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Japan 25%, After Fukushima

Tomorrow, June 11th, is the three months Memorial Day since the tragic earthquake and the Fukushima nuclear accident. Ahead of this day, ECO looks at where Japan is heading.

ECO offers sincere condolences to the victims of the earthquake and feels deeply sorry for those who are still suffering from the disastrous nuclear accident, which has still not been fully contained. It is clear that it is time for Japan to shift its primary energy source from dangerous nuclear energy and fossil fuels towards safe and prosperous renewables, which also provide a powerful tool for recovery for the affected area. This approach will also lead to a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions over the longer term. Japan must shift towards meeting the important objectives of both phasing out dangerous energy sources and reducing its emissions.

ECO congratulates Prime Minister Kan's resolution in keeping Japan's 25% target by 2020 compared to 1990 levels, which he confirmed in Parliament on June

1st. This is what a respected country should do: keep its international promise in dealing with climate change and show leadership towards a swift recovery. However, ECO was deeply disappointed here in Bonn when Japan reiterated its previous position of rejecting the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. Moreover, ECO heard that some groups in Japan are trying to delete the 25% target by 2020 in the climate bill currently waiting for discussion in the Parliament. The so-called "Basic Law" is supposed to become Japan's legally binding climate change bill which has inscribed for the first time the 25% target by 2020 and 80% reduction target by 2050, combined with effective climate change policies, such as a domestic emission trading scheme, carbon tax and feed-in-tariff. If the attempt to delete the 25% target out of this climate bill is successful, ECO cannot help but wonder about Japan's seriousness in

- Continued on Page 2, Column 3

Durban Expectations

ECO does not normally report on side events – but last night's standing-room only Durban Expectations side event from CAN was especially noteworthy.

Marrying ambition with pragmatism, to a full room of delegates and observers, CAN outlined how Durban could build on the modest success of Cancun and establish the basis for a fair, ambitious and binding climate change regime.

Durban must implement the good work agreed as part of the Cancun Agreements. It must establish adaptation, finance, technology and capacity building institutions with sound rules to serve developing countries needs and deliver real action on the ground and also address the issues that were left out in Cancun.

Importantly Durban must take steps to close the gigatonne gap. At 5-9 gigatonnes according to the UNEP, the ambition gap has many elements to address:

- Developed country ambition must increase. CAN suggests two stages. Firstly developed countries must move to the top end of their current ranges. Secondly a process needs to be agreed to move developed country targets to more than 40% by 2020.

- Loopholes must be closed. Developed countries cannot pretend that their targets have meaning whilst they keep alive the loophole potential to almost completely wipe-out any emissions reductions through dodgy LULUCF accounting and the hot air of surplus AAUs.

- Developing country mitigation ambition also needs to increase. Developing countries should clearly articulate how much more mitigation they can achieve if they receive support.

On the important issue of legal form, Durban must ensure that there is no gap in legally binding commitments. This will require parties to commit to a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, and to establish a pathway for a complementary legally binding agreement under

- Continued on Page 2, Column 1

- Continued from Page 1, Column 3

the LCA that covers actions from the US, developed country support obligations and developing country actions.

Parties at Cancun took positive steps toward an institutional framework for finance. Durban must now ensure that there is money in the pot and not remain an empty framework. Between now and Durban, parties must undertake work on sources of public finance, including giving guidance to the IMO and ICAO to ensure that bunkers finance is quickly realised in a way that ensures no net incidence on developing countries. Crucially parties must not let fast start finance fizzle away – and must take steps now to ensure finance is ramped up between now and the \$100bn that has been promised for 2020.

If this does not happen, if instead there is delay and lack of ambition, then we risk losing the chance to keep global warming below 1.5oC and we must face the catastrophic consequences of loss of life, economic growth and natural habitat. Without adequate mitigation, finance, technology and capacity building we will

have to accept that poor communities and countries who are already feeling the impacts of changing climate will suffer further disastrous consequences.

This is why CAN believes that a compromised or low-ambition outcome is not an option for Durban, and why we set a high but achievable bar for COP 17. Parties can confront this historic challenge with new levels of solidarity and partnership and avert this pressing climate reality. The first step toward Durban starts today. Bickering about agendas is “the silliest thing ever seen in this process” according to one senior delegate last night and it is killing this process (whether on purpose or well intentioned). As another delegate last night said – we need to move from agenda fights to substantive discussions if we are to achieve a worthwhile outcome in Durban.

