

eBulletin December 2009

Capacity Building on Climate Change for Civil Society Organizations Project

▪ PREAMBULE

Dear all readers,

This is the e-bulletin of the project Capacity Building on Climate Change for Civil Society Organizations (Capacity Building project), November edition, offered to members of the NGO Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) and the network of Vietnamese Non-governmental Organizations and Climate Change (VNGO&CC), other climate change practitioners, policy-makers, researchers and others with an interest in climate change issues alike.

Contents of the e-bulletin will contain: i) Activities of the Capacity Building Project; ii) International and local news updates; iii) Stories, Case studies on climate change mitigation and adaptation; iv) Forthcoming events and v) Job, training and funding opportunities related to climate change.

This e-bulletin is also available on the CCWG website: ngocentre.org.vn/?q=node/5457.

As for the diversification of information sources on climate change and the limited capacity of the Editing Group, there may still be mistakes or errors in this e-bulletin. We would like to ask for your sympathy and highly welcome your comments and opinions to improve it.

All comments could be sent to the email address: hanh@srd.org.vn or ngocptb@srd.org.vn

This e-bulletin will be sent to you on 30th every month. If you would prefer not to receive it please contact us at hanh@srd.org.vn.

Thank you very much!

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➤ **CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE**

Course on positive training methodology from 10th-12th December 2009

From the 10th – 12th December 2009, a training course on positive training methodologies took place facilitated by MA. Tran Phong, a member of the expert group. This course aimed to strengthen training and coordination skills of potential trainers focusing on the participatory approach. The participants were basically introduced to and then practiced positive training – learning methodologies, lecture structuring by using visualisation tools and the participatory method.



This training course was valued as being extremely useful for potential trainees on strengthening their training skills which are crucial for them. This course also provided the opportunity to collect participants' opinions on edits to the TOT manual on climate change.

➤ NEWS

Weak results from COP15

(*tuoitreonline.com.vn*) After twelve days of tense arguments, the summit on climate change in Copenhagen – the last chapter of two long years of negotiation – ended in failure with only an ill-defined agreement proposed by five countries: United States, China, India, South Africa and Brazil.

The climate deal that ended COP15 has "set no global target for cutting greenhouse gas emissions, no deadline for reaching a formal international climate treaty" (MSNBC), and enraged many climate rationalists concerned for the future of the planet. The deal, which was not universally agreed upon by all attending 193 countries, led some leaders to leave early out of frustration.

Obama has shifted the focus of the climate debate to the domestic front, where Americans hope Congress will pass a notable piece of climate legislation. "Today we made a meaningful and unprecedented breakthrough here in Copenhagen," President Obama offered before announcing the deal at COP15. "[But] it is going to be very hard, and it's going to take some time" to agree upon a legally-binding treaty, Obama added, which "was not achievable at this conference."



Demonstration at Copenhagen against the Agreement

(Photo: Reuters)

Key components of the core five-nation deal call for keeping temperatures from rising by more than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) by 2050; creating a \$100 billion-per-year fund by 2020 to help poor nations deal with the effects of climate change; and establishing some means of verifying if nations are doing their part to hold down carbon emissions.

The language in the text shows that 2°C is not a formal target, just that the group "recognises the scientific view that" the temperature increase should be held below this figure.

However, the accord does not identify a year by which carbon emissions should peak, a position resisted by some richer developing nations.

Countries are asked to spell out by 1 February next year their pledges for curbing carbon emissions by 2020. The deal does not spell out penalties for any country that fails to meet its promise.

Many vulnerable nations, however, were not subdued into patience by Obama's words. "The science tells us we must act now, and urgently," offered Tuvalu's Ian Fry. "To use a Biblical

allusion, it looks like we're being offered 30 pieces of silver to bargain away our future. **Mr. President, our future is not for sale.**" Applause followed Fry's impassioned remarks.

According to Lumumba Stanislaus Di-Aping from Sudan, the deal, code name L9, would incinerate Africa and he compared it to the Holocaust. He said the draft text asked "Africa to sign a suicide pact" and "The promise of \$100bn will not bribe us to destroy the continent."

NGOs also speeched buring words. John Sauven, executive director of Greenpeace UK, lamented: "The city of Copenhagen is a crime scene tonight, with the guilty men and women fleeing to the airport. There are no targets for carbon cuts and no agreement on a legally binding treaty. It seems there are too few politicians in this world capable of looking beyond the horizon of their own narrow self-interest, let alone caring much for the millions of people who are facing down the threat of climate change."

