

India Climate Watch

Spotlight on India and the climate negotiations



Issue 6

September 2009

Published by
Centre for Social Markets

Inside this issue

From the Editor's Desk

Page 1 ▶

India Shifts on Climate

Page 1 ▶

UN Climate Summit

Page 2 ▶

Major Economies Forum

Page 3 ▶

G20 - Pittsburgh

Page 4 ▶

AOSIS Summit

Page 5 ▶

Kathmandu to

Copenhagen

Page 6 ▶

Foreign Visits to India

Page 7 ▶

South Asian Youth

Climate Forum

Page 9 ▶

MoEF and McKinsey GHG

abatement reports

Page 10 ▶

From the Editor's desk

With the start of the UN General Assembly in New York this month being heralded by the UN Climate Summit at Secretary-General BAN Ki-Moon's instigation, the UN system is now in full campaign mode on climate change. In an unprecedented move, the UN has adopted a 'Seal the Deal' campaign emphasizing the need to finalise a global deal on climate change at the UNFCCC talks in Copenhagen this December. After years of diplomatic neutrality, the UN has become an NGO and is campaigning hard on climate change. Across the UN system, bodies ranging from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to UNICEF, the UN's children fund, have taken on the 'Seal the Deal' logo and all major UN documents are being badged with the logo to drive home the message that 2009 must be the year of action on climate change.

The message has been taken on institutionally and has been driven forth determinedly by the Secretary-General. But have the UN's 192 member states taken it on board? If the response to the BAN Ki-Moon's call for head of state

Continued on Page 2

India Shifts on Climate

On 11 September 2009, at a business conference in Delhi, in the presence of the visiting Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen, Jairam Ramesh, India's environment minister, said it was time for India to stand up and be counted. He said India would "unilaterally and voluntarily" take "bold new responsibilities" to take targeted CO2 emissions cuts, something it has "evaded doing in the past". Gone was the taboo of mitigation. The Minister ran through a number of current and planned measures under the Government's National Action Plan on Climate Change that could reduce emissions by promoting a shift to renewable energy and energy efficiency. Measures included generating power from clean coal technology; 15-20% of total energy generation from renewable energy (excluding hydro); new efficiency requirements for appliances by 2010; fuel efficiency norms by 2012; reducing emissions from agriculture; and ensuring compliance of public buildings with energy conservation laws by 2012.

All of these were designed to show that India was moving and recognised the importance of reducing emissions as it grew its economy in the years to come to provide development for its people. Ramesh revealed that the government was considering laws on mitigation modelled on the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, domestic legislation that had set a defined band for government deficits. He was apparently reviewing draft legislation which would set broad 'indicative' targets, not mandatory targets, for the five most polluting sectors of the Indian economy. This

Continued on Page 2

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From the Editor's desk

attendance at the UN Climate Summit was any indication, then there is a slow gathering of political interest by leaders. 150 heads of state responded to his call, making it the largest gathering of world leaders on climate change in history. An encouraging sign. But had the location been Washington DC instead of New York, there might have been more impact. It is the 100 Senators seated in the US Capitol who need to see that the world is moving on climate change. It is time they did too.

Continued from Page 1

India Shifts on Climate

(Continued from Page 1)

would, he said, amount to India having “a legislative agenda for mitigation which will bring credibility to the actions via domestic political consensus.” The emissions would be quantified and monitored domestically with the resultant figures shared with the rest of the world.

Ramesh's words were a stunning reversal of government policy and were part of a pattern of growing reforms within his Ministry. In his first 100 days in office, Ramesh has gone on the front foot with a series of initiatives to improve communication. The GoI's submissions to the UNFCCC climate negotiations have been bundled into one omnibus document. His ministry has released a report on the role of India's forests in carbon sequestration – part of the REDD+ offensive. The results of five modeling studies on India's GHG emissions have been published with a call for the report to spark discussion and debate. Good communication moves and a shift away from the previous closed culture of the ministry.

It is in this context of making good on his promise to be the new broom that sweeps clean that his September 11th remarks should be seen. These were not off the cuff comments. This was a deliberate statement made in presence of the Prime Minister of the host country of this year's Climate Summit. The message was clear India was in the game and ready to play. It was time to shake off India's reputation as being negative, defensive and obstructionist in the negotiations. In Ramesh's words “we are proactive, constructive, we want a fair and equitable agreement in Copenhagen”.

