – and thus healthier and cleaner.

(Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, 7-3-2016) – Details at: http://www.bmub.bund.de/en/press/press-releases/detailansicht-en/artikel/germany-and-india-to-cooperate-on-the-100-smart-cities-programme/?tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=103&cHash=2ade992a1439229dadd014ffe36ab783

International: The World Bank brought together over 30 developed and developing countries at the “Carbon Pricing: Sustaining the Momentum after COP21 conference” in Zurich to take stock and discuss opportunities and challenges to use carbon pricing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

(WB, 8-3-2016) – Details at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2016/03/08/countries-meet-with-world-bank-to-discuss-carbon-pricing-and-build-carbon-markets>

City leaders from around the world met in Singapore for launching the ‘Global Platform for Sustainable Cities’, part of an initiative funded by the Global Environment Facility, that is expected to mobilize up to \$1.5 billion over the next five years for urban sustainability programs in 11 developing countries, including Brazil, Cote D'Ivoire, China, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Senegal, South Africa, and Vietnam.

(WB, 9-3-2016) – Details at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2016/03/09/world-bank-and-global-environment-facility-launch-new-multi-million-dollar-global-platform-for-sustainable-cities>

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on supporting India's ambitious expansion plans for clean energy infrastructure.

(ADB, 29-3-2016) – Details at: <http://www.adb.org/news/adb-usaid-collaborate-developing-clean-energy-infrastructure-india>

The World Energy Council published two reports: i) *The 2016 World Energy Issues Monitor - A climate of innovation – responding to the commodity price storm*; ii) *The road to resilience - managing the risks of the energy-water-food nexus*.

(WEC, March 2016) – Details at: <http://www.worldenergy.org/publications/2016/world-energy-issues-monitor-2016/> and <http://www.worldenergy.org/publications/2016/the-road-to-resilience-managing-the-risks-of-the-energy-water-food-nexus/>

The report “*Transformations for Sustainable Development: Promoting Environmental Sustainability in Asia and the Pacific*” was launched in Bangkok by Dr. Shamshad AKHTAR, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, along with representatives from UNU, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies.

(United Nations University, 5-4-2016) – Details at: <http://unu.edu/news/news/un-report-calls-for-transformed-socio-economic-and-environmental-approaches-to-achieve-2030-agenda.html>

The 14th Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Russian Federation, India and China took place in Moscow-Russia (18 April 2016). They reaffirmed their

commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change, in a Joint Communiqué. They agreed to further strengthen cooperation on global and regional issues while respecting independent choices of development path and social systems by people of all countries.

(Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, 19 – 4-2016) – Details at: http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1356652.shtml

The report “*REmap: Roadmap for a Renewable Energy Future*” was published by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). It indicates that over US\$4 trillion annually by 2030 can be saved if the share of renewables in the global energy mix were to double, also by 2030. Renewable generation capacity is rising, with 2015 being the highest annual growth rate.

(IRENA, 13-4-2016) – Details at: http://www.irena.org/DocumentDownloads/Publications/IRENA_REmap_2016_edition_report.pdf

A report by CARE International and WWF International “*Twin Tracks: Developing sustainably and equitably in a carbon-constrained world*” was released.

(WWF, 20-4-2016) - Details at: http://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?265810/twin%2Dtracks%2Dreport

During the High-Level Signature Ceremony for the Paris Agreement on Climate Change held at the UN Headquarters in New York, US, on 22 April 2016, 175 Parties to the UNFCCC signed the Paris Agreement (174 countries and the EU), the largest ever number of first-day signatures to an international agreement. Of the 175 Parties that participated in the ceremony, 15 States deposited instruments of ratification. The 15 countries that ratified the Paris Agreement are: Barbados, Belize, Fiji, Grenada, Maldives, the Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Nauru, Palau, Palestine, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Somalia and Tuvalu.

(UN Sustainable Development Goals, 22-4-2016) – Details at: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/04/record-support-for-advancing-paris-climate-agreement-entry-into-force/>

The UNFCCC Secretariat published the technical paper ‘Guidance to assist developing country Parties to assess the impact of the implementation of response measures, including guidance on modelling tools’. It explores approaches available for assessing the impact of the implementation of response measures, with a view to assisting developing countries with such an assessment.

(UNFCCC, 28-4-2016) – Details at: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/tp/04.pdf>

Grid – Arendal released the publication “*Outlook on climate change adaptation in the Tropical Andes mountains*”.

(Grid – Arendal, 28-4-2016) – Details at: <http://www.grida.no/publications/default/6695.aspx>

Russian Federation: The Russian Government will be making a \$10 million contribution towards UNDP programmes for supporting efforts to mitigate and prevent negative effects of climate change in developing countries. The announcement was made a few days before the signing of the Paris Agreement and during the first annual Consultation Meeting on the partnership implementation between UNDP and the Russian Federation in Moscow.

