

“World Energy Outlook 2008: The Road to Copenhagen”

High-Level Climate Change Workshop Co-Hosted by the International Energy Agency and the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
Copenhagen, 17 April 2008

The Minister of Climate and Energy of Denmark, Connie Hedegaard, opened an important workshop on climate change in Copenhagen on 17 April, organised by the International Energy Agency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. The workshop was also attended by the Chief Adviser on Climate Change to the Polish Minister of the Environment, Professor Maciej Sadowski, and over sixty other high-level participants. In her opening remarks, Minister Hedegaard said:

“Tackling climate change is a huge challenge for international society. The needed action will have considerable economic implications but the consequences of doing too little would be worse. At this stage it is more important than ever to engage the world of energy constructively in the process towards a global agreement on climate change. Therefore I very much welcome that the *World Energy Outlook 2008* will engage in the ongoing dialogue on climate change by adding thorough analysis on this extremely important issue. Scenarios that focus on urgent and substantial emission reductions send a strong signal to the policy makers in the field of energy, as the *World Energy Outlook* is a key reference in energy.”

The title of the workshop was “*World Energy Outlook 2008: The Road to Copenhagen*”. The workshop was designed to inform and shape the climate and energy analysis of the forthcoming *World Energy Outlook 2008*, the flagship annual publication of the International Energy Agency. The *World Energy Outlook 2008* will be officially launched on 12 November 2008 in London.

The *World Energy Outlook 2008* will in turn feed into the UNFCCC process, becoming a key reference in the context of global climate negotiations in Poznan, Poland in December 2008 as well as in Copenhagen, Denmark in 2009.

The *World Energy Outlook 2008* will include an in-depth assessment of climate change, in addition to providing a new set of long-term energy projections incorporating the latest data and policies. It responds to the need for quantitative analysis of post-2012 architectures and their impact on the energy sector and investment flows. It will offer an important input to climate negotiations, as well as valuable insights into energy policy and technological responses to the climate challenge.

The workshop began with a session on: “*Future Architectures: Which Scenarios to Inform Decision-Making through 2009?*”. Afternoon sessions discussed implications for finance, industry and the energy sector. There were over sixty participants, including senior climate negotiators and experts from the United States, Japan, China, India, Indonesia, the European Union and several of its member countries. High-level representatives of international organisations including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the United Nations Environment Programme and the OECD also attended, as well as senior executives from financial institutions and the energy industry. The meeting was informal and participants were asked to express their personal views.

Participants praised the continuous evolution of the *World Energy Outlook* scenarios and their link with the upcoming climate negotiations in Poznan and Copenhagen. They expressed particular interest in analysis of low range stabilisation scenarios, the consequences for investment in the energy sector and the challenge of meeting increasing financing needs, especially in developing countries. The current energy context is a great opportunity for the *World Energy Outlook* to be a catalyst for policy change. The *World Energy Outlook* team will make use of the ideas expressed in the meeting and will seek advice from the participants throughout the development of the work. In concluding, Dr Fatih Birol, Chief Economist and Head of the IEA’s Economic Analysis Division, said that “With this *World Energy Outlook*, the IEA has the ambition of becoming the voice of the energy sector on the road to a successful outcome in Copenhagen”.

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