This is abridged from 'Jairam finds his voice – India shifts on climate policy'. The full article can be found on the CCI Portal in the 'Honest Opinion' column: www.climatechallengeindia.org

UN Climate Summit

On 22nd September, the UN launched an unofficial week of climate activities in New York. The day prior – 21 September – had seen the first Global Day of Action on climate change organized by the TckTck coalition, 350.org and other activist groups. With a coordinated global ringing of alarm clocks citizens around the world issued a 'Global Wake-up Call' to world leaders to take action on climate change.

The UN's Climate Summit marked the largest ever gathering of heads of state on climate change. The Secretary-General, BAN Ki-Moon, had called the Summit as an unprecedented moment to raise political will ahead of the Copenhagen climate summit in December. According to the UN, 150 countries participated in the Summit. In his Chairman's Summary at the close of the day, BAN Ki-Moon said: “Today marked the moment when the political momentum has shifted in favour of sealing a fair, effective and ambitious global climate deal in Copenhagen.” He highlighted five key issues in the climate negotiations that constituted areas of convergence among leaders present at the UN Summit: “A package on adaptation; ambitious mid-term mitigation targets by industrialized countries; supported actions by developing countries to slow the growth of their emissions; scaled-up financing and technology support to unlock investment and catalyze green growth; and equitable governance that address the needs of developing countries.”



The day had opened with a high-level line-up of heads of states and celebrities. The UN Secretary General was joined by the presidents of the USA, China, France, the Maldives and Costa Rica, along with the prime ministers of Japan, Rwanda and Sweden. Two Indians joined them on the opening panel, Dr RK Pachauri, head of the IPCC and 13-year old schoolgirl Yugratna Srivastava from Lucknow, representing global youth.

Obama's UN damp squib

One man's speech was perhaps more eagerly awaited than any other. President Barack Obama made his debut speech at the United Nations at the Climate Summit. However, despite high expectations, the President Obama cut a disappointing figure. Facing one hundred heads of state, he was unable to commit to leadership on something that BAN Ki-Moon called the "pre-eminent geopolitical and economic issue of the 21st Century." The President's speech was aspirational but vague. There were no targets and no numbers – either on emissions cuts or climate finance. This time the soaring rhetoric was not matched by substance.

Others did much better. Japan's new premier, Yukio Hatayomo, catapulted his country onto the climate A-list with promised emissions cuts of 25% by 2020 – up 17% from previous figures – and substantial new and additional finance to help poor countries fight climate change. President Nasheed of the Maldives, a nation on the frontlines of climate extinction, committed to make his country carbon neutral within a decade. China's President Hu Jintao, stopped short of the grand announcement that had been anticipated by many, but spoke of the momentous investments the country was making into resource conservation and energy efficiency. China is now the largest producer of renewable energy in the world and the President promised to cut CO2 emissions per unit of GDP by a "notable margin" by 2020 at 2005 levels

India at the UN Summit

With the exception of the visible presence of Dr Pachauri and Yugratna Srivastava at the opening of the UN Climate Summit, India's presence was low-key to virtually invisible. The country was not represented at head of government or head of state level, instead the Indian Delegation was led by Foreign Secretary, S M Krishna, accompanied by MoEF Minister Jairam Ramesh. India was not noted as one of the participants in the two parallel sets of Roundtables held during the Summit for participating governments. Indian business was, however, represented in the private sector session of the day and both Dr JJ Irani, Chairman of Tata Sons, and Pramod Chaudhari, CEO of Praj Industries, engaged actively in addressing the role of business on climate change.

Major Economies Forum

The Major Economies Forum is a Bush-administration legacy that has been continued by the Obama Administration. President Obama announced the launch – or rather resumption - of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate on March 28, 2009. According to the US, the Forum is "intended to facilitate a candid dialogue among major developed and developing economies, help generate the political leadership necessary to achieve a successful outcome at the December UN climate change conference in Copenhagen, and advance the exploration of concrete initiatives and joint ventures that increase the supply of clean energy while cutting greenhouse gas emissions."

The 17 major economies participating in the Major Economies Forum are: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Collectively they account for upto 80% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Denmark, in its capacity as the President of the December 2009 Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the United Nations have also been invited to participate in this dialogue.



