

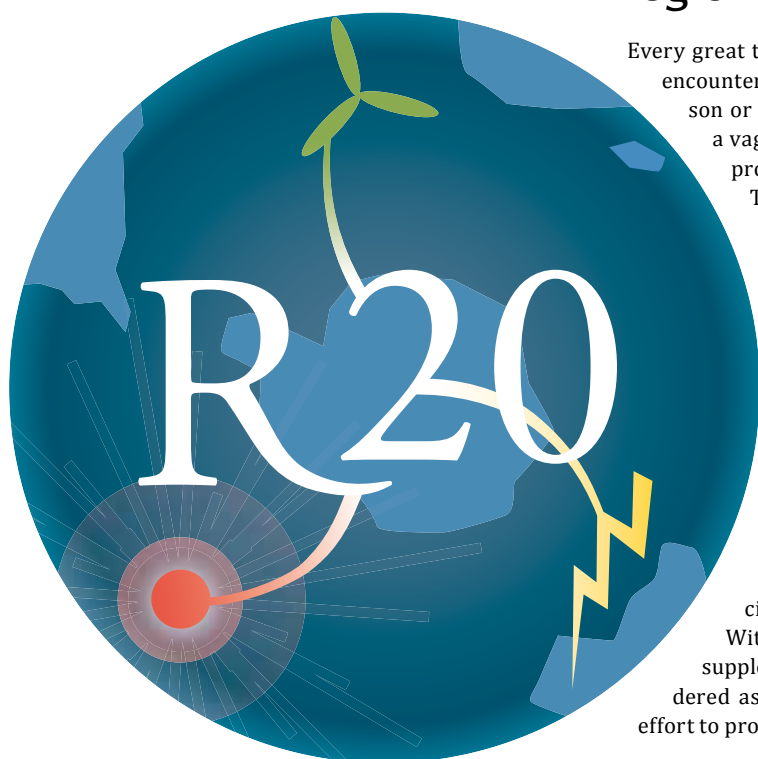
RÉGIONS MAGAZINE

ENGLISH

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SPECIAL R20

All regions for the Earth...



Every great thing that is done on this planet results from the encounter between an event or a series of events with a person or a group of people. It is this encounter that turns a vague idea or a desire to take action into a concrete project.

Thus, History will certainly tell if the fight against climate change, this serious threat to our planet, will make a substantial progress as the regions of the world realize that together, they naturally play a key role in this issue. History will also remember the day when a man, a former movie star, devoted himself body and soul to drive this ambitious movement and provide it with a framework.

Mankind will owe to Arnold Schwarzenegger and all those who collaborated with him to create the R20, as well as to Michèle Sabban, President of its Administrative Board, if they manage to gather all regions around this crucial issue and to coordinate their efforts.

With the Rio summit coming in a few days, this "R20" supplement you are holding in your hands can be considered as Régions Magazine's contribution to this all-out effort to protect our common heritage:

The Earth.



INTERVIEW

Arnold SCHWARZENEGGER
Michèle SABBAN

FOCUS ON THE PROJECTS

Oriental
Chiapas
Delta State

At the end of 2010, EDF Group decided to build a partnership with the local authorities of the Oriental Region in Morocco under the umbrella of the new R20 NGO.



EDF Group with Oriental Region in Morocco: A test bed for innovation

EDF Group is convinced that the solutions to the global issues the world is currently facing - of climate change, resource scarcity and development - are to be found at the local level. This belief was shared concern by Morocco's Oriental Region and was the foundation of the partnership.

From a shared vision of issues to action

How to achieve low-carbon generation and improve energy efficiency? These are key issues in an area where electricity demand is growing rapidly, energy independence is a concern and local solar, wind and hydro resources are substantial.

The potential of energy efficiency improvements is seemingly high, notably in buildings, and is a priority for the President of the Oriental Region, a true sustainability pioneer. EDF Group's first decision was thus to support local authorities in defining and implementing an energy efficiency roadmap for public buildings. Three main drivers: reduction in energy demand; use of local renewable energy sources; use of high efficiency equipment and materials. Three main steps: start with the Oriental Region's own buildings, then those belonging to other public authorities, before finally turning to the private sector.

A first practical exercise has been completed, namely an energy audit, in order to better understand heating and cooling needs, as well as local meteorological patterns and the professional practices in building design and construction. The modeling of temperature and energy needs by experts clearly proved the potential of thermal insulation as a means to both reduce consumption and to improve comfort for users.

Innovating by doing

Taking into account the different public and private stakeholders at a local level (public authorities, researchers, local and international companies and agencies) seems to be a fair way to create made-to-measure and realistic solutions meeting specific needs.

Social innovation

Such a participative process contributes to public awareness and skills-development, which are vital for the success of energy efficiency programs. These innovative solutions, constructed in countries where energy efficiency appears unavoidable because of the pace of development, are equally useful in developed countries where barriers are still very high.

The issue of financing is emblematic: there is a clear need to find a specific business model, supported by appropriate public policies, to make energy efficiency investment profitable. The relationships with Development Banks, and the necessity to make the projects bankable, contribute to a process of learning by doing.

