

# One **Big** Thing

U.S. Embassy Stockholm

## April 2007 Newsletter

### **Ambassador visits Karlskoga with Trade Minister Sten Tolgfors**

In his continuing outreach to alternative energy sites in Sweden, Ambassador Wood visited two alternative energy companies in Karlskoga on March 26 – Karlskoga Biofuel AB and Morphic. The visit took place at the invitation of Swedish Minister for Foreign Trade, Sten Tolgfors, who accompanied Ambassador Wood on the visit.

Karlskoga Biofuels AB described its new technology system that produces ethanol and converts the waste to biogas, thereby creating a second revenue stream. Karlskoga Biofuels is seeking partnership with U.S. companies that may be interested in purchasing the new technology. A plant utilizing the technology is expected to be completed in Karlskoga in 2008.

Morphic Technologies AB has several alternative energy businesses but their main focus is a new technology that produces a key component in fuel cells, the flow plate. Their potential success is tied to the hydrogen fuel cell economy. Morphic is also looking at collaboration possibilities with the U.S.

Ambassador Wood and Minister Tolgfors also held a joint press conference where they spoke about the wide-range of collaborative opportunities between Swedish and U.S. alternative energy companies. Ambassador Wood noted that he would be traveling to California in April to meet with U.S. venture capital firms that may be interested in investing in Swedish companies.



Ambassador Wood, Economic Counselor Ingrid Kollist and Trade Minister Sten Tolgfors.

For reporting in Swedish on the visit, see:

<http://www.nyteknik.se/art/49841>

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### **U.S. -- EU Energy Technology CEO Forum**

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier and EU Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner addressed the U.S.-EU Energy Technology CEO Forum in Washington, D.C. on March 19. The Forum, which was hosted by Secretary Rice, brought together senior American, German and European Union government officials and private sector leaders who focus on energy technology.

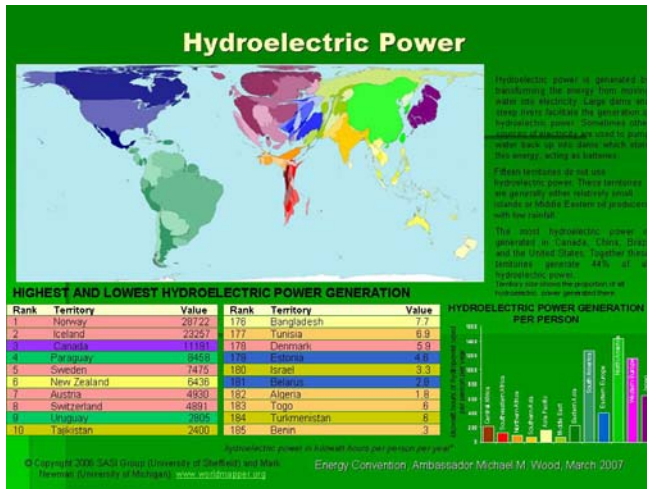


The purpose of the meeting was to stimulate a discussion between the government and the private sector from each side of the Atlantic to accelerate the innovation and adoption of new energy technology. The Forum intends to draw on the collective insights and leadership of the members to provide recommendations and to identify possible initiatives on technology innovation and adoption including energy production, energy storage, transportation, transportation fuels and energy efficiency.

Secretary Rice with German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier and European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighborhood Policy Benita Ferrero-Waldner at the U.S.-EU Energy CEO Forum. State Department photo by Michael Gross.

The Secretary's statement can be found at [http://useu.usmission.gov/Dossiers/Energy/Mar1907\\_Rice\\_EU\\_Energy\\_Forum.asp](http://useu.usmission.gov/Dossiers/Energy/Mar1907_Rice_EU_Energy_Forum.asp)

## Ambassador Speaks at Energy Convention



Ambassador Wood's speech at the National Energy Convention 2007 focused on the One Big Thing. In his address Ambassador Wood also compared the cost to produce electricity from various sources; nothing that renewable energy must be produced at a price comparable to coal to be competitive. Using graphics from [www.worldmapper.com](http://www.worldmapper.com), the Ambassador illustrated the variations in hydroelectric power generation around the globe.

