

ECO

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BEYOND COP9
ISSUE

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

COP9: Cyclical Phenomenon?

The high-level Roundtables, supposedly the highlight of this year's COP, failed to create new enthusiasm, but exemplified the main positions and problems that observers to the process had witnessed in negotiations and side-events over the last two weeks.

The key messages are easily identified: The vast majority of the world's countries have committed themselves to the Kyoto Protocol as the way forward on limiting global climate change, and want to see it enter into force as soon as possible. Technology transfer needs to be made real to assist sustainable development. Countries need to focus on deploying existing clean technology

to cut emissions now, backed up by research on future technology. The scheme of Kyoto's opponents to derail the process and divert attention to other fora and activities is a failure.

Roundtable One: Going round in circles

The first Roundtable of this COP on Mitigation, Adaptation and Sustainable Development seemed to go in circles, although it kept within the scheduled three hours. Despite the President and two co-chairs trying to steer the discussions, ministers or heads of delegations kept repeating old jaded positions on sustainable development, CDM, Kyoto

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CAN looking beyond COP9

Everyone knows the Kyoto Protocol represents only a first step towards the prevention of dangerous climate change, and that the next steps will not be easy. A follow-on to the first commitment period requires that we address the need for engagement by the US, much deeper cuts by all the industrialised nations, real financial and technical support from the North for decarbonisation in the South, and serious funding of adaptation. Furthermore, it must be a package that is fair and is seen as fair, if it is to offer hope for the radical transition needed to reach a truly sustainable development path.

The Climate Action Network (CAN) has released a discussion paper that proposes a viable, multi-stage global framework that could operationalise "common but differentiated responsibilities," with an equitable division of effort to keep global warming below 2°C. Central to our vision of equity is the concept of equal access to the atmospheric commons, with responsibility for historical overuse, incorporation of ability to pay and other relevant national circumstances.

CAN's proposed system has three tracks. Countries in the first track will have binding commitments, as do the current Annex I parties, with countries joining this "Kyoto" track when they meet agreed criteria of economic development and emissions. Countries in the second track will take actions to reach a low-carbon development path, supported with funding and technology from

—continued on page 2, column 3



CAN commemorated Kyoto Protocol's sixth anniversary yesterday

Isolate Saudi Arabia on SCCF

It is unfortunate negotiations on the Special Climate Change Fund have come to a standstill. This means a significant delay in the operationalisation of the fund that is supposed to primarily support adaptation activities for those countries most vulnerable. G77&China must isolate Saudi Arabia and its OPEC allies and force a decision on this issue at COP9.

The approximate value of SCCF support is about US\$50 million a year. This is not a huge amount of money to meet the needs of the developing world. OPEC should stop blocking any decision on the movement of this money.

After all, their estimated income from oil exports every week is almost equivalent to three years of SCCF funding. So this is not about money; it is about blocking any form of political progress.

Negotiators from Asia, Latin America, Africa and those from AOSIS must have a dialogue with the EU to ensure the money does not get diverted to economies dependent on oil. If the decision on the guidance to the GEF – the operating entity of the SCCF – is adopted at COP9, the fund will become operational and support for projects will start trickling in.

Trade unions' get serious about climate change

The trade union movement is getting serious about climate change. Earlier this week the European Trade Union Confederation held a conference in Milan, parallel to COP9, entitled "European Trade Union Actors for an Equitable Energy Transition."

Delegates addressed issues ranging from the impacts on labour by the establishment of a global carbon market, to the transformation of the global energy system away from fossil fuels.

It also received regular updates on the progress at COP9 negotiations (which ranged from slow to none), held across town.

CAN, when invited to address the meeting,

seized the opportunity. It welcomed the overture from the trade union movement, while recognising that both organisations need to find more structured ways to work together to reach their common goals.

A deeper understanding of the interaction of priority issues for the respective constituencies also needs to be developed to reinforce mutual efforts.

And if delegates to the COP would do their part to kick-start the energy revolution, there would be a lot more to work on together to ensure the transition promotes equity and social justice, while protecting the climate for future generations at the same time.