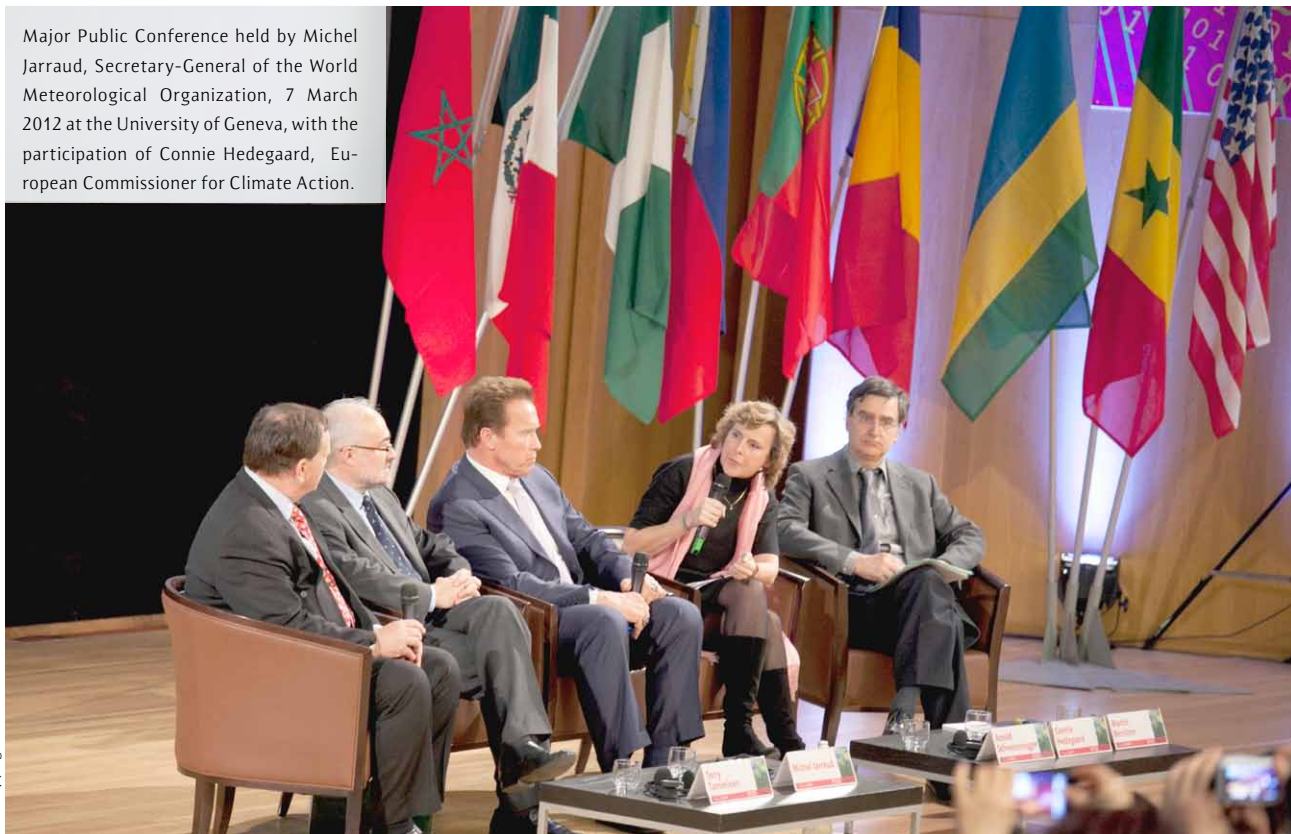
Technical innovation

Similarly, technical demonstrators developed in countries with different energy needs (for cooling and heat) and weather patterns help us to design and test new solutions that can be implemented in developed countries. Such technologies include decentralized and centralized use of energy, cold storage and solar air conditioning.

The “R20” or Arnold Schwarzenegger’s green crusade

Mobilizing the regions of the world to protect the planet

Major Public Conference held by Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, 7 March 2012 at the University of Geneva, with the participation of Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action.



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Mobilizing the regions of the world in the fight against climate change is a necessary counterpart to the summit meetings between the heads of states. While international summits certainly help raise awareness on this threat, territories take concrete measures. This is where the R20’s great adventure begins.

Basically, it should be obvious to everyone that the fight against climate change, this serious threat to our beautiful planet, will not be won without the involvement of those, i.e. people, groups or organizations, who work every day in the field and therefore are the most likely to evaluate its impact on the environment. Although they benefit from wide media coverage, the highest international meetings, during which all kinds of “experts” share their learned opinions, are nothing without the experience of the true environmental players, whose fieldwork gives them the necessary knowledge to tackle this issue. This is a known fact in France, where territories at all levels have long been aware of their responsibilities, is now a priority field. Should things get worse, they know that they will have

to account for their failure to properly deal with this threat. Sustainable development has now become the motto of all town halls, communities of municipalities, departments and of course, because they derive from them, all regions. As a result, elected representatives of local authorities are now in charge of sanitation, water and forest management, the protection of natural areas and energy savings. However, the task they undertake goes well beyond the simple management. Numerous innovative initiatives are thus launched. Many projects demonstrate a remarkable creativity and ability to adapt to the physical specificities of the region in which they are carried out. Nevertheless, these initiatives and projects are sometimes a little too area-specific, despite the tools their initiators are



Copyright Akua Energy

Saint-Pierre, Réunion Island.

