

# CAPACITY STRENGTHENING IN THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCs) FOR ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE (CLACC)

CLACC NEWSLETTER

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Map of the 50 Least Developed Countries



## EDITORIAL

The last quarter of 2005 saw CLACC activities move a notch higher from fellowships to include action research in 12 LDCs. CLACC Fellows participated in a number of international and regional meetings, helped in coordinating the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) process in one of the countries and also managed to produce a number of publications on adaptation to climate change in line with the CLACC objectives.

## CLACC ACTIVITIES

### Climate Change and Human Health Research

CLACC held a five-day training workshop on climate change and human health in Kisumu, Kenya on 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2005. During the training, a common methodology was developed which is currently being used in the 12 LDCs (Least Developed Countries) to carry out research on climate change and human health. All the in-country Fellows identified health experts that they are working with in carrying out the research. Involving the health experts in the in-country studies is key in bringing to the attention of health experts and policy makers information that some health related problems are sensitive to climate variability and change. The studies will therefore try to link climate change players (e.g. environment ministries, CLACC Fellows) on one hand and health sectors players (e.g. ministry of health, public health officials) on the other hand.

The research, funded by the UK-Department for International Development (DFID) is focussing on diseases or health problems, which apart from being climate sensitive, are also important either nationally or in a specific region. Results from the studies will be presented at national workshops in mid 2006 to ensure that the information reaches policy makers and other stakeholders above all and to get their feedback on the results. The results from the 12 LDCs will then be synthesized and published in the second half of 2006.

Many of the CLACC fellows have hosted preliminary scoping workshops being the first stage of the project to bring key players in health, climate change and policy together.

### CLACC Team Meeting in Montreal

The CLACC team held a project meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2005, in Montreal, Canada, which was hosting COP11/MOP1 (see below). Also in attendance were the IIED director Camilla Toulmin, representatives from multilateral organisations and research organisations/networks. The team was briefed on where things stood in terms of resources and planned activities. Fellows also gave an update on on-going activities that they are involved in with a view to sharing experiences and strengthening the network. It was agreed

## Scoping workshop in Zambia

George Kasali reports on the initial outcomes of the scoping workshop in Zambia:

The initial workshop on climate change and human health had the objective of sensitising key stakeholders about the main issues and concepts pertaining to climate variability/change and human health, as well as seeking their input in developing a framework for the methodological approach to the implementation of the project.

The workshop was held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2005 at Woodlands Ash Lodge in Lusaka. George Kasali of Energy and Environmental Concerns for Zambia (EECZ) gave a presentation entitled "Overview of the Adaptation to Climate Change and Human Health Project."

As a consequence of the face-to-face meeting and the initial workshop, EECZ:

- Has been invited to sit on the National Steering Committee for National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) and the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) projects under the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources.
- George Kasali was invited to present a paper (Overview of Vulnerability to Climate Change and Variability Assessment Activities in Zambia) at the Stakeholders Inception Workshop on the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), held at Fringilla Lodge, Chisamba.
- Formed a team to implement the Country Study on Adaptation to Climate Change and Human Health project. The team comprises of a meteorologist, an epidemiologist and a climate change adaptation expert.

that CLACC could use the South-South-North Adaptation Protocol (SSNAPP) in subsequent phases. The CLACC website also went live during COP11. The website is one of the ways through which the programme shares its output with the international community to help countries deal with impacts of climate change. Due to the popularity of CLACC publications in the last COP, fellows will aim at producing country reports on climate change annually. All the reports will be posted on the CLACC website for wider dissemination.

## United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

### Major Outcomes of COP 11/ MOP 1

The high turnout during the last UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP 11), that took place from 28<sup>th</sup> November to 10<sup>th</sup> December 2005 in Montreal, Canada estimated at 10,000 plus delegates, showed the high expectation and hope participants had for progress or tangible results from this historic meeting which also served as the first Meeting of Parties (MOP). The main issues under discussion were how the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol would go forward. After long negotiations, parties finally agreed to further "non-binding" discussions under the COP as well as stronger commitments for the Kyoto parties under the protocol. This is considered to be a major achievement towards maintaining the momentum in moving forward the negotiations.

The targets and cuts agreed so far are recognized to be insufficient to prevent "dangerous" climate change from occurring and much stronger actions will be needed by all countries in future to avert the problem. This also underscored the need for more action and support to help the most vulnerable developing countries to cope with or adapt to the inevitable impacts of climate change. This is to be provided through a number of funds that had been previously created under the UNFCCC at COP7 in Marrakech, 2001. The operationalisation of these funds was also discussed in Montreal and there was considerable debate as to who should

operate them. They are currently managed by the Global Environment Fund (GEF), which most of the developing countries opposed.

Even though many developing countries appreciate the importance of technology needs assessment, there is a feeling that it is time for action and there is an urgent need for funding to ensure that the many findings/recommendations including those of the expert group on technology transfer are implemented.