Jeremy Hobbs, Executive Director of Oxfam International said: "This agreement barely papers over the huge differences between countries which have plagued these talks for two years". He also stated that: "The deal is a triumph of spin over substance. It recognizes the need to keep warming below 2 degrees but does not commit to do so. It kicks back the big decisions on emissions cuts and fudges the issue of climate cash". However, European leaders accepted this agreement while still hesitating. European Union, Japan, representatives of African and Alliance of Small Island States called for the ratification of the deal and considered it as part of UN's general plan coping with climate change.

Leaders speeches

* UN General Secretary Ban Ki Moon:

"Finally, we sealed the deal. It may not be everything we hoped for, but this decision of the Conference of Parties is an essential beginning. The importance will only be recognized when it's codified into international law. We must transform this into a legally binding treaty next year".

* European Union President, Jose Manuel Barroso:

"What remains in our sight is a critical milestone. It's now obvious that we cannot get everything that we hoped for...This accord is better than no accord, [but] it wasn't a huge step. The level of ambition is honestly not what we were hoping for."

* **Mr. Pham Khoi Nguyen** (Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Vietnam, *Deputy Director of Vietnamese Delegation at COP15*):

This draft is still a framework agreement but considered as the basic politically-consistent corridor to open the next negotiations. At COP15, Vietnam has built up bilateral

relationships through nearly 30 meetings and achieved wide international support. A number of international organizations, including World Bank and REDD program, stated that whatever the results of the conference, Vietnam will be their first priority to support and invest in.

After COP15, it is needed to start five core issues, including research on building and improving efficiency of coastal dykes, Mekong dykes; forest protection and development, particularly protective forests, water-shed forests and mangrove forests; disaster management and prevention; protection of rice production in the Mekong and Red River deltas; modernization of meteorological and hydrological observation and forecast systems.

To download the draft agreement of COP15, please subscribe to the link below:

<http://srd.org.vn/upload/UNFCCCOP15.zip>

Biodiversity plan to curb the impacts of climate change in Vietnam

(Vfej.vn) A conference has just organized by the World Wild Fund in the late December 2009 in Tra Vinh province to discuss solutions of climate change adaptation in coastal areas of Tra Vinh, Soc Trang and Ben Tre provinces.

Participants of this workshop included scientists of the Mekong Delta Rice Research Institute, the Institute of Resources Geography in Ho Chi Minh City, Can Tho University, Trường Đại học Cần Thơ, the Union of Science and Technology Associations in Can Tho, Association for Conservation of Nature and Environment in Can Tho, etc.

Tra Vinh, Ben Tre, and Soc Trang, situated at the mouth of the Mekong River, are rich in alluvium, mangrove, and other bio-diversity, and have enormous economic potential, making the impacts of climate change potentially more devastating.

The 65 participants at the "Climate change adaptation in the Mekong delta region" forum held in Tra Vinh discussed how to draft internationally-recognized proposals for bio-diversity conservation for the three provinces, examined new production methods as part of a conservation and protection plan, and considered the creation of one overarching climate change management plan for the region.

"Under the impact of climate change, the wet season is arriving later than previous years and the water level is also lower. It directly affects the harvesting schedule of farmers in the

region," Trine Glue Doan, governance & climate change advisor to the WWF Viet Nam Country Programme, said.

The biodiversity conservation plan for the coastal provinces will benefit the whole region. "The plan will connect the region to the bio-diversity conservation of Ca Mau, Can Gio, and Kien Giang to give the Mekong delta a much stronger defence against natural calamities such as storms and sea-level rise," WWF freshwater officer Hoang Viet added.

Workshop “Media with Climate Change – Climate Change Mitigation in coastal areas”

(mcdvietnam.org) On 30th November 2009, the conference: “Media with Climate Change – Climate Change Mitigation in coastal areas” was held by the Vietnam Forum of Environmental Journalists (VFEJ) in association with Oxfam International, at Van Long Ecological Resort, Gia Vien District, Ninh Binh Province. The conference’s purpose was to enhance the journalists’ awareness on climate change by reporting the life of residents in areas affected by climate change, public warning on the degradation of living standards partly due to climate change; developing and strengthening the connection among journalists – scientists – officials – local residents in order to efficiently disseminate information on climate change. The conference also provided practical experiences on planning, selecting relevant approaches and improving quality of news on climate change.

50 participants of the conference were composed of journalists who are members of Vietnam Forum of Environmental Journalists (VFEJ), Vietnam Association for Nature and Environment (VACNA), Ninh Binh People Committee and other concerning authorities, and representatives of the Centre for Marinelife Conservation and Community Development (MCD).

