

The Green Governors' Gala

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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GREEN GOVERNORS SEE REDD AT COP13 GALA:

Leaders From Developing Countries Take the Initiative in Mitigating Climate Change

Bali, Indonesia - Friday, December 7, 2007

Hosted by Governors from three densely-forested Indonesian provinces and their Brazilian counterpart, the *COP13 Green Governors' Gala* brings together global business and political leaders to highlight the issues surrounding Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries (REDD). The inclusion of developing countries in the Kyoto Protocol has long been a controversial subject. Although tropical deforestation is the second leading cause of global greenhouse gas emissions after burning of fossil fuels (*UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2007*), there are currently **no** provisions in the Kyoto Protocol compensating developing countries for limiting tropical deforestation. In the midst of a UNFCCC stalemate, some innovative regional leaders have taken environmental protection into their own hands. The Indonesian states are collaborating with an Australia-based carbon trader, and the State of Amazonas in Brazil is in cooperative partnership with NGOs, principally the Amazonas-based IDESAM (Institute for Conservation and Sustainable Development of Amazonas).

At the exclusive gala dinner, Governor Yusuf Irwandi (Aceh, Indonesia), Governor Barnabas Suebu (Papua, Indonesia), Governor Abraham O. Atururi (Papua Barat, Indonesia), Governor Eduardo Braga and Secretary of Environment Virgilio Viana (Amazonas, Brazil), will reveal an historic joint declaration supporting the exploration of Avoided Deforestation carbon revenues. Instead of allowing the destructive exploitation of the forests in their provinces, the governors will proclaim a moratorium on logging while the forests are reassessed for their carbon finance value. The man behind the assessing is Dorjee Sun, the young Asian-Australian CEO of Carbon Conservation. The Indonesian governors have all offered exclusive rights to develop and sell their forests' carbon credits on the international carbon market to Mr Sun and his colleagues. In Amazonas, Mr Sun is cooperating with Mr. Mariano Cenamo, Executive Director of the Institute for Conservation and Sustainable Development of Amazonas (IDESAM).

The trading mechanism Mr Sun proposes is based on the concept that developing countries should be compensated if they lower rates of deforestation and associated carbon emissions. Unfortunately, the Kyoto Protocol has historically neglected the concept of REDD carbon credits, even though 20% of carbon emissions worldwide are caused by tropical deforestation. Indonesia now features in the *Guinness Book of Records* as the "world's worst" in deforestation, felling the equivalent of 300 football fields an hour. Indonesia is the 3rd largest emitter behind China and the USA due to its deforestation emissions (World Bank 2007).

On the other side of the globe in the Amazon forest, Governor of Amazonas Eduardo Braga and his Secretary of Environment Virgilio Viana have just signed the first Brazilian Policy on Climate Change. This policy has empowered Bragas' administration to donate the "environmental services" and "environmental products" of its protected areas to an independent foundation: Amazonas Sustainability Foundation (FAS). Technical support for the initiative will be provided by IDESAM. Together, they are finding creative solutions for conserving forests while improving forest-dwellers livelihoods.

In his review on the Economics of Climate Change, Sir Nicholas Stern projected a \$10B per annum market to reduce deforestation emissions via avoided deforestation carbon credits. The governors hope to prevent environmental catastrophe while still benefiting from the resource value of their forests, which will be reconsidered as part of their provinces' 'ecosystem services'.

While UN diplomats in Bali negotiate the future possibilities for REDD credits, tonight's Gala features courageous custodians who have decided to act *now*. These Green Governors - even in the absence of market certainty around REDD credits - intend to use carbon finance to stem deforestation.

Working with Carbon Conservation and accessing unique financial, technological and institutional systems, these governors are leaders in a new paradigm which enables them to save the rainforest and develop a sustainable economy at the same time.

BIOGRAPHIES

Dorjee Sun is the CEO of Carbon Conservation. A graduate of the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia, Mr Sun previously worked with The Carbon Pool to broker a one of the world's first Avoided Deforestation trades. The carbon credits were sold to Anglo-Australian mining company Rio Tinto Ltd, with the aim of protecting over 30,000 hectares of forest and woodland.