Major Economies Forum (continued...)

The US was host to the latest monthly round of MEF meetings on September 17-18, 2009. Todd Sterns, Special Envoy for Climate Change headed the US participation at the MEF in Washington DC and Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs Michael Froman served as chair. The Indian delegation was led by the Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Climate Change, Shyam Saran, and this was the first meeting since the MEF at leaders level took place on July 9, 2009 in L'Aquila, Italy.

As media participation is restricted and little information on the proceedings is made public, the actual deliberations remain secret and speculation tends to pass for informed comment. What is apparent is that the MEF has not as yet developed as an external Forum outside of the UNFCCC's strictures which can be used by participant countries to push for greater progress than possible within the highly-politicized UNFCCC. The next MEF meeting is to be hosted by the British and may see greater transparency as to both the substance of the discussions and the outcome of the proceedings.

Continued from Page 3

G20 - Pittsburgh

As part of two weeks of international climate change events, the US was host to the G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh, PA, on 24-25 September 2009. The Pittsburgh Summit was themed around green jobs and green recovery and suitably held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, the world's first and largest green convention center. At the G20, the world's financial representatives and leaders came together to discuss economic policies and address the global financial crisis. Although climate change was on the agenda, very little progress was made. While advance was expected to be made on the thorny issue of climate finance, countries such as China declined to engage in such discussions outside of the UNFCCC. While the US sought to use the Summit to make progress in addressing fossil fuel subsidies, India was far more interested in addressing the global financial crisis.

The eventual Communique issued out of the G20 at Pittsburgh consisted of 7- paragraphs. The relevant sections of the paragraphs on energy and climate change were as follows:

On fossil fuel subsidies, the key sections are as follows:

"We commit to rationalize and phase out over the medium term inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption. As we do that, we recognize the importance of providing those in need with essential energy services, including through the use of targeted cash transfers and other appropriate mechanisms. This reform will not apply to our support for clean energy, renewables and technologies that dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We will have our Energy and Finance Ministers, based of their national circumstances, develop implementation strategies and time frames, and report back to Leaders at the next Summit. We ask the international financial institutions to offer support to countries in this process. We call on all nations to adopt policies that will phase out such subsidies worldwide."

"We request relevant institutions, such as the IEA, OPEC, OECD and World Bank, provide an analysis of the scope of energy subsidies and suggestions for the implementation of this initiative and report back at the next summit."



The key sections on climate finance, read:

"As to financing we think the following principles should be explored as a resource to the UNFCCC negotiations:

Green growth is indispensable to sustainable growth.

Effective and efficient finance to address climate change must be integrated with development planning, policies, and investments.

Public and private financial resources to support mitigation and adaptation in developing countries need to be scaled up urgently and substantially, with public resources utilizing a variety of delivery channels and drawing upon the expertise of existing institutions.

Carbon markets need to be improved, in terms of their development, oversight, and expansion.

It is important to consider means to leverage private sector investment.

We welcome the work of the Finance Ministers and direct them to report back at their next meeting with a range of possible options for climate change financing to be provided as a resource to be considered at the UNFCCC negotiations in Copenhagen."

Given the significance of a good deal on climate finance to the possibility of a good deal at Copenhagen, these conclusions now raise the stakes for the remaining high-level finance minister meetings that take place before the UNFCCC meeting in December. Namely the EU finance ministers meeting in October and the next G20 Finance Ministers meeting in November.

AOSIS Summit - 1.5 to stay alive

Bahamas. Maldives. Mauritius. Cyprus. Seychelles. Papua New Guinea. No longer are the names of these countries associated with exotic locations, white sands and tourist destinations. They are now associated with island survival in the face of climate change. States such as the Maldives, the Bahamas and Kiribati are so low-lying that the adverse effects of climate change will threaten their very existence. Sea level rise by even 1 meter above current levels will inundate coastal zones, make drinking water saline, impact agriculture and fishing, and affect infrastructure now and in the future.

The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) is a coalition of 43 small and low-lying coastal countries that have the most to lose from global climate change and have come together to assert their interests. AOSIS nations are pushing for the latest science to be incorporated into global policies to prevent dangerous climate change. This includes stronger mitigation commitments and a greater sense of urgency.