Good practice guidance for LULUCF

A draft decision concerning The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (GPG-LULUCF) is up for adoption by the COP.

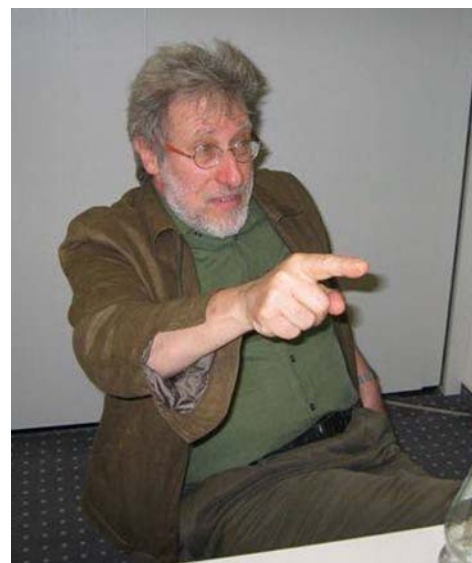
The GPG-LULUCF is a substantial document and the result of extensive work by the IPCC. It covers issues relating to both the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol and includes "supplementary methods and good practice guidance for estimating, measuring, monitoring and reporting on carbon stock changes and GHG emissions from LULUCF activities". This guide should help countries in producing their LULUCF inventories.

As a result of negotiations the draft decision proposes that Annex I countries should use the GPG-LULUCF for preparing annual inventories due in 2005 and thereafter. However the proposal states that the guidance

relating to the preparation of GHG inventories for LULUCF under the Kyoto Protocol should be excluded with a decision to be made on this matter at COP10.

Some parties were concerned that the exclusion of these sections could impede the construction of their annual inventories with regard to LULUCF in the lead up to the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. Parties could, however, still study the Kyoto sections in order to speed up this process with the expectation of a favourable decision at COP10. In addition, the draft decision on LULUCF definitions and modalities for including afforestation and reforestation activities under Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol, which has also been forwarded to COP9 for adoption, encourages the use of GPG-LULUCF in afforestation and reforestation project activities under the CDM.

Steve Bernow (1942-2003)