If you weren't amongst the 100 or so delegates at last night's side event, CAN's Durban Expectations can be downloaded at www.climatenetwork.org or picked up at the CAN booth.

☂ Series Part 2: Don't Let us Down Norway!

Norway is often counted amongst the few developed countries with a fairly acceptable emissions reduction target, having pledged to reduce its emissions between 30-40 per cent by 2020. Throughout these negotiations, Norway has repeatedly made it clear that of this total target, about two thirds will be achieved through domestic measures. In the past few days, however, ECO has received worrying reports from Oslo. It seems that strong political forces are at work that would see Norway backtrack on its commitment to the international community by abandoning its promise to achieve two thirds of its target through domestic action.

It would be disappointing if Norway would consider reducing the contribution of domestic emissions as it clearly has the potential to exceed its pledge through energy savings and replacing energy from gas and oil with renewable energy sources and more efficient plant. Does reducing domestic action mean that Norway is considering its REDD funding as a way to meet its obligations? ECO wonders if Norway needs reminding that the Cancun decision calls for an increase, not a decrease, in the level of ambition of developed countries. We hope Norwegian decision-makers know that the world is watching, and that we are looking to Norway for inspiration, not for disappointments.

You Must be Joking...

ECO calls on delegates to make Annex 1 low-carbon development plans compulsory as part of the Durban package, as the moral weight of ‘should’, as agreed in Cancun, appears to mean nothing to at least one Annex 1 party.

Despite its questionable claims to be doing its fair share in the global effort to avoid dangerous climate change, New Zealand has admitted in correspondence to its NGOs that it does not plan to produce a low-carbon development plan. It says this “does not mean that New Zealand does not take such decisions of the Conference of the Parties with the appropriate level of seriousness.” ECO reckons delegates **shall** take steps to impart an appropriate level of seriousness into New Zealand.

ECO considers that developed country low carbon development plans (LCDPs) **shall** include at least the following elements:

- A 2050 decarbonization target.
- Indicative decadal targets for 2020, 2030, 2040.
- Detail on planned policies, measures and actions to meet the 5-year QELRO
- Be economy-wide and include all of the Kyoto basket of gases.
- Detail on how MRV finance, technology and capacity building support obligations will be met.

Progress **shall** be reported to the COP biennially, building on and linking to the existing national communications process and guidelines. The LCDP **shall** be updated at the beginning of each 5-year commitment period, in line with the new obligations for that period.

- Continued from Page 1, Column 2

tackling climate change. Rejecting the second commitment period of the only viable international climate change treaty along with trying to delete the 25% target out of its legally binding domestic bill begs the question: where does Japan want to go?

Several studies show that Japan can achieve its 25% target without the help of nuclear power plants. The key to this is combining massive energy savings with a boost in renewable energy, which traditionally Japan has not supported. This is beginning to change: for example, to boost the lagging renewable energy sector, Softbank Corp, the country's third-largest mobile phone operator, has now become an advocate for clean and safe energy. The company will help build about a dozen large solar power plants across Japan and is willing to commit hundreds of millions of dollars in investment.

However, if Japan's intention is to use this disastrous nuclear accident to escape its responsibility in combating climate change, how can Japan explain this to the more than 100 countries who offered generous help and support to Japanese earthquake victims? We live in a world of international cooperation and Japan should stand firm in its commitment to towards tackling this global problem. Japan, follow your Prime Minister Kan's leadership in keeping your 25% target and pass the bill as soon as possible to show the world that Japan is indeed serious about tackling climate change with the rest of the world!

Ludwig in Bonn

Ludwig is a confused. Having slept peacefully through the first few day of the negotiating sessions during which the usual Parties tried to move the process forward by squabbling over the agenda, Ludwig awoke to find himself in an enlightening debate on NGO participation. Enlivened by the debate, and the unique stimulation provided by Maritim coffee, he began to take interest. Alas, it was just a dream. On Thursday, he awoke just in time to learn that NGOs had, yet again, been banned from hearing the discussions on REDD+ in SBSTA. Ludwig had always supposed that NGOs might have something useful to say on REDD+, especially indigenous and local peoples, but clearly a small group of Parties have decided that this is not the case. Very sad, thought Ludwig, as he drifted back into a more pleasant reality.