Project consisting of ground-based photovoltaic panels intercropped with aromatic plants (lemongrass).

Covered area: 38,000 m². Installed power: 2.1 MW.

Net annual reduction in emissions: 2,305.2 tons of CO₂, i.e. the equivalent to the average electricity consumption of 1,167 households.

provided with, such as the Territorial Climate and Energy Plans or the “green and blue belts” network. Therefore, they cannot always access the necessary funds and engineering that private company owners could provide them with. Some of these experiences are worth being transposed to another area, where they would benefit from a wider range of action and better access to better funding.

Be that as it may, due to their local roots and size of their territory, regions are likely to play a key role in the fight against global warming.

What is true for the French territory is also true for the whole world, where the fight against climate change must take place to ensure its success. In 2009, the “Belfort Appeal”, which was signed by representatives from 270 European regions, publicly invited the community of nations to acknowledge regions as the main players of the energy revolution the planet so much needs to overcome the consequences of climate change.

From then on, the idea that regions, however different they may be from a country or continent to another, are in any event in a better position – provided that they work in close collaboration – than states to fight this crucial battle, became prominent on an international scale. To embody this idea, a charismatic spokesman was found in 2011 in the person of Arnold Schwarzenegger, who soon took concrete measures to create the R20.

This period marked the beginning of a great adventure, which Arnold Schwarzenegger refers to as his “green crusade”. As soon as former statuesque “Mister Universe” and movie superstar Arnold Schwarzenegger became Governor of the strong state of California, he devoted his entire pugnacious self to the fight against global warming and for environmental protection. Of course, he had already initiated ambitious programmes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and develop renewable energy. He had also promoted almost every “green” initiative launched by the private sector and thanks to his fame raised substantial funds for research and training. He would sometimes be made fun of, or even laughed at, when he would talk about “his” electrical car...That movie star who believed he would save mankind! Then came the day when opinions started to change. As they met in Kyoto, Copenhagen, Rio, the highest international authorities “discovered” the huge, serious threat to the planet that was climate change. They eventually realized that climate change was not a theory made up by publicity-seeking cranks and prophets, but an alarming reality. Schwarzenegger was taken seriously at last.

In the light of his experience as Governor of California and the difficulties he had had to overcome during his term of

office, Schwarzenegger knew that states had the fabulous propensity to not being able to reach an agreement or take any concrete measure. This is how he turned to regions as choice partners and created the R20. The R stands for Regions and the R20 is a fly in the face of the leaders of the world who meet to discuss global issues. He soon noticed that while states are unable to reach an agreement, on any political ground, territories are capable of and ready to take action. Regional pragmatism succeeds where international treaties, protocols and complex agreements fail.

What is the R20 then?

To use the jargon of technology experts, we could say that the R20 is a “process”, a “business model”. In good English, this means that the organization created by Schwarzenegger is a tool designed for the regions of the world that would like to engage in a genuine dynamic. In other words, it is a toolbox in which regions can find

the expertise and solutions that are best adapted to their individual issues. The declared ambition of the former Governor of California is to link as many regions as possible and help them to establish partnerships between local public policy-makers and academics, financial



Copyright: R20

The R20 team supporting its Founding Chair



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organizations and company owners, in order to support them throughout the development of their projects: the development of energy strategies and creation of resources, training and knowledge centres, for instance.

The R20 intends to prove that the ultimate, vital goal, i.e. to reduce the global greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2020 and thus prevent the average global temperature to rise by 2°C, can be achieved. What is more, that shall be done at no extra cost! The best part is that this worldwide “green” economy shall even result in the creation of more jobs.

The R20 is already a sound reality. The executive Director of the R20 is Christophe Nuttall, who previously worked for the United Nations Development Programme. Michèle Sabban, President of the Assembly of European Regions, is now also the President of the R20's Administrative Board.

This Board has three offices, one in Geneva, one in Santa Monica (USA), the other in China. To become a member, all you have to do is fill in the form on the following website: www.regions20.org. All territories, whatever their form, may join the 24 “sub-national governments” from the 5 continents the organization is made up of. May also apply for membership: companies specializing in green technologies, investment funds, banks or even states, though only as observers.

The R20 will naturally attend the fifth Earth Summit, which will be held from 19 to 21 June in Rio. It will actively participate in every work and strive to put territorial involvement at the heart of the environmental issue. The new Minister for the Environment, Nicole Bricq, will also attend the event as the spokeswoman of the French association of regional and local authorities. She declared a few days ago that “as far as sustainable development is concerned, the active involvement of every local player is required”. (1)

Will Arnold Schwarzenegger be able to take up the challenge, i.e. making all regions of the world join together and call for a global mobilization towards environmental protection?

In any case, the stakes are high.

Dossier produced by Daniel Foster
Translated by Nicolas Cognard



(1) Most of the French regional and local authorities have just signed a document calling for the creation of a “territorial agreement on sustainable development”.

About the R20

The R20 is a nonprofit organization created in 2011 by Arnold Schwarzenegger, in collaboration with Michèle Sabban, President of the Assembly of European Regions, and the former President of Maldives.

Through its 24 members, 43 partners and 2 observers, the R20's activities connect more than 560 subnational and local governments around the world.

