

Stockholm Environment Institute to develop research program in partnership with network of international companies

STOCKHOLM, 21 DECEMBER 2009 Today Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), a pioneering international research institute for sustainable development, announced its intention to partner with 3C (Combat Climate Change), a global initiative of business leaders. The partnership will produce cutting-edge, in-depth research at the intersection of climate policy and business.

Stockholm Environment Institute is an independent, international research institute specializing in sustainable development and environment issues. From fundamental research at the cutting edge to capacity building with developing countries, the goal of the Institute is to bridge science to policy. SEI has more than 150 research staff, 7 research centers and joint research programs with other institutes (e.g. the Chinese Economists 50 Forum).

The next ten years are decisive if we are to succeed in combating climate change. The private sector will make a crucial contribution, said Professor Johan Rockström, executive director of SEI. This partnership means that SEI's scientific research on transformative change will have the engagement of some of the world's largest companies.

The 3C group was founded by Lars Josefsson, President & CEO of European energy company Vattenfall, in 2007. It now numbers 67 large companies, including global giants like BP, Siemens, and Unilever, as well as major American companies such as Duke Energy and PNM Resources. Major companies in China, India and Russia also participate in the group.

After Copenhagen, there will be a need to look at the effects climate policies in more detail, as well as to connect these policies to other long-term challenges related to sustainability, noted Josefsson. For 3C to play a role going forward we will need access to serious research capabilities. The partnership with SEI will create a research hub for businesses intending to stay engaged in issues of climate policy.

From 2010, Stockholm Environment Institute will be the preferred knowledge provider to the 3C network. SEI and the 3C initiative will develop a 2–3 year research program that will be financed from an independent fund built up by members of the network. SEI and 3C will remain, separate, independent entities.

"Bridging climate science and market innovation is essential if transformative change is to happen, and happen quickly," said Björn Stigson, President of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. "I look forward to collaborating with this initiative."

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