At the conference, delegates had opportunity to access general information on climate change and its impacts on coastal areas, particularly in Ninh Binh province.

Mrs. Vu Thi Thao, Climate Change Officer of MCD, shared with participants activities and experiences on climate change mainstreaming in coastal areas. By supporting models of sustainable community-based natural resources management and livelihood development, MCD is actively contributing to strengthening capacity on self-defence and recovery of coastal ecologies along with improving the adaptive capacity of communities, and helping them reduce the negative impacts of climate change.

For more details, please contact:

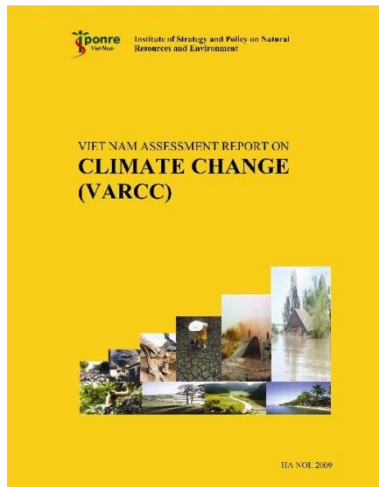
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➤ **NEW PUBLICATIONS**

Vietnam Assessment Report on Climate Change



(isponre.gov.vn) “Vietnam Assessment Report on Climate Change” published by the Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment (with support of United Nations Environment Program UNEP) has provided a general overview on climate change, its negative impacts and coping solutions of Vietnam and other countries.

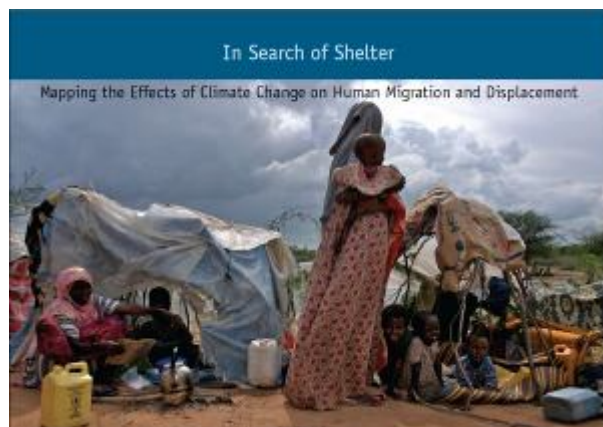
As a peninsula in Southeast Asia tropical monsoon area, Vietnam is identified as one of the countries which will suffer the most from the negative impacts of climate change. In fact, there are some symptoms of climate change in Vietnam already (changes of temperature, rainfall, extreme weather phenomenon such as: storms, heavy rain, drought...). This is restated in the Vietnam Assessment Report on Climate Change. The report also contains the overview of climate change and sea-level rise scenarios promulgated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in 2009. Potential impacts on climate change in Vietnam in some sectors such as water resources, agriculture, forestry, fishery, energy, transportation and human health have been mentioned in the report.

This report was one of the important documents of Vietnam to be presented at side-events of COP15 together with other documents such as the National Target Program on coping with climate change, Climate change scenarios, sea-level rise scenarios of Vietnam, etc. All those documents aim to present a completed picture of climate change in Vietnam, and serve as a message for a call for global support to Vietnam in coping with climate change.

This is also a reference document for policy-makers, scientists, managers, and for those who are interested in the fight against climate change in Vietnam.

Vietnamese version of “Mapping the Effects of Climate Change on Human Migration and Displacement”

Vietnam is one of the countries suffering the most from climate change, especially the Mekong River Delta area. It is forecasted that nearly 50% of cultivation area and millions of residents in this region will lose their homes and livelihoods or be forced to emigrate. The new concepts on the loss of shelter, and emigration caused by climate change should be considered as



a priority in the government policies and interventions to mitigate and adapt to climate change in Vietnam as well as other countries in the region.

Regarding the effects of the emigration and loss of shelter of the poor, the Center of People and Nature (Pan Nature) has translated and published the book: “Mapping the Effects of Climate Change on Human Migration and Displacement”. This document results from new global research carried out by CARE International, providing practical knowledge on an important aspect of climate change impacts on human life.

Translation of this book is one activity of the project: “Enhancing capacity on monitoring of Vietnamese policies and laws on environment” sponsored by Ford Fund (America) from 2008 – 2010.

Please send your comments on the Vietnamese version of this book to the following address
email: contact@nature.org.vn

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