

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

NATIONAL ADAPTATION PROGRAMME OF ACTION (NAPA) TO CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT

Climate Training for Media

March 2010

Training Booklet



Table of Contents

- I. About the Training 3
 - 1. Objectives 3
 - 2. Training Content and Methodology 3
 - 3. Resource Persons and Organizations 4
 - 4. Participants 5
 - 5. Requirements 5
 - 6. Plan for post-training networking and joint learning 5
- II. Training Notes 5
 - 1. Climate Science 5
 - 2. Covering international climate change negotiations 9
 - 3. Tips for Busy Journalists 16
 - 4. Researching and Writing Climate Stories 19

I. About the Training

1. Objectives

This training course is conducted as part of the initiative to establish a national climate change knowledge management platform under the National Adaptation Programme of Action to Climate Change Project (NAPA), which is being implemented by the Ministry of Environment with support from the Danish International Development Agency, UK Department of International Development, Global Environment Facility, and UNDP Nepal.¹

As the frontline source of news and information, and often the most easily accessible, the media play a very critical role in any information and knowledge management platform. As information/knowledge intermediaries, they have an immense potential to educate the public on climate change issues, as well as to strengthen the link between knowledge providers (e.g. scientific and research communities) and users (e.g. policymakers, communities, community-based organizations). However, this potential is not fully realized because of various obstacles to reporting on climate change, such as the lack of media's grasp of climate change issues and lack of access to reliable information on climate change. This training course aims to address these obstacles in order to make the members of the media (both reporters and editors) effective intermediaries of climate change information.

The specific objectives of the training are as follows:

- 1) Improve the media's understanding of the science and impacts of climate variability and change, international climate change policy regime, national and local responses.
- 2) Hone the media's written and oral skills in communicating climate issues to the lay public and to policymakers.
- 3) Identify opportunities to strengthen dialogue amongst scientists, media, and policymaking communities.

2. Training Content and Methodology

Content

The following topics will be discussed during the training:

- Understanding climate science – climate variability and change across different timescales, the greenhouse effect, concept of committed warming, certainties and uncertainties in climate science, sources of uncertainties
- Reporting on key sectoral impacts – bio-physical and social impacts on climate-sensitive sectors
- Understanding and communicating weather and climate information – understanding and communicating climate change projections and socio-economic scenarios, seasonal forecast, and early warning for extreme climate events

¹ The views expressed in this training handbook are of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Ministry of Environment or its development partners.



Climate Training for Media

- Role of national and local institutions in responding to climate change – national policies and programs (including NAPA), community-based adaptation
- Covering international climate change policy negotiations - UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol and key agreements/decisions, Bali action plan building blocks (adaptation, finance, mitigation, technology), the key negotiating blocks and alliances
- Engaging government and key stakeholders on climate change

Methodology

The course will foster participatory learning and employ adult learning methodologies, including:

- Interactive and participatory lectures
- Panel discussion
- Hands-on exercise on news/feature writing, etc.
- Site visit

3. Resource Persons and Organizations

All efforts were made to assemble a pool of resource persons with a good mix of climate scientists, sectoral experts, and media practitioners. The training will be led by international journalists Alex Kirby and Muhammad Quamrul Chowdhury with inputs from national resource persons.

Alex Kirby is a British journalist, specializing in environmental issues. He worked in various capacities at the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) for 26 years. From 1987 to 1996, he was the environment correspondent for BBC News, in radio and television. In 1998 he became the environment correspondent for the BBC News website, finally leaving the Corporation in 2005 to work as a freelance journalist. He now provides media skills training to companies, universities and NGOs, and works extensively with journalists from developing countries on climate change and other environment themes. He presented BBC Radio 4's environment series, *Costing the Earth*, for six years.

Muhammed Chowdhury is a principal negotiator of the 134-nation G-77 bloc and a lead negotiator of 49 Least Developed Countries at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. His permanent affiliation is with the National News Agency Bangladesh as New Editor/Chief Reporter/ Special Correspondent since 1991. He has been involved in various training activities on climate change at both national and international levels as lead trainer.

