

Let me highlight one such seminar held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe during mid-March this year at the invitation of, and in cooperation with, the Southern African Development Community (SADC). This CTI/Industry Joint Seminar on Technology Diffusion in Southern Africa brought together an impressive number of Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and other senior officials from 10 of the 14 SADC States. It was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Japan New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization, and the United Kingdom Department of Trade and Industry. Proceedings of this event were made available at a special CTI event held from 1PM to 3PM yesterday and are now available at the CTI booth located in the hallway outside this room.

During the course of this two and a half day event in Zimbabwe, ministers and other senior officials from the region, developed country government officials, and financial institution, industry and NGO representatives expressed their views, not only on the importance of technology transfer, but also their heart-felt concerns on achieving it. I believe that the presence of so many ministers from the region who heard from industry about the legal and institutional barriers to the transfer of their technology in the region will begin the process of helping bring these barriers down. Industry was also enlightened as, throughout the seminar, representatives of the SADC states made it clear that they are sensitive to environmental issues, including climate change, while at the same time being highly committed to meeting the three basic needs of life -- shelter, food, and clothing -- and to improving their quality of life. This being the case, moving toward more climate-friendly technologies is viewed as both a challenge and an opportunity. To ensure that the quality of life is not degraded for current and future generations, all countries must position themselves to have increased access to contemporary technologies which are environmentally sound.

Let me now share with you, Mr. Chairman, some of the views that were expressed that directly bear on the issues noted in Decision 4/CP.4:

- The focus on access to contemporary technologies was clearly articulated by many of the SADC representatives, including a statement by one minister that his country was ready to work with developed countries and industry, but that it would not become a dumping ground for obsolete technologies in the name of climate change.
- A recurring theme of the seminar was that true capacity building goes beyond merely installing "turn-key" projects. Building indigenous capacity is an important part of technology transfer. However, there was clear sentiment that for it to be meaningful, capacity building must focus on helping to create local and regional infrastructure and know-how that integrates cultural values, existing technologies, and local conditions.
- Although many of the participants readily acknowledged that technology is key to the achievement of the UNFCCC objectives, there are other benefits as well. Technology can assist with eradicating poverty, promoting sustainable development, increasing standard of living, and more. It was felt that technology must be a means to an end, not an end in and of itself.
- Another recurring theme of the Zimbabwe seminar was the difficulty in attracting financing. Discussions centered around the need for countries to create an "enabling environment" to promote investment. In that regard, project developers, bankers,