

Danish Development Research Network

5th GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2010

John Christensen

Director of the UNEP Risoe Centre (see www.uneprisoe.org) and Head of the Secretariat for the Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development (GNESD see www.gnesd.org).

I have worked for the UN Environment Programme for almost 20 years. I have both a MSc and a PhD from the Technical University of Denmark.

I have worked on development issues for almost 25 years and my PhD was on energy in rural areas of Zambia with field work up in North Western Province in the mid-eighties. I joined UNEP in Nairobi in 1988 and have worked with the organization either inside or as consultant since. My work has focused extensively on energy and climate issues both at the global level and in a large number of projects in developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The last 5 years I have increasingly worked also on climate vulnerability and adaptation with a focus on mainstreaming climate change concerns into development activities and building more resilient development.

My work spans from detailed studies of local energy options in rural and peri urban areas with a focus on achieving the MDGs to national energy or climate strategies. In addition I have closely followed the UNFCCC since it was negotiated and have been a delegate for UNEP at all 14 COPs so far. I have worked on many aspects of the UNFCCC implementation and current focus is on CDM, technology transfer and adaptation.

I have been very active in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) both as a member of the Bureau and as lead author in the global assessments and a number of special reports, including currently a report on renewable energy and climate change.

Motivation:

I have been a member of the DDRN since it was created and have been very active in the climate change task force first with the DDRN Led session at the KU conference in 2009 and later on various member related activities. I have been member of the Board the last year and find it has been a very positive experience. I would like to further engage in the DDRN activities using my international experiences and network to strengthen research collaboration with partners in the developing regions. My core research areas are climate change, especially low carbon energy access opportunities and approaches to analyse and prioritize adaptation actions.