



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **AEA extends contract to train diplomats in environmental policy**

AEA's Energy & Environment division has won the tender to provide the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) with environmental policy training. The aim of the training is to bring environmental policy issues into the day-to-day decision making of FCO staff at all levels.

The recently awarded contract, will run until the end of March 2008, with a possible two-year extension.

The training, which AEA has been providing under a different contract since 2003, comprises interactive modules focusing on Sustainable Development, Energy and Climate Change.

AEA facilitates, and provides much of the technical content for, each of the three courses, utilising talent from world renowned partners such as Chatham House, the Overseas Development Institute, the Stockholm Environmental Institute, Futerra and the Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development.

The courses are delivered using a combination of traditional and more advanced training techniques, such as role-play scenarios. The training is particularly successful because it encourages participants to raise questions and to explore, through interactive exercises, the viewpoints of different country groupings, and of various stakeholders such as business and NGOs. Delegates have indicated that they find the mixture of learning methods both stimulating and effective.

Under the new contract, AEA will continue to provide the existing training format and also develop interactive online materials so that all FCO staff have access to the wealth of information provided by the courses.

Robert Bell, Managing Director of AEA Energy & Environment, said:

“Mitigating and preventing climate change, on an international level, is not simply about large scale pronouncements like the Kyoto accord. It is also about ensuring that all decisions that are made, however small, take environmental considerations into account.

“With the FCO environmental training programme, AEA is using its world leading expertise in the field of climate change and environmental policy to ensure that all FCO employees are well versed in the issues and practicalities. With an educated and environmentally minded FCO workforce, the UK can continue to effect positive change, wherever it is involved on the international stage.”

Ends

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## **Notes to editors:**

The following sections provide more detail on the three modules:

### **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The term Sustainable Development (SD) is frequently heard but not often well understood. This module seeks to explain the concept of SD, why achieving it is one of the FCO's strategic priorities, and what practical measures FCO staff can take to promote SD in their work. The course discusses the three pillars of SD: economic, social and environmental issues and how, through achieving a sustainable economy, promoting good governance (such as social and environmental justice), and using sound science responsibly it is possible to achieve a strong, healthy and just society that lives within its environmental limits. The FCO itself comes under scrutiny, being analysed as to how well it is promoting SD. Other key topics include learning about the Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and their role in reducing poverty, conflict and the mismanagement of natural resources. Social and environmental governance and the FCO's role in promoting these are also examined. An interactive case study on illegal logging enables delegates to put their learning into practice in developing a sustainable solution to this difficult problem.

### **ENERGY MODULE**

The FCO aims to improve the stability of the international energy market to ensure security of supply, and to promote the diversification of supply through e.g. a switch towards renewables. This module gives a good grounding in energy policy in the UK and Europe, and an overview of the many issues relating to energy in the developing world, thus providing participants with an understanding of how these aims may be achieved.

The module begins by exploring the main themes of the UK Energy White Paper, affordability, security of supply, environmental impacts and the need to move to a low carbon economy. The module examines the opportunities and threats to UK business posed by this target, and how progress depends on international collaboration on innovation and technology development. There is a focus on the work of the global Renewable and Energy Efficiency Partnership, which was initiated by the UK together with other committed governments, businesses and NGOs.

The second part of the module summarises developments in EU energy policy, European energy markets and their impact on the UK.

Finally the module raises some of the varied issues associated with energy use and supply in the developing world. These range from infrastructure problems and fuel poverty to the environmental problems associated with high coal use in countries such as China.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE MODULE**

Climate Change is one of the most pressing global challenges. The FCO's objective is to launch new action to reinvigorate the international response to climate change.

This module provides an understanding of climate change, its potential impacts in the developed and developing world and outlines the main messages from the Stern review.

It discusses the current status of the Kyoto protocol and summarises the differing viewpoints of key countries on the protocol and plans for its extension beyond 2012, allowing participants to understand the complexities of international discussions in this area.

An important component of the Kyoto protocol is the possibility of using "flexible mechanisms", e.g. the Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation. The implications of these for developed and developing countries is discussed. At the European level, market based instruments are also likely to play a key role, and the EU's Emission Trading scheme which began in 2005, is also examined.

Even with action to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, there will be some degree of climate change, leading to potentially serious impacts on, for example, agriculture and health in vulnerable areas of the developing world. The third part of the module examines potential impacts, their geographical location, and how adaptation may allow impacts to be mitigated. This raises issues of fairness and equity, which the training explores. For example, should the developed world provide funding for adaptation strategies?