



GLOBAL CLIMATE CAMPAIGN



Newsletter

March 2009

Global Day of Action 2008 Update

Saturday December 6th 2008 saw the fourth annual Global Day of Action on climate. More than 60 countries from Australia to Austria, from Sweden to Sri Lanka and from Nepal to the Netherlands took part in simultaneous protests across the world in a message to governments and world leaders to act on the urgent issue of climate change.

As with previous Global Days of Action, the date was chosen to coincide with UNFCCC climate talks in Poznan, Poland. These talks were considered by many to be insignificant compared to the critical importance of this year's talks in Copenhagen, so many expected a smaller mobilisation for the Global Day of Action in 2008.

Despite this, tens of thousands of concerned citizens took to the streets, including 3,000 in India and 2500 in several events throughout Bangladesh including two rallies of more than 1000, despite a ban on public protests. In Bolivia 5000 took part in actions in nearly every province from the North of the country to the Southern border; 1,000 protesters took part in actions across at least 6 cities in Canada, and 8,000 took to the streets of London. In Sweden, there were organised "Climate Walks" in over a dozen towns, despite the freezing weather.

This display of passion was vital to keep the pressure up and sustain momentum from the previous Global Days of Action on climate, leading towards the immense mobilisation we will see in December 2009.

In this newsletter are articles from a few of the organisers around the globe, describing their event for the Global Day of Action and giving a snapshot into what climate campaigning is like in their country. There is also information

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on the crucial Copenhagen talks and the **next Global Day of Action in on 12th December 2009**. Thanks goes out to everyone who was able to be part of the 2008 Global Day of Action and show their support, and we hope everyone who has any concern about the climate will join us on December 12th for what we hope will be the biggest Global Day of Action on climate the world has ever seen.

*By Anton Gyssen
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DENMARK: The Road to Copenhagen

An update from the 6th December GDA in Copenhagen, and plans for the coming year
by **Thomas Meinert Larsen**
Klimabevægelsen / Climate Movement of Denmark

The Climate Movement of Denmark took the lead in organising the Global Day of Action on Dec 6, 2008 and there were demonstrations in the 3 largest Danish cities, Odense, Århus and Copenhagen, which was by far the largest, with around 600 participants.



To organise for the GDA2009 during COP15 on December 12, we organised a first gathering of all interested organisations in Denmark, on March 10 to discuss how to prepare for the GDA in Copenhagen. Copenhagen will be the centre of much international interest during COP15, and there is a clear expectation that there will be a large demonstration in Copenhagen, so we sincerely hope that a large number of organisations will collaborate to ensure that this year's GDA will be a huge success, and we can make a clear statement to the governments all around the world, that climate change must be dealt with responsibly and immediately!

“...there is a clear expectation that there will be a large demonstration in Copenhagen”

Peoples Climate Action (PCA)

In October 2008 a large group of Danish NGOs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs collectively decided that there was a need to organise and synchronise all climate related civil society activities up to and during COP15. Peoples Climate Action (PCA) was created by a large group of NGOs to take on this responsibility.

PCA was given the responsibility for a grant of 20m dkk (€2.68m) for all the different projects and activities that the Danish civil society organisations are planning in relation to the COP15 including the Civil Society Climate Forum. To do this, the PCA was granted a total of 4.2m dkk (€560.000) from the ministry. In March the PCA put up their website www.peoplesclimateaction.dk in Danish, and within 4-6 weeks all information should also be available in English. This homepage will then be the “entry point” for the international community when they want to have the overview on civil society related climate activities in Denmark.



Civil Society Climate Forum

A large group of Danish organisations have worked hard for more than a year to convince the Danish government that there is a desperate need to establish a parallel NGO-forum (entitled “Klimaforum”) during the COP15 meeting in Copenhagen. The idea is to create a space for civil society organisations, including members of grassroots movements and activists from the South as well as the North: A space for debates, exhibitions and room for planning demonstrations, actions etc. The Klimaforum homepage can be accessed at www.klimaforum09.org. Information will be available in English soon. Contacts can be made to klimaforum09@klimaforum09.org.

The NGOs and in particular the Copenhagen Municipality have initiated negotiations to provide accommodation for those people visiting Copenhagen in December 2009.

Please check the websites www.peoplesclimateaction.dk and www.klimaforum09.org for updates on these plans throughout the year!

