

ECO



ECO has been published by Non-Governmental Environmental Organisations at major international conferences since the Stockholm Environment Conference in 1972.

This issue is published cooperatively by Climate Action Network (CAN) groups attending COP13 and COP/MOP3 in Bali in December 2007.

ECO email: ecopaper@hotmail.com – ECO website: <http://www.climatenetwork.org/eco> – Editorial/Production: Nithiyananthan Nesadurai/Nugroho Nurdikiawan, Arief Darmawan

Action on the Adaptation Fund

The Climate Action Network (CAN) welcomes positive developments on moving towards a decision on the operationalisation of the Adaptation Fund (AF) this week. Draft text released yesterday afternoon combines three proposals presented to the Contact Group by G77, EU and Japan. There is potential to establish an entity with strong transparent governance that meets the principles put forward by CAN last week. They include:

- Encouraging participation of the most vulnerable countries and communities.
- Being open to a wide range of participants including civil society.
- Carrying out a regular review of the effectiveness of the Fund in delivering to the most vulnerable countries and communities.

There are still many brackets in the latest draft text. Despite this, CAN supports the proposal for members of the AF Board to have technical, adaptation or policy expertise, be appointed by their respective governments, and be nominated (or selected) by the relevant UN constituencies. The strong text on the Board acting under the authority and guidance of the COP/MOP, in line with decision 5/CMP2, is also endorsed.

CAN also welcomes the clause in the draft rules of procedure that meetings of the Board shall normally be open to all Parties and accredited observers. In addition to helping ensure transparency of operation, it will increase understanding of the process of decision-making.

There are three options on access to the Fund and implementing agencies in the draft text. Option 1, which provides for direct access to the AF Board for eligible Parties

to present a proposal, is supported. Allowing for selection of a wide range of implementing agencies, it will enable civil society organisations, with a strong track record of delivering service to vulnerable communities, to submit proposals (in partnership with a government), providing they meet all the principles, modalities guidance and other conditions adopted by the COP/MOP. This is crucial to ensuring funding will reach the most vulnerable communities in the most vulnerable countries.

The proposal for the Board to hold its first meeting at SB28 shows a sense of urgency in wanting to operationalise the Fund. Two options in the draft text relate to the entity that will provide the secretariat to the Fund. One proposes a yet-to-be-named entity, comprising a dedicated team of officials, functionally independent, whose head is accountable to the Board and the COP/MOP, and whose staff meet the competencies prescribed by the Board. The second option is for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to be the secretariat. CAN favours the adoption of the first option given the strong reluctance from some Parties to select the GEF. This is due to difficulties experienced by Parties, especially the Least Developed Countries, in accessing GEF funds. In any case a final decision on this issue is not required right away. The governing body should first be established while further work is undertaken on the structure and options for the secretariat.

CAN hopes this positive progress on funding for adaptation signals the start of a high priority for adaptation in the current negotiations and for the building of trust between the North and the South – so essential for an effective Bali Mandate.

Germany Sends a Strong Signal

The German Government yesterday sent Bali a strong signal by adopting a climate-policy package intended to further reduce its emissions. The third largest economy in the world is now committed to reduce emissions by 40 per cent in 2020 compared to 1990. The package will pave the way towards this goal, although further measures will be necessary. The government wants to contribute its share to the minimum reductions needed in industrialised countries in order to at least halve global emissions by 2050 (compared to 1990) and to stay below a temperature increase of 2°C.

Germany's policy package stipulates the share of renewable energy in the electricity sector should grow from 13 per cent today to 25-30 per cent in 2020, largely through promotion of offshore wind energy. Other measures include an increased application of combined heat and power technologies, a renewable energy heating law and regulations to open the natural gas grid for feeding in biogas. Further measures are listed to improve energy efficiency in electric goods and in the building sector.

As part of the package Germany will auction certificates in the EU Emission Trading Scheme and a significant share of this revenue will be reserved for international action on climate change. From 2008, an additional 120 million Euros will support technology transfer and adaptation measures in developing countries.

