



FRIENDS OF THE EARTH INTERNATIONAL COPENHAGEN CLIMATE UPDATE # 4

December 20, 2009

Here is the roundup of the final days of the climate negotiations including Friends of the Earth International's closing statement on the talks, the winner of the Angry Mermaid award and our expulsion from the talks on Wednesday.

COP15: A deficit of ambition

The talks ended in extreme disappointment for Friends of the Earth International as world leaders of developed countries failed to sign up to any agreement on curbing carbon emissions. President Obama sought introduce his own treaty, the 'Copenhagen Accord' but as we noted in our final statement:

UN officials are struggling to figure out what the Accord even means and how it's related to the UN process, but what is clear is that it was not approved by the 192 countries that are members of the UNFCCC.

The US is so desperate to claim a Copenhagen success that it is now attempting to destroy the existing climate process and sideline 20 years of real multilateral negotiation.

Read the press release

<http://www.foei.org/en/media/archive/2009/un-climate-conference-closes-without-adopting-copenhagen-accord>

Whilst the outcome was a failure, the last two weeks was a success for the growing climate justice movement. From the talks in the Klimaforum (the civil society event), demonstrations on the streets and actions in the conference centre, the message was loud and clear that any climate agreement must be based on climate justice.

Whereas before the term climate justice may have been limited to ngos and civil society, now we're seeing it used in the mainstream media.

FoEI was instrumental in getting the message out there, in any space, at any time, as witnessed by Nnimmo in the early hours of Saturday morning.

“I left the Bella Conference at 1:45 AM to meet the warm chants of climate justice activists protesting in the cold, beneath the Metro tracks, denouncing the lack of seriousness in the climate negotiations. The protesters could have been snugly asleep in their beds, but these were mostly young people whose future was being jeopardised for the political expediency of a few and for the comfort and profiteering of carbon speculators.”

Read the blog Nnimmo's closing blog post

<http://www.foei.org/en/blog>

FoEI comment on the outcome in the media

Climate deal 'neither strong nor fair'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8422473.stm>

Hopes dashed at Copenhagen summit

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7d03-z5hFFo>

Copenhagen: All is not lost

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/dec/20/copenhagen-all-is-not-lost>

Is the Copenhagen Accord a meaningful agreement?

<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?>

[AID=/20091220/GLOBALBRIEFING/912209991/1009/FOREIGN?template=globalbriefing](http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091220/GLOBALBRIEFING/912209991/1009/FOREIGN?template=globalbriefing)

The Angry Mermaid Award

On Tuesday December 15th the winner of the Angry Mermaid award was announced, firstly at a press conference at the climate talks and later at a well attended event in the Klimaforum

Naomi Klein announced the award. Speaking before the result she said:

"In the Bella Center [the conference venue] you don't hear about the real solutions that are being talked about on the streets. They're not on the agenda. There aren't sessions about how to tax the windfall profits of the oil companies. We don't hear about the growing call to keep the tar sands in the land. It's always market based solutions" she said.

Why? "Because the politicians in at the conference are bought and paid for by big business"

And the winner is...

Monsanto with 37% of the 10,000 votes cast. In second place with 18% was Royal Dutch Shell and in third place with 14%, the American Petroleum Institute.

Read the press release

<http://www.angrymermaid.org/press-release-winner>

Watch the video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ge864JnnVm0>

News coverage: Monsanto tops poll of firms accused over climate change

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/world/2009/12/16/1224260761298.html>

Friends of the Earth locked out of talks

For the second week of the talks NGOs were informed that their observer delegations would be reduced to make space for the unprecedented number of ministers and heads of state taking part in the talks. We therefore reluctantly accepted cuts to the FoEI delegation.

On Wednesday, however, the reduced delegation arrived at the conference centre to find they were being refused entry. There was confusion all round as even the security guards didn't know why 'access denied' was flashing up on their monitors as they scanned our passes.

Firstly we were told we were being denied access for "security reasons" and then, as a result of a sit-in, surrounded by intimidating security guards, we met Yvo de Boer the Executive Secretary of

the UNFCCC.

Addressing the group of fifty or so FoEI delegates, he claimed that the building was full and there wasn't much he could do about it. However, he failed to say why the whole of our delegation had been refused entry when other reduced delegations had no problems getting in. And so our sit-in continued.