AOSIS held an agenda-setting Summit on 21st September in New York, one day ahead of the UN Secretary General's Climate Summit. At their Summit, AOSIS heads of state signed a joint declaration urging the world to act quickly and substantially on climate change, and to limit temperature increases "well below" 1.5°C.

Tillman Thomas, Prime Minister of the Grenada said "We see climate change as a threat to our survival... and failure by rich countries to act would be tantamount to a kind of benign genocide".

The AOSIS summit was a key opportunity to highlight the vulnerability of small island developing states (SIDS), but also to express the high level of disappointment within AOSIS member states at the "apparent lack of ambition" within the negotiation process. They called upon the international community to take "urgent, ambitious and decisive action" that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and protect vulnerable countries, communities, cultures and ecosystems from the impacts of climate change.



AOSIS Summit - 1.5 to stay alive (continued...)

AOSIS along with the group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are now the two major negotiating blocks at the UNFCCC calling for environmental integrity, and asking for the atmosphere to be placed before markets and money on the list of things 'to prioritise' at climate negotiations.

Despite being among those least responsible for the climate crisis, AOSIS and LDC states have quickly become the moral voice of the negotiations, pushing for the highest level of ambition, the largest emission cuts, and the smallest degree of temperature rise.

Despite the grave tone of the Declaration, Vice-Chair of the AOSIS summit, President Mohammed Nasheed of the Maldives addressed the UN climate summit the following day and called on world leaders to seize the opportunity, and focus on what countries can do. He asked for "island survival" to become the benchmark for climate change mitigation success. Arguing that negotiations have, until now, revolved around a "prohibitive list", he pushed for fresh thinking and positive lists that would change the nature of negotiations and herald real change. An overview of reports appearing in the Indian press on key climate-related issues:

Kathmandu to Copenhagen: Addressing climate risk

The Government of Nepal hosted a South Asian regional climate change conference, "From Kathmandu to Copenhagen: A Vision for Addressing Climate Change Risks and Opportunities in the Himalaya Region" on August 31 – September 1, 2009 in Kathmandu, Nepal. This was part of a Joint Initiative of the Government of Nepal, Department for International Development (DFID), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), and the World Bank.

The focus of the regional conference was the South Asia Himalayas which comprise the world's highest mountains, store the largest body of ice outside of polar region and are the source of some of the world's greatest rivers, fed by the monsoon. These rivers supply the world's most densely populated flood plains, settled by over 700 million people in the region. Since the region shares geological formations such as, the Himalayas and river basins, natural hazards frequently transcend national boundaries. Over 50 percent of South Asians - more than 750 million people - have been affected by natural disasters in the last two decades. With climate change, the frequency and incidence of such natural disasters is projected to increase.

The conference was attended by ministers, parliamentarians, government officials from the seven regional nations, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Kyrgyz Republic. Other participants included NGOs, academic bodies, development partners and media.

The conference sought to provide a forum for countries in the Himalayan region to share knowledge and experience about common risks that climate change brings, and the immense development opportunities that could be fostered. There was also an attempt to develop a common message to the global community on regional climate change challenges. The conference also stressed the need to translate the principles of 'common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities' and historical responsibility of the developed countries as envisaged in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) into operational practice. The conference noted that the world had spent more on corporate/financial bailouts than on promoting sustainability and addressing climate change.



Kathmandu to Copenhagen: Addressing climate risk

The conference resulted in the following key outcomes:

All attending nations agreed a Vision Document for addressing climate risks. The document states: South Asia including Hindu Kush-Himalayan (HKH) region is a climate change hot spot and highly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change especially water resources. The South Asian countries must therefore come together to fill the knowledge gaps through collaborative actions and shared research aimed at enhancing capacity building to enhance their climate change responses through SAARC and other institutions as agreed. The document also states that enhanced climate change responses require additional financial and technical resources which should come from Annex 1 Parties to the UNFCCC and Development and transfer of clean technologies should not be constrained by the high upfront costs of intellectual property rights. It further asks for recognition and payment for credits from the forestry sector must include a comprehensive approach to sustainable management and conservation of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

In addition, fourteen donor agencies signed an agreement (Compact on Climate Change in Nepal) to support the Government of Nepal in its fight against climate change. The compact outlines 7 principles of participation between the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Environment and development partners on ways to address climate change challenges. The agreement will support the government of Nepal to implement a series of actions designed to (a) identify and assess climate risks, particularly to the most vulnerable people and sectors, (b) elaborate, test and implement adaptive responses, and (c) establish the basis for a climate resilient economy.