INDIA: Take the Lead on Climate Change

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Against the backdrop of the Poznan negotiations, where one of the most complex international agreements with the potential to decide the fate of the human race was discussed, December 6th 2008 was observed as the Global Day of Action on climate change. In one recent poll only 19 percent of Indians agreed that global warming is a serious problem that requires immediate action, so throughout the year we organised an awareness programme with schools, Universities, NGOs and activist groups and created climate leaders who could work in their own communities and motivate people to join the campaign. In Delhi and the rest of India we witnessed a massive mobilization of more than 3000 youths and other field workers protesting against the ever increasing threat of climate change.

India is a young country; more than 70% of the population is below age 36. In my opinion the youth of India are taking the issue of climate change very seriously and raising their voice against climate change. In spite of this India has yet to develop a group of politicians, like in the European Union, who have made green issues their focus. The Prime Minister appointed an advisory committee to come up with the National Action Plan on Climate Change in 2007; it took them 1 year to come up with the plan in June 2008. Unfortunately the plan has virtually no targets and timetables, although there are some bright spots, such as the focus on solar energy and a proposed domestic emission trading scheme for the most polluting industry sector. This may help to reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuels.

“the youth of India are taking the issue of climate change very seriously”

Industry experts expect the slowdown in the United States and Europe to have a considerable impact on the development of clean energy projects in India in the coming years, and in some sense the impact is

already being seen. In 2007-08 an additional capacity of 1,663MW was added in wind energy, down from 1,716MW and 1,742MW in the previous two years. UN-Approved Clean development Mechanism (CDM) projects have crashed from €22 to €8 in the past two months, at a time when the Indian companies holding them were expecting their price to go up.

India has a strong reason to take the lead. Tropical countries are more vulnerable to climate change than temperate countries. India's 7,500 km coastlines will be particularly hard hit by storm surges and sea level rise, displacing millions. With more than 700 million people in India dependent on the most sensitive sectors: agriculture, forest and fisheries and 400 million people without access to electricity, our energy poverty is the first thing officials point out when talking about climate change. India also globally ranks first in the number of clean development mechanism (CDM) projects.

India has a vital role to play in the climate deal and the world cannot solve climate change without India. The human race desperately needs a fair and effective group of International leaders to manage and solve this problem.



JORDAN: An Invitation for a Life Choice of Education & Service of Planet Earth

Isabelle Manneh

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Global warming is a threat that is going to wipe out civilization as we know it; unless we take urgent action, we are literally doomed. Yet, with the scientific facts that are available, do individuals really comprehend the reality of it all? What will the tipping point be that will lead people to change their behavior?

“we as a civil society can make a difference”

Humans and nature construct one another; however people still do not see the responsibility as theirs. We need to know whether people's attitudes are the consequence of ignorance, disbelief or lack of interest. Even among those who do know about climate change, there is a wide gap between what people say and what they do.

We are at a turning point, the society as a whole has to intervene. The impacts of global warming are already being felt. We have to act now! The "Call to Action Jordan" movement was, thus established in 2007, on a dream of an inspired individual who believes that we as a civil society can make a difference and by moulding green values deep into the community, there is a glimmer of hope for us all.

Call to Action JO is an independent activist's civic movement based on volunteers and sponsorship programs that aim to tackle the lack of public awareness on environmental issues we are facing: educate, mobilize and inspire personal/ community action in Jordan.

Last year on December 6th for the Global Day of Action, the Call to Action in Jordan organized the, "EVERY DROP COUNTS" Bike Rally in collaboration with the Great Amman Municipality and the GTZ's water program.

We knew it might be tricky to get many people out because of the cold weather, but more than 100 cyclists came out and around 50 or so supporters showed up to cheer the riders on making it one of the most energetic protests!

The "Every Drop Counts" Bike Rally made it on the pages of 5 major newspapers. Special thanks to: the Great Amman Municipality, GTZ, King Hussein Park and Tareef Cycling Club.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." M. Mead.



KENYA: Planting Trees for the Planet

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The North-rift human rights network would like to request other organizations working on environmental conservation to partner with us

An awareness campaign on climate change was held on 6th December 08 in the Kerio Valley of Marakwet District in Kenya and was a very successful event.

Participants walked for a long distance in a protest and were joined by several youth groups, among them the Marakwet Youth Network. Speakers from provincial administration, civil society groups, youth groups, Church leaders and civic leaders from the district participated.

