

Tidal Energy for Sustainable Development and Adaptation to Climate Change

Presented by the Pan African Movement

Thomas Goreau, Global Coral Reef Alliance, described tidal energy, noting its worldwide distribution, particularly in the Pacific and Indian Ocean. Goreau stressed that tidal energy is: non-polluting; efficient; uses inexhaustible, renewable, and untapped energy resources; offers multiple benefits at both the small and large scale; and that it is a practical and cost-effective solution to replace fossil fuels. He then described the helical turbine, which captures tidal energy without the use of dams, and highlighted tidal energy as the most cost effective source, of energy, although it has not been widely recognized.

Noting the pressing issue of climate change, Goreau said that even if no more fossil fuels are burned beginning today, global temperatures would still become hot enough to cause coral reef damage and bleaching even greater than it is today. He then described Biorock, a technology which uses an electric current to grow solid limestone rock structures in the sea, catalyzing reef growth and re-establishment. He said that in the future, tidal energy combined with Biorock technology can be used to protect low-lying islands and coasts, and restore coral reefs and fisheries damaged by global warming. He closed by highlighting the need for a programme to create and apply tidal energy world wide for sustainable development and emphasized that tidal energy deserves to be included in the list of sources of sustainable energy supported by various conventions.

Scott Anderson, The Tide-Energy Project, described two projects: the Tide-Energy Project, near the mouth of the Amazon River, and the Uldolmok Strait Pilot Project in South Korea, both of which utilized the helical turbine technology at a small scale and large scale respectively. Anderson emphasized that 90% of the Tide-Energy Project's station can be built using locally available materials and equipment, except for the helical turbines blades. He highlighted the projects' goal of using tidal energy to generate electricity that is economical, and environmentally sound. He closed by saying that pending sufficient funding a pilot phase will be initiated, and if this proves successful, the results will be applicable worldwide.



Thomas Goreau, Global Coral Reef Alliance, said that in order to stabilize climate, viable options other than fossil fuels need to be developed, such as tidal energy and solar power, noting that adding charcoal to soils can increase sinks as well as soil fertility and water holding capacity



Scott Anderson, The Tide-Energy Project, said that tidal energy is practical, efficient and cost effective, yet stressed that decentralization is a requirement

More information:

<http://www.globalcoral.org>

Contacts:

Thomas Goreau <goreau@bestweb.net>
Scott Anderson <sdand@bellsouth.net>



A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE!

The UNDP Knowledge Expo on "Energizing the Millennium Development Goals" will take place today outside the United Nations in the Visitors' Plaza, and all CSD-14 participants are invited to attend.

The Knowledge Expo will showcase best practices via interactive exhibits and demonstrations on a variety of energy and MDG success stories, with a select group of partners presenting information on their energy-related initiatives and programmes.

Day time: Thursday, 4 May 2006 | 10:00am to 6:00 pm
Friday, 5 May 2006 | 10:00am to 3:00pm

Venue: Outdoor tent in the United Nations Visitors' Plaza