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Mission

To help states, provinces, regions and other subnational governments around the world develop, implement and communicate low-carbon and climate-resilient economic development projects, policies and best practices.

Members

Africa Northern Region, Burkina Faso; Région des Hauts-Bassins, Burkina Faso; Region Oriental, Morocco; Delta State, Nigeria; Western Province, Rwanda; Dakar, Senegal; Matam, Senegal. Asia-Pacific Gujarat State, India; Cebu, Philippines; Gyeonggi Provincial Government, South Korea. Europe Istria, Croatia; Ile-de-France, France; Puglia, Italy; Azores, Portugal; Alba County, Romania. North America Province of British Columbia, Canada; State of Baja California, Mexico; State of Campeche, Mexico; State of Chiapas, Mexico; State of Quintana Roo, Mexico; State of California, USA; State of Michigan, USA. South America State of Acre State, Brazil; Pichincha, Ecuador.

Partners

Academic Institutions: American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, Nanjing University, School of Environment, Tsinghua University, School of Public Policy and Management, University of California, Davis, University of California, Los Angeles, University of Geneva, University of Victoria, Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions. **Corporations:** Électricité de France, EGIS, Enercap, Greenville International Solar City Westech Inc., Impact Economy, International Chamber of Commerce/World Chambers Federation, Lighting Science Group, Mozaic Communications, SNC Lavalin, Veolia Environment, World LP Gas Association. **Financial Institutions:** Asian Development Bank, Pegasus Capital Advisors. **Intergovernmental Organizations:** Assembly of European Regions, Association of Northeast Asian Regional Governments, International Energy Agency, World Association of Regions, Metropolis. **Nonprofit Organizations:** Aga Khan Development Network, Both Ends, C40, Carbon Disclosure Project, Climate Action Reserve, Consortium Evolution, Ecolinx Foundation, Environmental Defense Fund, Global Cool Cities Alliance, Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership (Formerly E8), Innovation Center for Energy and Transportation, Natural Resources Defense Council, Oxfam America, Seventh Generation Advisors, The Climate Registry, The Energy and Resources Institute, The Nature Conservancy. **United Nations Programme:** United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme.

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Arnold SCHWARZENEGGER

The R20 Founding Chair, former Governor of California State

How and when did this the R20 (Regions for Climate Action) idea come across your mind? What in your experience as Governor of California has echoed so deeply with the R20 project?

In September 2009, we held the second Governors' Global Climate Summit in California and you could feel that national governments were not likely to achieve a new deal to tackle climate change by COP15 in Copenhagen that year. But the great thing about the Summit was that it showed how sub-national governments were rolling up their sleeves and just getting to work – building sustainable economies and reducing our dependence on dangerous, limited fossil fuels. So I knew from experience that it was possible to get states and provinces and cities working together, but everyone agreed that it would help to have an organization where we could share policies, technology and finance, and show the world how to get this done. So we discussed all of these issues with other governors and premiers, with presidents of regions of North and South America, Europe, Asia and Africa; we talked to the United Nations and other international agencies, and with clean technology developers and NGOs –and we all agreed to launch this idea of the R20: Regions for Climate Action focused on green economic development.

"I believe firmly that not only should we consider the environmental outcomes of our work but equally important - the social and economic outcomes"

What is your vision for Rio+20

As we look towards the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June, I want to share with you a few thoughts about sustainable development and the importance of communication. One of the main themes for the Rio+20 conference is «a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.» I'm thrilled the conference will focus on this theme because I believe firmly that not only should we consider the environmental outcomes of our work but equally important - the social and economic outcomes. That said - I think that as a whole - we have not been good at communicating these other outcomes.

To change that I like to say we need to look at promoting sustainability as a four-legged stool; right now we're using a one-legged stool - climate change - in doing this we are unbalanced in our communication and don't tell the whole story. A four-legged stool on the other hand is strong. The first leg is jobs. It's

been proven over and over again that deploying green technologies will produce jobs - who can be against that? The second leg is national security. For decades, industrialized democracies have been in the position of having to purchase oil from foreign countries, sending vast amounts of money outside their borders. A green energy future would end this dependence and give us energy freedom. The third leg is health. Pollution kills. One study by Cornell University concluded that a staggering 40 percent of deaths worldwide are caused by water, air and soil pollution. Why is there no uproar? Because we are failing to communicate - it's our job to get that message out. And the fourth leg, of course is climate change.

The R20 addresses all four legs of the stool. In partnership with the foundation and investment community the R20 is able to be the driving force to take full advantage of new low carbon technologies in order to strengthen local economies, improve



public health, reduce poverty, create new green jobs, lower GHG emissions and reduce our energy consumption.

I am excited that I will be representing the R20 at the Rio+20 conference and look forward to not only learning what others are doing but also to convey the message to the world - by committing to a sustainable future and taking action you will help to solve many of the world's problems.

Proving by example

The first projects, on a small or large scale, have already been implemented or at least initiated all over the globe.

What could Mexico's Chiapas, the Eastern Region of Morocco and the Delta State region of Ghana possibly have in common? Well, they all share the ambition to arouse, promote, support, supervise and assess the territories' initiatives in the field of environmental protection. In order to develop, the green industry needs

small projects, as Christophe Nuttall, the Executive Director of the R20, keeps on emphasizing.