(UNDP, 22-4-2016) – Details at: <http://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/presscenter/press-releases/2016/04/22/russia-pledges-10-million-to-help-mitigate-climate-impact-in-developing-countries.html>

May

Adaptation Futures, 10-13 May 2016, Rotterdam-The Netherlands, <http://www.adaptationfutures2016.org/conference/registration>, <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=events&eventcode=C413B213-A5B1-BAD2-06C3233E67459F2B>

Second Stakeholder Forum, Africa – EU Energy Partnership, 15-17 May 2016, Milan-Italy, <http://www.aeeep-forum.org/>

Mobilising Sustainable Bioenergy Supply Chains in Agriculture, 17 May 2016, Organized by IRENA, Rome-Italy, <http://www.irena.org/menu/index.aspx?mnu=cat&PriMenuID=30&CatID=142>

8th Executive Training Programme for Young Energy Professionals: Visegrad + Session – Eurasian Energy Security & Governance challenges in light of COP21: Comparative International experience in an era of energy transition, 17-20 May 2016, Hilton Krakow Hotel and Convention Center, Krakow-Poland, http://www.energycharter.org/media/news/article/eighth-executive-training-programme-concludes-with-agreement-in-simulation-exercise-in-krakow?tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&cHash=297681bcc59cf7a993bae43375eeb784

Dialogue for Climate Action, 24-25 May 2016, Hofburg Conference Venue, Vienna-Austria, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2016/02/04/dialogue-for-climate-action>

June

EUBCE, 24th European Biomass Conference & Exhibition, 6-9 June 2016, Amsterdam – The Netherlands, <http://www.eubce.com/home.html>

Urban Development for Healthier Cities, 13-14 June 2016, Barcelona-Spain, <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/news/events/20160426/20160426-2.html>

EU Sustainable Energy Week, 14-16 June 2016, Brussels-Belgium, <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/eu-sustainable-energy-week>

International Conference on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Policy and Practice in Celebration of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's 5th Cycle Birthday Anniversary, 27-29 June 2016, Cha-am District, Phetchaburi Province- Thailand, <http://icccb.sirindhornpark.or.th/>

5th Informed Cities Forum, 16-17 June 2016, Dresden-Germany, <http://informed-cities.iclei-europe.org/>

European PV Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition, 20-24 June 2016, ICM - International Congress Center Munich - Germany, <https://www.photovoltic-conference.com/>

Power – Gen Europe, 21-23 June 2016, Milan-Italy, http://www.powergeneurope.com/en_GB/index.html

July

7th Global Forum on Urban Resilience & Adaptation, 6-8 July 2016, Bonn-Germany, <http://resilientcities2016.iclei.org/>

The European Conference on Sustainability, Energy & the Environment 2016, 7-10 July 2016, The Jurys Inn Brighton Waterfront, Brighton, United Kingdom, <http://iafor.org/conferences/ecsee2016/>

International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Internship Programme. Deadline: **Open.** Details at: http://www.irena.org/Jobs/Internship_desc.aspx?JobID=33&PriMenuID=13&CatID=58&SubCatID=0&mnu=Pri

UNFCCC's Internship Programme, Deadline: Generally around 2 months before the start of the internship period. Mid-October; deadline for Spring internships (mid-January to mid-March). Mid-March; deadline for Summer internships (early June to early August). Mid-June; deadline for Fall internships (mid-September to mid-November). Details at: https://unfccc.int/secretariat/internship_programme/items/2653.php

Climate Action Network, Position: Internship. Deadline: **Not mentioned.** Details at: <http://www.climatenetwork.org/jobs-and-internships>

Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Position: Internship. The application system is open throughout the year, but the applications are only evaluated three times a year (1 March, 1 June, 1 October). Details at: <https://www.ceps.eu/content/internship>

WindEurope, Position: Traineeship. **Deadline: None.** WindEurope continuously offers several traineeship opportunities to University and high-school students who require work experience to complete their courses. Details at: <https://windeurope.org/about-us/careers/>

ETH Zürich Climate Policy Group, Position: Interdisciplinary Post Doc in "Climate change adaptation and natural hazards". Deadline: **Not specified.** Details at: <https://apply.refline.ch/845721/4561/pub/1/index.html>

Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Industrial Ecology Program (IndEcol) at the Department of Energy and Process Engineering, **Position:** Postdoctoral Fellow/Researcher (1109) in Industrial Ecology (Land cover changes climate). **Deadline: 31 May 2016.** Details at: <https://www.jobbnorge.no/en/available-jobs/job/124559/postdoctoral-fellow-researcher-1109-in-industrial-ecology-land-cover-changes-climate-ivt-61-16>

Greenpeace, European Unit. Position: Policy adviser for EU energy & climate policies. Deadline: **6 June 2016.** Details at: <http://www.greenpeace.org/eu-unit/en/about/vacancies/EU-adviser-for-EU-energy--climate/>

ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability. Position: Officer – Climate and Sustainable Energy. Deadline: **6 June 2016.** Details at: http://www.iclei-europe.org/fileadmin/templates/iclei-europe/Job_postings/2016/05_2016_Officer_Climate_and_Sustainable_Energy.pdf

European Environmental Agency. Position: members of the Scientific Committee. **Deadline: Friday 10 June 2016 at 12.00 (noon) Central European Time.** Details at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/about-us/governance/scientific-committee/call-for-expressions-of-interest-1>

Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Position: (Senior) Research Fellow – "EU Energy Markets". **Deadline: 12 June 2016.** Details at: https://www.ceps.eu/system/files/CEPS%20Research%20Fellow_Internal%20Market_2016.pdf

OECD, Position: Programme Officer - International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPPEC) **Deadline: Not mentioned.** Details at: <https://oecd.taleo.net/careersection/ext/jobdetail.ftl>

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