

**Report of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific & Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI),  
October 20 - 31, 1997**

---The Seventh session of the SBSTA and SBI focussed on transfer of technologies, cooperation with relevant organizations, Activities Implemented Jointly, methodological issues, review process for national communications, and review of the financial mechanism and determination of the status of GEF. Draft decisions on technology transfer, cooperation with IPCC, observation networks of climate system, and the budget will move forward to COP 3. No substantive progress was made on the process for consideration of non Annex 1 National communications and neither was GEF confirmed as the permanent entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention. It was decided that COP 4 will be held in Bonn, Germany in November 1998. The COP 3 agenda was adopted with an item that would allow a parallel decision to be considered at Kyoto related to possible future commitments by developing countries if we prove successful in these efforts. Generally, the work of these subsidiary bodies of the convention were overshadowed by more pressing Kyoto preparatory negotiations held concurrently.

2. Informal meeting with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): Outgoing chair Bert Bolin and incoming chair Robert Watson were both present to discuss IPCC issues including the Special Report on the Regional Impacts of Climate Change and Technical Paper 4, Implications of Proposed CO2 Emissions Limitations which were presented to SBSTA. Status reports of work currently in progress, including special reports on aviation, methodological and technological aspects of technology transfer, and emission scenarios were highlighted. Finally, the IPCC received suggestions for policy-relevant science questions that SBSTA parties would like to see addressed in the Synthesis Report of the IPCC's Third Assessment. Parties have until January 20th, 1998, to provide additional suggestions to the secretariat. It should be noted that Canada has one seat on the new Bureau of the IPCC (Dr. John M.R. Stone, AES/DOE).

3. Cooperation with relevant international organizations: The SBSTA received reports provided by the World Meteorological Organization, including one describing the decline of the number of national stations participating in the Global Climate Observing System (concern is relevant for Canada). The point was made that it is difficult to reduce uncertainties when the foundation of data and information on which scientific understanding is based faces ongoing erosion. The Global Environmental Facility has attempted to address the issue by providing some funds for the establishment and operation of several stations in the most data-scarce regions. Other reports were received from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the UNEP Technical Panel on the Montreal Protocol.

4. Methodological Issues. Concern over the year-to-year