

# AIJ International Workshop in Leipzig

On 5 and 6 March 1997 an international workshop was held in the Congress Center in Leipzig (Germany) at the initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the UNEP Regional Office for Europe. The workshop was part of the Leipzig TerraTec-Forum "Environmental Global Markets". The recommendations of the workshop are listed in box 1.

After the workshop an "AIJ Project Market" was organized at which potential host countries presented their national programs on climate change and AIJ/JI. The countries that presented themselves thus were Chile, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Poland, the Russian Federation, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

At the "AIJ Project Market" Jolanta Galon-Kozakiewicz of the *Polish JI Secretariat* in Warsaw explained that Poland has adopted a national program for hosting JI projects. She said that since its establishment the Polish JI Secretariat has received 65 project proposals from domestic parties. Milos Tichy (SEVEN, Prague) explained that in December of 1996, following the implementation of the Decin project, the Czech Republic established guidelines for AIJ pilot projects. The guidelines will be observed by the *Focal Point AIJ* at the Czech Ministry for the Environment. Finally, Franz Tattenbach and Adalberto Gorbitz of the Costa Rican Office for JI presented the system of Costa Rican Certifiable, Transferable GHG Offsets (CTOs, see also *JIQ*, June 1996, p.2).

*For further information on the workshop and the Market, please contact:*

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## Box 1 Recommendations for CoP3 by the Leipzig Workshop on AIJ

- 1 At the invitation of Mr Walter Hirche, Parliamentary State Secretary in the German Federal Ministry for the Environment and Mr Frits Schlingemann, Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Europe, representatives of governments, NGOs, international organizations, scientists and business leaders from 20 countries met in Leipzig on March 5-6, 1997, to exchange experiences and discuss further progress in the JI pilot phase called AIJ. [...]
- 2 The objective of the Workshop was to evolve general principles for development of the AIJ regime, during the Pilot Phase and beyond, on the basis of practical experience with AIJ projects. The participants emphasized that AIJ is a mechanism that can contribute to reducing the risks of climate change but cannot be the complete solution to the climate problem. AIJ should bring net GHG reductions or sink enhancement that would not have occurred in the absence of such activities.
- 3 The participants in the Leipzig Workshop on AIJ urge the CoP to the UN FCCC to move forward quickly towards additional commitment for emissions reductions in Annex I countries. This will require increased participation by the private sector in the AIJ regime.
- 4 To achieve this increased participation, the participants in the Leipzig Workshop urge the Parties to the UN FCCC to establish a stable framework for the AIJ Pilot Phase and its timely review which would allow the evolution toward a mature regime of JI.

Recalling decision 5 of CoP1, the following should serve as a guidance to the UN FCCC process:

- 5 Participants in the Leipzig Workshop recommended that developing countries be given assistance to participate actively in the process of project identification and design, in order to ensure that AIJ projects advance national sustainable development priorities in host countries.
- 6 Participants in the Workshop further recommended that developed countries should formulate and implement comprehensive climate protection programs which incorporate economically efficient and effective incentives for both national and international GHG offsets.
- 7 Participants recommended that Parties to the UN FCCC and others:
  - a develop guidelines and transparent procedures for monitoring, assessment and verification of project performance that can be implemented throughout the lifetime of the AIJ projects and can ensure the credibility of emissions reductions of carbon uptake achieved through AIJ.
  - b develop standardized procedures for estimating appropriate baselines for AIJ and for verifying the accuracy of project baselines reported to the Secretariat.
  - c formulate institutional arrangements for AIJ that minimize transaction costs and bureaucracy associated with these activities.
  - d develop flexible structures for the management of the AIJ regime that allow for evolution of a mature JI regime, pursuant to the successful evaluation of the AIJ Pilot Phase before the end of the decade.
- 8 There are strong potential linkages between the design and operation of a fully fledged JI regime and what could be the outcome of the present discussions on setting up an emissions trading system in conjunction with national emissions reductions. The main advantages of a JI system in this respect are that it can be applied flexibly and as a learning process, that it may leave the initiative mainly with the private sector, and that its application is of a voluntary nature.