

Greetings Global Environmental Governance Project Friends, As the new decade begins, we take stock of the climate negotiations in Copenhagen, welcome the International Year of Biodiversity, and begin preparations for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012. The GEG Project team would like to share some of the achievements of the Project and its members, and the latest in global environmental governance news in our now quarterly newsletter.

Maria Ivanova



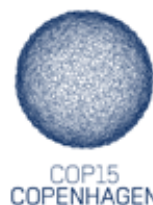
Global  
Environmental  
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Project

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## Copenhagen Climate Conference, 2009

The [UN Climate Change Conference](#), held in Copenhagen in December 2009, sought to produce a global political agreement that would oblige countries to limit their greenhouse gas emissions and ensure that global mean temperatures do not rise significantly. The great expectations of a global climate deal, however, crashed amongst failed logistics and failing politics. Thousands of NGO representatives spent hours in the cold waiting to enter the Bella Center only to be turned away. Inside, governments could not agree on who should do what, when and how. Several of the Global Environmental Governance Project's Emerging Leaders were present at the Copenhagen Conference. [Joe Ageyo](#) reported for NTV Kenya and [Negusu Aklilu](#) for Addis Fortune. Find Ageyo's videos, [here](#) and Aklilu's analysis of the Copenhagen Conference, [here](#).



UNITED  
NATIONS  
CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
2009



Also critical of the Copenhagen Conference's direction and outcome was chief negotiator for the G-77 bloc, [Ambassador Lumumba Di-Aping](#), who was both praised and lambasted for his unwavering stance on developing countries' rights and interests. As chief negotiator for financial and economic affairs and for climate change for 132 developing countries, *the Guardian* named him "[one of the most interesting new figures on the world stage.](#)" Ambassador Lumumba was also recognized by the *BBC* as [one of the four key players](#) at the Climate Conference, included among Yvo de Boer, Connie Hedegaard, and Todd Stern.

## Gus Speth Challenges Conventional Economics as John H. Chafee Memorial Lecturer in Washington, DC, January 2010

At the [10th National Conference on Science, Policy, and the Environment: The New Green Economy](#), Dean Emeritus of the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, [James Gustave "Gus" Speth](#), delivered the Senator John H. Chafee Memorial Lecture. In "[A New American Environmentalism and the New Economy](#)," Speth urged that a new environmentalism be forged to decisively rectify the tightly linked economic, social, and environmental crises from Wall Street's financial excesses, to gaping income inequality, and the destructive disruption of Earth's climate.

Addressing the hundreds of participants, Speth challenged the economic status quo, emphasizing the inherent contradiction between unbridled growth and rapidly diminishing global resources. Instead, Dean Speth argued, the world needs a "sustaining economy, one that lives off nature's income while preserving and enhancing natural capital," decisively ending our dependence on unlimited growth.



Drawing on President Nixon's speech to the US Congress in 1970, Speth harkened back to a time of similar environmental crisis, reminding the audience that the actions taken in the United States four decades ago can serve as a guide to contemporary politics.

In the photo - GEG Team with Gus Speth

(From left to right: Shawna Cuan, GEG Project Associate; Maria Ivanova, GEG Project Director; Gus Speth; and Alexander Gritsinin, GEG Project Advisor)

## Global Environmental Governance Project Director Interviewed by the French Journal Alternatives Economiques

Global Environmental Governance Project Director, [Dr. Maria Ivanova](#), was interviewed for the preeminent French economics journal, [Alternatives Economiques](#), discussing potential reforms to the global environmental governance system. In the interview, Dr. Ivanova outlined the need for reform of the current system: "the effectiveness of the governance system is reduced because numerous institutions establish their own norms and follow their own policies without cooperation or coordination." Instead, she argued, a proactive institutional mechanism with the means to inform, set standards, mobilize different stakeholders and hold actors accountable should be established. The most important precondition for the creation of an effective, legitimate and equitable system for global environmental governance, Dr. Ivanova says, is a "rethinking of our moral and ethical values and the development of a new ethic of global citizenship." Read the interview in either [French](#) or [English](#).



## Upcoming Events

[11th Special Session of UNEP's Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum](#) will take place in Bali, Indonesia from February 23-26, 2010.

GEG Project Director [Dr. Maria Ivanova](#) was elected (for the second consecutive year) to represent North American Civil Society at this session of the UNEP Governing Council and at the [11th Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum](#). She will present a major group's perspective on international environmental governance at a session on "Environment and the Multilateral System" on February 21, 2010.

## In the News

[Global Environmental Governance Forum](#) covered in article about the GEG faculty and student research effort by [Ideation journal](#) at the College of William and Mary.

[Academic Council on the United Nations System](#) interviews Dr. Maria Ivanova on [an effective global environmental governance system](#).

[Fox News](#) analyzes [Mark Halle's](#) paper "[The UNEP We Want](#)".

[Nature Journal](#) prints [Julia Marton-Lefevre's](#) [guidance for Convention on Biological Diversity targets](#).

[Nature Reports](#) features [Mark Inman's article on geo-engineering](#) quoting Dr. Maria Ivanova on the issue of governance within geo-engineering.

[Fox News](#) showed [Andreas Kraemer](#), Director of Ecologic, in historic [snowball fight at Dupont Circle](#) in Washington, DC.

## Announcements

The GEG Project website is being reconfigured and will feature an ongoing analytical effort by GEG emerging leaders - a set of environmental governance case studies from around the world.

[Global Environmental Politics Journal](#) will be publishing GEG Project Director [Dr. Maria Ivanova's](#) article on UNEP in the February issue (vol.10: 1).

In February 2010, Dr. Maria Ivanova received the [Mary Lyon Award](#), given to a young alumna of Mount Holyoke College for sustained achievement in her life consistent with the humane values exemplified by Mary Lyon.

[Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre/ Network](#) will begin collaboration with the GEG Project on global environmental governance research.

Catto Fellow [Heather Lauver](#) lectured on leadership and governance in an era of climate change in New Canaan, Connecticut and is looking to work with colleagues on this topic.

Emerging Leader [Philip Osano](#) has been promoted to regular host on [Kenya's "Eco Show"](#) and interviewed Achim Steiner and John Scanlon.

Emerging Leader [Negusu Aklilu](#) has been [named one of Ethiopia's most influential persons](#) by *Addis Neger*.

Emerging Leader [Bryan Bushley](#) returns from a discussion on climate change and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Chitwan District, Nepal.

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