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**CO2 under the spotlight during the Opec summit**  
  
BYLINE: BRENDAN BOYLE  
  
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CO2 under the spotlight during the Opec summit  
  
THE head of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Yvo de  
Boer, wants world oil producers to co-finance $3-billion research into pumping  
the carbon waste (CO2) from burnt oil back into the underground chambers it came  
from.  
  
De Boer threw his weight behind a tentative plan at the Organisation of  
Petroleum Exporting Countries summit that took place on November 17-18 in Riyadh  
to set up a fund to make carbon capture and storage (CCS) a reality.  
  
He told Business Times on the sidelines of the summit that CCS would be on the  
agenda at the global environment summit starting in Bali, Indonesia, on December  
3, where the UN will be pushing for agreement on an agenda for negotiations  
leading to an accord by 2009 on an environment plan to replace the Kyoto  
protocol.  
  
By the end of the Opec summit, four of the 13 members had already stumped up  
$750-million towards their share of the plan to research ways to mitigate the  
effect of oil on global warning.  
  
Opec ministers are worried that pollution concerns will dent the world's  
appetite for oil and drive consumers towards alternative energy sources.  
  
  
High prices combined with an increasing international focus on global warming  
are fuelling commitment to research into alternatives to oil, ranging from  
nuclear power to harnessing energy from the sun and wind.  
  
De Boer said capturing the carbon gas that flows from refineries and power  
stations and pumping it back into the reservoirs that oil originally came from  
was feasible with existing knowledge.  
  
A by-product of the controversial process could be that pumping (CO2) into  
depleted oil reservoirs under high pressure could make the last residue of oil  
accessible and so increase viable reserves by up to 200 billion barrels.  
  
But he said some environmentalists were worried that an accident or earthquake  
could one day release the gas in a catastrophic carbon shock to the atmosphere,  
and this aspect would have to be researched further.  
  
CCS is a concept being pursued in research in the UK and Australia, but it is  
not yet known whether it would ever work.  
  
Gas would have to be captured from stacks at high-output facilities like power  
stations, stored, transported back to the places the oil originally came from  
and then pumped back into the ground.  
  
The research plan was mooted by former Opec secretary general Adnan Shihab-Eldin  
during a symposium on energy challenges on the eve of the summit, which was only  
the third meeting of Opec heads of state in the 47-year history of the  
organisation.  
  
De Boer said oil exporting countries, the developed world and the major  
developing nations, which are likely to massively increase their carbon  
emissions over the next decade, could each contribute $1-billion to fund the  
research.  
  
He said coal accounted for about as much carbon emission as oil and that South  
Africa, a major coal producer, would have to consider ways to mitigate its own  
contribution to global warming.

Global Environmental Politics  
  
  
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**Is Australia Faking It? The Kyoto Protocol and the Greenhouse Policy Challenge**  
  
BYLINE: Kate Crowley \*.  
  
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While Australia has signed both the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change,  
and the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate  
Change, it has failed to ratify the latter. It is nevertheless committed to  
meeting its +8% Kyoto target for greenhouse gas emissions, and argues that it is  
on track to doing so. This paper examines Australia's non-ratification politics  
and greenhouse policy efforts in an attempt to expla...