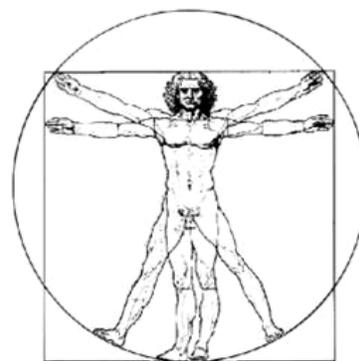

european capacity building initiative (ecbi)

for sustained capacity building in support of the
international climate change negotiations



THE 2005 OXFORD FELLOWSHIPS

The pilot round of the annual ECBI Oxford Fellowships was held from 18 to 30 September at Magdalen College, Oxford/UK. Eleven Fellowships were taken up by leading negotiators from nine developing countries: Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan, Turkey, and South Africa.

During the Country Visits, the Francophone Fellows visited a number of agencies of the French government, while the rest of the Fellows met with representatives of the UK Presidency (including a visit to No. 10 Downing Street), and – in the course of a visit to Stockholm – with officials of the Swedish government and with members of the Swedish climate change research community.

The time in Oxford was divided between, a ‘Fellowship Colloquium’ – where the Fellows had time to discuss topics chosen by themselves with a number of experts – and a two-day ‘Oxford Seminar’, where they met counterparts from the European Commission, Denmark, France, Germany, Portugal, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

Selected Discussion Highlights

The Fellowship Colloquium.

The topics chosen by the Fellows for discussion during the four day Fellowship Colloquium were ‘post-2012 mitigation issues’, ‘CDM: problems and solutions’, ‘Mainstreaming’, ‘Climate impact adaptation and response’ and ‘the larger picture’

Post-2012: The question of US participation loomed large in the discussion, a *sine qua non* for any ‘meaningful participation’ by developing countries on strongly felt grounds of equity. A lack of domestic public awareness of climate change, the need for sustainable economic growth, as well as the hugely disproportionate per capita emissions were also cited as obstacles to the acceptability of imposing emission reduction commitments or burdens. However, there was a general recognition that climate change will, and indeed already is affecting everyone (‘we are all in the same boat’). And

therefore there was consensus that the emissions of all major Parties had to be *addressed*, and a general willingness to cooperate in achieving this, provided that the burden is shared in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Clean Development Mechanism. The CDM was recognised as a potentially very important instrument in this context of addressing developing country emissions. But it was also felt that it still had considerable flaws, ranging from the lack of methodologies for certain key activities such as coal mining, the administrative bottlenecks, to the fact that the market-based distribution of projects is almost inevitably inequitable from a sustainable development point of view.

Mainstreaming. Prior to the Fellowships, the Fellows were asked to put together a brief on climate change decision making and mainstreaming efforts in their countries. These briefs informed the discussion of the issue during the Fellowship Colloquium, where particular importance was given to creating a coordinating unit for climate change policies in a mainstream ministry or even the PM’s office. A strong objection to the whole notion of ‘mainstreaming’ was raised when it is simply used as a way of imposing “conditionalities in disguise.”

Climate impact adaptation and response. Following expert presentations, the state of the art in climate as well impact and vulnerability science were discussed. This was followed by a discussion about adaptation funding, as well as the role of climate impact response measures in a post-2012 regime. It was emphasised that the post 2012 discussions should not be limited to mitigation issues, but should address the question of how to address adaptation and unavoids climate impacts in a more systematic manner.

The ‘Larger Picture’. The final morning of the Fellowship Colloquium was dedicated to a discussion of

broader issues, namely the workings of the UNFCCC and its synergies with other the Rio Conventions, and the issue of equity. Indeed, equity was one of the most strongly felt issue to be discussed, both during the Colloquium as well as during the social discussions outside it. Two issues were proved to be of particular interest. On the one hand the nature of the Principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities, as regards to sharing both mitigation and adaptation/impacts burdens, and the issue of per capita entitlements for assigned amounts.