Irwandi Yusuf is the governor of the Indonesian province of Aceh. Following the devastation of the 2004 tsunami, Irwandi - a former separatist leader - won a landslide victory in Aceh's first-ever democratic election. An alumnus of Aceh's Syah Kuala University with a Master's degree in Veterinary Science from Oregon State University, Irwandi rates the conservation of his province's biodiverse ecosystem as one of his highest priorities.

Barnabas Suebu governs the Indonesian province of Papua, which (alone) is home to half the country's native species. Governor Suebu is Papua's first directly-elected governor; his main priority is alleviating the poverty of Papua's two million citizens, particularly with the aid of carbon finance which protects his forests. Governor Suebu earned his Master's degree in Law from Cendrawasih University in Jayapura.

Abraham ('Brahm') Octavius Atururi

Marine Brigadier General (retired) Abraham Atururi is governor of Papua Barat in the west of Indonesian Papua, an area considered by many scientists to be the 21st century's "biodiversity frontier". Governor Atururi is a native Papuan who is meeting the development challenges in his province by enriching its 'human resources', helping Papua Barat to flourish.

Governor Eduardo Braga has enjoyed a very successful career as mayor of Manaus, congressman at the federal and state levels and is currently in his second 4-year term as Governor of Amazonas State. He is a leading Brazilian political leader who was recently awarded the title of 'Environmental Personality of the Year' (2007), after enacting the first Brazilian state-level legislation on climate change.

Virgilio Viana is a professor at University of São Paulo's ESALQ, holds a Ph.D. from Harvard, and has played a distinguished role in national and international processes on forestry, conservation and sustainable development over the last 20 years. He has been on leave of absence from his professorship since his appointment, in 2003, as the first secretary of environment and sustainable development of Amazonas State, where he is coordinating the implementation of a very successful new program on sustainable development and payment for environmental services.

Mariano Cenamo is the Executive Director of the Amazonas based NGO Institute for Conservation and Sustainable Development (IDESAM). He graduated from the Superior College for Agriculture “Luiz de Queiroz” of the University of São Paulo (ESALQ.USP) as a Forestry Engineer. There, he was also collaborator, researcher and coordinator of the research team on Climate Change and Carbon Markets of the Center for Advanced Studies on Applied Economics, and where he started an active participation on the UNFCCC dialogue. In 2005 he moved to Manaus to start leading IDESAM.

Supported By:

Carbon Conservation

Carbon Conservation’s mission is to reduce and absorb greenhouse gas emissions by maximising the contribution of land and vegetation-based carbon storage.

Since its formation in 2001, The Carbon Pool group of companies has built its business around these key principles while being guided by the values of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. Carbon Conservation’s primary role is to run a carbon pool, trade in carbon credits and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere.

FFI

Fauna and Flora International (FFI), founded in 1903, is the world’s oldest conservation organisation, acting to conserve species and ecosystems worldwide, choosing solutions that are sustainable, based on sound science and take account of human needs. FFI is assisting the Governors of Papua and West Papua in developing provincial strategies to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation and to prepare pilot projects for voluntary carbon markets.

Institute for Conservation and Sustainable Development of Amazonas (IDESAM): This institute is an Amazonas-based Brazilian NGO, which has been very active in the REDD dialogue. Since 2005, IDESAM has been a special advisor to the Government of the State of Amazonas on Climate Change issues and policy, carbon markets and Environmental Services. IDESAM has played a central role in designing the “Amazonas Initiative” and the State of Amazonas’ Policy for Climate Change (www.amazonas.gov.br).

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Schedule for the Green Governors’ Gala:

Press Conference, 6:30PM, FRIDAY, December 7, 2007

CONRAD HOTEL, The Floating Garden. Five minutes’ drive from the BICC

Jl Pratama Raya 168 | Tanjung Benoa | Bali 80363. Tel: +62 361 778788

<http://bali.conradmeetings.com>

Please bring your UNFCCC Media accreditation badge, or your press card.

Please note that media entry into the dining room after the press conference is strictly limited.

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