



Press invitation:

## EAERE 2008 Conference in Environmental Economics with a Focus on Climate Change and Developing Countries

June 25-28, School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg, Vasagatan 1, Gothenburg, Sweden

A large number of the world's leading economists in the area of environmental and natural resource economics will meet in Gothenburg June 25-28 at Europe's largest environmental economics conference: EAERE 2008 ([www.eaere2008.org](http://www.eaere2008.org)). The event is arranged by the Environmental Economics Unit, Department of Business, Economics and Law at the University of Gothenburg.

Climate change and environmental problems in developing countries are the two main themes at this year's EAERE conference, which includes research in all subject areas related to environmental economics. Six hundred researchers from 49 countries (of which many are developing countries) are expected to participate, in addition to many Swedish and other European policy makers and officials in the environmental arena. Four hundred and fifty scientific articles will be presented under themes such as Agriculture, Biodiversity, Climate, Eco-labelling, Energy, Fishery, Forestry, Health, Policy instruments, Water issues, Sustainable investments and Trade. See Programme and Abstracts.

EAERE, or the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, is the number one organisation for environmental and resource economists in Europe, and has members from all around the world.

### Main theme 1: The Environment and Developing Countries

One of the main themes at the conference is how to apply environmental economics in poor countries, which is where achievement of sustainable development is particularly challenging. These countries are also where the most severe misuse of natural resources is found. This implies that the value of improved management of environmental and natural resources is the greatest in these countries.

A large group of environmental economists from developing countries will participate in the conference. Many of them are involved in capacity-building initiatives and regional environmental economics networks financed by Sida.

The main events under this theme are:

- invited main speaker Maureen Cropper, who will be introduced by Sida's Director General and talk on the costs of air pollution in China
- a half-day pre-conference for researchers working with environmental and development issues
- a vast array of scientific presentations.

*EAERE 2008 Opening Ceremony, Smyrnakyrkan (Smyrna International Church), Thursday June 26, 10:45 am - 12:30 pm:*

**Invited main speaker Maureen Cropper:**

**“What are the health costs of air pollution in China? What is being done to reduce them?”**

Maureen Cropper is a professor of economics at the University of Maryland, USA.

Anders Nordström, Director General of Sida, will moderate the meeting by making comments and asking Professor Cropper questions. Nordström will focus on how the environment-related health costs should affect Swedish aid. (*See programme Opening Ceremony*)

**EAERE Prize Awards:**

Mats Segnestam, who throughout his career has worked intensely with environmental issues and sustainable development and who in January finished his position as head of Sida's Environmental Policy Unit, will be awarded the European Practitioners Achievement Award in Applying Environmental Economics.

Michael Hanemann, Professor, will be awarded the European Lifetime Achievement Award in Environmental Economics. (*See programme Opening Ceremony*)

*School of Business, Economics and Law, Volvosalen (E41), Wednesday June 25 1:00-6:00 pm:*

**Pre-conference Environment and Development**

A special pre-conference on environment and development will be held due to the many researchers engaged in these issues participating in EAERE 2008. Environmental economics is commonly seen as an important tool to achieve sustainable development. The pre-conference will, thanks to the participation of some top authorities in the field, give perspectives on the role of environmental economics – in both methodological and practical terms.

Invited speakers and panel discussion:

Dale Whittington, Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA: “What we have learned from 20 years of stated preferences studies in developing countries.”

Ed Barbier, Professor, University of Wyoming: “Natural resource scarcity, ecological scarcity and sustainable development 20 years on: What have we learned that is relevant to developing countries?”

Panel discussion: “The role of environmental economics for implementation of sustainable development.” Panel: Dr. Chantal Line Carpentier, Sustainable Development officer, UN Department of Economics and Social Affairs; Dr. Priya Shyamsundar, Director SANDEE, South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics; Dr. Kirk Hamilton, Team Leader, Policy and economics Environment Department, The World Bank. (*See programme Preconference*)

## **Main Theme 2: Climate Change**

*Smyrnakyrkan (Smyrna International Church), Friday June 27, 10:45 am – 12 noon:*

**Invited main speaker Christian Azar:**

**“Technology, Economics and Climate Change”**

Christian Azar, Professor of Physical Resource Theory at Chalmers School of Technology, will provide an overview of the climate problems and discuss technical solutions and policy instruments. He will also address the problems linked to for example nuclear power and biofuels. Professor Azar is also the person behind an open debate around the link between biofuels and food production (see below).

