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Climate Change & Trade

Climate change is the major, overriding global issue of our time and the single greatest challenge we face. It is a growing crisis with not only environmental concerns but economic, health and safety, food production, security and, of course, trade dimensions. However, a proactive approach to addressing climate change can also open opportunities in new markets and create new business prospects in developing countries. As many businesses are discovering, environmentally sustainable trade is good both for the planet and for business, too.



In this online edition of Trade Forum we explore the challenges posed by climate change and the business opportunities that exist for entrepreneurial vision and innovation in tackling them. The success stories of businesses that implement renewable energy practices and new technologies and reduce CO2 emissions, while creating jobs and realizing cost-savings, offer inspiration for us all.

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Globalization: In the Era of Environmental Crisis *by Jeffrey Sachs, Director, Earth Institute, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University. Special Adviser on the Millennium Development Goals to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon*

Our world is unsustainable right now in the way it operates. Our incipient macroeconomic recovery is very fragile and will be unsustainable unless we have what we promised we would have but do not yet have – a green recovery. We will not even be able to manage a short-term macroeconomic recovery unless we integrate strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation into our macroeconomic policies.



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Counting Carbon in Exports: Carbon Footprinting Initiatives and what They Mean for Exporters in Developing Countries *by Alexander Kasterine, Senior Adviser, Trade and Climate Change, ITC*

Science has delivered a grim message. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by 90 per cent in the next 30 years or risk catastrophic climate change. The private sector and governments are taking their own initiatives to reduce the carbon footprint of consumption. This has important implications for developing country exporters.



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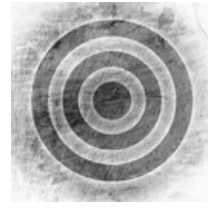
WTO Negotiations on Environmental Goods: Ensuring a Meaningful Outcome for Developing Countries *by Mahesh Sugathan, Programme Coordinator, Economics and Trade Policy Analysis, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD)*

Negotiations on liberalizing trade in Environmental Goods and Services (EGS) began with the launch of the Doha Round. Paragraph 31(iii) of the Doha mandate, agreed by all WTO members in 2001, calls for a reduction or elimination of tariffs and non-tariff barriers on EGS.

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How to Stay Competitive in the World of Carbon Restrictions: Solutions for Developing Countries

by Kateryna Holzer, Doctoral Fellow, World Trade Institute, NCCR-Climate

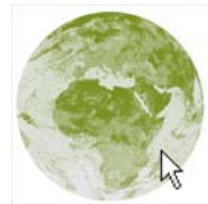


Developed countries bound by emission reduction commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, and expecting even stricter emissions targets, have begun to introduce cap-and-trade and carbon tax systems. These raise production costs and undermine competitiveness. Producers from developed countries may relocate their production to countries with no carbon restrictions. To prevent job losses in their countries and an increase of emissions elsewhere ("carbon leakage"), developed countries may use border adjustment measures (BAMs) aimed at adjusting emissions costs and restoring a level playing field for domestic producers. Carbon import restrictions can also act as an incentive for producers from uncapped countries to cut emissions.

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A Case for Climate Neutrality

In *A Case for Climate Neutrality: Case Studies on Moving Towards a Low-Carbon Economy*, participants of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Climate Neutral Network (CN Net) shared the challenges, rewards and occasional frustrations involved in pushing the boundaries on climate change.



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From Organic Waste to Clean Energy in India

by Kris McIntyre, Trade Forum Editorial

In the foothills of the Himalayas in northern India, a project run by myclimate, a Swiss non-governmental organization, is creating new jobs and income opportunities, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions through new technology.



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Advancing the Trade and Climate Change Agenda

by Lara Birkes, Global Leadership Fellow, and Brindusa Fidanza, Associate Director, Environmental Initiatives, World Economic Forum*

As countries grapple with the challenges of integrating economic interests with the management of climate change, trade and environmental policy have become increasingly entwined in the ongoing negotiations.



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Green Technologies: Opportunities for South-South Trade

by Nikolai Semine, Senior Adviser, Environmental Technology and Services, ITC

Climate change and broader environmental concerns have, as yet, had only a relatively minor impact on shaping the direction of economic growth in South-East Asia. However, prospects for change are expanding with growing global concern and increasing competition for and pressure upon available agricultural land and water.



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