It was also announced that the Global Ministerial Conference of the mountain countries will be held in Kyrgyz Republic in 2010 to discuss on issues of cooperation in the post-Copenhagen period.

Foreign Visits - Danish and British dignitaries visit India

Danish premier visits Delhi for climate talks

Danish Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen visited New Delhi from September 10-12, 2009 in preparation for the UN climate conference in Copenhagen later this year.

Premier Rasmussen held talks with his counterpart, Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, along with Minister for External Affairs S. M. Krishna and Minister of State for Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh. During the meeting, India and Denmark signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on mitigation of energy emissions and transfer of green technology. Denmark is a world leader in solar, wind and other renewable energy sources and a pioneer in promoting green technologies

Mr. Rasmussen also met Dr. RK Pachauri, Chairman of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to discuss the Road to Copenhagen. He stated that India's views are extremely important both because of India's climate change challenge, but also because India is home to 17 percent of the Earth's population.

Finally, recognizing important role of industry in tackling the climate challenge the Danish premier hosted a business seminar on the opportunities for India in a 'Green Economy' in cooperation with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII). Minister of State for Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh and Shell India Chairman V.S. Mehta joined Mr. Rasmussen on the panel.



Foreign Visits - Danish and British dignitaries visit India (continued...)

Mr. Rasmussen welcomed India's stand on climate change but hoped that all countries would come to an agreement by the year-end. He told delegates at the CII event: "The Indian approach is very ambitious. It goes hand in hand with fighting poverty. We cannot ask you in developing countries to take on the responsibilities. You have your obligations."

UK Ministers - Edward Miliband and Douglas Alexander visit India & Bangladesh

British Minister for Energy and Climate Change, Edward Miliband, and the Minister for International Development, Douglas Alexander, came on a two-day joint ministerial visit to Bangladesh and India to get support for a climate deal that is fair to the region's economy and its people.

Highlights of the Bangladesh trip included:

The Ministers attended the launch of the British Council's International Climate Change Champions Project. The Ministers called on H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh and the members of the cabinet. The Ministers visited an island in Sirajganj and met some of the people most directly affected by severe storms and extreme weather and saw how they are adapting their homes and livelihoods to live with climate change.

In India, the two young Ministers visited Kolkata and Delhi. Highlights of the Kolkata (India) trip included:

The Ministers visited a slum improvement project supported by Department for International Development. They also explored India's first solar housing complex in Kolkata.

Highlights of the Delhi (India) trip included:

In Delhi, the Ministers held talks with their Indian counterparts on a wide range of issues on climate change and development.

They met Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission; Rahul Gandhi, MP; Jairam Ramesh, Minister of Environment and Forests; and Shyam Saran, PM's Envoy on Climate Change among others.

They also took a Metro ride to learn more about Delhi's green transport initiatives along with youth representatives of IYCN.

Ministers also gave a speech and Q&A session at British Council. Later, Mr Alexander also launched a partnership with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and announced funding of up to £10 million to support the work of TERI over the next five years which will enable TERI to improve knowledge, policy analysis and development practice across a broad range of issues critical to growth, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability in India.

The ministerial visit was an opportunity to underscore three points strongly emphasized by both Miliband and Alexander during the trip.

Firstly, the UK recognises developed countries' historic responsibility for climate change. The UK has set out plans to reduce its emissions by one third by 2020 compared to 1990 and Climate Change Act puts the stringent targets in legislation.

Secondly, developed countries must meet their commitment to provide finance and technology to help developing countries address the challenges of climate change. Prime Minister Gordon Brown recently launched a climate finance initiative which put a global figure of roughly \$100 billion every year by 2020 to help developing countries address climate change, including adapting to its impacts.

Thirdly, while developed countries must lead on climate change, and developing countries in South Asia will not take on national emission reduction targets, developing countries must pursue low carbon development paths if the world is to have a hope of tackling climate change.



