

Global Climate Campaign

“Chat” Conference, 15th April 2009

(A “chat” conference is done on ‘skype’ by taking turns to write on a kind of email that everyone can see simultaneously.)

Participants

Phil Thornhill	Campaign against Climate Change, UK
Fiona Dear	Campaign against Climate Change, UK (<i>moderator</i>)
David Heller	Friends of the Earth Europe
Nathalie Koerfer	Global climate Campaign India
Naveen Mishra	Global climate Campaign India (<i>joined late</i>)
Urszula Stefanowicz	Polish Ecological Club, Mazovian branch (FOE Poland), Climate Coalition Secretariat
Ilse Change	Milieu Defensie (FOE Netherlands)
Mariana Paoli	Christian Aid, UK
Iris	China Youth Climate Change Action Network (<i>joined late</i>)
Yupu Zhao	China Youth Climate Change Action Network (<i>joined at end</i>)
Mamadou Mbodji	Amis de la Nature, Senegal (<i>contributed report by telephone</i>)
Taren Stinebricker-Kauffman	Avaaz.org (<i>joined at end</i>)

Apologies

Constantinos Charalambous	FOE Cyprus
Namiho Matsumoto	Greens Japan / Midori Kansai, Japan
Felix Nieto	Globalizate, Climate Coalition, Spain
Tibanu Maximus	Romania
Mark Bossanyi	Climate Coalition, Bulgaria
Jonathan Neale	Campaign against Climate Change, UK
Ivo Verburg	Milieu Defensie (FOE Netherlands)
Thomas Meinert	Klimabevaegelsen (Danish Climate Movement)

1/ Reports - plans and prospects for the Global Day of Action on Climate, 12th December

David H Friends of the Earth are planning a “Flood for Climate Justice” in Copenhagen for 12th December (see further below)

Urszula S Nothing planned in Poland so far. PEC planned some feeder actions for the Copenhagen event and hoped to participate in the FOE ‘flood’ if they had the available resources. Fiona D noted that Elisiv from Pracownicza Demokracja has said she would report back when something was organised in Poland and Phil T noted that Malgorzata Kaminska had participated in the precious GCC (telephone) Conference Call.

Ilse C There was a national climate coalition in the Netherlands including Friends of the Earth, Oxfam , Greenpeace and many other organisations and they are going to organise a big event on the 12th December in Utrecht for maybe 20,000 people. It would be an ‘indoors’ event maybe something between an ‘action’ and a concert. There was also a possibility Dutch railways would organise a train to Copenhagen leaving after the event on the 12th. Milieu Defensie would also mobilise some people to be in Copenhagen, including for the event on the 12th.

Mariana P Christian Aid would be taking part in a big event in the UK on the 5th of December. They would also send 200 to 250 people to Copenhagen to take part in the events on the 12th and on the 13th. On the latter date Christian Aid were involved in organising an ecumenical service and an event for Christian and other faith groups.

Nathalie K / Naveen M There were plans for demonstrations all around India, with capacity building going on with grass roots groups and a petition campaign.

Mamadou M *(as transmitted to the chat by Phil to whom Mamadou spoke over the phone)* They will be organising a bigger event this year in Senegal - they have done an event with hundreds of people for the last two years already. It has been at a village 18 km from Dakar near their HQ. but this year they hope to do it on the Central Boulevard in Dakar if they get permission and if not at the University. Mamadou has been to a meeting of Friends of Nature in France and as the chairman of Friends of Nature Africa is encouraging other people to get involved on 12th December. He says that the following countries will be involved - Mali, Gambia, Guineau (Conakry), Burkina Faso, Togo and Cameroon. He is ramping up his effort through the year including using a local radio station and he hopes to be in Copenhagen himself for the Talks in December

Iris said they had been involved in the GDA for the last two years in China and they were now planning to organise for 12th December.

Belgium and the UK David H noted there would be big event in Belgium on the 5th December. Phil noted that they were doing their national event on the 5th, the Saturday before the COP (and one week before the main GDA on the 12th) so that they could concentrate on sending people to Copenhagen on the 12th. The same was true in the U where the demo should be the biggest one organised yet.. In Belgium they planned to surround the European parliament.

Australia Fiona and Phil noted that Australia was going to do its annual “Walks against Warming” on the 12th December – previously these had mobilised more than a hundred thousand people so there was lots of potential there !

Phil said he had had a chat with Dylan Penner in Ottawa, Canada – a major preoccupation for them right now is the Kyoto Plus campaign. They have a very retrograde Prime Minister in Harper so they are also focussing on trying to minimise the damage he might do to the Copenhagen negotiations. No definite plans for 12th December yet as such but its definitely on the radar and previously they have had demonstrations in over 30 places around Canada with up to 4,000 or so in Toronto and other substantial ones in Ottawa, Montreal, Vancouver etc.....

Fiona D said that, on behalf of the Global Climate Campaign, she had been getting in touch with organisations that coordinated events for the last day of action to find out what they’re planning, so far have receiving positive responses from: Albania, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Ghana (planning massive carnival), Jordan, Kenya, Nepal, Portugal, Romania, Russia (maybe) and Scotland. She was also in ongoing contact with Latin American countries and Bolivia, Peru, Argentina were looking good and Brazil more promising than last year.