The projects carried out in Mexico, Morocco and Nigeria both encompass the ambitions of the R20 and reflect its enthusiasm and pragmatism. These three projects are important, crucial even, to make territories move forward. Primarily because they define the framework for action, courses of action and model of each region. Secondly, because they are

highly considered worldwide and often held up as examples. Lastly, because they account for the explicit wish to put aside the rhetoric, if righteous and rousing, to take action.

In the low hypothesis, the objective of the R20 is to manage to make about twenty projects a reality within the next five years. The R20 would like to have 200 members by 2020.

Christophe NUTTALL : green growth is a regional matter

Christophe Nuttall, former Director for Innovative Partnerships for the UNDP, is now the Executive Director of the R20.

At present, what role would the R20 like to play for Regions?

We are equipped with a "business model", the aim of which is to build up a portfolio of projects for regions. We are investing in the Regions that have the political desire to take concrete action towards a green economy.

What exactly does this "business model" consist in?

Our objective is to put three kinds of players in touch with one another, i.e. regional authorities, technicians (engineers, academics) and financiers, so as to materialize the political desire to create a real green economy. The success of this alchemy will largely determine that of the R20.

What are the ongoing projects?

Several projects are being carried out in Chiapas (Mexico), the region of Apulia (Italy) and in Oriental Region, Morocco. The goal of these projects is to trigger other projects so as to establish an action plan.

What funds do you resort to?

There are currently a whole lot of floating funds worldwide, as well as a strong desire to invest them in green growth, without necessarily resorting to support projects. Our role is to make them available to local projects and provide them with the technological security that is needed for their follow-up. We have demonstrated that a 250,000 dollar investment brings a "bankable" 250 billion dollar return portfolio.

Is the R20 more than an NGO then?

Our role is now much wider than the mere sharing of experiences or Regions consultancy. We are taking part in projects

and their development. Our wish is to establish a real action programme that would involve Regions.

" In order to develop, the green industry needs small projects "

What do States think of this mobilization of Regions?

Recently, during a G20 preparatory meeting in Mexico, a shared feeling was expressed that the green cause had known no progress at all and that we should give ourselves other means to make it happen. The states have realized that a working relationship is needed between the G20 and the R20. In this respect, our work with the United Nations and G20 is highly political. However, we are also working on a very practical issue, which is to make several projects a reality.



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Oriental



Oriental is one of the sixteen regions of Morocco. The capital is Oujda.

Located in the north-east of Morocco, it covers an area of 82 820 km², that is 11.6% of the total land area of the country.

It has a population of 2 billion inhabitants (as of 2010) for an average density of 23.16 inhabitants/km².

Oriental administratively consists of one prefecture (Oujda-Angad), 5 provinces (Nador, Berkane, Taourirt, Jérada and Figuig), 22 urban municipalities and 91 rural municipalities.

Oriental is a highly strategic region, as much for its geographical location (it borders three countries) as for its economic potential.

Covering a large area within the country, Oriental's biotope is exceptionally wide.

<http://www.oriental.ma>

Morocco: Oriental, a future eco-region

This is no accident if the Moroccan national conferences on energy were held last year in the Oriental region, whose capital is Oujda.

Oriental is a region located in the east of Morocco. It borders Algeria and has a wide coastline on the Mediterranean Sea. It is considered in Morocco as a pilot region in environmental protection. Morocco itself has high ambitions in this field. The Moroccan government indeed declared during these conferences that its ultimate objective is to ensure that 42% of the power produced in Morocco comes from renewable energy.

As for region Oriental, it has set up a real development strategy ranking environment and environmental protection among its top priorities. The regional authorities intend to transform Oriental into an "eco-region", i.e. a model in every respect and especially in the field of energy savings and renewable energy. Thanks to the participation of the R20 and its partners, this ambition is now giving birth to concrete projects and developments.

In this respect, the collaboration with EDF France allowed for improved energy efficiency in the building trade.

In this perspective, the International Energy Agency has promoted and technically supported a workshop, which produced a "road map" to develop solar energy.





Official launch session of the workshop on the elaboration of a «road map» for the development of solar energy in Oriental Region, in the presence of Ambassador Jones of the International Energy Agency

In the same way, a consultancy and engineering group called EGIS has developed a project to transform a landfill site into a photovoltaic solar power plant.

However, a whole series of decisions - small or big - is needed to carry things forward. These decisions concern a program of public lighting expenditure cuts in three provinces of the region, for instance. The city of Oujda alone spends 17% of its municipal budget on street lighting. This cost shall be considerably reduced as soon as the street lamps are equipped with new generation bulbs: LED. As well, the region is planning to establish a polluting waste management centre featuring a special device capable of producing energy via methanisation. A subsidiary of the Caisse des dépôts et Consignations is likely to support this project, which would consist in closing down several small waste management centres to build a single, larger centre, so as to treat more waste and allow for a profitable methanisation. In parallel, the available landed surface will be equipped with solar panels, which will produce 32 MW of electricity. Negotiations with the Moroccan National Electricity Office are currently in progress. So is Oriental an eco-region? It is indeed well underway...

