

UNEP en.lighten Initiative Announced at Conference on International Phase-out of Inefficient Lighting



Beijing, 14 July, 2010 – Mr. Bernard Jamet, Head of the UNEP-DTIE Technology Transfer Unit, introduced the en.lighten Initiative at the recent *International Conference on Phase out of Inefficient Lighting: Policies, Strategies and Issues* held from June 24-25, 2010 in Beijing, China. Organized by the Chinese National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), UNDP and the GEF, through the Chinese PILESLAMP Project Management Office, the conference brought together over 200 international delegates representing governments, the private sector, civil society,

research institutions and global governmental organizations. Drawing on knowledge and experience of speakers from Asia, North America, Europe and Australia, the symposium sought the exchange international experiences regarding the development and implementation of phase-out road maps in both developed and developing countries. The conference also served to examine related relevant issues such as the environmental impact of lighting and the development of innovative new technology such as Solid State Lighting.

En.lighten is an umbrella multi-stakeholder initiative supported by UNEP, the [GEF Earth Fund](#) and private sector partners, [OSRAM](#) and [Philips](#), aimed at achieving a global consensus to phase out inefficient lighting and to promote efficient lighting to significantly mitigate climate change. Mr. Jamet advocated the various benefits of efficient lighting for all countries and addressed some of the existing barriers to the worldwide adoption of efficient lighting technologies including; the lack of harmonized standards and specifications, misinformation among consumers and officials, and the incursion of low quality products into the marketplace. He also highlighted successful initiatives in various parts of the world which have adopted efficient lighting (i.e. Cuba, Australia, European Union, USA, Canada) and asserted the necessity to learn from those countries that have promoted efficient lighting in a systematic manner, taking into account their diverse conditions.

Mr. Jamet articulated that the UNEP en.lighten initiative has been established to coordinate global efforts and to provide technical support to assist developing and emerging countries in the introduction of efficient lighting transformation programmes. The initiative will also develop a global roadmap for efficient lighting, including practical steps individual countries should consider in order to promote policy and technical changes within the various lighting sectors (i.e. regulations, standards, labeling, product quality and recycling).