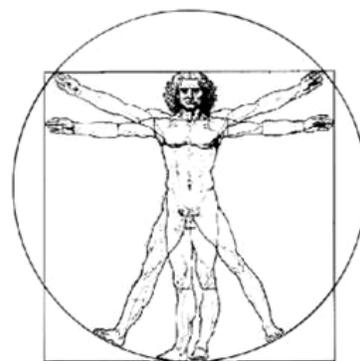

european capacity building initiative (ecbi)

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



2008 ecbi Regional Workshop for South and South East Asia

12-14 AUGUST 2008

MALE, MALDIVES



The ecbi Regional Workshop for South and South East Asia in Male was attended by participants from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam

Opening of the workshop



Before the opening of the workshop, participants listened to a recitation from the Holy Koran.

Dr Saleemul Huq welcomed participants to the workshop. He briefly outlined the objectives of the European Capacity Building initiative (ecbi): to build both capacity, and understanding and trust, between negotiators from developing countries and between developing country negotiators and their European counterparts. The initiative comprised three pillars; the Fellowship programme for senior negotiators; the workshop programme and the policy analysis programme. The workshops took place either just before a UNFCCC COP or in various regions in the period leading up to a COP and had so far received very positive feedback.



Dr Abdullahi Majeed, Deputy Minister for Environment of the Maldives welcomed the participants to the Maldives. He recalled that the ecbi was at the forefront of training climate change negotiators from developing countries and that the workshops run by IIED broadened the scope of these negotiators by providing them with expertise to devise strategies and form policies. Participants from UNFCCC delegations and from mainstream development ministries were given a better understanding of the issues and learned to engage more effectively.

Dr Majeed emphasised the importance of initiatives such as ecbi for countries like the Maldives, both an LDC and a small island state, which needed substantial help in view of their lack of resources compared to those of developed nations or larger developing countries.

The UNFCCC & Kyoto Protocol - key issues in the negotiating process from Bali (2007) to Copenhagen (2009)

Claire Parker, ecbi consultant, presented an overview prepared by FIELD of the main negotiating issues on the agenda of the UNFCCC process between now and December 2009, when it was hoped a post 2012 regime would be agreed upon.

The Bali Action Plan had established two tracks of negotiation: one under the Convention (in the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action, AWG-LCA) and one under the Kyoto Protocol (in the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments from Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol, AWG-KP). The AWG-LCA was the forum that regrouped all UNFCCC Parties and within which most of the issues directly relevant to developing countries were to be discussed. Four building blocks had been identified for the work of AWG-LCA: adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer and financial resources. The overarching principle was that of a 'shared vision' for a future regime.

After the presentation, and with the forthcoming negotiation sessions in Accra (21-27 August) and in Poznan (1 to 12 December) in mind, the resource persons gave participants – most of whom had no extensive negotiating experience- their views as to the importance of the various topics for developing countries in general and LDCs in particular. They also conveyed advice on how to tackle the intricate and often confusing negotiating process. In particular, they highlighted the role of the negotiating groups, and highlighted their importance for the individual negotiator, especially if he or she belonged to a small delegation. Ways to overcome the difficulties posed by small delegations were suggested, and the importance of continuity of people within delegations was emphasised.

The political history and current background to the items in the presentation was explained and discussed. Topics of particular interest among participants was the adequacy of a 2 degree C 'limit' on the increase of global average temperature; the adaptation levy on the CDM; the newly created Adaptation Fund; Some of these topics were discussed in detail later in the workshop.

The CDM: past experience and prospects for the new regime

Dr Benito Müller gave a presentation of the preliminary results of a Climate Strategies Project aiming at harnessing the views of two major developing country Parties -India and China- about their experience so far with the CDM and about its future post 2012. Both countries would by necessity have to be involved in shaping the CDM in the new regime. An inception workshop had been held in each country. It was a given that current modalities of CDM: project CDM 'bundling' CDM (whereby a number of small and similar projects were bundled and approved together) and programmatic CDM (whereby an open ended list of projects can be carried out after the 'type' of project has been approved) would continue to exist.



Sectoral (or enhanced) CDM- now under discussion but widely controversial, especially among developing countries, was only discussed in China. The Chinese workshop was organised by Tsinghua University in Beijing. Participants had identified 4 types of possible sectoral CDM: cap-based (one cap per sector); intensity-based (e.g. a cap per tonne of production); policy-based and technology-based. Of those, the Chinese team favoured intensity-based or technology-based. It identified potential problems: among others double counting (as a project and as part of a sector). An absolute target for any sector was unacceptable to China, as it was seen as a potential precursor of an overall GHG emissions target.

The Indian workshop was organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICI). Participants there highlighted the need for maintaining sufficient demand for CERs after any reforms of the CDM; there was concern about the EU's limitation of the use of CERs for achieving national targets. They also thought that the concept of additionality (both carbon and financial) needed to be reviewed. They were in favour of enhanced programmatic CDM to better tap the potential of smaller projects. Finally Dr Mueller explained that a new type of CDM was being envisaged, provisionally called CDM.

This had been devised to help respond to point II. B. ii in the Bali Action Plan, which calls for

'Nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity-building, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner' to be addressed.

The present CDM does not (necessarily) lead to global emission reductions and has not delivered on technology transfer or capacity building. The CDM+ would be designed to yield CERs that developed countries would have to 'retire' - i.e. not to sell- and which would be sold internationally to finance, in particular, technology transfer and capacity building (in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner).