Oxford Seminar

Apart from presentations on the working of the G77+China and the EU, the discussion during the Oxford Seminar focussed on two themes, namely the role of technology in engaging developing countries, on the one hand, and the nature of OECD Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), its relationship to climate change funding, to foreign direct investment, as well as to domestic investment, on the other. Key points raised in these discussions were:

- ✦ The design of a framework for technology transfer taking into consideration the difficult and often contentious issues of intellectual property rights and expectations of return on investment when aiming to remove “barriers” for technology transfer.
- ✦ The need for innovative solutions to the problem of integrating adaptation measures into domestic planning as well as to the problem of involving the *private sector* in providing the ‘new and additional’ funds needed for adaptation activities, given the limitations on ODA, let alone the climate change funds.

Country Visits

France. The French country visit proved to be a very useful part of the Fellowship Programme, particularly for the building of capacity and direct contacts with the main actors of the climate change process in France. The visiting Fellows got to know the consultation process set up in France to establish a country position. The country visit also gave the Fellows the opportunity to gather much more detailed information on funding facilities and procedures in France than before.

Sweden. After an introduction to Sweden’s climate policy, the theme of the discussion with the Swedish government partners was trust-building under the UNFCCC. It was recognised that there is still need for a great deal of trust-building between Europe and non-Annex I parties. One measure suggested was that it might be useful to invite G77+China ‘observers’ to some of the EU coordination meetings. The Fellowship also felt that it would help avoid an unnecessary erosion of trust if informal communications between contact groups would be conducted through the chairs, so as to avoid the perception of trying to undermine the working of the

groups, particularly those of G77+China, which due to their heterogeneity often have difficulties to reach a consensus as it stands.

A visit to the Swedish Environment Institute was used to discuss the use of economic instruments in climate change policy making, and its Director invited the Fellows to suggest research topics for the SEI to pursue.

United Kingdom. One of the key points of the visit to meet the partners from the UK government/EU Presidency was no doubt the clarification that the EU’s post-2012 aim of ‘deepening and broadening participation’ is aimed only at the Annex I non-Parties of the Kyoto Protocol, and not at developing country Parties. During the visit to the Prime Minister’s Office, the point was raised that – in the spirit of trust building – it might be desirable if there could be at least some representation of the poorest and most vulnerable countries present in the continuation of the Gleneagles Process.

The Way Forward

Although the most difficult to obtain – particularly at the level of expertise aimed at in the Fellowships – genuine trust building requires a certain investment of time, and it was acknowledged that for serious engagement, the duration of the Fellowships could not be substantially shortened. If anything, the Fellows expressed the wish that in future, one might be able to extend the time spend with their European colleagues, so as to enable them to be properly included in the trust-building exercise.

To facilitate this, it was suggested that the time of the Fellowships be moved to slightly earlier in the year, and that an effort be made to convince some of the European partners to participate slightly longer than one to two days, say by attending as Supernumerary Fellows

To facilitate the interaction of the Fellows beyond the duration of the Fellowships, a number of web-based activities have been suggested, such as e-mail lists, and a download library, to be managed by Fellows and participants interactively. It is hoped that a pilot version of these and other proposed facilities will be up and running by the end of this year.

Moreover, it is envisaged to hold a counterpart to the Oxford Seminar during the intersessional meetings of the FCCC Subsidiary Bodies in Bonn/Germany.

List of 2005 Fellows

Mohammad Reazuddin (Bangladesh), Mamadou Honadia (Burkina Faso), Sun Guoshun (China), Mama Konate (Mali), Manuel Estrada (Mexico), Julia Martinez* (Mexico), Saher Bano Walajahi (Pakistan), Mustafa Sahin* (Turkey), Haroldo Machado (Brazil), Abdul Hamid* (Pakistan), Muriel Dube* (South Africa).

* Supernumerary Fellow