

One **Big** Thing

U.S. Embassy Stockholm

March 2008 Newsletter

WIREC 2008

Sweden's Deputy Prime Minister Maud Olofsson and the U.S. Ambassador to Sweden, Michael Wood, are among hundreds of participants from around the world taking part in WIREC, the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference. Maud Olofsson will also be a keynote speaker at the plenary session "Market Adoption and Finance."

Hosted by the United States Government, in cooperation with the American Council On Renewable Energy, WIREC 2008 is the third global ministerial-level conference on renewable energy, following events in Beijing 2005 and Bonn in 2004. In addition, the Deputy Prime Minister and Ambassador Wood were the keynote speakers at a March 3 seminar on international cooperation in energy and development. The seminar, "Research and Innovation in Energy, Climate and the Environment - Collaboration Between the United States and Sweden" focuses on the unique public-private energy cooperation between the United States and Sweden.

Leading up to the WIREC 2008, the Swedish government announced that it will use SEK 200,000 (\$32,000) from the Environment Ministry budget to enable heads-of-state and heads-of-government from least-developed countries to participate in the conference.

Seeing the Light in Gothenburg

In his quest to gain better knowledge of Swedish clean tech, Ambassador Wood visited Parans in Gothenburg, a company that has created indoor lighting using sunlight gathered via fiber optic cables. Parans was listed on Ambassador Wood's list of interesting Swedish clean tech companies last spring, but this was the first time that the Ambassador had the opportunity to see the innovative system himself.

While in Gothenburg, Ambassador Wood also met with Karin Markides, President of the Chalmers Technical College, and several Chalmers faculty. Chalmers will host the planned Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Alternative Energy Technology, a new position at Chalmers University that is being funded by the Marianne and Marcus Wallenberg Foundation.



Ambassador Wood studies the Parans sunlight module. (Embassy Photo)

Ambassador Talking Climate with Liberal Party MPs

At a round-table discussion on the topic "How does the U.S. view global warming?" Ambassador Wood shared his personal reflections about the chain of events during 2007 which helped bring about a change in U.S. thinking. He said "I think you can say that the U.S. has been asleep on the climate issue -- but we are awake now!"

The discussion took place in the Liberal party's "Club-room" in the Swedish Parliament on January 30. Liberal MP's Anita Brodén, Karin Granbom, and Lars Tysklind, all active in the Parliamentary Committee on Environment and Agriculture, hosted the meeting, which was attended by around 25 Liberals. Several of the participants were MP's, some staffers, and some local politicians.



Ambassador Wood together with Lars Tysklind, Anita Brodén and Karin Granbom. (Embassy Photo)

The inspiration for the event was a Liberal Party study visit to the U.S., where four senior level visited Chicago and Sacramento on a program called "New Energy and Techniques for a Better Future," a program planned and organized together with the Public Affairs Section of the Embassy.

Bildt seeks Global Climate Policy

Foreign Affairs Minister Carl Bildt told the parliament February 13 that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and that "Sweden will play a proactive role in environmental work at international level. We are working to strengthen EU policy ahead of the negotiations on a global climate policy after 2012." Bildt also said that Europe has an important role to play in the post-Kyoto climate agreement, and expressed hopes that EU ministers when they meet to discuss the climate in Poznan this fall could set the groundwork for the Copenhagen Summit.

The Foreign Minister's remarks were part of his presentation of the government's foreign policy strategy. Global climate policy was highlighted as one of Sweden top ten priorities, but Bildt emphasized that Europe alone will not solve the climate change problem. "Sweden, together with the United States is working on initiatives for new technology. We hope for a more forward-looking U.S. attitude also where global emissions cuts are concerned," Bildt said.

International Fulbright Science and Technology Award

The Swedish Fulbright Commission, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs is offering the International Fulbright Science and Technology (S&T) Award for outstanding Swedish students. The Fulbright Science and Technology award is designed to be among the most prestigious international scholarships in science and technology. The Fulbright S&T Award is for PhD study at top U.S. institutions in science, technology, or engineering.



Past winners of this Fulbright scholarship came from all the regions of the world. Recipients were chosen through a rigorous, multi-tiered, merit-based selection process consisting of in-country

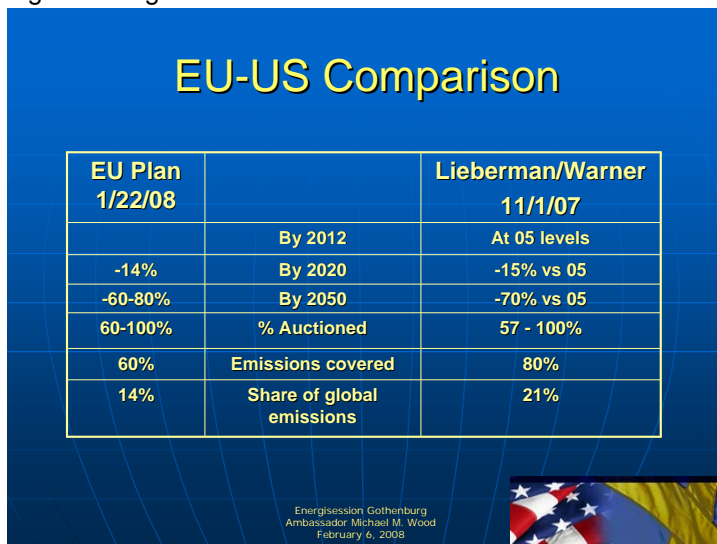
competition and review, field and discipline merit review by top-level U.S. academic leaders, nomination by a blue ribbon Advisory Panel, and university deans and presidents.

The fellowship provides activities, tuition and fees; a monthly stipend for up to 36 months; book and equipment, research and professional conference allowances; J-1 visa sponsorship for up to five years; round-trip airfare from fellow's home city to the host institution in the United States; and health and accident coverage.

For more information, please contact the Swedish Fulbright Commission at fulbright@fulbright.se.

Proposed U.S. Climate Change Legislation

The U.S. Senate is currently debating a proposed cap-and-trade bill, sponsored by Senators Lieberman and Warner. The bill stipulates the creation an economy-wide cap and trade program that provides maximum flexibility for the marketplace to meet a level of emission reductions that is environmentally credible. It provides federal investment to drive the development and deployment of new technologies, includes cost-containment provisions, and ensures participation by other high-emitting nations.



EU Plan 1/22/08		Lieberman/Warner 11/1/07
	By 2012	At 05 levels
-14%	By 2020	-15% vs 05
-60-80%	By 2050	-70% vs 05
60-100%	% Auctioned	57 - 100%
60%	Emissions covered	80%
14%	Share of global emissions	21%

Energisession Gothenburg
Ambassador: Michael M. Wood
February 6, 2008

Under this cap-and-trade regime, the US. would cut emissions by 15 percent, compared to the 2005 levels, by 2020, and by 70 percent by 2050. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee favorably reported "The Lieberman Warner Climate Security Act" to the full Senate with a bipartisan list of cosponsors. This is the first time in U.S. history that a bill mandating economy-wide reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions has been reported out of committee in the Senate or the House.

The proposed cuts in the Lieberman-Warner bill closely match the reductions mandated by the European Commission in the measures announced in Brussels on January 23, 2008.

Do you want to read more about the Embassy's work with the One Big Thing?
See www.usemb.se/Environment

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