

# Technologies for Climate Protection: world exhibition COP14, Poznan



A dancing floor which produces electricity, fog catchers from the Cape Verde Islands, a no-waste city with zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions – in Poland, everything is possible. Thanks to the initiative of Mr. Maciej Nowicki, the Minister of the Environment, already in December this year, it will be possible to visit a unique world exhibition “Technologies for Climate Protection” in Poznań.

The exhibition is the first project of this type to be held as a side event to the United Nations Conference on Climate Change – COP 14. As Prof. Maciej Nowicki stressed: *“The exhibition is a unique event on a world scale, as it presents a whole spectrum of possible technical solutions designed to protect the climate of the Earth. Additionally very important is that it will facilitate negotiations within the framework of the Conference and make them more concrete.”*

More than 200 offers from 29 countries on 6 continents have been submitted for the exhibition. The exhibition “Technologies for Climate Protection” will be opened for everyone in Poznań from 1 to 14 December. In the course of the exhibition, it will be possible to see about **130 most important and most original devices and installations which protect the climate**. For the first time in the world, in an area of more than 7,000 m<sup>2</sup>, such a large, global and, at the same time, interactive presentation of modern technologies will be made; these technologies have been created to protect the climate, or to adapt to the adverse effects of its change. *“The visitors should reserve a good deal of time in order to be able to see all the solutions. Not only because they have a few kilometres to cover, but also they may touch, switch on or check the operation of many exhibits,”* said Agata Goździk, the Curator of the Exhibition.

The personal idea of Mr. Maciej Nowicki, the Minister of the Environment, who is an expert on environmental issues, implements in a practical manner the proposal of **technology transfer**, one of the 4 major thematic areas in the course of the UN Climate Conference. *“In the course of the previous Climate Conference on Bali, I noticed that the discussions on technology transfer were too theoretical. In Poland, where great focus will be placed on technologies, we should like to demonstrate their practical aspect, too. For the first time in history, the visitors will be able to refer in the global discussion to the solutions which they saw five minutes ago, just next-door to the session room,”* said Minister Maciej Nowicki.

The technologies presented here will include e.g. the state-of-the-art solutions using hydrogen as a fuel, energy-saving cars and environmentally friendly insulation materials. On the dancing floor, the visitors will be able to generate by themselves **electricity** needed to ensure lighting and music. It is a simple mechanism – power is produced as successive parts of the floor are pressed.



The exhibition will also show exotic inventions which are typical exclusively of specific regions of the world. The most interesting ones will include e.g. **the hanging gardens from Bangladesh**, the **fog catchers used on the Cap Verde Islands**, which allow for water to be captured from the atmosphere, or a **solar internet café from Gambia**.

The Poznań exhibition will be a unique combination, and the first such in the world, of very advanced and modern technologies, such as the production of **biofuels from sea algae** or an **air-conditioning system for buses which captures CO<sub>2</sub>** as well as brilliantly simple solutions, which have often been hand-made. An attraction of the exhibition will also be a model of the first **no-waste city with zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the world**. In addition, the exhibition will also include innovative technologies created in Poland, e.g. a ship with a fin drive.

All the inventions at the exhibition will be presented in **four thematic groups: energy saving, renewable energy sources, environmentally friendly transport and adaptation to climate change**. The section of renewable energy sources will include the largest number of exhibits – about 50 projects; in addition, it will be subdivided into groups related to biomass, wind and solar energy.



## Ministerstwo Środowiska

*"We were approached by fantastic people from all over the world: engineers, companies, governments and foundations for whom and for which the possibility of presenting their solutions at the exhibition in Poznań would be a great distinction. Moreover, we also make it possible for them to take the first step towards technology transfer – it is getting in touch with the author of the solution,"* added Agata Goździk, the Curator of the Exhibition "Technologies for Climate Protection".

The organisers of the exhibition also took care to ensure that it is **interactive in character**. Thus, there will certainly be inventions which need involvement of the part of visitors. The visitors will be able e.g. to take part in the construction of hand-made solar collectors or to test their skills in driving a car in an environmental driving simulator. They will have at their disposal an interactive game, which will present the Earth's climate change in the case of the different results of the negotiations on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The **selection of exhibits** was very rigorous and lasted many months. Drawing on his knowledge and experience gained over many years, Minister Nowicki gave his personal opinion on all the proposals. Only the most important and most spectacular human achievements were qualified for the exhibition. The other criteria which the organisers applied included: easy implementation of the presented installations in the other parts of the world, including the developing countries, and the possibility of having their interactive, attractive presentation at the exhibition.

### **Małgorzata Snarska,**

the Head of the COP 14 Team at the Ministry of the Environment:

*"We are working to ensure that such initiatives become permanent fixtures of the Climate Conferences. This idea has been welcomed by our partners from the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change. Therefore, the project may be treated as Poland's important contribution to the implementation of the objectives of COP 14 in the course of the sessions on technology transfer."*

The exhibition will be open to visitors in the course of the entire United Nations Conference on Climate Change COP 14 (1-12 December 2008) and for another two days after the conclusion of the Conference on the International Poznań Fair Grounds. The admittance to the exhibition will be free.

COP 14 (Conference of the Parties – COP) - the 14th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), along with the 4th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, will take place on 1 – 12 December 2008 in Poznań. The organiser of the Conference is the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, [www.unfccc.int](http://www.unfccc.int)), the host is the Government of the Republic of Poland and the coordinator of the preparations on behalf of the Government is the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Poland ([www.cop14.gov.pl](http://www.cop14.gov.pl)).

### **More information can be obtained from:**

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