

NACAA Report #2 from COP-17
December 6, 2011

The NACAA delegation (Larry Greene, Co-Chair of the Global Warming Committee, and Misti Duvall, Staff Associate) arrived over the weekend. The COP is taking place in the huge International Convention Center in Durban, just a few kilometers from the Moses Mabhida Stadium of World Cup fame. Before we review our events for the day and all the great information we received, here's the latest on the negotiations.

COP-17 kicked off negotiations on November 28, 2011. As predicted, a major issue during the first week has been the future of the Kyoto Protocol, as we come up against the close of the first compliance period next year. Negotiations got off to a rocky start early in the week when Canada announced its intention to withdraw from the Kyoto Protocol at the end of this year. However, talks progressed later in the week with discussions surrounding a European Union (EU) proposal that would extend commitments under the Kyoto Protocol if major emitters – including the US and China – agree to negotiate a new, legally-binding agreement by 2015 that would then take effect by 2020. While China has signaled that it may be open to such an agreement, on the conditions that it include a renewal of developed country emission reduction pledges under Kyoto and that developed countries provide the promised funding for the “fast-start” Green Climate Fund, India has expressed concern that such an agreement could take too long and weaken developed country pledges. Discussions continue this week, with high level negotiations beginning on Tuesday. We'll keep you posted.

On Sunday evening we attended a reception hosted by The Climate Registry and the Climate Action Reserve. This was a chance to meet their delegates from the US and Canada and to complete plans for the joint NACAA/Climate Registry side event on Thursday. We met a number of government, business and NGO attendees to COP-17, and discussed a range of air quality and global warming issues, especially related to banking and using allowances in California's cap and trade program.

On Monday morning, while Misti waited in line for her credentials, Larry attended a briefing hosted by The Climate Registry and Climate Action Reserve to provide logistical information on the UN facilities, location of off-site venues related to the conference and an outline of important briefings during the week at the various venues.

On Monday morning, we both attended a side event at the US Center (site of events hosted by the US federal government) entitled “Thinking Globally, Acting Locally.” During the panel, representatives from the US Department of State, California Air Resources Board, and The Center for Climate Solutions shared their perspectives on the efforts of US states and localities to address climate change. Representing the State Department, Special Representative for Global Intergovernmental Affairs Reta Jo Lewis stressed the need to connect national, state and local governments in order to confront challenges from climate change.

Mary Nichols, Chairman of the California Air Resources Board, described California's efforts on climate change. The state is now in the process of implementing AB 32 – California's comprehensive climate change law – which was passed in 2006 and puts California on course to

reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. The measure includes specific regulations on auto emissions, including a low carbon fuel standard; mandatory audits for large industrial facilities; and the creation of a cap and trade program. The first auction under the cap and trade program is scheduled for the second half of 2012.

Finally, Thomas Peterson from The Center for Climate Strategies (CCS) reviewed climate actions by US states, noting that a number of states have developed formal Climate Action Plans. He reported that Kentucky has just completed a Climate Action Plan, with reduction targets equivalent to 1990 levels by 2020. Maryland, which previously adopted a Climate Action Plan, has also developed a state-wide climate change law with emission reduction goals and is now taking steps to specifically address transportation issues. CCS recently completed an analysis of state climate action plans, with a sharpened focus on economic and energy security. Several states have also developed Climate Adaptation Plans. For further information, see www.climatestrategies.us.

For those of you who would like to follow along at home, note that all US Center events will be streamed to the CO.NX Channel. Please visit <http://conx.state.gov> for information on viewing.

Later in the morning we attended an event about public awareness and education on disaster risk reduction and climate change, hosted by the International Federal of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Panelists from the UN, Mexican Red Cross, Save the Children, UNICEF and Indonesia National Council on Climate Change discussed examples of reducing the risk from natural disasters – particularly on youth and children – and how those experiences can inform disaster risk reduction pertaining to climate change. For example, the Mexican Red Cross discussed their work on a dengue fever program in Mexico, noting that dengue risk can increase with sea level rise. Dr. Amanda Katili Node of the Indonesia National Council on Climate Change also discussed challenges in Indonesia, which is prone to sea level rise and other climate change disasters. The goal is to get government to be more proactive in disaster risk reduction and climate change. The country is currently working to integrate climate change into school curricula, and the Council has developed a series of education modules geared toward children. For further information on efforts to integrate disaster risk reduction and Climate Change, visit the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Center at <http://www.climatecentre.org>.

Wrapping up our day, on Monday afternoon we attended the launch of a series of country reports by the Met Office Hadley Center on climate observations, projections and impacts in 24 countries. Scientists from the Hadley Center presented information from the reports, which cover Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Peru, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States. The reports were commissioned by the United Kingdom's Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change in early 2011, and are intended to complement reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Information in each country report includes an explanation of the key features of national weather and climate, an assessment of how the probability of particular seasonal temperature has altered, projections of future climate conditions, and a description of the potential impacts of

climate change, which include crop yield, food security, water stress and drought, flooding, tropical cyclones and coastal regions.

Dr. Hasan Mahmud, State Minister for Ministry of Environment and Forest of the People's Republic of the Bangladesh, then offered perspectives from Bangladesh. The country is currently grappling with problems caused by sea level rise, with large swaths of land now uncultivable due to salinity from salt water flooding. Bangladesh is also at increased risk from natural disasters, including cyclones, more frequent and severe flooding and drought. Bangladesh is one of the 24 countries studied by the Hadley Center. It was the first of the developing countries to develop a work plan related to climate change and is currently undertaking several actions under the plan. Adaptation is the priority for Bangladesh, though mitigation is the ultimate solution, and the country calls for the immediate operation of the Green Climate Fund, as well as full funding. Another priority is the continuation of the Kyoto Protocol. The reports are available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate-change/policy-relevant/obs-projections-impacts.

Finally, we'll note that one of the very exciting aspects of the COP meetings is the interest and participation of youth from around the world. After all, the outcomes of the UN meetings, whether they are related to GHG emissions reductions, reforestation, water supplies, green business or any of the other many aspects of discussions around global warming, will affect their world for decades to come. Many NGOs sponsor youth contingents and there are youth organizations like Scout Guides and One World that have made significant efforts to link youth to solving world problems, global warming among them. We hope to visit their exhibits later this week.