

eco



ECO has been published by Non-Governmental Environmental Groups at major international conferences since the Stockholm Environment Conference in 1972. This issue is produced co-operatively by the Climate Action Network at the UNFCCC meetings in Tianjin in October 2010. ECO email: eco@sunlightdata.com – ECO website: <http://www.climateactionnetwork.org/eco> – Editorial/Production: Fred Heutte

Greetings from Chinese NGOs: Huanying lai Tianjin! Welcome to Tianjin!

The meeting this week in Tianjin is the first UN climate conference in China. We, the Chinese NGOs, want to give guests from around the world the warmest welcome and wish you all a pleasant stay in the city. Although Tianjin is a city famous for its local comedians, we hereby kindly ask the delegates to take this session seriously – please don't turn it into a joke.

The climate conference in Tianjin is a historic event: the first opportunity for us to collectively present to the world our true grassroots climate change movement in China. In the run-up to the Tianjin conference more than 40 leading environmental NGOs synergized their individual initiatives and spared no effort in creating a full programme of Chinese NGO activities. We have prepared and are proud to present a package with many goodies called 'Green China – Race to the Future'.

On Monday, many of you witnessed the opening ceremony at the Chinese Great Climate Wall with UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres. Some of you might have participated in the CCAN side event on impacts of climate change and the side event by the Beijing-based GEI on sustain-

able rural energy.

Besides the side events you can find in the Daily Programme, we have organized a series of events in the Meijiangan International Club, a venue about 10 minutes walk from the Meijiang Center across the Youyi Road. The events include dialogue between different NGOs, presentations of Chinese NGO campaigns, and initiatives from the private sector.

The full programme of activities and a map how to get to the venue is available in the Meijiang conference center. You can also walk up to the Chinese NGO stands in the entrance and ask NGO colleagues directly for more information.

Among these activities, we particularly want to highlight the official launch and press conference of the Chinese NGO position on climate change on Wednesday morning. It is a unique chance for the international community to get to know Chinese NGO colleagues better and learn how we see the challenge raised by the climate change and what we want on this issue. We strongly encourage you to make good use of this opportunity, and we look forward to meeting you soon!



Karl Burkart/GCCA

UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres seals the Great Climate Wall of China. For more please see page 2.

The Adaptation Fund Leads by Example

While Parties consider how to set up the new Climate Fund here in Tianjin, the Adaptation Fund, established under the Kyoto Protocol, has reached full operationalisation and set important milestones.

Two weeks ago, the members of the Adaptation Fund Board met again in Bonn and

took decisions which mark the beginning of a new era in climate finance. The AFB approved the first two projects which will receive USD \$14 million from the Adaptation Fund.

One project originated from Senegal and was submitted through the first accredited

National Implementing Entity (NIE), the Centre de Suivi Ecologique. As the first direct access project, it focuses on combatting coastal erosion exacerbated by climate change and rising sea levels in three regions in Senegal: Joal, Rufisque and Saly. The Senegalese project further stands out in terms of transparency and participation

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Joseph Ellis at the Great Climate Wall of China – GCCA

The Great Climate Wall – ‘I will act on climate, will you?’

In a gesture that signaled more urgent engagement to cool the planet, UNFCCC executive secretary Christiana Figueres opened the first international climate conference in this country by sealing the symbolic Great Climate Wall of China, a mosaic wall of 4,000 photos of people from China and around the world who are concerned about our warming planet.

The executive secretary received a traditional Chinese stamp from 13-year old Ji Mengyang of Tianjin and Chung Jahying, a Chinese youth representative of the Great Green Initiative. The stamp has the Chinese proverb: ‘With everyone’s determination, we can win anything’.

Ms. Figueres noted, ‘Addressing climate is not just about governments making the decisions they need to make, it’s about each of us individually having the determination to change our behaviour in our lives. And it’s also about all of us collectively deciding about what kind of stamp we want to leave on the wall of human history.’

This event, sponsored by the Global Campaign for Climate Action (GCCA), Tck tck and Greenpeace, showcased the latest example of art for the public interest by the Great Climate Wall’s creator, 26-year-old sculptor and fine artist Joseph Ellis.

An American raised in upstate New York, Ellis has lived and worked in Beijing for five years, during which he became the first Westerner to graduate from the Central Academy of Fine Arts’ prestigious sculpture program. Greenpeace worked with Ellis two years ago to design an hourglass presented to US Secretary of State Hilary

Clinton during a climate event at the US Embassy in Beijing. In 2009, Greenpeace commissioned Ellis to execute 100 life-size sculptures of children carved from ice for another climate action.

To create the Great Climate Wall of China, Greenpeace and other NGOs collected snapshot portraits, which Ellis assembled into a mosaic to form a dominant image of the real Great Wall. He printed the impressionist mosaic on fabric, fitted it to supports and assembled the display in side-by-side units to build a tall, colorful barrier with a direct message: ‘I will act on climate, will you?’

The entire project, start to finish, was completed in six days. ‘It’s amazing what you can do in China in just under a week. The people here are incredible and the resources at my disposal never cease to amaze,’ said Ellis. ‘When we combine our efforts, the chance for change is in our grasp.’

The Great Climate Wall shows just a small portion of the growing global movement of people who are ‘rolling up their sleeves and getting on with it’. The current wave of action peaks on October 10th with the 10/10/10 Global Work Party with over 7,000 events in 180 countries. This will be followed by a flurry of activities driven by the development and anti-poverty groups in the GCCA alliance.

The negotiations in Tianjin must make headway and lay the groundwork for breakthroughs on these issues in Mexico this December. So, dear negotiators, what stamp will you leave this week on the wall of human history?

– *Adaptation Fund, continued from page 1*

of local, vulnerable people in the decision-making. And it comes with a management fee that is only half of that charged by the multilaterals.

The second approved project was submitted by Honduras through the UNDP acting as the Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE). This project aims to reduce the vulnerability to climate change of the poorest households in the capital region of Tegucigalpa by improving water management.

Six further project concepts have been approved so far and may result in full project applications soon. But it is also notable that the AFB has rejected a number of projects. The Board is taking seriously its responsibility for the quality of adaptation funding. Overall, it took two and a half years from the AFB’s operationalisation to the approval of the first projects. By comparison, the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience under the World Bank so far has not put one single dollar into concrete projects.

In addition, direct access was expanded through the accreditation of two further NIEs, the Planning Institute of Jamaica and the Agencia Nacional de Investigacion e Innovacion of Uruguay. And the Secretariat of the AF has also reported that around 30 developing countries have expressed interest in direct access.

Finally, legislation to grant the AFB legal capacity by the German government is well underway and will hopefully be concluded soon, so that releasing project funds can actually start early next year.

Congratulations, Adaptation Fund Board! You have managed to progress significantly on difficult issues and have led by example.