



30 September 2002

U.N. Conference on Global Warming to be Held in New Delhi

Delegates will focus on concerns of developing countries

Environment ministers and delegates from 186 countries are expected to attend the next high-level conference on global warming from Oct. 23 to Nov. 1 in New Delhi, India.

According to a September 30 United Nations press release, delegates will use the meeting -- known officially as the Eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention -- to prepare for the entry into force of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. The delegates will also focus on key concerns of developing countries, such as how to cope with the expected impacts of climate change.

Under the Kyoto Protocol, 38 industrialized nations have agreed to cut their emissions of greenhouse gases linked to global warming -- especially carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels. President Bush rejected the protocol last March, arguing that its binding cuts in greenhouse gas emissions would harm the U.S. economy.

Following is the text of the press release:

United Nations
Framework Convention on Climate Change - Secretariat
September 30, 2002

India to host climate change conference

New Delhi, 30 September 2002 - The Government of India and the secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change signed today a Host Country Agreement (HCA) that finalized practical arrangements for next month's high-level conference on global warming.

The conference, known officially as the Eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention, is expected to attract some 5,000 participants - including over 100 ministers - from the Convention's 186 Parties. It will be held at the Vigyan Bhawan Conference Center in New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002.

The international community will use the meeting to prepare for the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol. Delegates will also focus on key concerns of developing countries, such as how to gain better access to low-emitting technologies and how to cope with the expected impacts of climate change.

Mr. T.R. Baalu, Minister of Environment and Forests will sign the HCA for the host government. Ms Joke Waller-Hunter, Executive Secretary of the Convention, will sign on behalf of the UNFCCC. "India has a leadership role to play in the climate change arena, and we are extremely pleased to have been invited this year to the vibrant city of New Delhi for our annual meeting. In return, I hope the people of India will benefit from news about our meeting and that they will gain a greater understanding of climate change and its importance for their future," said Ms Waller-Hunter.

A high-level segment will take place from Wednesday, 30 October to Friday, 1 November. It will be opened by the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and attended by Ministers and senior officials.

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