

WECF-News

Gender in Energy and Climate Change

by Ulrike Roehr, co-ordinator of the working group

6. Open Meeting on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Research Community

From 9-13 October 2005 the 6. Open Meeting titled "Global Environmental Change, Globalisation and International Security: New Challenges for the 21st Century" will take place at the University of Bonn, Germany. Within 128 (!) sessions issues like "Climate Change Needs Social Change: The Role of Communication", "Sustainable Transition of Infrastructures" or "Environmental Ethics" – just to mention three of the onehundredtwentyeight issues – will be discussed.

Within the session *Global Environmental Change, Gender, and Human Security* a paper "Climate for Change. Gender Aspects of Climate Change in Developed Countries" submitted by Minu Hemmati and Ulrike Roehr, both members of the WECF working group on gender in energy and climate change, was accepted. The session is hosted by Livia Bizikova from the Institute for Forecasting of the Slovak Republic, who herself will submit a paper on "Gender dimension of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in transition countries". We will report on the session later in the year. For more information have a look at <http://openmeeting.homelinux.org/index.asp>

Gender & Climate Change in the North: Issues, Entry Points and Strategies for the Post-2012 Process and Beyond

On behalf of **genanet** – Focal Point Gender Justice and Sustainability, and with support for the English version of WECF, Minu Hemmati elaborated a 30-page-paper looking at entry points for gender issues in the UN climate change negotiations, focusing on gender aspects of climate change relevant to the industrialised countries in the 'North'. The paper is meant to stimulate the strategic considerations of women's organisations in Germany, Europe, and the wider UN ECE region, as the international community begins to prepare for negotiations of a post-2012 global climate regime. This process has already started at national, regional and international levels, and will move into its next phase during the year 2005.

So far, women's organisations' participation in the international climate change policy processes has been rather sketchy and uncoordinated. It is essential that women's organisations, researchers and others working on climate change take note of the upcoming negotiation processes and develop their strategy towards ensuring a (more) comprehensive and effective recognition of gender aspects of climate change in a future regime.

The paper is looking at a range of international policy-making processes and bodies in the area of climate change, environment, sustainable development, women and gender and will hopefully prepare the ground for strategic discussions and prioritisation of work.

The paper is unpublished, but will be handed over to all persons interested in this discussion and in bringing forward the gender perspectives in climate change negotiations. Contact: roehr@life-online.de

Gender and Climate Change in the German Environmental Ministry

In early May 2006, the state secretary of the German Environmental Ministry, Margaretha Wolf, invited gender&environment experts and organisations to exchange experiences on mainstreaming gender into climate change policy. The session focused on presentations from researchers in this field: Gotelind Alber from the Climate Alliance of European Cities presented the outcomes of the project "Climate for Change – Women in Decision Making in Climate Policy", Immanuel Stieß from the Institute for social-ecological research presented first results of a gender analysis of emissions trading systems, and Meike Spitzner from the Wuppertal Institute for Environment, Climate, Energy discussed questions which will raise by looking at the CO₂-polluters from a gender perspective. Representatives from the ministry presented their activities undertaken to "engender" the German Climate Change Programme and analysed the matters for absence of success. Because of a lack of time there was only little time for strategic discussion. That's why gender&climate-experts and representatives of the ministry agreed in meeting for a strategic workshop in summer. I am curious about it and will report back the results.

Women in Renewable Energy in Germany

We, **genanet**, prepared in the last months a survey on the share of women in renewable energy economy and in local renewable energy initiatives. The report is now almost ready and will be published in German in June. We will try to summarise the most significant results and translate them into English. To get an European overview it would be good to have this data from other countries too. If someone of you have any idea how to manage or capacities to investigate similar/comparable data from other countries – please let me know.

Short News

CAN membership

Finally, after some discussion, LIFE is accepted as a CAN (Climate Action Network) member. This gives us the opportunity to bring gender issues into the discussions of the largest and most important international NGO-network on climate change, and, vice versa, we may get a lot of information which might be interesting for some of you too.

Green Week 2006: Get to Grips with Climate Change

As reported in the first issue of this news, this years Green Week will focus on Climate Change. Unfortunately the workshop on gender and climate change we proposed was not accepted, also none of the WECF members succeed in getting a stall at the exhibition. But we got the opportunity to display our printed information on gender and climate change in the bookshop of the DG Environment. So at least we will be able to disseminate our flyer "A healthy Climate. Gender Justice and Climate Protection" and the brochure on Mainstreaming Gender into Environmental Policy.

Editor and contact: Ulrike Roehr, roehr@life-online.de