

One **Big** Thing

U.S. Embassy Stockholm

March 2007 Newsletter

AMBASSADOR ANNOUNCES FULBRIGHT CHAIR AT CHALMERS

During a visit to Gothenburg and Chalmers University February 5-6, Ambassador Michael Wood and University President Karin Markides announced the new Fulbright Chair in Alternative Energy. The position will bring American academics in the field of alternative energy to Chalmers to teach and conduct research. The first holder of the Chair will arrive in the fall of 2008. A stipend of \$125,000 – the largest in the history of the Fulbright program – is being offered in order to attract a top American professor. http://www.cies.org/ab_dc/ab_dc2008/country/FulFulS4.htm.



The Chalmers faculty described for the Ambassador the Swedish Hybrid Center, the Chalmers Energy Center, and other programs that address alternative energy.

At AB Volvo, Ambassador Wood had the opportunity to drive the M9 HDD, Volvo's rolling laboratory for developing hybrid technology. The truck is powered by an American-made battery as well as a diesel engine. Hybrid technology in long-haul trucks is one portion of a proposal that Volvo has presented to the U.S. and Swedish governments, with the support of the Embassy, with the objective of reducing emissions in the heavy transport sector.



Officials from Business Region Gothenburg outlined the city's Memorandum of Understanding with CalStart, a non-governmental organization in California dedicated to sustainable development in the transportation sector. Finally, the Ambassador visited the Gryaab sewage treatment plant, where waste gases are captured and used to generate heat, and the Rya Combined Heat and Power Plant that has reduced sulfur and nitrogen oxide emissions by more than 90%, compared to power generation in Gothenburg 20 years ago.

The Embassy will continue contacts with all these institutions and seek ways to further their cooperation with American counterparts.

DOE REQUESTS \$1.2 BILLION FOR OFFICE OF EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

The U.S. Department of Energy announced in February that President Bush's Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Budget requests \$24.3 billion for DOE, including \$1.236 billion for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). In addition, the request for DOE's Office of Science includes \$75 million to establish three Bioenergy Research Centers that will accelerate basic research in cellulosic ethanol and other biofuels. These combined funds would directly support the President's goal of reducing gasoline use by 20 percent over the next 10 years while advancing the goals of the President's Advanced Energy Initiative, which aims to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign sources of energy. The President's budget is meant to serve as a starting point for Congressional budget negotiations.

The EERE budget request is \$73 million more than the FY 2006 appropriations, a 6.3 percent increase. Much of this funding expands key programs that focus on developing new energy choices, including biomass energy and biorefineries, hydrogen fuel and fuel cell technology, solar power, wind energy, and vehicle efficiency technologies.

http://www1.eere.energy.gov/ba/pba/budget_08.html

EMBASSY ARRANGES U.S. LAB TESTING OF SAAB BIOPOWER CAR



Through the efforts of Ambassador Wood, Assistant Secretary Karsner at the U.S. Department of Energy, and Commercial Counselor Keith Curtis, Saab has delivered a 9-5 BioPower car, along with 400 gallons of fuel, to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. The Saab 9-5 BioPower was selected as a potentially suitable candidate for the U.S. market. The laboratory, which is run by the Department of Energy, will evaluate the vehicle's fuel economy and emissions, assess the level of optimization and

determine whether there is a noticeable difference in fuels, as E85 formulations in Sweden and the U.S. are slightly different.



Ambassador Wood and Torsten Fransson, KTH

AMBASSADOR VISITS ROYAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

On February 20, Ambassador Wood visited the School of Energy and Environment Technology (EET) at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm, to brief the school on the "One Big Thing" and to learn more about KTH.

The major part of the program consisted of current research presentations, with U.S.-Sweden cooperation opportunities in focus. The most promising areas

included bio-based jet fuel (JP-8) research projects in cooperation with Florida State University; 3rd generation solar power using nano technology; black liquor gasification alternatives; heat pumps and their potential in the U.S., and a Florida State University project on off-grid zero-energy homes. The program also included a tour of some of the EET laboratories, such as the biomass gasifier unit and the energy savings/cooling research lab.

U.S. SENIOR CLIMATE NEGOTIATOR TO VISIT SWEDEN



Dr. Harlan L. Watson, the U.S. senior climate negotiator, will visit Sweden March 29 to April 1 at the invitation of the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise. On March 30, Dr. Watson will participate in an international climate seminar and discuss how new technology can address both the demand for energy and the challenges of climate change. He will also give the American view on future climate agreements. Other participants in the seminar include Ambassador Wood, who will discuss the Embassy's work on bringing together Swedish environmental technology entrepreneurs with American venture capital, and Minister for the Environment Andreas Carlgren who will discuss the latest developments in Swedish and EU climate policy. More information (in Swedish) at:

<http://www.svensktnaringsliv.se/kalendarium/article24996.ece>.

ONE BIG THING IN THE NEWS

West Sweden's major daily, *Göteborgs Posten*, featured an article by senior correspondent Britt-Marie Mattsson on the "One Big Thing." She wrote: "Already in the late summer of 2006 the new U.S. Ambassador to Sweden Michael Wood began a dialogue with many representatives of the Swedish society. He wanted to find out in which area there was scope for cooperation between Sweden and the U.S. This was a totally new approach in the diplomatic world. Generally foreign ambassadors arrive with an agenda that might be unsuitable for the host country. Wood also consulted the White House, the State Department, and his colleagues at the Stockholm Embassy. He finally decided to pursue environmental issues, and his initiative was called 'The One Big Thing.' [...] Environmental issues were the common denominator between the U.S. and Sweden where Ambassador Wood believes there is a possibility for cooperation in technology and R&D. The focus is on alternative energy."

The Ambassador was also interviewed by the Swedish business daily, *Dagens Industri*, on February 24. The Ambassador discussed the Embassy's work to match Swedish alternative energy companies with American investment capital. In April Ambassador Wood will travel to Silicon Valley in California with a list of the Swedish companies that the Embassy believes may be of interest to U.S. investors.

Embassy of the United States of America
Dag Hammarskjölds väg 31
115 89 Stockholm

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