“ Through its expertise,
ability to mobilise and
attract... the R20 means a
whole lot to us ”



Interview d'Ali BELHADJ President of the Oriental region

Mister President, what are your expectations as far as the Oriental region is concerned?

Our conviction is that Oriental has a key role to play in developing a genuine green economy in Morocco. As you already know, this is one of our country's political priorities. Here as elsewhere, the pooling of the regions' experiences through a network will allow us to achieve this goal. In this perspective, organized and decentralized cooperation is crucial and must result in the implementation of projects, small and big, in all fields. This effort should be carried out in respect of the environment and desire to create wealth.

In your opinion, what would be Oriental's role in such a network?

Given its geographical location, its human value, its enterprising leaders, Oriental should be a pilot region and the first "eco-region" in Morocco. We have adopted an ambitious strategy, the core theme of which is environmental protection.

What do you expect from the R20 and what benefits have you already got from it?

We really need the R20's support, in particular because its expertise is important, as you already know. Above all, it has managed to create and further develop a great network of partners to help us with the technical aspects of our projects. Companies such as EDF, EGIS, Veolia Environnement and the IEA have already tremendously contributed to their implementation. As for funding, public-private arrangements are provided to meet the investors' needs. Through its expertise, ability to mobilise technical know-how and attract a much needed financial assistance, the R20 means a whole lot to us.

What would you like to tell the regions that are not yet members of this network?

Quite simply, that their membership would greatly benefit them. I would also like to tell them that partaking in this global movement goes well beyond the mere individual interests of each region. The future of this planet is at stake.

Chiapas

According to the Mexican Constitution, Chiapas is a Free and Sovereign State of Mexico. Chiapas has a territory of 75 634 km² and only accounts for 3.8% of the total area of Mexico, which makes it the 8th largest state of the United Mexican States. Its population is 4.3 billion inhabitants for a density of 65.4 inhab./km².

The State of Chiapas consists of 118 municipalities organized into nine economic regions. Its political and legal capital is Tuxtla Gutiérrez (430,000 inhabitants). The second biggest city Tapachula (271,000 inhabitants) is located in the south-west of the State and borders Guatemala.

Rich in natural resources, the State of Chiapas alone accounts for 54% of the hydroelectric power (i.e. 6.4% of the total electricity produced by the country), 21% of the oil, 47% of the natural gas and 35% of the coffee production of Mexico.

<http://www.chiapas.gob.mx/>



Chiapas lives on Jatropha

In this Mexican region, biodiesel and the boost given to agriculture in arid areas have already enabled farmers to multiply their income by 10.

Located in the south-west of Mexico, Chiapas is a region with poor, barely farmable soil, where a sizeable rural population hardly survives.

The regional government has decided to implement a whole value chain based on the cultivation of Jatropha, a plant that yields well on arid soil.

As it happens, a rich oil is derived from that particular plant species, which is the main ingredient of green diesel.

The Governor of Chiapas initiated an action plan to promote the systematic cultivation of this plant. At the same time, cooperatives were established in order to treat the harvest and produce green fuel out of this plant. Paradoxically, this mechanism involves the bus transport network to deliver the fuel to end-users.

The State of Chiapas is currently negotiating with Aero-Mexico. Air transport operators are legally required to use 10% of "green kerosene".

The social effects of the production of green fuel are quite clear. Farmers have multiplied their income by ten within a few years and many jobs have been created in cooperatives. The environmental consequences are considerable too, through the optimization and recovery of soil and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Chiapas has been chosen as one of the R20's pilot regions. This decision shall be announced at the occasion of the Earth Summit in Rio. This biodiesel project could become a poster child,

provided that it is controlled, balanced and adapted to fit into the main agriculture of regions. Agro-business very often combines biodiesel with sugar cane and soy bean growing, which in turn become pollution sources while taking the place of local food crops. Because it does not take the place of any other crop and does not detract the food sovereignty of the country, Jatropha growing seems to be a suitable solution for Chiapas.

The R20's "Jatropha Mission" also deals with other projects such as energy efficiency, the use of LED for public lighting and a study on solar energy production.



“ The R20, an asset for us,
a link to others ”



Juan Sabines GUERRERO

Governor of the State of Chiapas

Chiapas was said to be one of the poorest states in Mexico. What is the current situation there?

Well, it is one of the fastest developing states too. In terms of environmental technologies, there are still too little financial investments in this region, because of other infrastructural priorities. However, the acquisition of technological expertise in energy savings and renewable energy is one the State's main concerns. Three regional universities are currently working on this issue. Their objective is to train engineers in this field. We are coping with problems that mostly result from the high cost of technologies and difficulties in accessing the corresponding funding.



The R20 can help you though, can't it?

Yes it can and it does! As a matter of fact, we have been working with the R20 for quite a while now. Our State was recently visited by the R20's representatives, who enabled us to identify a great many opportunities to work on together. Incidentally, most of these opportunities result from our own initiatives launched as part of governmental programmes, the cornerstone of which is sustainable development. They include, among others, the biodiesel project that ranges from agricultural development to a clean city transport system. This is the perfect

example of the approach to adopt, i.e. choosing the projects that are the most likely to be developed at the regional level, then finding the outside expertise that is needed to implement them and lastly, getting the necessary financial support. We have high expectations. In fact, they are as high as the potential of our region. In order to help us to meet these expectations, the R20 provides us with its great portfolio of partners.