South Asian Youth Climate Forum

From Maldives to Bhutan: South Asian Youth gather forces for climate action



If the “demographic dividend” of South Asia's largely young population is to pay off, it must include the active engagement of South Asian youth on climate change. This was one of the key conclusions of the South Asian Youth Summit on Climate Change held in Nepal from 3-6th September.

South Asians already feel the impacts of climate change, and urgent action is necessary. Youth involvement must take place at two levels: At a philosophical level, it must include the beginnings of a paradigm shift in peoples' relationship with nature – catching them young is the best option. At a more immediate level, there needs to be a coordinated groundswell of activity and awareness on climate change with engagement in the policy and negotiation process.

Such involvement is a 'leveragable' option on which youth have a particularly strong position – they are key stakeholders in the future, and therefore, crucial agents of change today. Capitalising on this asset at an opportune time is vital for effective change and a more secure planet.

At a time when there has been much debate about the voices of the Global South being heard in climate negotiations, the youth of South Asia have been actively involved in garnering other young people from their countries towards a whole gamut of actions – from engagement in policy advocacy, action campaigns, clean energy projects, outreach, science, communications, arts and culture and cleaner consumerism.

So far, engagement has largely been at a national level. But recognizing that South Asia as a region is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, youth from the subcontinent came together to hold the South Asian Youth Summit on Climate Change this year.

The aim of the summit was to create a common platform that would bring youth from the region together and help energize action, enable information exchange, facilitate insights into climate change, and initiate efforts to align and synergize actions under a broader framework.

A key outcome of the summit was a South Asian Youth Declaration on Climate Change, as well as the initiation of youth networks in Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Youth intend to hand over copies of their declaration to the UNFCCC secretariat, SAARC countries and to the SAARC secretariat as well as national and international institutions and ministries. Another important process initiated through this platform, will be a South Asian delegation to Copenhagen, ideally with five members from each country being part of the process.

A key demand is for strong commitments from developed countries, particularly in funding mitigation and adaptation projects. However, China and India as advanced developing countries also have responsibilities in terms of emission reduction commitments. Another key demand is for a top-down, science-informed approach to setting targets for developed country and long-term emission reductions.

Chaitanya Kumar of the Indian Youth Climate Network (IYCN) suggests youth are in a better position to leverage change, through a better understanding of the issues of their day, while capitalizing on creativity, entrepreneurial skills and political awareness. However, he also adds that there is a need for leadership from people in the policy making and business sectors to set the standards for sustainable practices across all sectors.



South Asian Youth Climate Forum (continued...)

The youth believe that strong and relentless campaigning is necessary to get action from our leaders. In achieving actionable outcomes from this strategy, says Rishikesh Ram Bhandary of the Nepal Youth Climate Network (NYCN), Nepalese youth have been involved with writing position papers and holding briefings with government officials. They have also been recognized as the youth partners for Nepal's National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs).

Next steps include building mutual capacities, focus on a high 'impact factor' at Copenhagen, and building a network that works across and along all levels – from grassroots to country-level. More action can also be expected from South Asian country nodes in the run up to Copenhagen, which will in turn be used as a building block securing a safer future.

MoEF and Mckinsey GHG abatement reports

India's projected emissions until 2031: 5 studies

India has historically rejected domestic greenhouse emissions reductions on the grounds that critical development and poverty alleviation would be seriously hampered. But a growing international reputation as a deal-breaker (including the collapse of the WTO talks in July 2008 for which many nations blamed India), seems to have been taken up by the Government's high command quite seriously. A directive from the Prime Minister, allegedly asking Indian negotiators to engage positively in the UNFCCC negotiations appears to have had some effect in reframing its position on climate change.

As part of this re-branding effort, the GoI is supporting charismatic politicians such as Jairam Ramesh to argue publicly that 'India wants to be a deal-maker' and that 'we have to take up bold new responsibilities that we have evaded so far'. (See Malini Mehra's Column on the CCI Portal for more – www.climatechallengeindia.org)

Ramesh's Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) is also opening up and putting more information into the public domain. One example of this is the recently released compendium of GHG modeling studies that looks at India's greenhouse gas emissions profile and projected emission trajectories up until 2030. The report '**India GHG Emissions Profile: Results of Five Climate Modeling Studies**' was released by MoEF in August. Few of the studies are new (three of the studies were originally commissioned by the GoI), but they have now finally been compiled in one place and put in the public domain for discussion.