In addition, the training will benefit from the expertise of the following national resource persons (listed in alphabetical order):

1. Mr. Ajaya Dixit, Institute of Social and Economic Transition- Nepal (ISET-N)
2. Mr. Batu Uprety, Least Developed Countries Expert Group & Department of Forestry and Soil Conservation
3. Dr. Deepak Rijal, NAPA Thematic Working Group on Agriculture and Food Security
4. Mr. Keshav Paudel, Spotlight
5. Mr. Kumud Shrestha, NAPA Thematic Working Group on Forestry and Biodiversity
6. Mr. Pitamber Sigdel, Annapurna Post

7. Mr. Ramesh Prasad Bhusal, The Himalayan Times Daily

ISET Nepal will facilitate the field visit to Paanckhal and the reflection session that will follow the visit. ISET Nepal has conducted a study in Paanckhal as part of the broader “too much water, too little water,” study that was coordinated by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development.

4. Participants

In order to ensure the quality of learning and interaction, the number of participants is limited to 30. The participants represent:

- 1) Print media
- 2) Broadcast media (TV and radio)
- 3) Professional associations
- 4) Nepal Academy of Science and Technology

5. Requirements

Participants should participate actively in training sessions and other training-related activities. In order to receive a certificate of completion from the Ministry of Environment, the participant must be present during the entire duration of the four-day course.

6. Plan for post-training networking and joint learning

The international resource persons kindly offered to provide advice and mentoring to the participants via email (free of charge). This will last until four weeks after the workshop; until mid-April.

Participants will be encouraged to form an informal network of climate reporters to facilitate sharing and exchange of ideas on climate reporting. The Climate Change and Development portal which will be developed by the Ministry of Environment under the NAPA project can serve as a virtual hub for network members to carry out their activities.

II. Training Notes

1. Climate Science

By Alex Kirby

Introduction



Climate Training for Media

You do not have to be a science graduate to be a good science journalist. In fact it often helps if you do *not* know much science, because then you will understand the subject – and report it – from the position of your audience. That will help them to understand you. You need three things:

- a basic familiarity with the science, which will let you write quickly and knowledgeably
- a clear idea of where to go for more detailed information
- the curiosity, the hunger for a story, and the sheer humanity of the true journalist.

General Principles

Many people now think that climate change is something they ought to know about, even if they are not convinced the climate scientists are right. Our audiences are bright people: never over-estimate how much they know, but never under-estimate their intelligence. This means we have to explain the science to them simply, so they can understand it easily, and we must do it without *taking sides*. The job of the journalist is not to persuade people, but to inform them. The questions many people often ask about climate change include:

- is it really happening?
- are humans causing it, or at least adding to it?
- does it matter? will it change the world for the worse?

Almost all scientists agree that climate change is happening (it has always happened, and always will). Most say humans are adding substantially to it, and most think it will damage the world, although they admit that there are huge areas of ignorance about the subject, and some experienced scientists do not accept all that they say. (It is more accurate to speak of climate change than of global warming, because what it happening will probably mean that some parts of the world grow colder or wetter, not warmer and drier.)

The main group of scientists who say that climate change is a serious threat are the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** (the IPCC). It is a United Nations body which issues reports every few years explaining what it thinks the latest scientific research means. It made a serious mistake over the speed at which the Himalayan glaciers are melting, but most of what it has reported remains unchallenged. The IPCC does not do research itself. Instead it reviews other scientists' research. Climate science works in several ways, for example by computer modelling of likely future climate, and by studying physical evidence of what past climates were like (tree rings, for instance, and ice cores drilled from the Greenland ice cap or Antarctica. Sometimes people question the use of computers, arguing that you cannot trust them. But scientists test how reliable they are by using a process called "backcasting" to see if they can predict what past climates should have been like. Computer backcasts are good enough to persuade scientists that their forecasts should be trusted too.

The political body which tries to co-ordinate the world's response to climate change is the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change** (the UNFCCC). It agreed the **Kyoto Protocol**, which requires developed countries to make small cuts in their emissions of greenhouse gases (coal, oil and gas, mainly from industry and transport, but also from deforestation and farming). The UNFCCC has



Climate Training for Media

the very difficult task of getting all the governments in the world to agree on how – and how fast - to limit the human contribution to climate change and eventually to reverse it.

Reporting climate change, then, means reporting the science, and also the negotiations, the international diplomacy, the finance (who pays? who will make a fortune?), and what it means for all the areas of life that will be affected – like farming and water supplies. So here are four principles which you may find it helpful to remember in your reporting of the science:

- climate change is happening faster than expected, so it is not just the fact that it is taking place that is worrying, but also the speed of the changes
- climate change may feed on itself: white ice and snow, for example, reflect heat back into space, but when they melt they expose dark rock or water which absorb the heat instead
- rich people and countries may be able to adapt to a warmer world. Poorer ones will not – nor will the natural world on which we all depend
- choices we make within the next few years could decide what happens decades or centuries in the future.