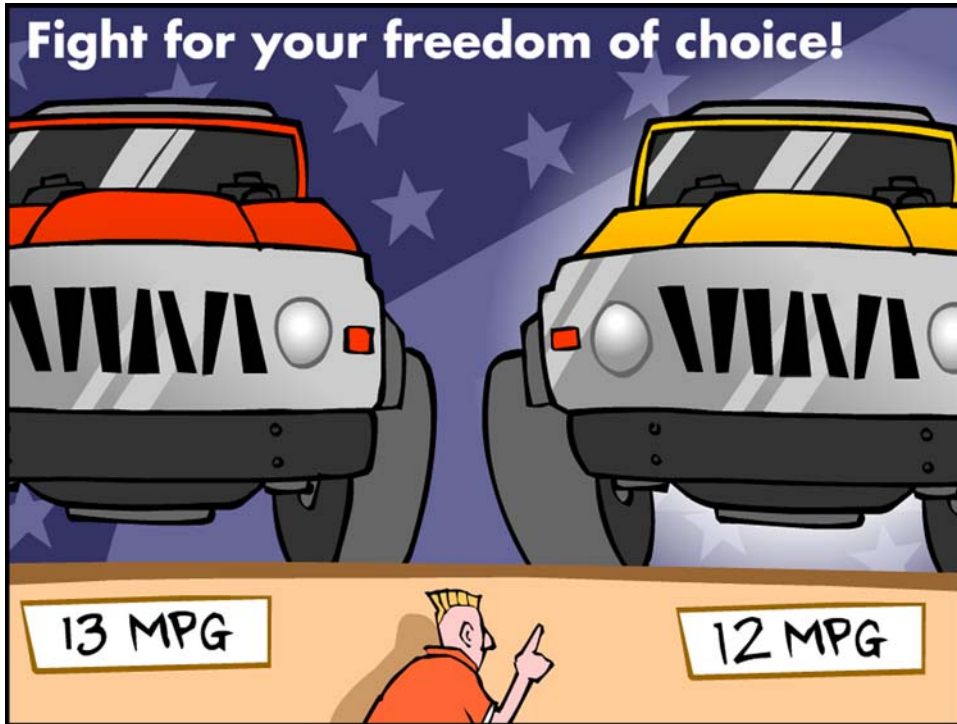


An intellectual leader, a fount of good cheer and a comrade-in-arms passed away this past July. Steve was a founder and Vice President of Tellus Institute, an environmental NGO in the US, where he led its influential work on climate and energy policy. He was respected for his deep technical understanding of policy issues, which was never divorced from his passionate concern for social justice. Our dear friend Steve, who had attended every COP, is sorely missed at this one. But he still inspires us in the struggle to protect the climate and strive for a more equitable world, always with a sense of humour.

– *CAN looking beyond, from front page* the industrialised countries; actions under this "Greening" (decarbonisation) track may take the form of SD-PAMS (sustainable development policies and measures), sectoral goals, or other forms.

A third "adaptation track" will be for vulnerable regions, providing funding to limit the damages and prepare for the challenges that will occur from unavoidable climate change. Funding will be provided by the industrialised countries that bear the main responsibility for climate change. Countries receiving adaptation funds may also take part in the other tracks if justified by their national circumstances.

CAN's framework is released to delegates as a discussion paper at COP9 and will be debated widely in the coming year. Many will have differing views on various aspects, but the long-term implementation of the Convention will never succeed if we do not begin to draw the map now.



Another of the Bush Administration's CRAP climate change strategies

Climate comic relief

John Howard (Australia), George Bush (US), and Vladimir Putin (Russia) are sitting on a small, melting iceberg. There is one life jacket.

John says: That is why we need these genetically engineered eucalyptus seeds that will grow in any climactic conditions. We will grow us a forest, no worries mate!

George speaks up: We will commission some research – we need to establish if this iceberg really exists, or whether it is just a cyclical phenomenon.

Vladimir slides over and offers: If you give me your money, I will take the life jacket.

Footnote:

How many ministers does it take to change a COP?

One – as long as he is Russian.

How many ministers does it take to get a COP to have a MOP?

No, seriously? How many do you need?

“Fossil of the Day” Award

The US, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Oman won joint first place yesterday for trying to divert attention from urgently needed emission cuts now, by focusing squarely on future technology of capturing and storing the CO₂ from fossil fuels.

Italy came in second for their overall inconsistency concerning the Kyoto Protocol. Italy wanted to insert a sentence on the Kyoto Protocol in the Head of State Council conclusions today.

At first it was considered as a good idea, until Italy revealed what they wanted to have in: “The Kyoto Protocol is an excessive burden for the European Union’s economical

LUIGI

As COP9 goes down in history as the “still waiting for MOP COP”, Luigi has been talking to legal experts about what can be done while we are waiting for Russia to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and thus bring it into force. Lawyers, bless them, are an inventive crowd, and have come up with a series of options:

- Read the Protocol upside down. The 55 per cent requirement of Annex I emissions necessary for entry into force becomes only 22 per cent – problem solved!
- Right now, emissions from Kyoto Parties are too low as a proportion of Annex I emissions to trigger entry into force. Light huge oil fires in existing Parties to push this share way over the 55 per cent threshold. Voila! Entry into force and the climate is saved!
- Look around for other countries with collapsed economies. Befriend them by offering stabilisation targets. Talk them into ratifying.
- Invoke the legal principle of *dedi cruxiae* (I had my fingers crossed) to claim that we never meant 55 per cent really. This legal principle has already been established in case law on the EU stability and growth pact and the US ratification of the Climate Convention.

Luigi does not argue with lawyers. For now he is back to his Grappa – see you in Buenos Aires...

competition”.

Luckily all other EU governments opposed this silly move.

