

# eco



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## Scientists to world leaders: Wake the FCCC up!

Science academies from the Group of Eight nations as well as China, India, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa issued a statement yesterday calling for world leaders to make a commitment to cut global carbon dioxide emissions in half by 2050 when they meet next month in Hokkaido, Japan.

The academies noted that since their initial call to action in 2005, "progress in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions has been slow." (The news to ECO is that there has been progress!) They went on to state that "The rate and scale of climate change means there is no time for complacency." The academies pointed out that "At the 2007 Heiligendamm Summit, G8 leaders agreed to seriously consider halving global emissions by 2050. We urge G8+5 leaders to make maximum efforts to carry this forward and commit to these emission reductions."

The academies' statement outlined how polar bears will get it in the neck: "Key vulnerabilities include water resources, food supply, health, coastal settlements and some ecosystems (particularly arctic, tundra, alpine, and coral reef). The most sensitive regions are likely to include the Arctic, Africa, small islands and the densely populated Asian megadeltas."

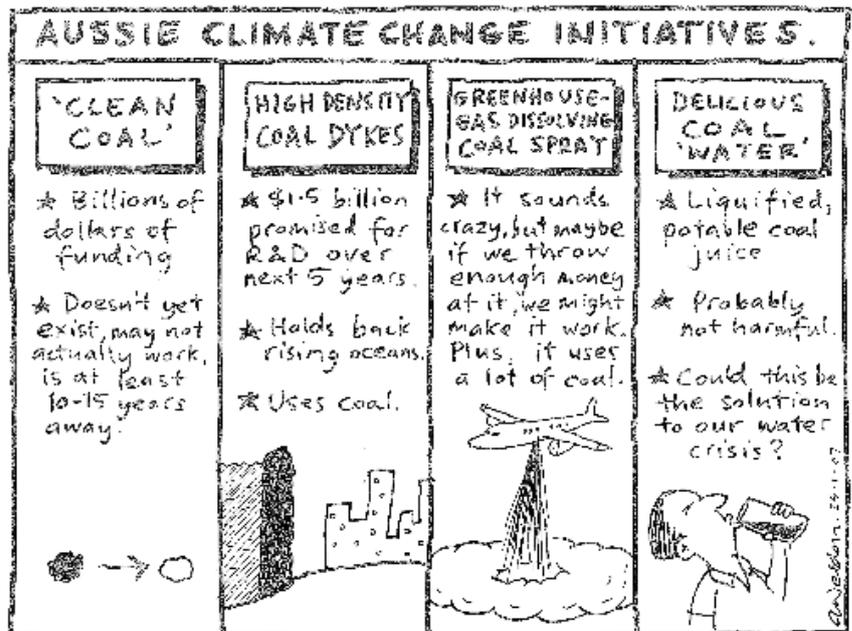
The academies called for continued research and development on carbon capture and storage technologies, and even

supported investigation of geo-engineering approaches (effectively pushing the panic button). Given the unproven nature of CCS and especially geo-engineering, their inclusion in the statement underlined the increasing concern among the world's leading scientific organizations about the slow response of the world's leaders to the climate crisis.

The science groups urged governments to accelerate efforts to adapt to unavoidable climatic changes. "Mitiga-

tion policies are essential, but not sufficient," they said. "Adaptation is necessary if the worst impacts of climate change, now and in the future, are to be alleviated."

The academies' statement is the latest attempt by those who are most aware of the accelerating changes in the world's climate system to draw the attention of the public and policymakers to the dire situation we now face. Delegates would do well to take note.



"ECO recommends the Academies of Science investigate some geo-engineering options pioneered by Australia"

## Playing political football with Tech Transfer

A week here, six months there, and pretty soon we've frittered away some real negotiating time. Today the SBI Contact Group on Technology Transfer decided there could be no progress here in Bonn on the review of Annex 1 commitments related to tech transfer under the Convention, and punted it to Poznan.

Why? Because the US and Canada blocked progress by loading down the proposed Terms of Reference for the review of commitments under Articles 4.1c and 4.5 with extraneous issues such as review of national communications (4.1a), tariff and trade policies, and the "business friendliness" of recipient countries. After inserting dozens of poison pills they knew the G77 and China could not accept, progress broke down.

The contact group finally abandoned the steaming mess of text they had been working on and turned the whole matter over to the SBI and the Secretariat to bring a workable solution back to Poznan.

Given that support for technology transfer is central to the current negotiations for a post-2012 agreement, this cavalier attitude towards the issue risks undermining the trust and goodwill built up during the first week in Bonn.

In light of the US delegate's outrageous and inflammatory claim that the US has completely fulfilled its technology transfer obligations (under Article 4.5 of the Convention), developing countries are more than justified in insisting on a rigorous and structured review, able to bring some closure to the question.

And if Annex 1 countries are at all serious about "enabling environments" for low carbon technologies, they could start by looking at the fossil friendly environments in their own countries, rather than using the concept to bludgeon developing countries at every turn.

Meanwhile, the EU negotiators were missing in action during these shenanigans. Perhaps they were bashful about having a spotlight aimed at their own technology transfer shortcomings. But it isn't sufficient to sit by and observe their colleagues' antics. Did they forget that their Annex 1 colleagues from across the Atlantic sometimes need adult supervision? Or perhaps they were distracted by a streaming Euro Cup game on their PDAs...

### LUDWIG

Strolling through Haydn Room yesterday evening, Ludwig happened upon a compact, well-thumbed booklet apparently left behind by a delegate, titled "Tips for Negotiators: A US-Canadian collaboration".

Curious, Ludwig picked it up and it fell open to a section titled "How to waste time and prevent progress, in five easy steps". He read on:

1. Sign an agreement where you commit to do something.
2. Do nothing. Then argue that you are completely fulfilling your commitments (variation: say you are meeting all your commitments except for the targets).
3. At the same time, say the agreement is obsolete anyway.
4. Agree to discuss your own commitments, but then only talk about what you think the other party should be doing.
5. While avoiding discussion of your existing unfulfilled commitments, express a desire to discuss new ones for other parties.

## Global warming ate my homework

Proceedings here in Bonn haven't suffered from a lack of ideas. But they have clearly suffered from a lack of preparation. This shows in the lack of considered engagement with ideas on the table on the part of too many delegations – even from long-standing leaders in the climate talks such as the EU. To help delegates avoid the same trap in Poznan, when a workshop on disaster risk reduction is scheduled, ECO is highlighting this key component of the Bali Action Plan adaptation agenda now, six months ahead of time.

The world has experienced a stunning doubling in the number of weather related disasters in the last 20 years. While the number of people affected by climate-related disasters is still growing (cut emissions now!), the good news is that the number of people killed has not followed the doubling trend – largely be-

cause of improved disaster management measures. In the light of accelerating climate change and the need to develop strategies to address these additional risks, disaster risk reduction experts have a lot to offer to the post 2012; framework. Go and find them!

Here is your homework:

- Read the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 on disaster reduction: [www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org)
- Discuss with your disaster management colleagues how your national disaster risk reduction platform can support the post-2012 climate regime.
- Involve disaster managers in the preparations for the Poznan workshop on risk reduction and related submissions.

### Lost and Found

From Wednesday's Lost and Found...

*Found:* Some brollies, found lurking in the corner contemplating their next move to cast a shadow over the negotiations.

*Lost:* An Agenda...or at least one that will force all the brollies to be productive.