How To Do It

Keep it simple! This section may give you useful background information, but your audience will be able to digest only a little at a time. Don't overfeed them with facts. Many people think weather and climate are the same thing – but they're not. Weather is what happens in the next week: climate patterns can last for centuries. The IPCC says global average temperatures are rising, and are almost 0.8C warmer than they were when the Industrial Revolution began 250 years ago (in some areas they are rising much faster. Scientists believe Central Asia could be 4C warmer by 2100. If that happened globally, some scientists believe, it would threaten the water supplies of half the world's people and drive half of all animal and plant species to extinction.) If this doesn't sound much, remember that 11,000 years ago, at the end of the last Ice Age, the world was about 4.5C colder than now, a very different world.

The reason why the world is warming is simple. The more greenhouse gases there are in the atmosphere, the more they build up into a layer like a sheet of glass in a greenhouse, trapping more of the Sun's rays instead of letting them escape back into space. And since the Industrial Revolution we have been emitting more and more gases. 250 years ago there were about 270-280 ppm (parts per million) of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the main greenhouse gas caused by human activities, in the atmosphere. Today there are about 385 ppm, more than at any time for 800,000 years, and the figure is growing at about 1.5 to 2 ppm a year. It will go on growing: energy use is projected on present trends to increase by 50% between 2005 and 2030. Scientists cannot agree on a safe limit: some say we must stay below 450 ppm to prevent the temperature warming by more than 2C, but others say we need a much lower limit.

The warming itself is one problem: climatologists expect there will be more heatwaves, some crops will find it harder to grow, there may be drastic changes in rainfall, and some wild species may not survive. And if temperatures rise more than 2C above the historical level, then the process could



Climate Training for Media

be impossible to stop and the world could warm and change quite unpredictably. But there will be other probable effects of the warming, including rising sea levels (perhaps from 60 cm to more than a metre by 2100), more floods and droughts, and more storms. The Arctic, which is warming faster than regions closer to the Equator, may have no summer ice cover within a few decades. Nepal will be significantly affected. The Nepal Government's own National Adaptation Programme of Action website says this:

"Nepal is highly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. Rises in temperature related to global warming are associated with changes to rainfall patterns (such as less frequent but more intense rainfall events), increasing frequency and intensity of floods, changes in monsoon on- and offset, longer dry spells and drought events, increasing storms, and a growing threat from Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)"

And that is before you start thinking about the possible impacts on water supplies, and food, and wildlife, and tourism.

There are two possible approaches to climate change – to *mitigate* it, which means to try to slow it down by reducing global greenhouse gas emissions (through the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol), and to *adapt* to it (for example, by replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy. This is vital because it is going to affect us all: CO₂ lasts for many years in the atmosphere, and at the moment is set to increase for years to come.

Journalists need to tell their audiences how mitigation and adaptation actually work, what they demand from us as individuals and as societies. There are plenty of examples of what works – and what doesn't. They will demand real changes in the way many of us live: scientists say developed countries will probably need to cut their emissions by about 80% by 2050, and many more countries will by then be highly developed.

Some Simple Tips

Don't try to read everything. So much is published about climate change that you will confuse yourself and your audience if you are not careful. Work out what is certain (like the increase in CO₂ levels) and what is less certain (the probable impacts for different countries, for example: at the moment the science is much better at large-scale forecasting than small-scale).

Find out which sources you can trust – those which simply try to report but not to persuade. Talk to scientists so you can compare what they tell you. Beware of campaigning journalists – or scientists. They are entitled to campaign, but they may not be much help to you.

Be sceptical about everyone and everything. Ask scientists for the evidence to back up what they are telling you. If they cannot provide it, treat what they say with great caution.

Check whether a piece of research or a report has been peer-reviewed. If it has, it is probably more reliable as a source for you.

Be very careful about claims made on the web, unless you can find something to back them up.

Make sure you understand what you are told. Never repeat something you have heard (or read) unless you understand it yourself.

Remember how many people want to use us as megaphones to relay their messages. That's not what we became journalists for. We have to think for ourselves, not for our sources.