India GHG Emissions Profile: Results of Five Climate Modeling Studies

The report summarises the initial results of five studies which attempt to project India's emissions profile over the next two decades. The five studies were undertaken respectively by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER); Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe); two studies by The Energy Resources Institute (TERI); and McKinsey and Company.

Each of the studies have differences in model structure, as well as model assumptions and parameters, and therefore project a range of results for India's absolute and per capita emissions and energy intensities. The estimates for India's per capita GHG emissions in 2030-31 vary in the studies from between 2.77 tonnes to 5.7 tonnes per capita per year; and in absolute terms, India's GHG emissions by 2031 varies from 4 billion to 7.3 billion tonnes.

Subsequent phases of modeling will involve assessing mitigation options and costs, and economic and food security implications for India.



In general, the international debate on future emissions trajectories has been informed by results from complex models on energy-economy, energy-technology, GHG concentration, macroeconomic growth and impact models (water resources, agriculture, coastal impacts, diseases and so on). A majority of these studies, having been developed in the West and, it is argued, may not fully reflect the ground realities of economic growth or policy structure in India. This set of MoEF studies was initiated as an effort to use models that enable an integrated assessment of India's emissions profile, while better reflecting regional policy and regulatory realities.

Study Conducted by	Models used & details	GHG emissions in billion tonnes Co2e for 2031	Per capita GHG emissions in CO2e for 2031
National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)	Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) – non-linear model that mimics the behavior of a competitive market economy.	4.00	2.77
The Energy Resources Institute (TERI)	A linear programming MARKAL model specified by end-use demands with 35 energy consuming sectors, technology and energy carriers.	4.9	3.4
Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe)	A multi-sectoral, inter-temporal linear programming Activity Analysis framework that analyses linkages b/w national economy and the environment.	4.23	2.9
TERI-Poznan	Another MARKAL model with different assumptions and database, particularly GDP growth rates.	7.3	5.0
McKinsey & Co	Sector by sector analysis that estimates greenhouse gas emissions from the 10 largest sectors (emission-wise), with reasonable technological development across industries.	5.7	3.9 (all GHGs)

Each study also specifies an 'illustrative' scenario for 2030-31, that specifies total GHG emissions (indicated above), per capita GHG emissions (indicated above), GDP growth rate, commercial energy use, fall in energy intensity and fall in CO2 intensity. The common constraint across all studies for this illustrative scenario is that no new GHG mitigation policies are put in place. Such a scenario would indicate what India's emissions would be under a 'business as usual scenario'.

Even while energy intensity in India as well as around the world continues to drop, there is little doubt that the major proportion of economic growth (and therefore CO2 emissions) will come from countries like India. A McKinsey analysis suggests this growth will make India the third-largest energy consumer in the world.

18 months to action

However the plus side of this growth is an opportunity to leap-frog inefficient and/or coal-based technologies provided the cost of abatement– which is significant – would be met. A scenario detailing such cuts is developed in the latter part of the McKinsey report, for which carbon emissions in the ten largest sectors (consuming and emitting) in India have been analysed.

The report suggests that capturing these opportunities would push India into a 'blue ocean space' in the clean technology and energy security sectors. It also says that all necessary action at the centre is actionable within 18 months, given full backing of state and local governments, plus their own carbon-efficient growth plans.



About the Centre for Social Markets (CSM):

CSM is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to making markets work for the triple bottom line - people, planet and profit. Through offices in India and the United Kingdom, and an international network of partners and associates, CSM promotes responsible entrepreneurship, ethics and accountability worldwide. Founded in 2000 by Indian social entrepreneur, Malini Mehra, CSM is a values-based organisation committed to sustainable development and human rights.

From 2007 onwards, CSM has focused its attention on three major programme areas where it will seek to bring challenge and leadership:

- (1) Climate Change - lead a major public engagement initiative - 'Climate Challenge India' - to promote a pro-active domestic response to climate change in India;
- (2) India as a Global Player - examine India's emergence as a player on the global stage with particular reference to sustainability and human rights issues; and
- (3) Corporate Responsibility - focus on core research, education and policy dialogue on issues such as diversity and climate change as India Inc. goes global.



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