

## The World Wind Energy Institute (WWEI) Starts 10-month Education in May 2007

**A Global Tool for the Distribution of Knowledge, Experience and Technology. WWEI starts its first 10-month round-the-world program covering educational institutions in all continents.**



*By Sergio Oceransky,  
WWEI Coordinator*

The World Wind Energy Institute (WWEI) was created to cover the deficit in training and education that exists in many parts of the world regarding wind energy and other RE technologies. This uneven distribution of knowledge, experience and technology denies access to wind energy technologies to the poorest countries and sectors of the population. The WWEI aims to provide this knowledge to people willing and able to play a leading role in the introduction and to further development of wind energy in areas with just such information deficits, contributing to a just transition to a future energy supply based entirely on renewable sources. Other objectives include promoting various forms of technology transfer and improving the gender balance in the renewable-energy sector.

The WWEI wants to support the transition to renewable energy by providing information, experience and technology, which are, together with political will, the only limiting factors on the way to a sustainable and intelligent energy supply.

The WWEI was founded in May 2006 in Kingston, Canada, by:

- Asian Wind Energy Training Centre, Beijing, China;
- African Wind Energy Training Center, Mansoura University, Egypt;
- Centre for the Study of Renewable Energy Technologies (CETER), Technical University of Havana (CUJAE), Cuba;
- EOLICA, Brazilian Wind Energy Centre, University of Pernambuco, Brazil;
- Kola Science Center, Russian Academy of Sciences, Apatiti, Russia;
- Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy, Ydby, Denmark;
- St. Lawrence College, Kingston, Canada.

### Successful Launch

The response to the WWEI has been extremely positive: since its public launch in December 2006, we have received applications from four continents, from highly qualified and motivated candidates with a wide range of personal, educational and professional backgrounds. Already at this early stage, the WWEI promises to produce extraordinarily capable, active and influential young leaders for the further development of renewable energy in general and wind energy in particular.

The first group of students will arrive in Denmark on May 15, 2007. From August onwards, they will divide into two groups that will cover different universities and training centers, for a 10-month intensive programme of lectures, practical training, discussions, contact-making and project-oriented work. A second group will start on August 15, 2007, and we are preparing for a third group of students to start in January 2008. Our aim is to have 3 programmes per year, of 10 months' duration each, and for the students in each programme to be able to choose between different groups covering a choice of contents in different centers.

In the first group, there will be students from Canada, India, Malawi, Nigeria, Pakistan and the UK. The applicants for future groups are even more international.



*The first 10-month  
round-the-world  
education starts  
in Denmark  
in May 2007.  
Photos are from Egypt,  
Denmark, and Brazil.*



### Low Costs; but Scholarships Needed

We are ready for a very positive start of the WWEI, with more universities and training centers waiting to join the initiative in the following years and a long list of applicants who want to become experts dedicated to the promotion of renewable energies in their countries. The only outstanding issue that we are now working to solve is the lack of financial means to support some applicants who cannot afford the participation fee. This is the case with most applicants from Africa and Asia. None of the WWEI-affiliated centers is making any profit from their participation in WWEI, since the fees only cover the real costs needed to run the programme.

We offer a professional 10-month round-the-world programme for an average of about 10.000 €, including travel, accommodation and food. This is an extremely low fee, but it is still impossible for very promising students from developing countries to pay it by themselves. Some of the founding institutions have donated the fees of several students of the first group, but cannot continue doing this in the future. We would therefore like to build a scholarship fund to contribute to the education of these promising future leaders of a new energy era. We appeal to institutions and foundations to support this fund, and will also welcome advice about possible donors.

*Much more information  
about the WWEI, including  
the programme and applica-  
tion forms, is available on the  
website [www.wwei.info](http://www.wwei.info).*

*Contact:  
Sergio Oceransky, WWEI  
Secretariat,  
Folkecenter for Renewable  
Energy, Denmark.  
E: [wwei@folkecenter.dk](mailto:wwei@folkecenter.dk)  
T: +45 9795 6600.*