You mentioned the difficulties in accessing funding...

It is crucial that organizations such as the R20 get involved in the financial process, so that we can get access to private funding. I insist on the fact that Chiapas has a huge potential, but the public funding we are getting is not enough for us to develop the way we intend to. The “green finance” network should help us to overcome this obstacle.

How could other regions of the world benefit from your experience with the R20?

Till now, the R20 has provided a significant support to projects carried out in many parts of the world. However, I firmly believe that it can also provide us with all the missing links between these different experiences. I refuse the idea of a one-way collaboration. I not only expect the R20 to contribute to the development of our ideas and implementation of our projects, I also expect it to make the most of the case of Chiapas to help other regions of the world.

Regions or countries?

Let us not consider them as opposites. Nevertheless, my conviction is that the “bottom-up” approach is best suited to sustainable development. National and international policies must adapt to regions, not the other way round. I naturally take the example of Chiapas, which is a region the size of some European countries. Within the large state of Mexico, there is a great biological, social and cultural diversity. As such, the efficiency and relevance of policies depend on their ability to adapt to the specific environmental, social and economic needs of the region. What is true for Mexico is all the truer on the global scale. The best way to create a global green economy is to adopt a “bottom-up” approach.

Delta State

Delta State is a state located in the south-west of Nigeria (Niger Delta). The capital city is Asaba.

The total land area of Delta State is 17 698 km² and its population is a little more than 4 billion inhabitants (average density of 150 inhabitants/km²).

The whole ethnic-groups that comprise the Delta are administratively grouped into three senatorial districts namely Delta North, Delta South and Delta Central for easy administrative purposes.

Delta is an oil producing state of Nigeria.

<http://www.deltastate.com.ng/>



Dr. Emmanuel UDUAGHAN
Governor of the Delta State

Helping the Delta region to fight against "dirty technology"

Since its creation, the R20 has expressed its willingness to include Africa in its action and involve several regions of this huge continent in its approach.

Michèle Sabban even took this issue to heart and almost made it an essential condition of the creation of the R20. She declared: "I particularly insist that Africa be involved in our discussion on climate change".

This is how the Delta State of Nigeria became a founding member of the R20, along with the state of California and the region of Ile-de-France. Incidentally, Governor of Delta State, Dr. Emmanuel Uduaghan, is the Vice-Chair of the R20.

For the time being, studies are being conducted in this region to develop projects in the field of renewable energy. Contacts are made worldwide to secure potential investments in this region.

However, the utmost urgency is to implement a monitoring system in Delta to "curb the influx of dirty technologies", as emphasized by Dr. Uduaghan.

The UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) is currently conducting a study in Delta to identify the impact of these technologies, especially those used by the oil industry, on the environment.

Delta is a founding member of the R20. What does this imply for the region in practical terms?

In Delta and elsewhere, the R20's greatest strength and main concern are to provide regions with the partnerships they need to take concrete measures in the field of environmental protection. As you probably know, this is an important issue in Africa. As a founding member of the R20, it is our region's duty to prove that this organization is useful and efficient. Thanks to the R20, we have thus benefited from outside expertise from the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC-Paris, India), General Electric and the International Energy Agency (IEA).

Which were the outcomes?

The overall objective was to clearly and, if possible, exhaustively define the issues that are specific to the Delta region, then establish and implement a common model, a framework for the promotion and development of a green economy. The R20 and its partners, through their role as technical consultants, help to implement ecologically sustainable, carbon-free projects aiming to improve the local economic situation, reduce poverty and create green jobs. For instance, the ICC helped us to identify a whole series of opportunities for intervention. Thanks to the help of the IEA, we

have conducted a thorough study over the last six months on the existing opportunities in the field of renewable energy. Many other measures are currently underway or at least planned, the common denominator being the willingness to meet the needs of the region and its inhabitants, depending, of course, on our natural resources.

Based on your experience in Delta, what role do you think the R20 has to play at an international level?

The potential of the R20 is strong. So is its willingness to take action. It will very likely play an essential role in terms of finance and expertise. However, I do believe its role will go far beyond these aspects. This organization is quite new. It has to make a name for itself and exert its influence to promote an original approach to the fight against climate change. The fact is that all activities having a negative impact on climate are carried out in a regional context. The conclusion that must be drawn is absolutely clear: it is up to regions, the very same that are affected by the "mistakes" and havocs resulting from industrial activities (in this instance, the oil industry), which have to begin this fight. It is these same regions that need our support, so let us acknowledge them as choice partners.

It is a message to the world then...

Yes indeed! Since the Rio Summit is coming up, we took this opportunity to organize a "workshop" in Paris with the support of the IEA, during which we are to study the reports with other participants.



**“ To change our energy policies,
we need to discuss them and take
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people they concern ”**

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Michèle SABBAN

President of the AER, President of the R20's Administrative Board, Vice-President of the Regional Council of Ile-de-France

Is your term of office as President of the R20's Administrative Board a logical follow-up to your position of President of the AER?

