

# eco



*Eco has been published by Non-Governmental Environmental Groups at major international conferences since the Stockholm Environment Conference in 1972. This issue was produced co-operatively by Climate Action Network groups attending COP9 in Milano in December 2003.*

## Technology Transfer – Turning a Mirage into Reality

Technology transfer, so tantalisingly promised to non-Annex I (NAI) countries in the Convention for more than a decade, has remained a mirage. Yet the demands on these very nations to cap and even reduce their emissions seem to be growing more insistent by Annex I members.

If non-Annex I countries are to achieve even a sustainable human development level for their citizens and avoid causing a crash through the 2°C temperature rise ceiling, the technology transfer mirage must be transformed into a meaningful reality. Only with access to the best available GHG abatement technology (at affordable prices) and a major decarbonisation of their growing economies will NAI nations be able to taper off their growing emissions.

But all Annex I countries, including

the United States, must first meet their Convention obligations to facilitate this technology transfer. They must not avoid them by invoking intellectual property rights and private sector ownership of such technology. They must demonstrate their good faith by making the access available now and not in some nebulous distant future when some new fangled technology is developed.

This COP has a concrete report from a group of experts to act on – any further pussyfooting would be inexcusable. The G77 & China must prepare themselves to immediately utilise the technology made available to modify their current emission growth paths. It is also no longer a question of waiting passively for technology to fall into their laps. Why can't some initiative be taken to develop appropriate local technology?

## Sneaking expenditure on CDM into ODA

While we continue with the work of implementing the CDM in Milan, OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) will meet next week in Paris.

Rumour has it the DAC will spend time, again, to discuss how Official Development Assistance (ODA) criteria can be modified to include spending on the CDM.

This does not refer to "capacity building" and the facilitation of Designated National Authorities.

This is about buying certified emission reductions (CER) with ODA money. The DAC has in fact discussed this issue previously despite the agreement that the CDM should not "result in the diversion of ODA".

The risk is that other development priorities such as poverty alleviation, clean water, health care, etc. could be displaced by spending on the CDM.

This could end up allowing dirty industries in the North to avoid their responsibility to reduce greenhouse emissions, which is outrageous.

The Climate Action Network (CAN) calls on delegates from developing countries to act against this initiative.

We must ensure all the late hours spent since COP4 negotiating the principle of "non-diversion" are not wasted in Paris while we negotiate in Milan.

Any allocations for CDM should be over and above what is committed to ODA.

**Volunteer to buy yourself a new SUV and receive generous tax savings!**



*Part of the Bush Administration's CRAP emissions reduction strategy*

## Invasive amnesia on CDM sinks rules

In yesterday's sinks contact group, CAN noticed, with great concern, the potential deletion of text that is fundamental to the environmental integrity of sinks in the CDM.

Parties are encouraged to hold onto the original language for the explicit exclusion of invasive alien species and genetically modified organisms (GMO) under the CDM sink rules.

Basically all parties to the Kyoto Protocol already agreed to abstain from the introduction of invasive alien species into the environment under the Cartagena Protocol (Art. 8(h)).

Thus, one might be inclined to diagnose a certain level of amnesia on behalf of those Parties that did not yet actively support the explicit exclusion of those invasive alien species from the CDM.

The new text seems to suggest that just doing a risk analysis might be the way to go. Clearly, the effort to do a risk analysis on

something already known to be harmful to the environment – by the definition of invasive alien species (Decision CBD VI/23) – is superfluous.

If Parties do not want to follow the example of countries like Somalia, Brunei Darussalam, Timor-Leste, Iraq and the US which have not ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity as yet, anything less than the explicit exclusion of invasive alien species should be unacceptable.

Similarly, the issue of genetically modified organisms is at the heart of the credibility of any environmental treaty (see Fossil of the Day Award section below for details).

Clearly a Protocol designed to protect the environment has no place in supporting the release of GMOs into the environment as sinks projects or through any other means. GMOs must be excluded from sinks projects.

## Russia is moving towards ratification

On Wednesday, Russia's deputy economy minister, Mukhamed Tsikhonov, said: "There are no decisions about ratification apart from the fact that we are moving towards ratification". This effectively refutes media reports stating, "The Russian government does not yet have a clear position on the Protocol".

## NGO Party

The NGO Party organised at every COP by the Climate Action Network (CAN) has always been a highly sought-after and well-attended event. Its aim is to provide an opportunity for delegates, observers and organisers alike to relax, unwind, get to know each other better and, basically, have a good time.

COP9 will be no different. The NGO Party will be held this Saturday, December 6. However, we are still open to suggestions on the venue. Those aware of venues at an affordable price are requested to mail your suggestions to [ecopaper@hotmail.com](mailto:ecopaper@hotmail.com) soon.

## Transport sector supports CAN's 2°C position

Four major public transport and rail associations on Tuesday endorsed the Climate Action Network's (CAN) position on limiting global temperature rise to a maximum of 2°C average above pre-industrial levels to avoid widespread climate-induced damage.

By supporting the initiative, The International Union of Railways (UIC), The Community of European Railways (CER), The International Association of Public Transport (UITP) and The Union of European Railway Industries (UNIFE) highlighted the urgency for

action to reduce greenhouse emissions.

These organisations acknowledged transport as the second worst performing sector in the world by contributing 20 per cent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, mainly due to the enormous increase in transport demand, despite cleaner fuels and better engine performance for some types of vehicles.

The UIC, CER, UITP and UNIFE will take leadership in providing a solution to climate change by addressing the overall transport issue.

## "Fossil of the Day" Award

Canada, Japan, Argentina, France and Ireland were joint recipients of yesterday's sole Fossil award for not supporting the clear exclusion of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

If GMOs are planted in the name of the Kyoto Protocol, the Protocol will turn into a subsidy system for the environmental experiment known as genetic engineering.

Genetically modified organisms have been altered at a fundamental genetic level in ways that could never occur in nature. Their release into the environment poses enormous, unknown and unquantifiable risks.

No long-term studies have been conducted into the effects of the release of GMOs into the

environment so we do not know what we are messing with.

The risks include cross-pollination with non-GMO organisms, the creation of unknown toxins and allergens, which can affect fauna grazing on the GMO and other unknown impacts on pollinators, the possible transmission of altered genetic material through soil bacteria, and other ecological effects.

A Protocol designed to protect the environment has no place in supporting the release of GMOs into the environment as sinks projects or through any other means. GMOs must be excluded from sinks projects.

## LUIGI

Fossil of the day awards have always been highly coveted honours, but now they appear to be hotter still. The prestigious small bags of coal have been disappearing from the Fossil stand, where crowds regularly appear to boo the crème-de-la-crème of nefarious negotiators. The criminal mastermind behind these thefts has yet to be caught red handed, so Luigi has been compiling a list of likely suspects. The Saudis are believed to be distraught that they have yet to win the award in this COP. The AOSIS countries have despaired of ever winning one by legal means. And the US is clearly so confident of getting a full set that they may have decided to take matters into their own hands. Or maybe the lure of cheap coal was too strong to resist...

## THANKS

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