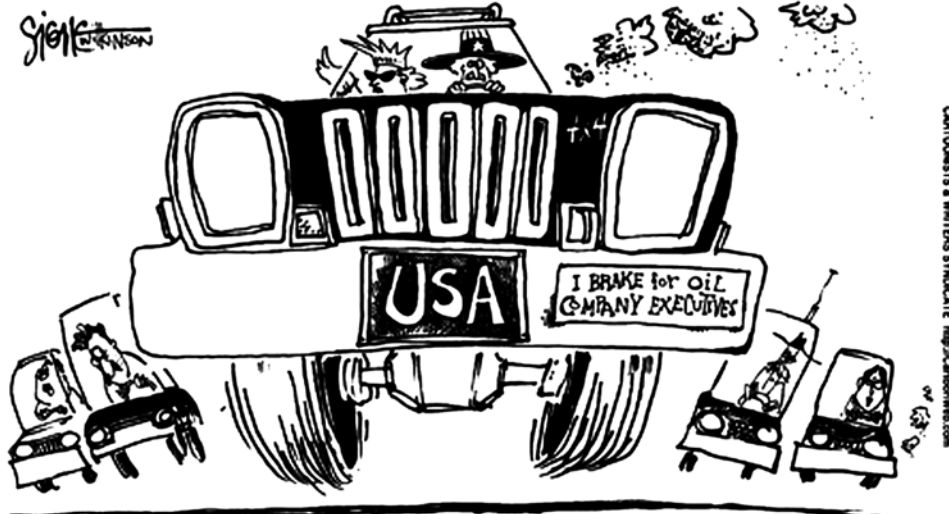
Third place went to the US for asking the world to look at nuclear power... in order to reach the overall objective of sustainable development.



Some of Luigi's fans at COP9 (Source: IISD/ENB/Leila Mead)

SIGNE
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DRIVING HOME FROM the GLOBAL WARMING CONFERENCE

– *Cyclical Phenomenon, from front page Protocol and national aspirations.*

The major break came from Mozambique when its minister complained about speeches being repeated since COP1 but without any follow-up action or solidarity. Belgium responded immediately: It was prepared to listen, but subsequent remarks by others showed little evidence of listening. There were some positive remarks about the need to get KP in force soonest and some digs at the US's positions.

Interactiveness, the supposed hallmark of the event, failed to materialise as ministers tended to exceed their time limits. The only humour was an occasional reference to the President's earlier analogy of the frog in a stew pot.

Roundtable Two: Technology of today

The second Roundtable on Technology was dominated by three main themes. Developing country speakers emphasised the urgent need to gain access to modern technology for clean energy services as well as for adaptation purposes, lamenting the slow progress so far, and demanding transparency and accountability in technology transfer.

On the sixth anniversary of the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol many ministers and high-level delegates reaffirmed their commitments under the treaty and demanded to see its entry into force as soon as possible. Senegal spoke for many delegations (and ENGOs), when it

asked that the excuses for non-ratification should stop, because the Earth could not put up with any further delays. In the same spirit of acting on the challenge ahead, speakers also focused on cutting emissions now, using existing sustainable technology such as renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Some parties emphasised the potential of future energy technologies, such as carbon capture and storage, hydrogen and fuel cells. Most saw research efforts directed at unproven future technology as complementary but secondary to short-term and mid-term efforts to cut emissions in the rich world now, which also enable developing countries to progress economically using cleaner technology.

Roundtable Three: Old positions for ambitious targets

The dominating theme at the third Roundtable was that taking action on climate change is affordable and brings ancillary benefits, though this view was not unanimous. Most countries simply reported on their national activities or spoke of necessary actions at a generic level, while reiterating their established positions.

A variety of developing countries (DCs) spoke of the impacts they are already suffering and the need for radical measures, as well as highlighting actions and allocation of resources to implement the convention. It was noted several times that 110 DCs have ratified the Convention.

The first open applause came for the

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Philippines, noting that the negative input over past days confirmed worst fears, and that action to date did not amount to real efforts to address climate change. The delegate asserted that it is grossly inadequate to suggest that we stay below 2°C of global warming.

Co-chair Trittin maintained that we have to limit the increase in global temperature to 2° in this century. The Roundtable was closed with the chair returning to the analogy of us frogs all in the same boat – sorry, that should be kettle – with only one option – turn off the heat!

THANKS

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