

NEWS RELEASE

International
Food & Agricultural Trade
Policy Council



Food, Fuel and Forests: IPC to Host Seminar on Climate Change, Agriculture and Trade

Bogor, Indonesia and Washington, DC – 5 May 2008

The International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC) will host its 41st international seminar on May 12, 2008, at the Hotel Novotel in Bogor, Indonesia. This event will convene key Indonesian agriculture and trade government officials, academics, and private sector representatives with other international experts in a dialogue around the themes of climate change, biofuels, agriculture, and trade.

Her Excellency **Dr. Mari Pangestu**, Minister of Trade for the Republic of Indonesia, will deliver the keynote address on climate change and trade. As the leader of the Trade Ministers' Dialogue at the December 2007 UN Conference in Bali, Minister Pangestu plays a prominent role in the nexus between climate change and trade policymaking. She will present the conclusions and recommendations that followed from the Trade Ministers' Dialogue as well as a way forward for merging trade, agricultural, and environmental agendas. IPC appreciates the strong support from the host country, also evidenced by the welcoming reception hosted by HE Dr. Mustafa Abubakar, Head of the National Logistics Agency, and the seminar dinner sponsored by HE Dr. Sofyan Djailil, Minister for State-Owned Enterprises.

"We are pleased to bring together leading actors in agriculture and trade, such as Dr. Pangestu, to address the complex challenges facing the agricultural sector and the environment," IPC Chairman Piet Bukman stated. "Creating synergy between the environment and food and agricultural production is the trade agenda of the future." Food and agricultural production must double by 2050 to meet the needs of the world's growing population without placing more stress on land and water use.

IPC's seminar will investigate the linkages between increasing food, feed, and biofuel demand and deforestation. Resource competition is having deleterious effects on the environment, particularly in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, water quality, and soil fertility. Unfortunately, the situation will only be exacerbated by climate change. Since efficiencies in production gained through trade can alleviate some of these pressures, seminar participants will issue recommendations to facilitate trade's role in promoting economic, environmental, and social sustainability.

The seminar will also feature speakers from IPC's membership, including:

- Mr. Tim Groser, Former Chair of the WTO Agricultural Negotiations
- Dr. Robert Thompson, Gardner Endowed Chair in Agricultural Policy at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and former Director of Rural Development at the World Bank
- Mr. Hans Jöhr, Corporate Head of Agriculture at Nestlé
- Mr. Carlo Trojan, former Secretary General of the European Commission
- Mr. Marcelo Regúnaga, former Secretary of Agriculture of Argentina

The Director-General of the Center for International Forestry Research, **Ms. Frances Seymour**, will discuss options for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in a post-Kyoto climate protection agreement. New research on biofuels in Asia and Latin America will also be presented by the Asian Latin America Agri-Food Research Network.

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The full list of speakers for this international seminar as well as information on how to register is available online at <http://www.agritrade.org/events/InternationalFoodAgriculturalTradePolicyCouncilEvents.html>.

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About IPC The International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC) promotes a more open and equitable global food system by pursuing pragmatic trade and development policies in food and agriculture to meet the world's growing needs. IPC convenes influential policymakers, agribusiness executives, farm leaders, and academics from developed and developing countries to clarify complex issues, build consensus, and advocate policies to decision-makers. More information on the organization and its membership can be found on our website: www.agritrade.org.

About CIFOR The Center for International Forestry Research is an international research and global knowledge institution committed to conserving forests and improving the livelihoods of people in the tropics. CIFOR's high impact research helps local communities and small farmers gain their rightful share of forest resources, while increasing the production and value of forest products. www.cifor.cgiar.org.