

### **Environment, energy big issues for Asia-Pacific**

World Bank president Robert Zoellick says he is looking forward to discussing issues such as climate change during his visit to Australia. Zoellick is to attend a meeting of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation finance ministers in Queensland and will also have talks with a number of Australian Government officials. He says energy efficiency and environmental protection are two of the big challenges facing the Asia-Pacific region. "We've been working with our Australian counterparts on some of the particular challenges of the Pacific Ocean states," he says. "And this is one where those small countries have faced some very important problems, in part due to distance, also due to climate change. I want to get a better sense from the [World] Bank staff as well as our Australian counterparts about how we can address some of those issues."

[Source: essa]