One week ago, the ruling parties in the Parliament, the Conservatives and the Social Democrats, adopted a resolution which clearly underlines the need to stay below 2°C. They confirmed a long-term vision of globally equal per capita emissions of two

continued back page, column 2

Education: Moving Beyond the Clearinghouse

With the COP8-based New Delhi Work Programme on Article 6 currently being reviewed, *ECO* strongly urges this COP to promote an education and public awareness plan that will contribute to a robust strategy for adaptation and for mitigating climate change. This strategy must be creative, diverse, decentralised and transcend traditional concepts of education. Unfortunately, the Programme has not fully utilised education and training to engage all stakeholders in the fight against climate change.

The Programme's primary contribution to Article 6 was establishing the CCI Net, a web-based clearinghouse aimed at sharing data and facilitating cooperation amongst the various stakeholders. While such data collection efforts are not without benefit, the review of the Programme two months ago showed a new approach to education and awareness is necessary. Problems encountered include language and technological barriers, difficulties with accessing the

database, and a lack of useable data for the needs of many developing nations. These issues highlight the need for new strategies to implement an effective environmental education action plan.

New approaches must go beyond databases and electronic resources and create regional and country-specific programmes that are aware and respectful of local realities. Multiple media sources, such as television, radio and print must be deployed to meet the needs of citizens in the developing world who lack internet access. Since it is increasingly clear that poor nations, and the poorest citizens within these nations, are the most vulnerable to climate change, efforts to reform Article 6 must focus strongly on the needs of the developing world. This COP has the opportunity to create a new programme that utilises education as a tool to empower citizens to respond to climate challenges. Are the Parties ready?

4 degrees of disintegration

It must be the heat of Bali. The 4 degrees Club that was going strong in Vienna during AWG-4, is rapidly losing members. On Wednesday, Iceland's Environment Minister, Thorunn Sveinbjarnardottir, informed Parliament that Iceland supports keeping global warming within 2°C. She also emphasised the need for Annex I country emissions to be cut by 25 to 40 per cent by 2020. In making this pledge, Iceland has now aligned itself with Norway and the EU. So where does that leave the Umbrella Group?

Ms Sveinbjarnardottir stated to the media: "Iceland will have to take on heavy emissions reduction targets in order to be credible when asking other Annex I countries to take on further commitments."

It may also be the end of the road for Switzerland as a 4 degrees Club member. At the AWG Contact Group meeting yesterday, it seemed to suggest that even a 2°C average global temperature rise will be devastating for some areas.

Keep nuclear energy out

Japan complained yesterday that nuclear energy was not included in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). This is not surprising as Japan operates more than 40 nuclear power plants. However, trying to include nuclear energy in the CDM for this or any other purpose is irresponsible.

There are good reasons why this technology was, is and will be excluded from the CDM. For a start, it does not save the climate. Every dollar invested in nuclear technology is a dollar lost to the real alternatives: energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Nuclear power provides barely three per cent of the world's total energy consumption. If nuclear power had to cover a much higher portion of global energy needs, thousands of new plants would have to be built in a short time. This is not going to happen. There is also the problem with its waste: it will remain radioactive for thousands of years and there are still no safe solutions to store it.

The total inability of nuclear power to address climate change is already being clearly emphasised at the political level. In October, environmental ministers of Austria, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Luxembourg and Iceland who

met in Vienna explicitly said they did not consider nuclear power an instrument to answer the challenge of climate change.

continued from page 1, column 3

tonnes carbon dioxide. As an emissions reduction target, this translates to about 88 per cent by 2050 compared to 1990. This level of agreement between the country's two biggest political parties is astounding.

Meanwhile, several new coal-based power plants are in the pipeline. If implemented, they would compromise the reduction targets. A broad civil society alliance of more than 80 organisations and an increasing number of local initiatives are opposing these plans and organising mass protests on December 8, the Global Day of Action.

Have another fossil Japan

On Tuesday night during the SBI discussion the Japanese negotiator thanked *ECO* for the fossils it received. Today *ECO* happily says: "You are welcome - and here is another".

More importantly, though, *ECO* welcomes with great appreciation the clarification from the Japanese delegation that they have "no intention whatsoever of scrapping the Kyoto Protocol". Hear, hear!

Yesterday Japan won the second prize fossil at the Fossil of the Day Awards for its remarks on including nuclear energy in the CDM. Traditional powerhouse Saudi Arabia won first place for a series of contradictory statements while the EU won third place for endorsing the Global Environment Facility as the secretariat for the Adaptation Fund.