Moderator: Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director, European Environment Agency (EEA). (*See programme Second Plenary*)

*Biografen Draken (the Draken movie theatre), Saturday June 28, 2:00-3:20 pm:*

Invited main speaker **Michael Hanemann**:

“Climate change policy: A View from California”

W. Michael Hanemann is a professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of California, USA.

Moderator: Tomas Kåberger, Director General, Swedish Energy Agency. (*See programme Third Plenary*)

*School of Business, Economics and Law, E 45, Wednesday June 25, 1:00-5:20 pm:*

**Pre-conference Climate:** Critical Aspects of the Post 2012 EU Climate Policy  
**- World leading researchers in climate politics meet invited politicians and officials.**

The CLIPORE research programme, in cooperation with EAERE 2008, will hold a pre-conference on climate politics for invited politicians and representatives from both the private and public sectors. Five of the world-leading researchers in climate politics will link current research to the energy and climate package proposed by the European Commission in January 2008, which states that by 2020 Europe is to reduce greenhouse emissions by 20% relative to the 1990 levels. The energy and climate package includes proposed changes in the EU directive about emission trade, distribution of responsibility in order to reduce emissions among industries outside the EU emission rights trading system (for example air and water transport), and in directives to encourage the use of renewable sources of energy. The pre-conference is a unique opportunity to learn more about the most current climate research and discuss critical aspects of EU climate politics with some of the world's most prominent researchers. See programme.

## The Gothenburg Protocol

### **The Gothenburg Protocol on air pollution to be re-negotiated**

The so-called Gothenburg Protocol, or the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, was adopted in 1999 by the Executive Body of the UN Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution. Twenty-four countries have ratified the protocol, which states the emission limits of acidifying matters such as sulphur dioxide, nitric oxide and other air-borne volatile organic pollutants that each country should achieve by 2010. Negotiations related to a revision of the Gothenburg Protocol, new goals for 2020, and the possibility of reducing emissions even further are in progress, and a proposition is to be presented before the end of 2009. The working group NEBEI will hold one of its meetings in Gothenburg in connection with the EAERE conference. (NEBEI: Network of Experts on Benefits and Economic Instruments of the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution).

### **Contacts:**

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### **Presentation of new research about the Gothenburg Protocol**

*School of Business, Economics and Law, Room C 24, Friday June 27, 1:30-3:15 pm:*

EAERE 2008 will dedicate a special session to the Gothenburg Protocol, where researchers will present scientific articles regarding the Protocol. The Protocol has been evaluated in a cost and efficiency perspective, and researchers now recommend that stronger emphasis is placed on sea trade and on the countries in Eastern Europe, and that the potential of letting climate and agriculture politics work together is taken advantage of. (See programme session 5.8)

## Practitioners' Corner

*School of Business, Economics and Law, Room D 33, Friday June 27, 1:30-3:15 pm:*

Several EAERE 2008 sessions focus on practical issues and on the cooperation between theoretical economists and environmental officials such as **Lars Erik Liljelund**, Director General of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, and **Jacqueline McGlade**, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency (EEA). McGlade will also present a new European policy intended to increase efficiency and the rate of recycling and to decrease the environmental effects of using gravel, sand and crushed bedrocks, especially in the construction and road-building sectors. The policy is predicted to include an increased use of policy instruments similar to the already existing Swedish tax on gravel. (See programme Session 5.7)

## Debate on biofuels, increasing food prices and hunger

*School of Business, Economics and law, Room E 42, Saturday June 28, 10:45 am – 12:30 pm:*

Christian Azar, Professor of Physical Resource Theory at Chalmers School of Technology and a main speaker at EAERE 2008, took the initiative to, will open and then moderate the open debate “**Climate: Debate on biofuel and hunger**”. (See programme Session 8.3)

With this invitation I want to wish journalists a warm welcome to EAERE 2008.

Thomas Sterner

Chair of EAERE and host of EAERE 2008

Professor of Environmental Economics, University of Gothenburg

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### For more information on specific research areas:

#### Policy instruments: climate, energy, fisheries, transport and development economics

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