Afterwards, the participants briefly exchanged experiences with setting up their administrative structure for CDM and with getting CDM projects approved by the host country and by the Executive Board. Unsurprisingly, the big countries had a far larger number of projects in the pipeline than the smaller ones. The uneven geographical distribution of CDM was again brought up.

Adaptation, Technology Transfer and Financial Flows

Dr Huq gave a brief introduction the issue of adaptation stood at within the process; it was being discussed in both SBSTA and SBI. Although funds had been established to cover adaptation projects (SCCF, LDC Fund, Adaptation Fund) these were insufficient and funding remained the most important issue to be resolved yet. Dr Mohammad Reazuddin (Bangladesh) gave a presentation on Adaptation, Technology Transfer, and Financial Flows in addressing Climate Change. He outlined a conceptual adaptation framework; ways to implement the action plans and the response strategies, as well as means to develop these strategies. He talked about technologies for adaptation and mitigation and about ways to advance technology transfer. He discussed the various proposals on the table for raising the funds needed.

Participants then discussed the state of progress of their adaptation plans as well as the advantages and disadvantages of the various funding proposals.

A European Perspective

Mr Fergus Auld, First Secretary at the UK High Commission in Delhi and in charge of climate change and energy, presented a European perspective on the current issues being debated within UNFCCC, and the UK vision for the post 2012 framework.



This vision had been informed by the scientific findings of the IPCC report and by the economic analysis of the Stern review, which showed on the one hand that the threat to mankind from climate change was more serious than had previously been envisaged and on the other hand that action now was less expensive than delayed action or non-action.

The EU's strategy was built around the target of limiting the increase in global temperature to 2°C above pre industrial levels; it consisted of a series of ambitious policy goals. The EU believed in leadership by annex I Parties but expected large G77 economies to undertake mitigation efforts. It had welcomed the recent South African strategy on climate change and appreciated the continuing Indonesian leadership. It saw the LDCs as important allies in promoting ambitious mitigation targets as part of the new regime. The EU viewed the market mechanisms as one of the crucial elements of the post 2012 regime, as they would deliver the funds necessary for the development of low carbon technologies and adaptation in the developing

countries. In discussion, it was pointed out that the EU hoped to see a change in US policy after the election of a new President, but it was pointed out that a new US negotiating team would not be in place before mid 2009. The US was -albeit slowly- also getting more aware of the adaptation needs of the developing world, and of the fact that developing countries were already taking action on climate change.

Issues of importance to LDCs – among others NAPAs, adaptation methodologies, the Nairobi work Programme on adaptation etc.

Mr Amjad Abdulla (the Maldives) presented issues of importance to the LDCs, in particular: adaptation, the NAPAs, the Nairobi work Programme on impacts and vulnerability and the implementation of Decision 1/CP.10 (Buenos Aires Plan of action on adaptation and response measures). From the discussion it emerged that the issue perceived as the most pressing by the LDCs was still to get concrete adaptation projects going on the ground, and to be able to access the funds available in a less cumbersome way. The NAPAs process had led to frustration among the LDCs, as the work involved in drawing up the NAPAs had not resulted in projects: this was partly due to insufficient available funding so far (\$150m in the LDC Fund), and partly to the procedures which required, and to the multitiered system established by the GEF for accessing the funds, which caused delays and a loss of funds through overhead expenditure.

Participants shared their experience with the NAPA process. They remarked that following the adaptation/adaptation finance issue in the UNFCCC process was a full-time task which required specialised negotiators.

Field Trip

Participants visited Guraidhoo island, which had been hit by the 2004 tsunami. Damage inflicted plus the effects of erosion as a result of sea level rise were clearly to be seen: for example, a helicopter landing strip had been broken and part of it had fallen into the sea. They also saw Hulhu Male, an artificial island which had been built to ease the overcrowding in Male itself, and was being populated.

Participants List

Mr Mohammad Reazuddin, Bangladesh, Department of Environment
Ms. Upik Sitti Aslia, Indonesia, Climate Change Division, Ministry of Environment
Mr. Amnu Fuadiy, Indonesia, Ministry of Finance
Ms. Yulia Suryanti, Indonesia, Ministry of Environment,
Mr. Amjad Abdulla, Maldives, Ministry of Environment, Energy, and Water
Ms. Geela Ali, Maldives, Ministry of Health
Ms. Fathmath Adam Manik, Maldives, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ms. Khadeeja Mohamed, Maldives, Ministry of Planning and National Development
Mr. Ahmed Rashid, Maldives, Ministry of Fisheries Agriculture and Marine Resources
Ms. Aishath Shimla, Maldives, Ministry of Fisheries Agriculture and Marine Resources
Mr. Purushottam Ghimire, Nepal, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology
Ms. Anoja Udaja Kumari, Nepal, Ministry of Environment, Science Technology
Mr. Mukti Narayan Paudel, Nepal, National Planning Commission
Mr. Muhammad Zahid Mustafa, Pakistan, Ministry of Environment
Ms. Chandani Renuka, Sri Lanka, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
Mr. Hoang Manh Hoa, Vietnam, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Mr. Le Tuan Anh, Vietnam, Ministry of Planning and Investment
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Dr Benito Müller, ecbi/United Kingdom, Oxford Climate Policy
Mrs Claire N Parker, ecbi/United Kingdom, consultant
Ms. Mariam Rashid, ecbi/Bangladesh, BCAS

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