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**CO2 under the spotlight during the Opec summit**

BYLINE: BRENDAN BOYLE

SECTION: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES; Pg. 5

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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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SECTION: RESEARCH ARTICLES; Pg. 118

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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...