## Pre-COP workshop for LDC negotiators

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD), under the European Capacity Building Initiative (ECBI) Project, held a two-day workshop before the COP started for negotiators from the least developed countries (LDCs) to prepare them for the upcoming COP negotiations. Over 35 negotiators attended the workshop, including Sumaya Zakiideen-CLACC Fellow for Sudan. The training included background presentations on the history of the negotiations and briefings on the agenda of the COP and MOP. This saw a pronounced increase in interventions during the following two weeks of the COP/MOP by the LDC delegates. CLACC Fellows are encouraged to attend such workshops whenever possible.

## Development and Adaptation (D&A) Days

CLACC Fellows also participated in the two day meeting organised by IIED and International Institute for IISD which was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of December, 2005. The D&A days which have now become a key side event during COP meetings attracted a very high number of practitioners and experts from different backgrounds including those from the development sector who have not engaged strongly with climate change debates in the past. The organizers particularly encouraged presentations from the developing countries, which were very interesting but also underscored the need to take action particularly on adaptation now rather than continue with long-drawn negotiations.

The need for an adaptation protocol and increased funding came out more strongly.

#### NGO side event in Montreal

The UK NGO Group on Development and Climate held a side event on December 8<sup>th</sup>, which was very well attended. The event was chaired by Andrew Simms of the New Economics Foundation (NEF) and Saleemul Huq of IIED. Panelists included Andy Atkins from Tearfund, Rod from Panos, Rachel from Practical Action, Stephanie from Friends of the Earth (FOE) and Victor Orindi from the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS). Many participants expressed interest in starting similar initiatives bringing together climate and development NGOs back in their countries as a way of moving forward climate change adaptation, particularly at the grass root level.

#### CLACC FELLOWS ACTIVITIES

CLACC fellows also participated in a number of activities outside the programme-an indication of maturity and ability to take new and more challenging roles at higher levels in the international climate change arena. Some of the activities and meetings which the CLACC fellows were involved in include:

##### (i) Munich Re Foundation Symposium

The Munich Re Foundation Symposium on "Worldwide Disaster Prevention- Awareness is Key" which took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2005 at the Akademie Schloss Hohenkammer, Munich, Germany, brought together around 100 experts and representatives from the field of politics, economics and science from both developed and developing countries. The goal of the symposium was to identify possibilities to improve global disaster assistance by finding out how international efforts can be better combined. This was done looking at the extent to which crucial issues such as risk awareness are implemented in disaster preparedness strategies and at the needs at the very "last mile", i.e., how disaster assistance can be further optimized to find sustainable and culturally adequate solutions.

A concept paper by international NGO representatives and community based personalities was put together and presented under the coordination of Christoph Bals of Germanwatch. Other contributors to the paper who also presented case studies during the plenary session on "Tailor-made solutions for International Disaster Prevention, Awareness and Preparedness in the developing World" include; Victor Orindi of ACTS, Kenya, Rosalinda Crescini-Tablang from Citizens Disaster Response Centre (CDRC), Philippines, Armie Almero, Centre for Relief and Rehabilitation Education and Economic Development (CRREED), Philippines and Eunice Mucache, Red Cross, Mozambique.

Participants later broke into three working groups and addressed risk management solution concepts and international strategies; financial disaster risk management solutions

in force - lesson learnt; and disaster assistance: challenges, innovations and solutions at community level. The workshop concluded with recommendations regarding the most urgent and cost-effective options for optimizing disaster preparedness. Richard Klein of Potsdam Institute also participated in the meeting. More information can be accessed from;

<http://www.munichre-foundation.org/StiftungsWebsite/TopicsAndProjects/DisasterPrevention/InternationalSymposium/default.htm>

##### (ii) Germanwatch Workshop on Climate Change and Poverty Reduction

The one day Climate Change and Poverty Reduction workshop organized by the Germanwatch and Brot fuer die Welt was held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2005, at the Gustav-Heinemann-Haus, in Bonn, Germany. Its aimed at focussing on the links between poverty reduction and the consequences of global climate change for development cooperation. Two members of the CLACC team- Richard Klein and Victor Orindi participated in the meeting where discussions focused on poverty reduction and climate change after the 2005 United Nations World Summit reviewing the MDGs' process; The 2005 G8-Summit in Gleneagles with special focus on Africa and climate change; links between climate change and food security and the need for action on the part of affected persons in developing countries. Experiences were also shared between the German and European development organisations regarding their activities with respect to adaptation to climate change and the political role of development cooperation in the climate debate. The workshop came with recommendations for national and international climate and development policy. For further details see [www.germanwatch.org](http://www.germanwatch.org)

##### (iii) NAPA Coordination in Bangladesh

The government of the people's Republic of Bangladesh has prepared and submitted a National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) as a response to the decision taken in the Seventh Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP7). CLACC Fellow –

Mozaharul Alam helped in coordinating the exercise and shares his experience. .

