

PRESS RELEASE 1



July 5-8, 2009

Copernicus Institute for Sustainable Development and Innovation,
Utrecht University, the Netherlands organizes:

The 15th International Sustainable Development Research Conference

See for all information: <http://globalchallenge2009.geo.uu.nl>

Over 300 researchers from more than 50 countries will discuss their latest research in the effectiveness of implementing *in practice* solutions and strategies for sustainable development. Studies cover both practices in the *developed* and in *developing* countries and *emerging economies*. Special attention is given to the impacts of the current financial and economic crisis.

The plenary keynote program included presentations by:

- Mrs J.C. Cramer, Minister of Environment, the Netherlands
- Prof. dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri, Chairman of the UN-IPCC & The Energy and Resource Institute, India (video-connection)
- Dr. T. Banuri, director of the Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations, Washington, USA
- Dr. Teresa Fogelberg, Deputy Chief Executive, Global Reporting Initiative, Amsterdam

We offer journalists the opportunity to meet with selected '*best*' researchers in the conference.

- For this, please contact our PRESS CONTACTER: Karlijn Kuijpers: mobile nr. +31 (0)6 48788724. email: Kuijpers@geo.uu.nl
- If interest in one or more of the topics is expressed **before July 1st**, we can set up meeting with specific scientists during the conference.
- Interested journalists can be provided with the relevant papers in advance.

At least five subjects to be discussed deserve wider attention:

In times of CRISIS: Sustainable Business proofs to be more profitable, creates jobs and increases country's competitiveness!

- At least 6 different studies in 4 developed countries bring strong evidence for this: [Articles: 780](#) Ortas (Spain); [810](#) Dilling (Can); [905](#) Belu (Swe); [788](#) Walz (D); [848](#) Wydra (D); [1047](#) Bleiswitz (D).

Positive signs in agriculture in developing countries.

Various successful new trends in reducing use of toxic chemicals in China, India and promoting low-impact new crops are reported!

- Articles: [790](#) Jaenicke, (Sri Lanka); [817](#) Revilla-Molina, (Philippines); [747](#) Narula (India)

Linkages between the 4 CRISES: climate, biodiversity, resources and financial/economic: all buying on tick.

- Two articles from researchers in China and United Arab Emirates give fresh views on the socio-economic system failures and suggest systematic changes needed:
Articles: [1026](#) Fan Fu (China); [1018](#) Sgouridis (United Arab Emirates).

On the global market progress for sustainability is expected from marketbased instruments like carbon offset markets (CDM), emission trading and certification.

However, various papers illustrate that these instruments have serious weaknesses!

- Offset markets do not reach the poorest people; Palm Oil governance systems have serious defects.
Articles: [982](#) Datta (UK); [1017](#) McCarthy (Australia).

Next step after Kyoto: Asian countries are trying to balance economic growth with climate change prevention, but what is the fair next step?

- Current transfer mechanisms in the Kyoto system give limited support to developing countries in creating strong climate policy. How can the North seriously compensate the impacts of their footprint in the South in new post Kyoto mechanisms?
Articles: [962](#) Gunawansa (Singapore) (and on planetary keynote program).

An additional press release on the keynotes will be given on July 1st, 2009

Additional info about the keynotes:

Prof. dr. Rajendra K Pachauri, Chairman IPCC & The Energy and Resource Institute

Dr. T. Banuri, director of the Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations

Mrs J.C. Cramer, Minister of Environment, the Netherlands



Jacqueline Cramer was previously a professor of sustainable entrepreneurship at the Utrecht University and professor of environmental management at the Erasmus University. Ms Cramer was a crown-appointed member of the Social and Economic Council. She has also been a member of the supervisory board of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the University of Maastricht and Arnhem-Nijmegen University, the Council for Transport, Public Works and Water Management, the Council for Environmental and Nature Conservation Research and the supervisory committee of the National Institute of Public Health and the Environment and chair of the Residents and Sustainable Construction Forum. She has been a member of the supervisory boards of a number of organisations, including Shell Nederland, ASN Bank and the Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO).

More information: <http://www.vrom.nl/pagina.html?id=10864>

Dr. Teresa Fogelberg, Deputy Chief Executive, Global Reporting Initiative



Teresa Fogelberg started her career as an anthropologist at Leiden University in the Netherlands. She spent eighteen years as a diplomat for the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Between 2000 and 2004 Teresa served in the Netherlands Ministry of Environment, as Head of the Climate Change and Industry department, and as Special Advisor on International Environmental Affairs. As head of the Netherlands government division that invited GRI to establish its secretariat in Amsterdam, she got so inspired by this organization that she joined it in 2004. Teresa Fogelberg is Stakeholder Relations for the Global Reporting Initiative and the Senior Director of Business Engagement.

More information: <http://www.globalreporting.org>

Ms Annapurna Vancheswaran, Director of the Sustainable Development Outreach Division, TERI

Dr Arabinda Mishra , Director of the Climate Change Division, TERI