Well, it all happened quite naturally indeed! The Assembly of European Regions has been a partner of the R20 since its creation. In 2009, right after the disappointing Copenhagen Summit, the AER initiated the “Belfort Appeal” to promote and get the role of the regions in the fight against climate change recognized. It is during the Copenhagen Summit that, along with Albert of Monaco, Arnold Schwarzenegger and the former President of Maldives, to cite only a few, we laid the foundations of the R20's motto, i.e. there is no real fight against climate change without the involvement of territories.

What do you expect from your term of office as the President of the R20's Administrative Board?

First of all, I would like to persuade as many regions and sub-national governments as possible to join us, by showing them that they can only benefit from the implementation of more sus-

tainable growth policies. We at the R20 insist on the fact that saving our resources does not necessarily mean depriving ourselves or giving up economic development.

In several countries of the world, the fight against climate change is feared to hamper economic development. We want to demonstrate that on the contrary, saving one's resources, improving one's energy efficiency and innovating is synonymous with social and economic progress.

How do you regard the political and operational approach of the R20? Are they not a bit contradictory?

Quite the opposite! They are complementary even! This is what I call proving by example. It is true that at first glance, getting involved in very specific projects, case by case, seems to go against our desire to promote sustainable development at the global level, in international institutions or elsewhere, and contribute to a change in governance on this issue. However, we have learned from what happened these last few years in Copenhagen, Durban and other places. You know, when 193 states discuss an issue, any agreement is reached on the lowest possible level.

Our approach to this issue is meant to be both local and global. It aims to gather all players, public and private, political leaders as well as civil society players and company owners. To change our energy policies, we need to discuss them and take action in collaboration with the people they concern.

Regions and territories adopt a particular approach to environmental issues. Does it give them legitimacy?

Sub-national governments know which projects are best suited to their territory, because they are aware of both the local constraints and untapped potential of regions.

This is the everyday struggle of the AER. As part of my work with the R20, I am more broadly involved in making members collaborate and take action towards a sustainable future, with and within territories.



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Public-private: a partnership for a green economy

In the R20's business model, everyone is in the right place. Policy-makers and regional authorities initiate projects according to the needs that they really have to meet. Then managers manage, financiers finance and academics carry out researches and train their students. Everyone is in their place and yet, everyone strives to achieve

the same goal: a green economy that generates new markets and wealth.

The objective is indeed to build a global network. That network would lead the R20 members to go into partnerships with academics, financiers and the technical industry. Ultimately, the objective is to increase the odds of meeting new partners,

making the most of opportunities and establishing new and efficient partnerships between the public and private sectors.

The United Nations as well as many non-governmental organisations can provide excellent experts in all fields. On the one

hand, some big energy-producing companies - EDF, Veolia, EGIS, among others - have the know-how and master technologies. On the other hand, there are a lot of "floating" funds and many private investors are eager to take part in a green economy. The problem is that nobody can fully guarantee them that their money will be spent wisely. The role of the R20 is to provide all the partners, organisations, companies and financiers with political and technical security. In the same way, it must allow the regions to present sound and convincing projects through the support of experts, company owners and NGOs. The strategy would then consist in first funding these projects with public money, so as to attract investors. An idea or a concept worth a 250,000 dollar investment shall then give a 250 billion return thanks to a public-private partnership. The system is ready. It will be operational as soon as the local authorities prove that they are willing to take action. To make it short, the R20 helps those who help themselves...



Veolia Environment's commitment

The French company is a founding member of the R20 and a choice partner for several initiatives. Interview with Dominique Héron, the Director of institutional partnerships of Veolia.

What does a company such as Veolia expect from its involvement in the R20?

First of all, Veolia Environment is fully involved with local authorities. They are our favoured discussion partners, whether we deal with the issues of water and waste management or with any other environmental issue. As it happens, the R20 consists of communities and territories. Together, they take a stand on issues that matter to us, because they fall within our primary activity. We are also in partnership with several United Nations organisations and as such, we have already been in touch with Christophe Nuttall, who is now the Executive Director of the R20.



How do you regard your partnership with the R20?

We do not go into this kind of partnership to "give out cheques". We really intend to collaborate on the projects, partake in the ongoing process and get concrete results. The objective is to make territories go green. In this perspective, the Eastern Region of Morocco has chosen us to develop a renewable energy program. We are ready to partake in the necessary transfer of expertise and skills.

At an early stage?

This project aims to implement a kind of "green-tech" in Oujda and back it with a "Knowledge Campus", whose objective is to focus research on the green technologies and energy performance that are inherent to our trade. We already own a centre in Rabat that provides training for our jobs. We are ready to mobilize our expertise on the premises to impart our know-how in the field of energy management, all the more so than we are join-

ing other complementary the R20 partners, such as EDF and a subsidiary of the Caisse des Dépôts et Consignation.

Is this a new take on this kind of partnership?

The R20 provides us with a territorial framework. We believe that this partnership implies that we need to work in a concerted manner with territories. We do not provide ready-made answers. Our objective is to study the needs of each territory and to offer them tailored solutions, case by case.

What does the international scene think of the creation of the R20?

The R20 will be successful when the highest international organisations recognize it and when the first projects are eventually implemented. However, relationships are already being established with renowned organisations such as the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, highly committed to fighting climate change.

Particular thanks to Michèle Sabban (and to her teams).

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