These May Be Useful

SciDev.Net: <http://www.scidev.net/en/climate-change-and-energy/>
BBC – Climate Change Graphics:
(see its Climate Change Glossary) <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/8359629.stm>
New Scientist – Climate Change: <http://www.newscientist.com/topic/climate-change>
RealClimate site: <http://www.realclimate.org/index.php/archives/2004/12/about/>

Other Places to Find Help

IPCC <http://www.ipcc.ch/>
UNFCCC <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>
NAPA Nepal <http://www.napanepal.gov.np/>
ICIMOD <http://www.icimod.org/>
EarthWire Climate: <http://www.earthwire.org/climate/>
UK Meteorological Office
<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climatechange/science/controversy/facts.html>
A View from the Pentagon (see especially the end of page 2)
http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/09/science/earth/09climate.html?pagewanted=1&_r=4&hp

2. Covering international climate change negotiations

By Quamrul Chowdhury

Global Response to Climate Change: The State of Current Negotiation

Realising the scientific evidence of greenhouse gas emissions from human activities, the United Nations General Assembly set up the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) in 1990 to craft an international instrument to combat climate change. The INC drafted the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which was adopted on May 9, 1992 at UN HQ in New York.

The UNFCCC- a global treaty- provides the international framework for facing adverse impacts of climate change. The Convention has the ultimate objective of achieving stabilisation of GHG concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic

interference with the climate system, and of achieving such a level within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.

Kyoto Protocol

Under the Convention, Kyoto Protocol was adopted on December 11 in 1997 during the third session of Conference of Parties (COP) to UNFCCC. KP, which is more powerful and legally binding, has entered into force on February 16, 2005.

As a global response, the Convention also specifies that developed countries are committed to helping “particularly vulnerable” developing countries meet the costs of adaptation. It shall be on grant basis.

The seventh session of COP held at Marrakech in 2001 setup new funds for adaptation including Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) under the Framework Convention to support 49 LDCs to adapt to climate change

LDCF succeeded in terms of formulation of 43 NAPAs in 43 different LDCs, could fund only couple of millions of dollars thus failed to reach its objective to support quite adequately--- Bangladesh prepared NAPA in 2005 and now updated it with an approximate outlay of US\$ 2 billion for supporting most urgent and immediate adaption actions

KP Adaptation Fund falls short

Special Climate Change Fund has also been created but access for developing countries especially LDCs and SIDS are still a big problem. The 13th session of COP held in Bali created Kyoto Protocol Adaptation Fund with 2 per cent sales proceeds of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). This KP AF is yet to be operationalised fully from where Bangladesh and other LDCs and SIDS can access resources directly. The total size of AF is also very small given the global requirements of at least US\$ 600 billion per annum for the most vulnerable developing countries.

The current status of global negotiations to achieve a new climate change agreement has still a long way to go to as per Bali Action Plan to enhance implementation of the Convention fully, effectively and sustained manner taking enhanced actions on mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology transfer.

Global negotiation is progressing very slowly. A substantial level of agreement has been reached in relation to adaptation as well as in case of technology transfers. There are several issues in these which still have to be clarified before a text may be prepared for a final agreement. But, significant development towards an agreed outcome in relation to finance is still far off. The main stumbling block, however, appears to be in case of how much reduction will be done by which group of countries and by when.

The current status of global negotiations to achieve a new climate change agreement has still a long way to go to as per Bali Action Plan to enhance implementation of the Convention fully, effectively and sustained manner taking enhanced actions on mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology transfer.

Global negotiation is progressing very slowly. A substantial level of agreement has been reached in relation to adaptation as well as in case of technology transfers. There are several issues in these which still have to be clarified before a text may be prepared for a final agreement. But, significant development towards an agreed outcome in relation to finance is still far off. The main stumbling block, however, appears to be in case of how much reduction will be done by which group of countries and by when.

Climate Negotiation Update

1. Convention Track-AWG LCA
2. Shared Vision
3. Adaptation
4. Mitigation
5. Technology Transfer
6. Capacity Building
7. Financing
8. Kyoto Protocol Track-AWG KP

Why Climate Change Negotiation Matters?

