

GLOBAL DIRECTORY 2007/8

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Severn wonders

A Severn estuary barrage is back on the cards again. Mike Birkin from Friends of the Earth talks tidal power

● After an intensive period of study in the 1990s, a previous proposal for a tidal barrage that would have enclosed the estuary behind a wall from Cardiff to Weston-super-Mare was abandoned as uneconomic and too environmentally damaging. Little has changed, but now a new generation of politicians, spurred on by the threat of climate change, are talking up the project once again and new studies are proposed.

The obstacles remain formidable, and there's a risk of the wrong technology being favoured. The barrage couldn't be built without massive public subsidy, nor without, at the very least, compromising a spectacular feature of the British coast that enjoys protection in international law. It would be unlikely to come on stream for at least two decades, and though billed as a 'flagship' project, would provide less than 1% of the UK's energy consumption.

Free-standing tidal lagoons, built below low-tide level in the middle of the estuary, are potentially much more competitive and flexible, and would not destroy the huge areas of mud

and sand flats between the tides that a barrage would – and these areas are so important for the Severn's protected wildlife. A series of lagoons would be able to provide steady, predictable power from either rising or falling tide, precisely timed to match demand or make up shortfalls from elsewhere. A barrage could not do this. It surely makes sense to test and develop the lagoon concept first. The barrage would be a huge one-off experiment, with many of its knock-on effects unknown till it's too late to reverse them.

For all that, the government is at last taking tidal power seriously – as with the recent decision to go ahead with the Wave Hub off Cornwall's coast. Elsewhere, tidal stream turbines are being developed. These devices are on a smaller scale and can be deployed in many different places. A prototype is in place off the north Devon coast at Lynmouth, and others are being tested or deployed in Northern Ireland and off the coast of Wales. We in the UK have enormous potential to develop renewable energy from the waves and tides around our coasts, so this is much to be welcomed.

Ffi: www.foe.co.uk/cymru/english/news/severn_barrage_report.html



Severn bore

PIC: JAMES LEES/WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST

environmental implications of economic and social development are also taken into account. **Contact:** 2 rue Andre Pascal, F-75775 Paris, Cedex 16, France. Tel: +33 14524 8200 Fax: +33 14524 8500 Email: news.contact@oecd.org Web: www.oecd.org

WORLD BANK A source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries, made up of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Development Association (IDA) **Contact:** Headquarters, 1818 H Street NW, Washington DC 20433, USA. Tel: +1 202 473 1000 Fax: +1 202 477 6391. London Office: Milbank Tower, 12th Floor Milbank, London SW1P 4QP. Tel: 020 7592 8400 Fax: 020 7592 8420 Email: picparis@worldbank.org Web: www.worldbank.org

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO) Directing and coordinating authority for health within the UN system. **Contact:** Avenue Appia 20, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland. Tel: +41 22 791 2111 Fax: +41 22 791 3111 Email: info@who.int Web: www.who.int

WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION (WTO) Exists to help trade flow as freely as possible, as long as there are no undesirable side effects, because this is important for economic development and well-being. **Contact:**

Centre William Rappard, Rue de Lausanne 154, CH-1211 Geneva 21, Switzerland. Tel: +41 22 739 5111 Fax: +41 22 731 4206 Email: enquiries@wto.org Web: www.wto.org

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Information & Campaign Groups

ACTION FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA (ACTSA) Campaigns for peace, democracy and development in southern Africa. Successor to the Anti-Apartheid Movement. **Contact:** 28 Penton St, London N1 9SA. Tel: 020 7833 3133 Email: actsa@actsa.org Web: www.actsa.org

ATD FOURTH WORLD (UK) Works in partnership with families living in poverty in the UK and overseas, taking a human rights approach to poverty eradication. Volunteering opportunities available in the UK and overseas. **Contact:** 48 Addington Square, London SE5 7LB. Tel: 020 7703 3231 Email: atd@atd-uk.org Web: www.atd-uk.org

AVAAZ.ORG Their name means 'Voice' or 'Song' in several languages including Hindi, Urdu, Farsi, Nepalese, Dari, Turkish, and Bosnian. A community of global citizens who take action on the major issues facing the world today. Empowers ordinary people from every corner of the globe to directly contact key global decision-makers, corporations and the media. Web: www.avaz.org/en

BURMA CAMPAIGN UK (BCUK) campaigns for freedom and democracy in Burma. They lobby governments and corporations, as well as conducting public education campaigns. **Contact:** 28 Charles Square, London N1 6HT. Tel: 020 7324 4710 Email: info@burmacampaign.org.uk Web: www.burmacampaign.org.uk

CAMPAIGN FOR ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL MEDICINES (MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES) Campaign for overcoming barriers to access, lowering the price of existing medicines, bringing abandoned drugs back into production, and stimulating research and development for diseases that primarily affect the poor. **Contact:** Lucy Clayton, MSF 67-74 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8QX. Tel: 020 7067 4236 Email: lucy.clayton@london.msf.org Web: www.accessmed-msf.org

CHILD POVERTY ACTION GROUP (CPAG) promotes action for the relief, directly or indirectly, of poverty among children and families with children. **Contact:** 94 White Lion St, London N1 9PF. Tel: 020 7837 7979 Email: staff@cpag.org.uk Web: www.cpag.org.uk

CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY (CAP) works at local and national level to change public attitudes and policies, to promote lasting solutions to the problem of poverty, and develop a theology that reflects the lives of those experiencing poverty. **Contact:** CAP, Central Buildings, Oldham St, Manchester M1 1JQ. Tel: 0161 236 9321 Email: info@church-poverty.org.uk Web: www.church-poverty.org.uk

CUBA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN (CSC) defends Cuba's rights to self-determination and national sovereignty. They send educational and medical aid to Cuba and provide information, speakers, etc, to groups in the UK. **Contact:** Red Rose Club, 129 Seven Sisters Rd, London N7 7QG. Tel: 020 7263 6452 Fax: 020 7561 0191 Email: office@cuba-solidarity.org.uk Web: www.cuba-solidarity.org.uk

EUROPEAN NETWORK ON DEBT & DEVELOPMENT (EURODAD) Network of European development NGOs working to change economic policies and ensure that poorer people have their say in decisions that affect their lives. **Contact:** Avenue Louise 176, 8th Floor, 1050 Brussels, Belgium. Tel: +32 2 543 9064 Fax: +32 2 544 0559 Email: jvestphal@eurodad.org Web: www.eurodad.org

FREE BURMA COALITION Burmese-led political initiative to support Burmese people's aspirations and struggle for democracy and human rights through boycotts, pro-sanctions advocacy and Burma awareness promotion. Supports efforts to interact and engage with the country to bring about change. Email: info@freeburmacoalition.org Web: www.freeburmacoalition.org

FREE TIBET CAMPAIGN Campaigns for an end to Chinese occupation of Tibet and for Tibetans' fundamental human rights to be respected. **Contact:** 28 Charles Square, London N1 6HT. Tel: 020 7324 4605 Email: mail@freetibet.org Web: www.freetibet.org

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGY & CULTURE (ISEC) Through campaigns, videos, books, seminars and study/action groups, ISEC raises awareness about the social and environmental impact of development and economic globalisation, and promotes sustainable alternatives at community and policy level. **Contact:** ISEC, Foxhole, Dartington, Devon TQ9 6EB. Tel: 01803 868650 Email: info@isec.org.uk Web: www.isec.org.uk

JUBILEE DEBT CAMPAIGN Demanding an end to the scandal of poor countries paying money to the rich world. They are calling for 100% cancellation of unpayable and unfair poor country debts. **Contact:** The