

EDITORIAL

As we finish our last issue of 2014, the Lima Climate Change Conference (20th Conference of Parties (CoP-20) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and 10th Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties (CoP/MoP-10) to the Kyoto Protocol), which began on 1 December, has not yet finished its work. We join UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, who recently expressed the hope that it would achieve its goal of paving the way for a binding global climate agreement to be reached in the Paris Conference next year. Secretary Ban urged leaders to take action now, noting that otherwise the situation might be irreversible.

UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christina Figueres also stressed the importance of the conference. She noted that the meeting “needs to be the wind in our sails” propelling the Parties to the CoP-21 in Paris.

Science magazine reports a study by researchers from the University of California – Berkeley, which predicts that climate change has the potential to increase the rate of lightning strikes (<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/346/6211/851>). We hope that some lightning in Lima will help stimulate the participants to reach a fruitful conclusion. We will report on the conference outcomes in the next issue of our journal.

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As announced in the previous issue, and reported at page 530, the US and China have agreed amongst themselves to reduce their carbon emissions, and have stated that they will take other actions toward this end. Since then, the US has pledged to contribute US\$3 billion to the UNFCCC's Green Climate Fund.

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Two Ambassadors and UN Permanent Representatives, Macharia Kamau (Kenya) and Csaba Körösi (Hungary), Co-chairs of the UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG-SDG), have been selected by the International Jury as the 2014 Laureates of the Elizabeth Haub Award for Environmental Diplomacy. They will receive their gold medals next year, at an event sponsored by Pace University and the International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL).

The International Jury of the Elizabeth Haub Prize for Environmental Law in Stockholm nominated Professor Richard B. Macrory CBE of University College London as the 2014 Laureate; he will receive his gold medal at the ceremony next year under the auspices of Stockholm University and ICEL.

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- Wolfgang Breyer -