

eco

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MAY

Away We Go
issue

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Away We Go

For those that paid attention during Saturday's presentations on the IPCC AR4, this much is clear: time is of the essence. Deep emissions cuts are needed fast. Global emissions must peak well before 2015, if we are to keep average warming well below 2 degrees C. The IPCC concludes we can meet this challenge in a cost effective way (<0.12% of GDP per year) using currently available technologies. As the Stern review shows, the damages associated with climate impacts are orders of magnitude greater than the costs of mitigation. Any delay in action significantly raises the costs of both.

To stay well below 2°C, Parties need to keep on track with the AWG work plan agreed in Nairobi and propose ranges of emissions reduction targets for Annex I countries in Vienna this August. The IPCC should be asked to make a presentation to Parties on ranges for Annex I targets based on the Fourth Assessment WGIII report. CAN expects science to underpin the post-2012 agreement and the science indicates that emissions reductions of at least 30% by 2020 will be required for Annex I countries. The AWG needs to focus on preparing the outputs of its' current work plan to feed into the Bali mandate.

The ability of carbon markets to deliver technologies to developing countries is directly proportional to the levels of ambition of Annex I country targets. "Long, legal and loud" signals

on the durability and stability of the carbon markets are essential to give business confidence to invest in clean technologies. The scale of finance that can be mobilized through the carbon markets and the technology transfer that this can deliver to decarbonising developing country economies, require analysis by the AWG.

The work of the AWG is intimately linked to adaptation. The magnitude of future climate impacts is directly linked to emissions pathways. Adaptation will be much more difficult – and for many communities, impossible – if there isn't significant action to reduce future emissions. Deeper Annex 1 reduction targets, together with expansion of the Adaptation Fund levy to all the Kyoto mechanisms, is essential to generate the resources needed to finance adaptation actions by vulnerable developing countries.

In CAN's view, the AWG work plan is at present incomplete. It should expand to include analysis of the effectiveness of the flexible mechanisms, as well as options for differentiation of commitments and graduation criteria. In addition, to show the leadership required to tackle climate change, Annex 1 Parties must demonstrate the progress they have made towards their existing targets.

Progress in the AWG must be expeditious. Mind the Gap!!

Two Sides of the Canadian Coin

As the third session of the AWG opens today in Bonn, Canada's number one priority is tackling climate change head on.

Recent polls show that Canadians think fighting climate change is more important than any other issue. Despite the fact that Canada's emissions have risen significantly since 1990, 61% of Canadians still want their government to meet its Kyoto targets. Furthermore, a large majority of Parliamentarians support the two bills mandating Kyoto compliance that are currently working their way through the Canadian Parliament. Canada's newest environment minister John Baird has even proclaimed that Canada "now has one of the most aggressive plans to tackle climate change."

Under these circumstances, Canada playing a leadership role in the AWG process would be guaranteed apart from one small problem - the minority government's position to not support action on climate change. Prime Minister Harper has changed his tune from his days in opposition when he sent out fundraising letters saying Kyoto was a socialist plot to send billions of dollars to developing countries. In fact, Harper's government is now bending over backwards to seem Kyoto-compatible, even with some
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Best of Bonn 2007 (The SB Years)

The worn track in the Piano Bar carpet is testament to the steady stream of delegates approaching the DJ booth to request their favourite track at Saturday's NGO party. The promise of all future UNFCCC gigs convinced the DJ to divulge those behind the most requested tracks:

1. It's the End of the World as we Know it – IPCC
2. Under Pressure - AOSIS
3. I Don't Wanna Talk About it –Saudi Arabia
4. You Haven't Done Nothing - Australia
5. If You're Looking for a Way Out - Canada
6. We're on the Road to Nowhere – USA
7. The Same Old Song – EU
8. Favourite Waste of Time – Week One participants
9. Quit Playing Games – As Above
10. That Don't Impress me Much – ENGOS

Can you think of a song title that sums up SB26? E-mail your suggestions to bestofbonn@climatenetwork.org or post them in the ballot box on the CAN table by 6pm Thurs. A prize will be awarded for the most appropriate song.

-Canada, from page 1
wink-wink, nudge-nudge allusions to its "absolute" commitments to reductions. It is also finding new and creative ways to repeat the same old Rona Ambrose message that Canada is fulfilling all its Kyoto commitments...*except the targets.*

The latest version of its shifting climate change policy contains no absolute targets. Instead, the plan speculates that

Canada will meet its Kyoto goal through intensity targets...by 2025! The "new" government also loves to generate headlines about how it will reduce its emissions by 20% – BUT from a 2006 baseline.

Perhaps Canada will play a constructive role in this process. Miracles do happen. However, at a minimum, ECO hopes Canada won't contaminate other delegations.

CAN Emergency Appeal Closes Gap For FCCC Budget

For the better part of last week, Parties discussed how to cut the budget, rather than pledging to increase the capacity of the Secretariat to respond to the IPCC 4AR. Glad to see that we are rising to the occasion.

Given this sad state of affairs, CAN has taken drastic measures to break the impasse so that attention can be better spent crafting decisions for Bali.

Rather than write yet another ECO article on this ridiculous situation (oops), CAN appealed directly to delegates at the NGO party. The largest contributions were those solicited on the dance floor after drink three and above. Parties from Saudi Arabia to Japan, from Canada to EU Member States and AOSIS, as well as Secretariat Staff and NGOs themselves rose to the occasion.

CAN's experimental fundraising push was a surprise success. With commendable enthusiasm, Parties contributed to an impressive total of € 106.43, accompanied by in-kind contributions in the form of caffeine tablets and chewing gum (perhaps to keep the party going). Proceeds will be turned over to Yvo de Boer, and ECO expects other Parties to fund the remaining € 559,893.57.

Based on this success, CAN would like to make the following suggestion to Chairman Dovland and his budget contact group--Move your discussion to the piano bar in the Maritim, turn down the lights, and book a DJ for some mood music. Invite your NGO colleagues, first round is on us.

LUDWIG

Given how unmoved the negotiators at the Maritim seemed to be by the unprecedented profile climate change now has in public consciousness worldwide, Ludwig was encouraged to hear that there is an impact in the epi-centre of popular culture: Hollywood.

Ludwig's sources in Tinseltown have been feeding him news of dozens of scripts with a climate change theme, including:

Raiders of the Lost Article 2: Search for the lost text of Article 2 of the Climate Covenant, which has mysteriously disappeared in a cloud of collective lead-negotiator amnesia.

Terminator 5: Schwarzenegger's android finds himself in an alternative global warming devastated future. He is reprogrammed to return and terminate the evil masterminds working to block a global agreement to prevent the

climate catastrophe that has already occurred.

Alien 12: Ripley returns to Earth after a long hibernation, and finds only a rag-tag band of survivors huddled in tunnels in the rapidly melting Antarctic ice cap, hiding from the mutant plankton-based creatures resulting from a ocean iron-fertilization nanotech experiment gone tragically wrong.