There was entertainment from local dancers who sang songs demanding action to reduce carbon emissions. The climax of the occasion involved planting of trees. Through its networking ability and good track record on forest matters in the country, North Rift Human Rights Network was able to mobilize a large number of participants who are members of community based organizations, forest associations and youth organizations. Early planning was crucial in ensuring the success of the campaign. We sought for partner organizations that could support the event. Safaricom Foundation provided us with 500 T-Shirts printed with 'lets take action to protect our forest' and 3,000 tree seedlings that were planted to mark the event.

"The main concern in Kenya is deforestation"

In Kenya, there are few industries that cause greenhouse gas emissions and thus people consider global warming as an issue that is caused by developed countries. The main concern in Kenya is deforestation resulting from many different types of pressure, including expansion of agricultural land, unsustainable charcoal production and marketing, overgrazing, forest fires, poverty and inadequate resource mobilization, inadequate capacity to enforce the law, inadequate forest management plans and lack of real community participation in forest management. Indeed, experts have warned that deforestation in developing countries

such as those in Africa also exacerbates the effects of climate change. The effects are quite evident through the erratic rain patterns leading to desertification and consequent famine, in which close to 10 million people are considered at risk of starvation. The effects of climate change and global warming have also been corroborated by studies which point to a surge in malaria incidence in deforested sites as compared to forested sites in western Kenya.



Overall, Kenya's forest cover has been diminishing over the years. In addition, politics is taking toll on the need to conserve Kenya's forests. A case in point is the Mau Forest saga where politically corrupt people from the previous regime were illegally allotted huge chunks of public forest land. Although the government has been making concerted efforts to have the settlers evicted from the land, political patronage has delayed the process. The situation is replicated in Embobut forest in Marakwet and several other forests in Kenya.

We are planning to organize for the 12/12/09 Global Day of Action and North Rift Human rights Network will continue working with other partners towards the protection of forests in Kenya to reduce emissions from deforestation. We are seeking both moral and financial support to enable us achieve our goals.

NEW CALEDONIA: Warming up Against New Coal

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Global warming in a tropical island such as New Caledonia is not an every day issue...If you ask about it, most of the Caledonian people will wonder what's the matter about one or two degrees more? Regarding politicians, the main concern has been for decades our constitutional future: more autonomy as a French overseas territory or full independency?

Meanwhile, the mining companies are enjoying very few regulations in a country known as the world's third nickel reserve.



In this context, we face the construction of a major hydrometallurgical plant in the southern part of the main island. One of the planet's biodiversity "hot spots" is currently experiencing Brazilian company Vale Inco's definition of sustainable development... And guess what...? Concerned about our need for electricity, our local providers kindly decided to build a coal plant! Since then, the bad news is we're on track: the northern province finally succeeded last year to launch its ambitious program of development. Different politicians, but the same thinking: SMSP, a local mining company, will build a major metallurgic plant with the help of the Anglo Swiss group Xtrata Nickel. Power supply will be once again another coal plant!

When the country's historical mining company (SLN, an ERAMET subsidiary) announced mid 2008 its plan to change its current oil based power plant to a new "clean" coal plant, we decided that it was time to broadly communicate about climate change.

"we decided that it was time to broadly communicate about climate change"

"Ensemble Pour La Planète", is a local non profit organisation, dedicated to environmental issues. We first computed all the data available and found out that we will soon be one of the most important world carbon contributors per capita: 36 CO2 tons/ year! More than the average American! A sad "world record" we decided to talk about in newspapers, radio and even a TV interview following the 6th of December demonstration. The street demonstration was a nice parade with a live band and local artists. There were not many people but a lot of fun and good media coverage. For 2009, we will need international support to fight these three coal plants projects: contact the company's shareholders; give support from France / Europe in order to join in the post-Kyoto agreement and so on. Feel free to contact us at: eplp.asso@gmail.com



POZNAN: Talking up Climate Change

Ellisiv

Pracownicza Demokracja
<http://www.eng.poznan2008.org/>

For the first time ever there was a sizeable demonstration concerning climate change in Poland. On December 6 around 1500 people marched through the streets of Poznań to the venue where the COP 14 took place. Before the march there was a bicycle ride through the city. There were also smaller actions, debates and concerts.

The march had a relatively high participation from international activists that had come to Poznań to take part in meetings and actions around the COP. But we had of course also environmentalists, left wingers, anarchists and local activists from Poznań and the rest of Poland. For example “We the Poznanians” – including organizations fighting to preserve green recreation areas in Poznań – against the business friendly, “park killing” and corruption charged mayor of Poznań, who ironically was one of the hosts of COP 14.



