INFORMAL SBI WORKSHOP ON ASPECTS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES AND MEASURES BY ANNEX I PARTIES

Oral report to the SBI and SBSTA by Luis Villanueva, Chairman the workshop's second session.

Mr Chairman, it is my pleasure to report back from the afternoon session of the SBI Informal Workshop which focussed on the transfer of technology and know how. This workshop was held in response to the request of SBI at its second session to convene an informal workshop focussing on implementation aspects of specific policies and measures taken by Parties. Participants made use of the opportunity to share information on different aspects of the transfer of technology and know how, from the viewpoint of Annex II Parties, Parties with economies in transition and developing countries.

The workshop included three presentations followed by three short discussion topics, from experienced and committed participants, to whom I would like to convey my personal thanks. I will now briefly summarise some highlights from the individual speakers.

The presentation from France illustrated the different approaches towards bilateral and multilateral assistance. Transfer of technology was discussed in the broader content of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Some examples of activities implementated with different countries were reported. It was emphasised that the reduction of GHGs emissions can go together with economic development.

The presentation from Hungary highlighted the particular circumstances that countries with economies in transition are facing. A fundamental step has been the introduction of new legal instuments and sector oriented regulations which will require time for full impact. Some successful cases of technology cooperation with some Annex II Parties were described.

The presentation from Canada detailed the institutional structure of its technology transfer programmes and emphasised the importance of the private sector involvement. The primacy of the market, the role of governments, the fact that different needs require appropriate solutions and partnerships based on trust were considered as key factors. This was followed by some concrete examples of private sector/governments cooperation.

The first discussant was from Thailand who exposed the problems they were encountering in the introduction of environmentally sound technologies. In particular was stressed the need for indigenous capacity building, an environmental policy framework and the availability and dissemination of information. The still high cost of access to environmentally sound technology represents a major barrier to its adoption.