

RCEN Annual Report: International Program Caucus
Activities from April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009
by Monique Lefebvre
with input from International Program Caucus members

International Program Members meet with Russian Environmental Counterparts

Under the Partnerships for Tomorrow Program (PTP), lead by the Association of Canadian Universities and Colleges and funded by CIDA, two members of the RCEN's International Program (IP) Caucus set sail in December 2008 for Russia. With the objective of engaging with counterpart civil society members in this similarly vast country with an environmental history and reality quite different from ours, the IP Caucus members and Russian organizations shared information, experiences and challenges on similar initiatives they are working on. They also presented the Canadian Environmental Network's model for public participation in policy development and discussed how this model might apply in the Russian context. As a result, potentially long term relationships we formed. **For more information, please read their [final narrative report](#).**



Good Governance, Effective Policy and Environmental Stewardship in the Extractive Industry Sector

In March 2008, the Canadian Environmental Network International Program (RCEN-IP) submitted a five year, 2.5 million dollar Voluntary Sector Program initiative to address Canada's growing interest in promoting corporate social responsibility within the extractive industries of oil, gas and mining. The program addresses the development challenge of sustainability, standards, best practices, guidelines and compliance within the extractives sector. It proposed to do so by increasing the capacity of civil society to engage in positive dialogue with government and the private sector regarding principles of sustainable business as outlined by the United Nations Global Compact and OECD Guidelines of which Canada is a strong promoter. Despite the fact that this program was met with positive enthusiasm during meetings with the Mining Association of Canada, development NGOs, sector specific environmental NGOs and other government agencies including Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, Natural Resources Canada and Environment Canada more than 8 months later, in January 2009, the program was declined by CIDA's Voluntary Sector Program, Partnership Branch.