- As in developing world including Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Maldives climate change is already devastating lives- Kofi Annan report estimates in next 20 years one in ten of world population could be directly and seriously affected by impacts of climate change- In LDCs like Bangladesh and Nepal it would be more drastic, three in ten of our population will be affected
- That is why LDCs have been playing a significant role as a leading player in Climate Change Negotiation
- Earned respectability both at LDC group and G-77 because of her moderate views given the severe vulnerability due to adverse impacts of CC side by side facing it as one of the frontline victim countries through her NAPA and Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2009- Nepal is on her way of formulation of her NAPA
- Nepal and Bangladesh submission on Bali Action Plan received commendation-Now is right time to take momentous decision that will determine fate of our world, security of our planet – We have to write our manifesto for post-Copenhagen, to forge a new concord on CC at Cancun
- At Cancun, we have to ensure climate-proof development stewardship and social justice

Position on Shared Vision

- LDCs- including Bangladesh and Nepal- is in favour of, " A shared vision for long-term cooperative action, including a long-term global goal for emission reductions,..., in accordance with the provisions and principles of the Convention, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and taking into account social and economic conditions and other relevant factors" as per the Decision 1/ CP 13
- LDCs is for a shared vision that should treat all four Bali elements- adaptation, mitigation, finance and tech trans and deployment- equally
- Shared vision should have a place for most vulnerable countries like LDCs and SIDS, coastal and landlocked nations



Climate Training for Media

- Adequate access to atmospheric space
- Steep cuts and early peaking period– emission limit should be set well below 350 ppm, temperature limit well below 1.5 degree C above pre-industrial level, Annex 1 emission cut by at least 45% by 2020 from 1990 level and 85% by 2050 from 1990 level (Gordon Brown already calls for 80% cut by 2050 in Annex 1 countries)
- All adaptation finance should be on grant basis and over and above current ODA... this new adaptation fund should be at least 1.5 per cent of Annex 1 GDP annually earmarking 70 % for LDCs and SIDS with easy and most direct access for LDCs and other most vulnerable countries

Adaptation

- An International Adaptation Framework so that most vulnerable countries like Nepal and Bangladesh could face climate change that alters shape of development programmes– could raise capacities and investments to adapt
- An International Adaptation Research Centre with regional hubs and national centres--- international centre under UNFCCC and guided by the Parties, run by EB with equal regional representation including LDCs and other most vulnerable countries for quick adaptation avoiding mal-adaptation
- Convention Adaptation Fund with representation from LDCs and SIDS
- National Adaptation Plan

International Financial Architecture

- International Financial Architecture should be put in place with adequate, predictable and new funding since finance is urgently required for adaptation, for tech trans and capacity dev
- Tackling climate change requires most urgent and immediate short, medium and long-term investments
- At least 1.5% of Annex 1 GDP for adaptation, 1.5% for mitigation and tech trans– altogether 3% of Annex-1 GDP per annum over and above ODA
- It should be under UNFCCC, guided by the Parties and run by EB
- Finance for adaptation should most urgently go to the vulnerable countries while support for mitigation should go for cost-effective emission reductions

International Climate Policy Architecture

- Whatever Nepal or Bangladesh or any other LDC or developing country Party does would be limited by the global
- Climate policy architecture
- Financial architecture
- Technology transfer and deployment
- Assume US\$ 100 trillion world GDP in 2013
- Globally we need to invest US\$ 1 trillion for adaptation per annum
- Gordon Brown already proposed US\$ 100 billion for adaptation per annum in most vulnerable and poorest countries alone
- US\$ 1 trillion for mitigation, tech development, trans and deployment
- We have to strike a deal at Cancun, any delay would retard investment, climb us higher emission trajectory and worsen draconian impacts on the poorest and most vulnerable---Cost of inaction is

as high as 10-15 per cent of global GDP per annum– Sir Nicholas Stern estimates US\$1 investment now to face climate change would save US\$20

Kyoto Protocol Runs Out?

