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A Canadian, Mr. Kinley has also served in the Government of Canada, working in the areas of international environmental policy, northern environment and resource management, and international climate policy.

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## UN's climate change senior official praises new ISO 14064 and ISO 14065 standards

*This interview is updated from a longer version that first appeared in the June 2006 issue of ISO Focus ([www.iso.org/isofocus](http://www.iso.org/isofocus)) in a feature on ISO standards supporting environmental sustainability.*

The interview was carried out by ISO Focus Editor, Elizabeth Gasiorowski Denis

**Elizabeth Gasiorowski Denis:** *What is the mission of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate ?*

**Richard Kinley:** The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is at the centre of the global response to climate change. Its long-term objective is the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. With 189 Parties, the Convention is virtually a universal instrument.

**EGD:** *In its first year into force, the signatories of the Kyoto Protocol are on their way to lowering greenhouse*

*gas emission levels by 2012. The new ISO 14064 and ISO 14065 standards provide tools for assessing, supporting and verifying greenhouse gas reduction and emissions. How do you expect them to contribute to the development of emission trading, and what are your expectations on the development of this market? How do you see developing countries benefiting?*

**Richard Kinley:** The carbon market provides opportunities for cost effective means to reduce emissions. Like standards in any other market these ISO standards will provide frameworks for assessing and verifying greenhouse gases at different levels. Applied broadly, they lessen the transaction costs to companies, for example, for those operating in several countries, the costs of understanding different rules and regulations would vanish.



**The ISO standards provide guidelines for various market-based schemes**

The ISO standards provide guidelines for various market-based schemes in the areas you mentioned and thereby contribute to the integration of greenhouse gas reduction into the decision making of economic actors. They may also provide a basis for facilitating

connection of different trading schemes by ensuring that the commodity, in our case carbon, is considered equivalent.

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), one of the market-based mechanisms created by the Kyoto Protocol, offers certified emission credits in return for investment in sustainable development emissions-reducing projects in developing countries.



*UNFCCC headquarters, Bonn, Germany.*

The CDM infrastructure includes a process for the approval of methodologies and a scheme for accrediting entities, which provide services for validation and verification of the CDM project activities.

These, I believe, served as an example or reference point for the development of parts

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of more generic ISO standards and will be widely used in other schemes as guidance for organizations and companies to design and develop greenhouse gas emission inventories and carbon projects.

I would also like to mention that the development of the CDM accreditation scheme, adopted several years ago, drew from relevant ISO standards and assessment practices at that time.

The global accreditation operation is one of the core elements of the CDM. It involves international assessment teams and an accreditation panel that makes recommendations on accreditation to the CDM Executive Board.

The panel, which provides technical support to the CDM accreditation system, includes very experienced experts from national and international accreditation bodies. For example, Ms. Maureen Mutasa, who is the current Chair of DEVCO (the ISO Committee on developing country matters), is a member and Mr. Thomas Facklam, President of the International Accreditation Forum, serves as an observer to that panel.

The CDM has seen exponential growth since the Kyoto Protocol came into effect in 2005. At the end of 2005, only a few dozen projects had been registered. As of 7 September 2006, 288 CDM projects were already registered and about 800 projects more were in the pipeline.

These include a wide range of projects, from small hydro power stations and landfill gas capture to electricity production from biomass and wind farms. The total expected amount of emission reductions generated by these projects by 2012 stands at over 1,2 billion tonnes, about the size of the annual emissions in 2003 of Canada and France combined.

In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, implementation of CDM projects will contribute to improving energy efficiency, transfer new technologies, and deliver other additional ancillary benefits to developing countries.

**Applied broadly, they lessen the transaction costs to companies**

**EGD:** *You have said in your message on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Kyoto Protocol that “the implementation of the Protocol will help drive the technology innovation needed to further bring down emissions.” Can you expand on this? What is the role of standards for the successful dissemination of innovation and good environmental practices?*

**Richard Kinley:** Effective reduction of emissions and efforts to adapt to climate change require deployment of existing and development of new technolo-



**The First Ten Years - An overview of actions taken during the past decade to combat climate change and mitigate its adverse effects.**

gies, and facilitation of technology transfer to developing countries. Investments made today will define development and emission trajectories, as well as countries' ability to cope with climate impacts for the next 30-50 years.

The limits on greenhouse gas emissions agreed in the Kyoto Protocol push businesses and policy makers to look for innovative policy and technological solutions, which help to lower emissions. Emissions trading has proven to be a very effective policy instrument for technological innovation.

One of the first practical examples of this is presented by the US Acid Rain programme. Environmental standards may promote innovation in similar ways: by setting a goal for the environmental performance of businesses, they provide incentives to explore technological improvements and to implement innovative solutions.

**EGD:** *In addition to the ISO 14000 family of standards for environmental management systems (EMS), labelling and life cycle analysis, ISO develops International Standards for the protection of the environment through the use of alternative energy sources, recycling, energy efficiency, conservation and technical systems, etc. Can you say how these other environmental standards could bring added value to governments and businesses and what are your expectations of ISO?*

**ISO is making an important contribution to climate protection**

**Richard Kinley:** Environmental concerns are becoming essential components of sound business management as well as key social and economic issues for governments. ISO standards provide tools for businesses and governments to evaluate and enhance their environmental performance against certain acceptable criteria.

This is a crucial step in being able to identify problems and potential solutions. ISO is making an important contribution to climate protection. I hope that ISO will continue to advance its important mission and wish you every success.

