

One Big Thing

U.S. Embassy Stockholm

August 2008 Newsletter

Deputy Chief of Mission Visits Öland

When Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Robert Silverman visited Öland to participate in Öland America Day, he also took the opportunity to learn more about the 'Driven by Wind' project, which



aims to power TH!NK electric cars using electricity generated through wind power. Mr. Silverman also discussed U.S.-Swedish clean tech cooperation with County Governor Sven Lindgren and City Councilwoman Lisbeth Lennartsson.

Borgholm City Councilwoman Lisbeth Lennartsson and Deputy Chief of Mission Robert Silverman

In remarks to the local media, Mr. Silverman highlighted several Swedish technologies that are of particular interest to the U.S., including

Chemrec's black liquor gasification efforts and Swedish Biofuel's work to create jet fuel from waste biomass (see additional story in this issue of the newsletter).

Fulbright Chair at Chalmers University

Arthur Ragauskas, Professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology, has arrived in Sweden to take up a position as the first holder of the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Alternative Energy Technology at Chalmers University. "My work will contribute to innovative green chemistry sustainable technologies for the conversion of woody biomass to biofuels, bioenergy and in the next generation of biorefineries," said Dr. Ragauskas.

The award includes a stipend of \$125,000, one of the largest in the 60-year history of the Fulbright Program. Funding support for the Distinguished Chair is being provided to the Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange between the United States and Sweden and by *Marianne och Marcus Wallenbergs Stiftelse*.

Chalmers University was selected to host the new position because the University is increasing its efforts in the area of developing fuels and chemicals from renewable resources. This development is driven by the need to conserve energy and a desire to produce more value-added products from wood and wood waste. Wood can be a source for fuel, plastics and advanced chemicals, as well as paper and lumber. Dr. Ragauskas will be based in the Forest Products and Chemical Engineering department at Chalmers.



To read more about Dr. Raguaskas, please see:

<http://www.usemb.se/Environment/Arthur%20Jonas%20Ragauskas.pdf>

Assistant Secretary Karsner Discusses U.S.-Swedish Cooperation on Gotland

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Alexander Karsner had a busy schedule when he visited Sweden in the beginning of July.

In Gothenburg, he and Volvo Group CEO Leif Johansson signed an agreement to expand cooperation to develop hybrid technology in long haul trucks.

In Stockholm, he visited Hammarby Sjöstad, a sustainable suburb of Stockholm. He also



participated in a business roundtable with several industry leaders where he discussed U.S.-Sweden cooperation and described the Department of Energy's priorities and the programs the Department operates. The Swedish executives shared with Karsner their own innovative ideas and products. The Assistant Secretary was also a guest at the Ambassador's Independence Day reception.

Ambassador Wood, Assistant Secretary Karsner and Minister of Enterprise Maud Olofsson at the Center Party seminar. Photo courtesy of Centerpartiet

On Gotland, Assistant Secretary Karsner took part in the events at Almedalen, the annual political week where representatives from all parties gather along with various organizations and groups to talk politics. Karsner, together with Ambassador Wood and Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Communications Maud Olofsson, took part in a seminar organized by the Center Party called: "Climate Change, food shortages, security threats -- can new technology solve the challenges ahead?" He also signed another agreement, described below:

Sweden and U.S. Join Forces to Build Plug-in Hybrids

On July 7, Department of Energy Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Alexander Karsner and Director General of the Swedish Energy Agency Tomas Käberger signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to collaboratively work on accelerating consumer acceptance and commercialization of plug-in hybrid vehicles. The MOU outlines a one year, \$1 million cost-sharing arrangement that will be equally funded by the two organizations.

Ambassador Wood, Assistant Secretary Karsner, Minister for Enterprise Olofsson and Tomas Käberger of the Energy Agency

"Today's announcement furthers the historic energy cooperation commitment between the United States and Sweden as we work together to advance the research, development and deployment of plug-in hybrid vehicles from the lab to the marketplace," Assistant Secretary Karsner said. "The advancement of clean energy technologies, such as plug-in hybrid vehicles, will help address the serious challenge of global climate change while enhancing our countries economic growth and increased energy security."



DOE's Argonne National Laboratory will work with Test Site Sweden to demonstrate plug-in technologies, support research and development (R&D), as well as share operational and consumer data and solutions to potential vehicle-to-grid.

DARPA Sees Progress in Sweden

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Program Manager Dr. Douglas Kirkpatrick recently visited Stockholm to meet with Swedish BioFuels to get an update on the company's effort to develop jet fuel from organic waste materials.



With funding from DARPA's BioFuels program, Swedish BioFuels is working to solve the problem of producing 100% biologically-derived jet fuel (BioJet100) that meets all relevant commercial and military specifications. The Swedish BioFuels project is initially focused on producing jet fuel from corn or wheat grain and wood processing byproducts.

"We have always maintained that it would be better to produce 100% biological jet fuel from wastes of corn production, that is from corn cobs, which in the United States are currently not utilized, but instead cut into small peaces and left on the ground," founder Angelica Hull said.

The Defense Department has been directed to explore a wide range of energy alternatives and fuel efficiency efforts in a bid to reduce the military's reliance on oil to power its aircraft, ground vehicles and non-nuclear ships.

To read more about the Embassy's work with the One Big Thing, see www.usemb.se/Environment

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