

Richard Kinley



© UNFCCC

Richard Kinley was designated the **Officer-in-Charge** of the **Climate Change Secretariat** on 7 September 2005.

Since joining the secretariat in 1993, Richard Kinley has held a number of senior positions including Coordinator of intergovernmental and conference support programmes, head of administration, advisor to the COP President and advisor to the Executive Secretary on reviews of national communications, budget development and policy issues. He has served as Secretary of the Conference of the Parties since 1996 and led the secretariat support for the negotiation of the Kyoto Protocol. He has been Acting Deputy Executive Secretary since 1 August 2003.

“These ISO standards will provide frameworks for assessing and verifying greenhouse gases at different levels.”

A national of Canada, Mr. Kinley served previously with the Government of Canada, working in the areas of international environmental policy, northern environment and resource management, and international climate policy. He studied political science and international relations, holding a BA from the University of Manitoba and a MA from Carleton University.

ISO Focus: What is the mission of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ?

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.

ISO Focus: Leaders of the G8 are meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia, in June 2006, to find solutions to key international problems, among others, how to protect and preserve the envi-

ronment. How do you think climate change and the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol will be tackled by world leaders? What would you like to see coming out of the G8 meeting?

Richard Kinley: It is crucial that the world leaders devote sufficient attention to climate change as it is one of the most challenging issues on the international agenda.

Energy policy and energy security are among the major themes outlined by President Putin as the focus for the G8 this year. These issues are closely linked to climate change policy and can no longer be considered in isolation.

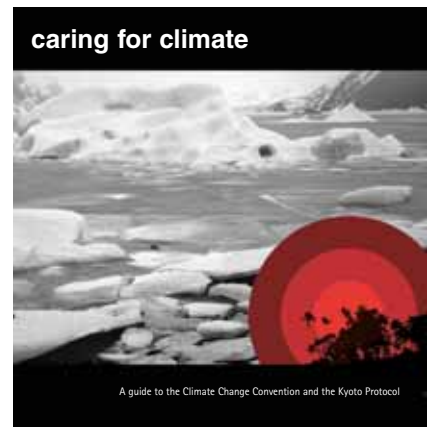
The outcome of last year's G8 discussions in Gleneagles on climate change was a breakthrough. It created positive international momentum and strengthened political commitment at the highest level to actively address climate

change. This contributed to advances at the World Summit and to the success of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Montreal last December, where two important processes related to the future international climate change policy were launched.

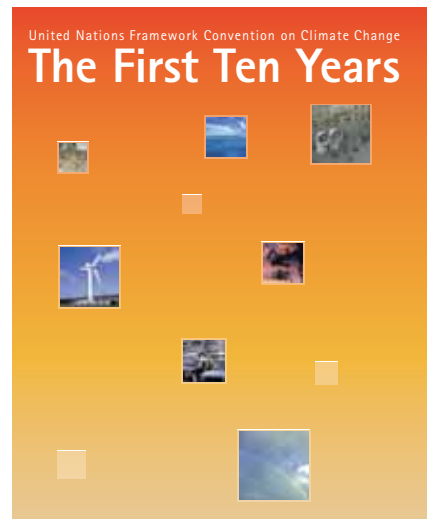
I expect that world leaders will build on these achievements and take them further, in particular by acknowledging the two critical and mutually reinforcing policy goals: energy security and climate security.

“ISO standards provide tools for businesses and governments to evaluate and enhance their environmental performance against certain acceptable criteria.”

ISO Focus: 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 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?



Caring for climate 2005 - a guide to the Climate Change Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.



The first 10 years - an overview of actions taken during the past decade to combat climate change and mitigate its adverse effects.

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



UNFCCC headquarters, Bonn (Germany).

© UNFCCC

© UNFCCC

© UNFCCC

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 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.

“ISO is making an important contribution to climate protection.”

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.

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 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 accred-



Counting emissions and removals – Greenhouse gas inventories under the UNFCCC.

itation 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 2 May 2006, 172 CDM projects were already registered and a further 568 projects 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 900 million tonnes, about the size of the annual emissions in 2003 of Canada and Belgium 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.

ISO Focus: *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

technologies, 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 a similar way: by setting a goal for environmental performance of businesses they provide incentives to explore technological improvements and to implement innovative solutions.

ISO Focus: *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?*

Richard Kinley: Environmental concerns are becoming essential components of sound business management and also 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. ■