

# 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.*

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## Memo to Australia: Google 'Climate Change'

In the last couple of days the new Australian Government has said it needs more time and information before committing to emissions constraints for 2020. But *ECO* is not really clear what "new" information they think they need? Seven months ago the now Prime Minister of Australia said: "The IPCC found that the level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere will need to be kept between 445-490 parts per million, in order to avoid the most dangerous impacts of climate change."

Since then, the IPCC has not changed its assessment that to do that requires aggregate emissions from countries like Australia to fall to 25-40 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020. What else is there to know?

And what additional information is needed to convince the new Australian Government that it is in Australia's interests to avoid temperature increases of 2°C? Australia's own Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) has identified the following impacts of climate change:

- 97 per cent of the Great Barrier Reef is bleached every year (i.e. functional extinction).
- 80 per cent loss of freshwater wetlands in Kakadu (30cm sea level rise) in the Northern Territory state.
- 89-123 per cent increase in temperature related mortality among people more than 65 years of age in the capital cities of Australia's states.
- Southward expansion of dengue transmission zone as far as Brisbane.

- Threshold for irreversible melting of Greenland Ice Sheet exceeded.
- Threshold for collapse of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet exceeded.

Are these not enough?

To help the government, *ECO* provides the URL for CSIRO's reports: <http://www.csiro.au/resources/pfbg.html>

## Techno-fix in Progress

The Contact Group on the Development and Transfer of Technology held its constitutional session yesterday under the SBI.

A room packed full of delegates and observers witnessed statements by G77&China that were substantial, provided concise positions and clearly indicated elements of a Bali package, including trust-building and concrete early activities.

G77&China introduced draft conclusion text containing paragraphs on the three "sticking points" on wider technology transfer – institutional arrangements, performance assessment of technology transfer and financing.

*ECO* was particularly impressed by the coherent and constructive performance of the G77&China and their citation of the IPCC. *ECO* was also pleased with the EU for the interest it showed towards the proposed negotiation text. Japan underlined the Convention as the right forum for discussion. And Argentina rightly pointed out linkages between the "building blocks"

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## Global Day of Action

While negotiations for a Bali Mandate continue in full swing, civil society is gathering worldwide to mark the third Global Day of Action against Climate Change.

Today, in more than 60 countries, events have been organised to take climate change action into the streets and to the masses – in the form of rallies, fairs, conferences and even cycle rides. All this, to send a strong message – that the time to act on climate change is NOW!

Here in Bali, local NGOs have organised several events in Denpasar. With the motto of Hari Raya Nyepi or "Day of Silence", the day kicks off at 9am with a community meeting at Wantilan DPRD Bali in Renon-Denpasar. Here, the people of Bali will speak on climate change. Later, a Cultural Parade for Climate Justice will showcase the importance of global solidarity in addressing this problem. Those interested in joining the parade are invited to the venue on Basuki

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## Review the CDM but Do It Right

The Swiss government's proposal for an overall review of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is a welcome initiative, given the wide range and seriousness of the criticism the CDM has attracted. Such a review should examine the CDM's effects on emissions in both Annex 1 and non-Annex 1 countries, and its other social and environmental impacts. Most important is the question of whether fundamental changes are needed to the CDM's structure and scope so that it effectively supports both sustainable development and decarbonisation in developing countries. The review should serve as a basis for improving the CDM in the first commitment period and informing post-2012 negotiations under AWG.

The review should include the following assessments:

- **Additionality:**
  - > additionality of the current portfolio of CDM projects;
  - > accuracy of current additionality testing procedures and the prospects of improving them given the inherent subjectivity;
  - > feasibility of accurately testing additionality on a project-by-project basis, or whether the CDM should be fundamentally expanded in scale.
- **High financial risks:**
  - > whether these have impacted the CDM's ability to change project development and lending decisions, and whether they compromise the CDM's ability to support good projects.
- **Sustainable development:**
  - > the social and environmental outcomes of CDM projects;
  - > procedures to prevent projects with substantial harm or human rights abuses from generating certified emissions reduction (CER) units;
  - > compliance with, or even adoption of, international standards for human rights, indigenous people's rights, free

and prior informed consent, and social and environmental safeguards.

