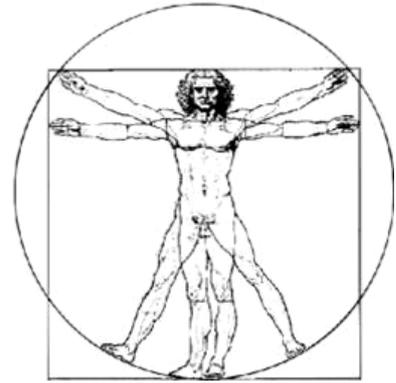

European Capacity Building Initiative (ecbi)

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



THE 2007 BONN SEMINAR



Altes Rathaus, Bonn

Following the 2006 trust-building activities, the ecbi Oxford Fellowship Programme organised the 2007 Bonn Seminar, with the aim of maintaining and strengthening the momentum of these activities, in particular the North-South component.

The 2007 Bonn Seminar was held on 13 May 2007 at the Historic Townhall ('Altes Rathaus') of Bonn. The time and place were chosen to link with the inter-sessional 24th meeting of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies. The format of the Seminar once again gave European delegates an opportunity to engage with past ecbi Fellows and provided an opportunity to draw into the process senior developing country delegates – particularly from Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

The 2007 ecbi Bonn Seminar was attended by 42 participants from 18 developing and 10 European Parties (see Box 1).

While drawing on the expertise of a number of resource people, the choice of topics of interest to be discussed at the Bonn Seminar was once again given to the participants during an introductory session. This included a number of the issues being negotiated at the intersessional SB26 meetings as well as broader and more forward looking topics.

After a lunch break, two discussion sessions were held. – the first on the integration of the climate change and development agendas of countries, chaired by Dr Saleemul Huq; the second on the way forward: Bali and beyond, chaired by Dr Benito Müller.

Integration of climate change and development

Dr Huq started off the debate by pointing out that there is a need to increase the awareness of the relevance of climate change within the development agenda of countries. The climate change issue is complicated and the available scientific information (e.g. from the IPCC) can be daunting: information materials need to be made more user-friendly.

Funding other than UNFCCC-based is becoming available (bilateral, multilateral and from NGOs). Donors are looking to 'climate proof' their development investments, checking the vulnerability of the areas in which they are based and that of the specific activities; they are looking at adaptation options, assessing their costs.

The participants from donor agencies briefly explained their activities in this area. The UK has carried out climate risk assessments in China, India, Bangladesh, Kenya and Ethiopia, and it plans – as part of the G8 Gleneagles Initiative – to address the

problem of deficient climate data which makes it difficult to assess climate risks, in Africa in particular.

The Netherlands is screening its development activities in Bangladesh. Bolivia and Ethiopia for climate change risks and using the opportunity to raise awareness among its development partners as well as within the Dutch administration. Denmark is doing the same in Vietnam, Tanzania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Uganda and Bangladesh.

Germany reported that it is now running bilateral projects on adaptation, e.g. in India. France is preparing two regional adaptation projects (Indian Ocean, West Africa) in which it is keen to integrate NGOs. Sweden is carrying out awareness raising activities, among others about the constraints imposed by climate change on development in partner countries.

In discussion, it was pointed out that the economic case for adaptation needs to be made when encouraging countries to integrate climate change considerations in their development agenda. This is best done as a demand driven exercise, while pointing out that investing in adaptation makes sense in maximising results of existing and future development activities.

The choice of energy sources and solutions is an important factor in developing countries' strategies for addressing climate change as part of their overall development. Information about the options should be disseminated and discussed as much as possible.

The participants then discussed the NAPA process and recalled that NAPA guidelines call for country level consultations and inclusiveness of all stakeholders, including development practitioners and mainstream ministries such as finance. Poverty Reduction Strategy Programmes (PRSP), Millennium Development Goals (MDG) should be taken into account in formulating NAPAs. With this in mind, the ecpi conducted 3 regional workshops for climate change negotiators and representatives of mainstream, mostly finance ministries. The next step in the NAPA process is to ensure that projects identified in the NAPAs link into in-country programmes and get the funding necessary to their implementation.

Several participants noted the lack of reliable climate change data, in particular in African countries. It was pointed out that these data,

although robust at global level, were less so at regional and not at all at national level.

