

EDITORIAL

This issue concentrates on two important international meetings, providing an overview of the resolutions adopted in the UN General Assembly and the Climate meeting in Copenhagen.

The UN Resolutions underscore the multiplicity of topics addressed by the GA and the increasing recognition by all Member States of the importance of sustainability. Many new actions have been promised and must be implemented.

The Copenhagen negotiations on the follow-up to the Kyoto Protocol have been widely covered in both the print and electronic media. They attracted higher attendance than any previous international environmental event. This breadth of attention motivates countries to find solutions to current concerns, and creates a strong obligation for them to act.

The four articles in this issue discussing the meeting provide a balance of perspectives both for those who did not attend the meeting, and for those attendees who were unable to actually observe the sessions.

We are happy to report that 58 States (including some of the most responsible) have reacted to the Accord.

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For those who still have doubts about climate change, it may be interesting to note that the German Meteorological Service reports that the past decade was the warmest on record since the Service was founded.

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Concerned about the possible detrimental trade impacts on countries complying with policies to mitigate the effects of climate change as a result of imports from States not yet ready to become members of the “climate change club”, French President Sarkozy has offered an interesting proposal: To add a fee to all imports from these non-complying States. EPL is seeking a qualified author to provide an article on this topic.

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The UN/GA’s proclaimed “International Year of Biodiversity” was formally opened this January. With 193 Parties, the Convention on Biological Diversity is the origin of many promises and commitments that have been reaffirmed in IYB-related preparatory events in all parts of the world. We hope to hear at CBD / COP 10 in Nagoya (Japan) how these commitments have been implemented or initiated.

10 February 2010

- Wolfgang R. Sauer -