##### (iv) World Trade Organisation (WTO) Meeting in Hong Kong

Ben Twinomugisha - CLACC Fellow, Uganda attended the World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2005 in Hong Kong where 148 members of the WTO convened in an endeavor to accomplish what was left of the Doha round of negotiations by the end of 2006. At the beginning, negotiations appeared as bumpy as the road to the infamous Cancun where LDCs felt that the development dimension was missing. Civil Society protested about what they called undemocratic tendencies in the negotiation processes.

With lessons learnt from previous WTO negotiations, LDCs and developing countries came to terms to negotiate as a block. They actively pursued their interests under various groupings like the G-20 (headed by Brazil and India set up to put pressure on the EU and USA to reduce their export and domestic subsidies and export credits and thereby end dumping) as well as LDCs trade ministers. Nevertheless, WTO negotiations suffer sharp dissimilarities between the developing and developed countries. Some people believe that differences hinge around the reluctance of the developed countries to fully open their agricultural markets to the developing countries. The feeling by trade activists is that negotiations on the specifics of the formula for reduction in domestic support on market access are an attempt by the developed countries to protect their markets and disorganize agricultural trade. It is believed that while the interest of developed countries in agriculture is to protect their markets, their main interest in Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) is to open developing countries markets for their industrial products.

Some of the major outcomes cherished by LDCs include the agreement that developed and developing countries should provide duty-free and quota-free market access for products originating from least-developed countries by eliminating all forms of export subsidies for cotton in 2006. Developed

#### Experience with NAPA Coordination in Bangladesh

The formulation process included a number of organizations divided into six sectoral working groups to ensure that the process is not only participatory but also all inclusive. The six sectoral working groups included water, coastal area, natural disasters and human health, agriculture, fisheries and livestock, biodiversity, forestry and land use, industry and infrastructure, food security, livelihood and gender and those working on policies and institutions. The process included engaging stakeholders through organizing a sub-national level consultation workshop to gather knowledge on existing coping strategies and opinion on future actions to address adverse effects of climate change.

Wider participation of different organizations, individual experts and stakeholders enabled the process to benefit from their significant experiences in different fields. Such a wealth of knowledge and information on effectiveness of existing livelihood and coping strategies enriched the quality of the NAPA document produced. However, one of the key challenges experienced was how to bring up all individuals involved in the NAPA preparation to a common level of understanding on climate change in general and adaptation in particular. Differences in organizational mandate, sectoral expertise, training and awareness added to the challenge with sectoral groups having different climate related and non-related problems

countries will also give duty and quota free access for cotton exports from least-developed countries (LDCs) from the commencement of the implementation period in 2006. In terms of food aid, there also was consensus that what is to be eliminated is commercial displacement with members being urged to

move towards untied in-cash food aid only. Aid for trade should aim to help developing countries, particularly LDCs, to build the supply-side capacity and trade-related infrastructure that they need to implement and benefit from WTO agreements and more broadly to expand their trade. There was not

much gained in Hong Kong on the outcomes of the WTO with regards to the environment with only an acknowledgement of the work being undertaken in the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) in Special Session.

## CLACC Partners

Name	Organization	E-mail
Mozaharul Alam	BCAS	mozaharul.alam@bcas.net
Albertina Bambaige	GED	tynna@hotmail.com, office@ge.org.mz
Sidi Ould Ahmed Chein	Nouakchott,	tenmiya@toptechology.mr
Johannes Chigwada	ZERO	johannes@zero.org.zw
Krystel Dossou	OFEDI	krystod7@yahoo.fr
Thomas E. Downing	SEI	tomdowning.sei@gmail.com
Sumaya Zaki Eldeen	SECS	zakielts@yahoo.com
Saleemul Huq	IIED	saleemul.huq@iied.org
George Kasali	EECZ	eecz2002@yahoo.com, kasali_
Euster Kibona	EPMS	eusterkibona@yahoo.com, epms@bol.co.tz
Richard Klein	PIK	richard.klein@pik-postdam.de
Sari Kovats	LSHTM	sari.kovats@lshtm.ac.uk
Everhart Nangoma	CURE	e_nangoma@hotmail.com
Victor A. Orindi	ACTS	v.orindi@cgiar.org
Aminur Rahman	RDRS	aminur05@yahoo.com
Mizanur Rahman	CARITAS	sjmmrahman@yahoo.com
Bimal Raj Regmi	LI-BIRD	bregmi@libird.org
Hannah Reid	IIED	hannah.reid@iied.org
Oumar Sango	AMADE-PELCODE	
Dago Tshering	RSPN	dagot@rspn-bhutan.org
Ben Twinomugisha	DENIVA	twinomugishaben@yahoo.co.uk, btw@deniva.or.ug
Salimata Wade	ENDA	energy2@enda.sn, saly_wade@yahoo.sn

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