

Rio+20: Making it Happen

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RIO+20
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UN Photo/John McIlwaine

Momentum Builds towards Rio+20

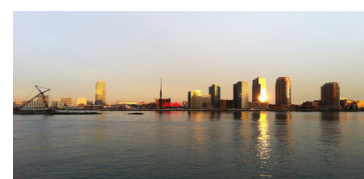
On 8 March, Rio+20 Conference Secretary-General Sha Zukang (left) and Ambassador Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado

(right), Director-General, Department of the Environmental and Special Themes, Ministry of External Relations, Brazil addressed a press conference on the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

Mr. Figueiredo announced the dates for the Rio+20 Conference as 4-6 June 2012 and for the final session of the Preparatory Committee (3rd PrepCom) as 28-30 May 2012. Both events will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In addition, the Host Country, he said, will make the Conference a greener and cleaner one.

Another significant development is that many countries, including Germany, India and Monaco have announced their plans to organize preparatory meetings on issues related to the Conference themes. Their results, as well as those of the Regional preparatory meetings, will provide important contributions to the outcome document.

On 7-8 March, the 2nd PrepCom for Rio+20 was held in New York. A decision on the outcome document was adopted. Co-Chairs' summary will be issued reflecting the discussions at the 2nd PrepCom for Rio+20. More available at: <http://bit.ly/i5JjGP>



UN Photo/John McIlwaine



UN Photo/Logan Abassi

22 March 2011 is World Water Day

Celebration in Cape Town

The global observance of World Water Day 2011 will be hosted by the Government of South Africa in Cape Town and will be co-organized by the African Ministers' Council on Water, UN-HABITAT and UN-Water.

The theme of WWD 2011 is 'Water and Urbanization,' it provides a good opportunity to discuss a range of options for tackling urban water and sanitation challenges facing the African continent.

More: www.worldwaterday2011.org

Side Event in New York

Mr. Brice Lalonde, Executive Coordinator for Rio+20, will be a panellist at a side event, "Water for Energy, Energy for Water," on the occasion of the World Water Day 2011.

Organized by the Permanent Missions of the "Green Group" countries (Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Iceland, Singapore, Slovenia and United Arab Emirates), the event will take place on 22 March, in Conference room 6, North Lawn Building - UN Headquarters, from 1:15 pm to 2:30 pm.

More: <http://tinyurl.com/4z3cb4o>

Intergovernmental Meetings

General Assembly



On 16 March, the President of the UN General Assembly hosted an Interactive

Dialogue with the High-level Global Sustainability Panel.

At 2nd PrepCom for Rio+20, Member States stressed the need for the Panel's recommendations, due in December 2011, to find a meaningful place in the Rio+20 preparatory processes.

More available: <http://bit.ly/hE4MdL>



UN Gathering to Promote Water Cooperation in Central Asia

On 14 March, a two-day UN seminar on international water cooperation opened in Tajikistan as part of an effort to promote dialogue and strengthen cooperation between Central Asian countries over the use of water and energy resources.

Organized by the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the seminar examined the role of international law, including the UN Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, in boosting regional cooperation on the management of water resources.

The seminar is being held ahead of 2013 International Year of Water Cooperation, declared by the General Assembly.

More at: <http://bit.ly/eDh5RY>

Jamaica: Consumers to Benefit from Energy Efficiency Program

On 10 March, the World Bank approved a US\$15 million loan to increase energy efficiency and security in Jamaica.

Virtually, the country's entire population will benefit through the development of detailed policies and plans on renewable energy to reduce the country's high dependence on imported petroleum products while moving to cleaner fuels.

More available at: <http://bit.ly/f8yVVj>

Major Groups

Earth Hour



This year, Earth hour will be marked on Saturday, March 26 at 8.30 p.m.

Last year, hundreds of millions of people worldwide took part in the event by switching off their lights for an hour. To get involved: <http://bit.ly/cyYyTf>



Support for Small Scale Sustainable Food Production

Many organizations are now cooperating to get support for small scale sustainable food production to be a core issue at the Rio+20 Conference. If your organization is interested in taking part in this initiative, please e-mail Benjamin Gräub, Biovision <b.graeb@biovision.ch> and Aksel Naerstad, More and Better Network, <aksel@utviklingsfondet.no>.

Rio+20s Youth Flash



Rio+20s, a youth-led organisation and one of the Organising Partners for the Major Group for Children

and Youth, is conducting a consultation on youth and the Rio+20 Conference. Please help strengthen youth participation by filling in this questionnaire (approx. 10 minutes) and by passing it on to your friends and colleagues: <http://bit.ly/dXBuTt>

Publication



"Report by Panel of Experts on the Transition to a Green Economy: Benefits, Challenges and Risks from a Sustainable Development Perspective" The United

Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the UN Environment Programme, the UN Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant organizations cooperated to prepare the study, which was released at the 2nd PrepCom for Rio+20. More available at: <http://bit.ly/h2rNie>

Upcoming Events

The First International Conference for Young Scientists & the Inaugural General Assembly of the Global Young Academy (GYA)

21 - 23 March 2011

Alexandria, Egypt

www.globalyoungacademy.org/

Workshop 2 on Green Economy Opportunities and Challenges

23 March 2011

New York, USA

<http://bit.ly/ev00G3>

44th Session of the UN Economic Commission for Africa

24 - 29 March 2011

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

www.uneca.org/

ARPEL 2011 Regional Conference - Sustainable Energy Development: "Ideas, Solutions, Actions – Towards a greater regional synergy"

28 - 31 March 2011

Punta del Este, Uruguay

<http://www.arpel.org>

Fifth International Conference on Community Based Adaptation

28-31 March 2011

Dhaka, Bangladesh

<http://bit.ly/eW4DRt>

64th Session of the UN Economic Commission for Europe

29-31 March 2011

Geneva, Switzerland

<http://bit.ly/h23KQ6>

China Bio-Agriculture Industry Summit

30 - 31 March 2011

Pudong-Shanghai, China

<http://bit.ly/ejpCM4>

2iE's 2011 Science Week: Assessment and Adaptation to Climate Variation Challenges

4 - 8 April 2011

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

<http://bit.ly/edNkrR>

Complete listing of meetings and events at www.uncsd2012.org