- **Stakeholder consultations:**
  - > compliance with international standards for stakeholder consultations, such as those of the World Commission on Dams;
  - > meeting basic expectations for consultations, ensuring stakeholder awareness of the project and their access to project information.
- **Auditing the auditors:**
  - > whether DOEs have evaluated projects sufficiently conservatively and whether they have amply assessed the adequacy of stakeholder consultations and taken into account the results;
  - > whether the quality of validations would improve if the DOEs were hired by the CDM governance bodies or chosen randomly, to help avoid conflicts of interest in assessing additionality of clients' projects.
- **Perverse incentives:** By rewarding the most CERs to the highest emitters, the current CDM risks creating perverse incentives that inhibit actions to reduce lower emissions, or make high emitting projects, such as coal-fired power plants, more profitable and therefore more likely to be built.
- **Regional distribution:**
  - > Whether a pure market mechanism can result in an equitable distribution of projects, or whether other types of mechanisms are needed to support activities where the CDM does not reach.
- **Limited scope:** The types of projects that the CDM supports are limited: projects with measurable emissions reductions and not, for example, R&D. Do the types of projects included under the CDM match domestic development priorities? To what extent do they support the range of activities included in low-carbon development scenarios?
 

A review of the CDM has to address these important questions.

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such as technology and finance.

While vigorously pretending to be a leader on technology transfer outside the Convention, the US had nothing much to contribute apart from obstructive process considerations (for which it won a fossil), and trying to cage political issues within SBSTA instead of SBI with the argument of keeping the process "constructive and manageable". (For whom, *ECO* wonders...)

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Rachmat Road at 2pm.

As people in Bali gather in Denpasar and tens of thousands more take to the streets in other parts of the world for action on climate change, *ECO* expects their message to be loud and clear enough for the negotiators here to push harder for a successful outcome.

The world is carefully monitoring the developments in Bali.

## Even the Best is Not Good Enough

The climate change performance index (CCPI) 2008 was published yesterday, with Sweden ranking first, despite achieving only two thirds of the maximum score. While far from outstanding, it was sufficient for Sweden to beat the other 55 industrialised countries and emerging economies considered in the index.

The factors considered in the index, published by Germanwatch and Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe, were emissions trends (50% weighting), emissions levels (30%) and climate policy (20%), based on International Energy Agency emissions data and surveys of country experts for the more qualitative factors.

The top 10 performers for 2008 comprise European countries such as Germany (2), Iceland (3), Hungary (6), the UK (7) and Switzerland (9), as well as the major emerging economies of Mexico (4), India (5), Brazil (8) and Argentina (10). China's improvement in ranking since last year, from 54 to 40, scoring particularly well on climate policy, is consistent with its progressive approach in Bali.

When combined, the 56 countries evaluated in the index account for more than 90 per cent of global carbon dioxide emissions.

### "Fossil of the Day" Awards

Canada won first prize yesterday for refusing to take on absolute emissions reductions targets unless developing countries did so as well.

The US secured second place for bringing the Major Emitters (or as they call it, Major Economies) meetings to the Bali negotiations; this distracts other countries' negotiators from the real work to be done here.

Both the US and Canada were awarded third prize for refusing to accept the G77 draft proposal for technology transfer as the basis for discussion at the SBI Contact Group.

### NGO Party Tonight

The ever popular NGO Party will be held **tonight** from **8pm to 3am** at the **Beach Bar, Inna Putri Bali Hotel** (next to the Grand Hyatt Hotel). The conference badge has to be worn for admission. In addition to your dancing shoes you may wish to pack your bathers, as you will be between the swimming pool and the sea.