

# One **Big** Thing

U.S. Embassy Stockholm

## September 2007 Newsletter

### **President Bush Invites Major Economies to Meeting on Energy Security and Climate Change**

President Bush has invited the world's 15 largest economies to participate in a meeting in Washington late September to promote greater global energy security and, it is hoped, to combat climate change.

Highlighting the need for nations to work together to fight greenhouse gases and promote energy security, President Bush sent invitations to leaders of Western Europe's largest economies, along with Russia, India, China, Japan, South Korea, and Indonesia. Invitations were also extended to the United Nations and the European Union.

President Bush also stressed the need for nations to work with the private sector to develop so-called "clean technologies" that boost energy supplies and capacities with little or no negative effect on the environment.

See <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/08/20070803-7.html> for the full text invitation.

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### **Ambassador Wood Visits Bio-Fuel and Ethanol Plants in North Sweden**

Ambassador Michael Wood traveled north August 24 to visit the Chemrec black liquor gasification test plant in Piteå. Traveling with the Ambassador was Dan Arvizu, head of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and a delegation from Michigan.



Dan Arvizu, NREL, Ambassador Wood and Ingvar Landålv, Chemrec

The Chemrec visit followed the signing of an agreement of understanding between Chemrec and Ohio-based NewPage Corp. Ambassador Wood said that the technology to convert biomass into liquid bio-fuel is a promising step toward solving the problem of global warming.

Ambassador Wood and Dan Arvizu also visited Örnköldsvik where they toured the SEKAB cellulosic ethanol pilot plant. SEKAB is on the list of Swedish clean-tech companies Ambassador Wood presented to American venture capitalists in April.

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## Swedish Bio-Fuel Plant May Be Built in Michigan

Michigan Governor Jennifer M. Granholm announced on August 22 in Stockholm that Swedish-based Chemrec AB and Ohio-based NewPage Corporation have formed a partnership to explore possible development of a plant that would produce renewable biomass-based fuels at the NewPage paper mill in Escanaba, MI.

The plant would employ Chemrec's black-liquor gasification (BLG) technology, which converts waste from the paper pulping process into synthesis gas. The synthesis gas can then be processed into a variety of bio-fuels. The technology could enable the Escanaba mill to produce up to 13 million gallons of liquid bio-fuel per year.

"As a native of Michigan I am especially excited about this partnership," U.S. Ambassador to Sweden Michael Wood said. "Depending on the results of the feasibility study, this project could create up to 200 jobs in my home state, and a similar number of jobs may be created in Piteå as Chemrec expands its operations. More than that, this technology holds real promise as a part of the solution to the global warming problem. This technology converts a waste product from the pulp process into syngas that can be used in liquid motor fuels. This is another great example of how our countries can work together."



Ambassador Wood, Governor Granholm, Minister for Energy and Enterprise Olofsson Mark A Suwyn CEO NewPage, Jonas Rudberg, CEO Chemrec.

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## Ambassador Wood Participates in Växjö Entrepreneurial Days

Ambassador Michael Wood participated in Swedish-American Entrepreneurial Days in Växjö August 20 together with Michigan governor Jennifer Granholm, and Foreign Trade Minister Sten Tolgfors.



In his address to an audience of 300 business people, Ambassador Wood announced that the Embassy now has identified 37 Swedish alternative energy companies that will be part of the mission-wide project to collaborate with Sweden on achieving a breakthrough in alternative energy.

Ambassador Wood, Trade Minister Tolgfors and Governor Granholm

Ambassador Wood also visited to Vaxjö Energy AB (VEAB) where he was briefed on energy production at Sandviksverket, which has used bio-fuel to produce energy and electricity since 1979.

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### **Ambassador Visits Östergötland Clean-Energy Firms**

Ambassador Wood traveled to Norrköping and Linköping June 19-20 to visit three companies that take advantage of different alternative-energy technologies. In Norrköping the Ambassador visited Svensk Biogas for a presentation on bio-energy production, and Agroetanol, which refines grain to ethanol to be used as fuel. The last stop in Norrköping was at Ageratec, a company that builds bio-diesel machines. Following the meeting, Ageratec was added to Ambassador Wood's list of Swedish alternative energy companies that he will try to match with American investors or partners.

In Linköping the Ambassador visited a waste-to-energy plant and was shown a train that runs solely on bio-gas.

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### **U.S., Sweden Agree to Renewable Energy Cooperation**

U.S. Department of Energy Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Alexander Karsner and Swedish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Enterprise and Energy Maud Olofsson signed at June 28 the U.S.-Sweden Implementing Arrangement on Renewable Energy Cooperation. At the same time, Assistant Secretary Karsner and Jan-Eric Sundgren, Senior Vice President for Public and Environmental Affairs of AB Volvo, issued a joint statement on research and development cooperation on commercial vehicles.



Minister for Energy and Enterprise Olofsson, Assistant Secretary Karsner and Ambassador Wood (Swedish government photo)

The Implementing Arrangement on Renewable Energy Cooperation is only the third such agreement entered into by the U.S. Government, and will make it easier for the United States and Sweden to identify and fund potential breakthroughs in alternative energy technology; for example, cellulosic ethanol and battery technology.

AB Volvo first presented the joint project on commercial vehicle technology to U.S. and Swedish officials in 2006. The U.S. Embassy facilitated contacts between Volvo and the U.S. Department of Energy to make the project a reality. As the first step under the agreement, the Department of Energy and Mack Trucks, a subsidiary of AB Volvo, are negotiating terms of a cost-shared project in the range of \$9 million to develop environmentally friendly commercial-vehicle technologies, including hybrid-engine technology for long haul trucks and trains that use bio-diesel.

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## **Informal Climate Dialogue Paves the Way for a New Climate Regime**



Minister for the Environment Andreas Carlgren and Harlan Watson

Andreas Carlgren, Minister for the Environment, hosted an informal meeting on June 11-14 on climate change in Riksgränsen. Environment ministers and high representatives from 28 countries attended. The United States was represented by Harlan Watson, Senior Climate Negotiator and Special Representative at the U.S. Department of State.

The purpose of the meeting in Riksgränsen was to allow Ministers to have informal and in depth discussions on international cooperative action on climate change.

The meeting in Riksgränsen was the third of its kind. The first meeting was held in Greenland in 2005 and the second in South Africa in 2006.

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