The full text of the Ambassador's remarks can be found on the Embassy website, [www.usemb.se](http://www.usemb.se). The Swedish Energy Agency sponsors the annual Energy Convention.

## Senior Climate Negotiator Speaks in Sweden

Dr. Harlan Watson, the U.S. Government's Senior Climate Negotiator, visited Stockholm on March 30 to participate in a seminar organized by the Confederation of Swedish Enterprises. Dr. Watson emphasized the need for public-private partnerships in



dealing with greenhouse gas emissions, citing the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate as one example that involves companies and governments in developed and developing countries. See <http://www.asiapacificpartnership.org/> for details. Dr. Watson also outlined domestic actions in the U.S. at the national and state levels in areas including clean coal, hydrogen, and alternative fuels.

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## Ambassador's Visit to Uppsala

On March 29, Ambassador Michael Wood visited STUNS, the foundation for collaboration between the universities of Uppsala, industry, and the community. Dr. Curt Nilsson, Director of STUNS, hosted the full-day program, which included briefings and in-depth discussions on possible U.S.-Swedish research and development cooperation in the field of clean energy.



Bob Dixon, Curt Nilsson (STUNS), Mats Lejon (Uppsala University), Ambassador Wood, Alarik Arthur (Vattenfall), Lars Jonsson (Uppsala University)

Ambassador Wood saw the full spectrum of Swedish cutting-edge technology in biofuel production and electricity generation. The Ångström laboratory briefed the Ambassador on artificial photosynthesis, research into using solar energy to produce hydrogen. He was also given demonstrations of research into wave- and underwater-current power production.

At the University of Agricultural Sciences, Ambassador Wood met with Professor Johan Schnürer, who works in the area of ethanol fermentation. The visit to Uppsala concluded at ChromoGenics, a company that manufactures “smart” windows which allow light to pass through while restricting heat.

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## U.S. - Sweden Science and Technology Committee Holds Inaugural Meeting

On March 28, Sweden's State Secretary for Higher Education and Research, Peter Honeth, and Ambassador Wood presided over the first Meeting of U.S. and Sweden Science and Technology Committee.

The Committee was formed to pursue cooperation within the framework of the bilateral science and technology agreement between the two countries that were signed last June. Discussions focused primarily on clean energy research cooperation.



The Committee will meet twice per year, with an objective of developing and promoting collaborative projects forward.

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## **U.S. Department of Energy Awards \$23 Million for Cellulosic Ethanol Conversion Projects**

The U.S. Department of Energy announced on March 27 that five projects will receive \$23 million over the next four years to develop highly efficient fermentative organisms that convert cellulosic biomass into ethanol. The total investment in the five projects could be more than \$37 million, with the Department of Energy's Biofuels Initiative providing the federal government's share. The research will further President Bush's goals of making cellulosic ethanol cost-competitive by 2012 and reducing U.S. gasoline consumption by 20 percent in 10 years.

See <http://www.energy.gov/news/4896.htm> for the Department of Energy Press Release, and [http://www1.eere.energy.gov/biomass/biofuels\\_initiative.html](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/biomass/biofuels_initiative.html) to read more about the Biofuels Initiative.

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## **United States, Brazil Expand Energy Cooperation**



The United States and Brazil have announced a new partnership to boost research on and production of ethanol and other alternative fuels.

The accord, signed in Brazil March 9, calls for increased research and common standards for biofuels to be commercialized in international markets. Together, the United States and Brazil account for 70 percent of global ethanol production.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and President George W. Bush  
White House photo by Eric Draper

To read a fact sheet on the agreement, see:  
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2007/mar/81589.htm>

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