The Way Forward: Bali and Beyond

The Adaptation Fund

At the time of the Seminar, negotiations on draft decisions with respect to the monetization of share of proceeds, project priorities and eligibility criteria were still ongoing but were expected to be finalised by the end of SB26. The remaining key issue, the operationalisation of the Fund remained was under discussion and not expected to be concluded during the SB26.

Some European participants expressed the view that what is of importance is to clarify exactly how the Fund is to be run, and the wish for the operationalisation of the Fund to be concluded in Bali. It was recognised that the Nairobi decisions on the AF's governance were still relatively general and in need of further specification. The decisions on the 'one-country-one vote' rule and on operating 'under the authority of the COP/MOP' were mentioned and it was pointed out that both left open a number of issues, such as the simple point of who is meant to constitute the constituency of the voting – the COP/MOP through its Focal Points, or some other UN based assembly?

Given the one key issue still outstanding, namely who should operate the AF – and the fact that only one institution submitted an interest to operate the Fund, namely the Global Environment Facility (GEF) – it cannot be surprising that the discussion on the issue of how the Fund should be managed turned to the institutional aspects and in particular, how the choice of institution would eventually be made.

'Bali package'

The discussion turned to future action in general, and what was often referred to, particularly by European participants, as the 'Bali package', i.e. the outcome of the forthcoming COP Session in Bali/Indonesia.

One of the questions posed at the beginning of that discussion was: what can be expected from the implementation of Decision 1.CP/10 (Buenos Aires programme of work on adaptation and response

measures) and what would be the role of adaptation in the post 2012 Kyoto regime?

The Adaptation Fund operationalisation, in particular, was seen as part of such a package, but that was clearly not felt to be sufficient: a wider 'adaptation component' should be agreed upon.

Agreement on the following issues was considered to be crucial to any package agreed upon in Bali: mitigation; adaptation; technology (current, future, R&D and transfer); deforestation, capacity building; financing. It was proposed that all issues related to adaptation be put into one item – to be brought to the high level segment of the COP. It was also suggested that post 2012, the adaptation levy should be applied to JI and ET.

One participant noted that the supply of adaptation funding should be complemented with monitoring and assessment of the progress achieved and that the UNFCCC was not equipped to perform that task.

Finally, it was pointed out by the European partners that the Bali COP should also prepare for the review of the Kyoto Protocol in 2008, which would provide an opportunity to re-examine the modalities of non Annex I countries' participation in mitigation efforts.

Reception at the Altes Rathaus

The event was concluded with a drinks reception, also at the Historic Town Hall.

Box 1. 2007 Bonn Seminar Participants

Klaus Radunsky	Austria	Alejandra Lopez	Mexico
David Lessole	Botswana	Julia Martinez	Mexico
Amougou Armathe	Cameroon	Naima Oumoussa	Morocco
Igor Tora-Kogadou	CAR	Uazamo Kaura	Namibia
Moussa Tchitchaou	Chad	Christine Pirenne	Netherlands
Adélaïde Itoua	Congo	Solange Bako Safi	Niger
Kadio Ahossane	Cote d'Ivoire	Ricardo Moita	Portugal
Frode Neergard	Denmark	Ines Mourao	Portugal
Ikaka Nzamio	Eq Guinea	Shaun Vorster	South Africa
Laura Schmidt	Eur Com	Mirjam Palm	Sweden
Juergen Lefevre	Eur Com.	Bubu Pateh Jallow	The Gambia
Nicolas Lambert	France	Fatou N'Deye	The Gambia
Paul Watkinson	France	PA Ousman Jarjiu	The Gambia
Claudine Moussounda	Gabon	Tugba Icmeli	Turkey
Lorenz Petersen	Germany	Jasmin Ogurucu	Turkey
Andrew Atuobi Boateng	Ghana	Jessica Troni	UK
Joseph Sylva Rep	Guinea	Saleemul Huq	ecbi
Emily Ojoo-Massawa	Kenya	Mikael Román	ecbi
Birama Diarra	Mali	Benito Müller	ecbi
Manuel Estrada	Mexico	Claire Parker	ecbi
Israel Laguna	Mexico	Izabela Ratajczak	ecbi