One result of organizing COP 14 in Poland was that climate change to a certain extent was put on the agenda in the media. But generally the debate in Poland has not come very far. The main slogan of our march was therefore “Climate now” – to underline the

demand that politicians take the problems of global warming seriously. Another slogan was: “Influence the politicians before the climate influences you”.

As we know there were few concrete results of COP 14. And the Polish government is known to have functioned as a brake on the whole issue. They organized the anti-climate-package-group in the EU, stating: If we have to reduce emissions the energy prices will rise dramatically, even 90%. No talk of a real investment in alternative energy or measures to save energy. In a country where the level of poverty is among the highest in the EU, a significant rise in the price of energy is a catastrophe for most people, although the energy prices have recently gone up anyway because of liberalization and privatization of the energy market which the neoliberal government has forced through.

“there doesn’t have to be a conflict between limiting emissions and saving work places”

Over 90% of Poland’s energy is based on coal. There is a big coal mining industry which employs around 140 000 people, so trade unionists from Poland have even demonstrated against the EU’s climate package in Brussels. But there doesn’t have to be a conflict between limiting emissions and saving work places - on the contrary, to be able to save the climate we will need many more jobs.

But we are faced with a new problem now. The Polish government wants to build a nuclear power station in the near future and has made an agreement with Nicolas Sarkozy about this. So the marchers in Poznań also shouted slogans against nuclear power.

We will have to fight on many fronts in the future.

SENEGAL: Seeing the Effects in a Fishing Village

Mamadou Mbodji

Senegal National Coordinator GCC
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President African Nature Friends Network

On December 6th, for the second time in two years, we organized successfully the Global Day of Action against Climate Change.

Taking into account the positive results of our previous protest, we improved our strategy by having a debate on a local radio on the eve of the global event in order to reach a wider audience and in so doing, attract more people for our protest.

And despite a great religious event, we managed to have approximately 300 people for our one- mile rally, lead by Alioune Diagne Mbor, our 85-year president and mainly composed of primary pupils, students and all the members of the National Bureau.



From our headquarters we marched to Petit Mbao which is a big traditional fishermen village.

We deliberately chose this village for two main reasons: firstly because its shore has been dramatically polluted by some nearby industries and secondly the fast degradation of its coast, tightly linked to the consequences of global warming.

“we plan to have a bigger and wider global climate protest next December”

In his speech the Chief of the village couldn't help doing the comparison between life in his childhood and nowadays. Pointing at the sea he declared very sadly:” Look, I was born in a house some hundred meters away. We would play there not very far from a mosque. If

urgent measures are not taken, very soon we'll be compelled to leave this village founded by our ancestors.”



With the villagers, we discussed issues such as climate change, its chaotic consequences and adaptation.

Meanwhile, many of our sections in different regions of the country took part in the global event through specific actions (rallies, conferences, radio debates etc).

After our second participation in this synchronized demonstration, we, Senegalese Friends of Nature, have a deep feeling that the level of general awareness about climate change is getting higher and we plan to have a bigger and wider global climate protest next December 12th.



USA: Applying the Pressure to Act Now

Ezra Small

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On December 6th, 2008, thousands of people in over a dozen different states gathered across America to demand that our government take action to help stop global warming. This was the fourth year that the Climate Crisis Coalition helped coordinate the Global Day of Climate Action by maintaining a website and working with organizers to host their events. The website, www.climatecrisiscoalition.org/Climate-Action08.html, now has links to pictures, videos, and news articles reporting on many of the events that took place.

Many of the events were well attended and the optimism among the crowds reflected the optimism that had been growing since the Presidential election results. For example, on January 26th, President Obama signed a memorandum requiring the EPA to reconsider granting a waiver to California and 13 other states to set more stringent auto emissions.



There was even a stronger message for continuing our work for a more sustainable world through US involvement in international treaties, a greener and more equitable economy through the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency, and a call to continue applying the pressure on our new administration to act now!

On the west coast, Greenpeace helped organize hundreds of people in San Francisco who held huge banners that read “Dear World Leaders, We Are Ready to Save the Planet.”

There were Polar Bear Plunges in Seattle and in Massachusetts held in solidarity with the climate talks in Poland. In Boulder, CO, the Organization for Environmental Education and Protection (OpEPA) organized a workshop on ending coal energy dependency and then a rally that focused on green job creation.