Meanwhile we learnt that demonstrations taking place outside the conference centre were being met with a violent response from the police. Inside, several observers walked out protesting at the bullying tactics of the rich nations and their failure to take seriously the demands of the developing countries.

Back in the foyer of the conference centre, thanks to the wireless internet connection, the FoEI delegation were able keep websites, journalists and allies updated on the situation. As a consequence FoEI received plenty of media coverage and support from Canadian, Scottish and Norwegian parliamentarians.

In the end the delegation were granted twelve passes for the day which we refused on a point of principle.

We later released the following statement:

Danish PM tries to derail UN climate talks; Friends of the Earth suspended from the conference
<http://www.foei.org/en/media/archive/2009/danish-pm-tries-to-derail-un-climate-talks-friends-of-the-earth-suspended-from-the-conference>

See how the day unfolded on this video from FoE US

<http://www.foei.org/en/blog/2009/12/17/friends-of-the-earth-voices-for-climate-justice-shut-out-in-copenhagen>

Media coverage on the lockout

Writing in her blog, Naomi Klein, the new friend of Friends of the Earth, said following in the matter:

“The image from the Bella Center that will forever stay with me is seeing security guards refuse entry to Nnimmo Bassey, chair of Friends of the Earth International, who has been fighting Shell and other oil giants in the Niger Delta for decades, losing friends like Ken Saro Wiwa to the struggle and being jailed himself. Meanwhile, the oil execs walk the halls of the Bella Center with impunity.

“Even if I could talk I'd be speechless.”

Round up of the demonstrations including interviews with Nnimmo (taken from Democracy Now) and Ricardo, and footage of the police violence -

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/video/2009/dec/17/copenhagen-climate-change>

A bouncer at the gate

<http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/12/16/a-bouncer-at-the-gate/>

Hundreds protest at climate talks

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/climate-change/hundreds-protest-at-climate-talks-1842287.html>

Friends of the Earth among activists barred from Copenhagen conference centre
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/dec/16/friends-of-the-earth-barrred-bella-centre>

Policy

On Thursday US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton arrived at the conference centre and brought some new energy to the the talks. However, what she was offering was quickly found to fall far short of what the United Nations say is needed.

"It's good to see the United States finally talking about putting longer term funding on the table to solve the climate crisis, but the proposal announced today is hollow" said Erich Picca President of FoE US.

Read the press release in full

<http://www.foei.org/en/media/archive/2009/climate-talks-rich-countries-to-blame-for-deadlock>

Listen to analysis from Andy Atkins Executive Director of EWNI

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aST7rMhpyN0&feature=player_embedded

Klimaforum – the civil society event

The rest of the week saw talks from Friends of the Earth on false solutions, popular movements for sustainable transitions, taking the movement forward and several films including; Towards solutions, Poison fire and Voices from the central American movement of victims.

Find out more

<http://www.klimaforum09.org/>

<http://www.foei.org/blog>

FoEI Communications

Real World Radio has features on the carbon development mechanism in Uruguay and an interview with Josie Riffaud, a member of La Via Campesina, France.

Spanish: <http://www.radiomundoreal.fm/?lang=es>

English: <http://www.radiomundoreal.fm/?lang=en>

Photos

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/actnow09>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/foei/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/foeaction>

Video

See the latest video from of the Flood and highlights from the 'food system change, not climate change' event

<http://www.youtube.com/friendsoftheearthint>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/FriendsoftheEarthUS>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/friendsoftheearth>

Friends of the Earth International blog

<http://www.foei.org/en/blog>

A selection of blogs from the Federation

FoE Scotland

<http://duncancop15.wordpress.com/>

FoE Japan's climate capsule

<http://photozou.jp/photo/list/288546/1033377>

Young Friends of the Earth Blog

<http://www.actnow09.eu/>

Sri Lanka - Hemantha Withenage

<http://hemanthawithanage.blogspot.com/>

England Wales and Northern Ireland

http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/news/copenhagen_blog_dominic.html

Friends of the Earth Sweden

<http://blogg.mjv.se/>

Friends of the Earth Ireland

<http://www.foe.ie/>

Jeugdbond voor Natuur en Milieu

<http://www.jnm.be/?pag=1308&a=49&taal=3>

U.S.: Copenhagen page

www.foe.org/copenhagen