



28th February 2008

CLIMATE CHANGE AND POVERTY REDUCTION TAKE CENTRE STAGE AT SENSEA'S 5TH ANNUAL RETREAT

SENSA (Swedish Environmental Secretariat for Asia) held its 5th Annual Retreat in Siem Reap, Cambodia, 11th – 13th February with around sixty participants. Attendance was up more than 70% up on last year, which was itself a record year!

Amongst the participants, there were stakeholders like Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) including its newly-appointed **Director-General, Dr. Anders Nordström**, governmental agencies, Swedish embassies in the region, NGO's, industry and academia as well as keynote speakers and members of the broader SENSEA community.

After being officially opened by the **Vice-Governor of Siem Reap Province, H.E. Chan Sophal, Counsellor at the Embassy of Sweden, Phnom Penh, Ms. Eva Smedberg, Senior Minister and Minister of the Environment, Cambodia, H.E. Dr. Mok Mareth** and **Director of SENSEA, Minister Christer Holtsberg**, the meeting discussed

- **The Post-Bali Climate Change Regime with Specific Emphasis on Southeast Asia**
- **Climate Change, Adaptation for Development: The Journey Downstream!**
- **Climate Change, Adaptation for Development – Economics and Private Sector**

Using the SENSEA platform in a development perspective concluded the discussions.

Keynote speeches were made by **Regional Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Sida Regional Advisor, Dr. Anders Granlund, Assistant Director of Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), Ms. Sol Dorotea Iglesias, Director-General**

of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Dr. Andreas Schild, Senior Market Analyst from Ericsson AB, Ms. Monika Byléhn and, from the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Dr. Tariq Banuri, Dr. Richard Klein, Dr. Matthew Chadwick and Dr. Lailai Li.

Sweden's New Development Policy, Climate Change and Communication within the SENSEA Platform 2008 - 2009 was also amongst other matters on the agenda.

The annual gathering this year was seen to:

- **introduce the SENSEA platform as a forum for environmental experts and policy-makers in Sweden and Southeast Asia to interact on the environmental challenges being faced.**
- **plan strategic action on the specific environmental issues of climate change and adaptation to it, development and the reduction of poverty in the context of SENSEA's draft work plan.**

Photos taken at the event are available on request. Please write to parichart.phongphisutbubpa@foreign.ministry.se