2/ Building the GDA around the world: ideas for international outreach

Nathalie K suggested producing a short quirky video to publicise the GDA.on u-tube.

David H said Friends of the Earth will possibly be producing a kind of handbook for FOE groups (in more than 70 countries) with ideas for mobilisation work around Copenhagen (in the run up to the COP, and coming to the FoE action at the COP). He said they could include the idea to do something on the GDA for those who couldn’t get to the COP and Fiona said that would be great if they could.

Marana P asked if there was any kind of toolkit or something to help mobilise people for the GDA. Fiona replied there was a “guide to organising a demo” and invited people to contribute improvements to it. Marianna asked if there was any common symbol and Fiona mentioned the GCC logo, which has been used extensively around the world on previous GDAs

Ilse C suggested capitalising on the ‘350’ international day of action in October to try and encourage all the groups involved in that to also do something on the 12th.

4/ Regional networking and cooperation

Fiona D said they had been organising a regional conference call or chat for Latin America for a year now. She suggested organising a regional conference for South + East Asia.

Naveen and **Iris** said this might be a good idea and Iris said she might be able to invite AYACN, the Indian Youth Climate group, headed by John from Global Citizen.

Phil mentioned that there had already been some European Conference Calls – on an irregular basis.

5/ Upcoming events

a) International demos/actions focussed on climate and the upcoming COP

Phil said there were several events or demonstrations in the lead up to the Copenhagen Talks There was a risk that in some cases these events might divert attention from the 12th but if we coordinate with them well we can use them to actually build the 12th December bigger –as the day for the biggest mobilisation and ‘show of strength’ for the global demand for action and justice on climate change The events included (1) the Dia de Madre Terra which had been organised by a coalition of First Nations since 1992 and was taking place on October 12th this year, (2) Stand Up Against Poverty on October 17, organised by GCAP for millions of people to confront global poverty and climate change. (3) the 350 Day on October 24th with actions in every country, all depicting the number ‘350,’ as a symbol for climate safety.

b) Events useful for networking / building for the 12th

Phil said there would probably be someone from CCC going to the G8 (July 8th-10th), to wherever the ‘alternative’ events were being held, probably in Sardinia,

Mariana said there was a Climate Camp being organised at the Bonn UNFCCC Session (June 1st -12th) by a youth wing of GCCA (Global Campaign for Climate Action, an international climate coalition with GCAP, WWF, Greenpeace etc. etc.). David said there would be 30 people from Young FOE going.

6/ Copenhagen 2009

a) Organising a mass demonstration and other activities in Copenhagen during the COP

David H said the Friends of the Earth “Flood for Climate Justice” in Copenhagen on the 12th would end with a ‘spectacular’ in a main square of the city featuring a human banner. They were happy to work with others supporting their ‘climate justice’ demands.

Phil said that the main march would probably go from Christianborg (the Danish parliament) to the Bella Centre. This was being organised by the Danish Climate Movement and others in an open process [now going under the name 12th December Initiative – see www.12dec09.dk] Phil and David agreed that it was important to make sure that the Foe event and this were coordinated properly together – this could be a problem in terms of allowing both events enough time.

Phil also passed on a report from **Thomas Meinert** in the Danish Climate Movement about (1) the “Klimaforum” (Climate Forum during the 2009 COP) - the venue is not settled yet, but meetings between the City of Copenhagen, Klimaforum, 92-group (general coalition of Danish environmental NGOs) and others are planned. Next key meeting at April 23. The resources for all the planning is not yet settled, but he was informed that Klimaforum and PCA (People’s Climate Action – actually a COP-focussed umbrella group of NGOs etc) held a meeting today about some agreement, which is positive.
- and (2) Accommodation during COP15 - there were meetings planned between the logistics group of Klimaforum, Wooloo, 92-group and PCA.

b) Organising transport to Copenhagen from around Europe

Phil reported that there had been a meeting in Brussels to organise a ‘Eurotrain’ to Copenhagen for the weekend 12th-13th, attended by people from the UK (Phil and Fiona) , Belgium, France, The Netherlands (Ilse C) and Germany. Both the Belgians and French had gone to look into the possibilities with their respective railway companies whilst FOE in the UK was looking into ‘Eurostar’. So far the Belgians had come up with a concrete proposal from the Belgian railways –the offer had been communicated to Phil by Jean-Francois Pontegnie from Climate et Justice Sociale in Belgium, as follows :

- “ 1. we have 8 wagons with 80 seats each
2. we leave on Friday the 11th and come back on Sunday the 13th; we still have to fix the hours with the Belgian railway company. We will sign the contracts at the end of April
3. maybe there is a need to take a bus from Odense until Copenhagen (because the Belgian train is not adapted for a futher transfer/tunnel ..)
4. the price for the return journey is 158€per person all inclusive; that makes a total amount of 101.000€
5. we are now waiting for our English friends to tell us how many places they want:
6. we can still ask for 3 more wagons (3 times 80 seats) but it's not completely certain we can get them
7. we are trying o get a better price by negotiating with the NGOs and the railway company (proposing to make publicity for them) and maybe we can get some help from the environment minister “

7/ Evaluation of the chat and date of next Conference chat or call

Mostly people felt it worked quite well and it was decided to go for May 12th as the provisional date for the next chat.