

NEWS

Railways urge train travel to climate conference

It's a 12-day trip from Kyoto, Japan, to the Danish capital, Copenhagen, by train — but rail operators say it's worth it to get to a key climate change conference next December.

AP/Nanet Poulsen
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The International Union of Railways, UIC, says train travel releases between three and 10 times less carbon dioxide than driving or flying and it is urging government officials and environmentalists to take the train to the United Nations climate change conference in Denmark on Dec. 7-18.

UIC spokeswoman Delphine Margot said Wednesday that rail operators want at least one environmentalist and journalist to join one of their employees and blog about the long trip from Japan by ship to Russia and by rail, on the Trans-Siberian express, to Denmark.

Margot said the organization had not yet decided how their Paris-based employee would travel to Japan prior to the trip.

Kyoto was where the previous treaty on combating climate change was signed, in December 1997.

UIC is also organizing a special "Climate Express" train on Dec. 5 to take some 380 people to Copenhagen from Brussels, where many activist groups, lobbyists, journalists and European Union officials are based.

It says that trip will take only 12 hours — but will release less than a third of the carbon dioxide per passenger as flying.

Governments from around the world will try to agree new targets to curb carbon emissions at the United Nations talks in Copenhagen.

A panel of UN scientists has recommended that developed countries make cuts of between 25 percent and 40 percent by 2020 to avoid a catastrophic rise in sea levels, harsher storms and droughts and climate disruptions.

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COMMENTS

Kremena Diatchka

25/06/2009 17:42

Hello,

This article made me think of a good website I know that makes it easy to compare different transportation means (air, train, car) by CO2 emissions, price, trip duration, etc. It is called routeRANK (www.routerank.com). It works especially well in Europe where it combines train data from providers in different countries.. It has often helped me choose a train trip instead of flying. I recommend it, especially if you are interested in traveling green.

Here is what it finds for the trip you mention:

http://www.routerank.com/en/search/copenhagen_denmark/brussels_belgium/05-12-2009-08-00/