In Lincoln, Nebraska, an artist created his second annual ice art installation which educated about the alarming scientific facts of global warming. In Philadelphia, PA, the Medical Mission Sisters Church held an Advent workshop where they recited a “Prayer for the Earth.” In Beacon, NY, CCC organized an event called “Celebrate a New Day for the Earth” where issues like a carbon tax and finding alternative energy sources were discussed. In our nation’s capitol, Washington DC, the first ever parade of hybrid cars took to the streets with signs that read “Congress Step it Up” and “Clean Energy Now!”

“...applying the pressure on our new administration to act now!”

The Climate Crisis Coalition wants to thank all of the December 6th organizers and is looking forward to working with our domestic and international climate allies to ensure that our government passes effective climate legislation here in the US as well as taking a leadership role in drafting and ratifying strong post-Kyoto climate accords in Copenhagen this December.

Bolivia: Reaching Out to the Masses

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Bolivia incorporated the Global Climate Campaign into the coordination of LIDEMA (Environmental Defense League) in 2006.

In 2008 the campaign in Bolivia managed to mobilise more than 5,000 people, representing 158 institutions across the country on the same day, when, as well as marches and concerts, nine thousand trees were planted as a practical way of mitigating climate change.



The key to these results is the national structure of LIDEMA's training programme, which educates more than 60,000 people about climate change annually: eleven coordinators that work with inter-institutional alliances.

These alliances include civil society and the state: municipal governments, indigenous authorities, non governmental organisations, volunteer groups, Global Environment Outlook Youth, Tunza and more.



The range of LIDEMA's climate change outreach and the results of the global campaign have allowed us to better visualise the issue of climate change in Bolivia: The demand for information on climate change has increased rapidly, together with an interest to participate in the issue.



In 2009, LIDEMA will coordinate in Bolivia the global civil society consultation on climate change, WWViews, which will include all sectors in the country. Likewise, in coordination with the chancery, training of potential Bolivian negotiators has begun, in the steps towards Copenhagen.

“The campaign...mobilised more than 5,000 people, representing 158 institutions across the country”

Recently the Platform on Climate Change was created, which includes sectors of civil society directing their work towards the construction of a national position for COP 15. We hope that in 2009 the global campaign in Bolivia can develop further with these new driving forces.

COP15 2009: The Most Important Meeting Ever?

Fiona Dear

*Campaign against Climate Change UK,
Global Climate Campaign*

From 7th - 18th December 2009, world leaders will meet in Copenhagen to effectively decide on the fate of the planet and its inhabitants. This isn't an exaggeration. The UNFCCC will decide on the global agreement to reduce greenhouse gases which will follow the weak and ineffective Kyoto treaty. The deal needs to be fair, and strong enough to keep global temperature rise under 2°C, and we can't afford to wait another 10 years if the treaty isn't sufficient. With the track record of governments so far, with the financial crisis that has become political leaders' priority and with some countries already making it clear that they'll try their hardest to block a strong deal, it's clear that if there was ever a time to build a mass campaign on climate change, now is the time.

***"if there was ever a time to build
a mass campaign on climate
change, now is the time"***

On 12th December, the weekend midway through the UN climate talks, the biggest ever Global Day of Action on climate will take place. Plans have been brewing for months and groups from almost every sector of civil society are coming together in the realisation that this could be our last chance to avoid climate catastrophe. A year of climate actions and protests will build up to immense protests around the world, but the most intense campaigning will be in Copenhagen itself.

Plans are being made for protests on a massive scale in Copenhagen (see page 2) and we plan to help people get there. Mass transport is being planned from the UK and Brussels for the weekend of 12th-13th December, which will pick people up from Western Europe en route. More plans for transport will emerge as the year goes on, so get in touch with us to find out what's new if you're interested in travelling to Copenhagen for the Global Day of Action!

Thank you to all contributors to this newsletter.

**Edited by:
Fiona Dear
Anton Gjysen**

About the Global Climate Campaign



**Building a global movement
to confront the ultimate
global crisis**

The Global Climate Campaign is a broad network of organisations from around the world, calling for real action on climate change.

Together we organise a **Global Day of Action: synchronised demonstrations all around the world, during the annual UN climate talks, putting pressure on world leaders to take urgent and resolute action to minimise dangerous climate change.**

There are now **90 countries** in contact with the campaign and the movement continues to grow.

**More information at:
www.globalclimatecampaign.org**

**Join us in the next
Global Day of Action on
climate on
12th December
2009**