- The negotiations in relation to GHG emission is being conducted under two *ad hoc* working groups, namely AWG-KP (Ad hoc Working group on Kyoto protocol) and AWG-LCA (Ad hoc Working group on Long Term Cooperative Action). AWG-KP was established under the SBI (Subsidiary Body on Implementation) under the UNFCCC to negotiate the emission reduction by various developed countries (listed in Annex B in Kyoto Protocol document) beyond 2012 when the mandate of the present KP runs out. There is not much of an agreement on this yet.
- Three types of issues are on the table for negotiation. The very first one is that the most emission-intensive economy, that of the USA, is not yet under KP as the country has not ratified it yet.
- Secondly, the conditionality of attaching non-Annex 1 (developing) countries' emission to those by those under the present KP has created a lot of dissension among the developing countries.
- Third, even where there are clear statements regarding quantified emission reductions, some Parties have related them to years other than 1990. This has created a lot of confusion because Convention, KP and BAP all refer to 1990 as the base year.
- The mitigation under Bali Action Plan has several elements. But the most important parts are under sub-clauses 1 b(i) and 1 b(ii). Sub-clause 1 b(i) makes it mandatory to make mitigation commitments while sub-clause 1 b(ii) calls for voluntary contribution to emission reduction by all developing countries.
- How much emission reduction is needed for stabilisation of the atmospheric concentration of GHGs, warming potential and keeping adverse impacts of Climate Change (CC) at the minimum unavoidable is a matter of debate. But according to Assessment Report 4 (AR 4) of the IPCC, the limits are 450 ppm of concentration, and a temperature rise below 2 degrees. It is also contemplated that the time path of GHG emission has to be such that it peaks no later than 2015, there is a reduction of 45% below 1990 level by 2020 and by 2050, a reduction of 80-95% below that in 1990.
- The demand is actually far more stringent than the above. Many countries, including LDCs and SIDS do demand a concentration no more than 350 ppm and a temperature rise of no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius. Now the way the negotiations are going are still far short of these targets.

Why negotiators lag behind?

First, the USA as well as some other countries have demanded that the big emitters among the developing countries, namely China, India, Brazil, and South Africa do make a commitment for reduction of GHGs. And that 1 b(i) and 1 b(ii) be considered together. Naturally this demand has been resisted by them and this resistance is being made under the group position of G77 and China where these same countries are the big players.

- LDCs are also a sub-group within the G77 and China and thus at times we have to toe the lines of the G77 and China. The position of G77 and China has hardened to the extent that they would not accept any schedule of mitigation actions by developing countries, nor even a plan for it as such as demanded by India and certainly not Measurement, Reporting and verification (MRV) of such efforts.



Climate Training for Media

- It is true that the big developed country emitters so far has offered only limited cuts. USA for example has offered only a reduction of 20% by 2020 over 2005 emission level which is just 7 % cut from 1990 level, Australia 30% and Norway 40 % .
- Japan wants AWG-KP and AWG-LCA to be considered together and the developed country intransigence has almost caused a death of the KP beyond 2012. Fortunately, everybody apparently has taken a step or two back from the brink.
- The Bali Action Plan did clearly chart how the developing countries will take mitigation actions. LDCs believes that while the developed countries are not yet showing the flexibility needed the developing countries through the G77 and China is actually playing a similar game in the name of right to development.
- What is the position of LDCs?
 - ✓ In the 7th AWG-LCA session in Bangkok, LDCs pointed out that while the mandatory mitigation commitments by developed countries and voluntary mitigation actions by developing ones are indeed separate and distinct as stated in the Bali Action Plan, Mother nature makes no distinctions between the two and the global climate change and impact would not depend whether the emission had been by developed countries.
 - ✓ And hence there is a relationship between the two and this does call for a concerted effort by all groups to come to an agreement for the global good otherwise all countries particularly millions upon million poor people all over the world will suffer and not even the mightiest country of the world will be spared.

Globally what are the prospects for a negotiated settlement?

- There is some softening of attitudes on both sides, but not yet to the extent that the differences can be bridged as soon as possible. It seems that if the rumours regarding the deals between USA, India and China are true, we may expect substantial shifts in the days to come in respective positions.
- But as some of the Parties have pointed out a political solution offered by the Governments will be needed. It cannot be settled at the technical level of AWG-LCA negotiators.
- KP can't be killed
- The agreement among national governments in the form of a treaty for controlling GHGs has to be the starting point. But for this treaty to be effective, it has to have the highest moral and legal authority to sanction actions against recalcitrant country parties in their efforts to lower GHG emission. Further, whether any country has observed its commitments has to be verified by an Independent body under the COP. Thus, even if sanctions are not contemplated, measurements and verifications will need specialised bodies to be created. Similar specialised bodies are needed for compliance with financial and technology transfer/help commitments.

Climate Bail-out Plan

- Present international bodies for finance are neither enough, nor are trusted because of their past records. Note particularly that adaptation and mitigation both have to be nationally determined. Multilateral bodies such as the World Bank can not be allowed to determine these requirements which they would obviously do, given half a chance. Nor is there much of a trust on the capacity of the market mechanism to handle the volume and types of financial resource flows that would be needed.



Climate Training for Media

- The over-all mood in the AWG-LCA negotiations is that the main resources flow shall be in the public domain supplemented and complemented with private financial flows wherever it is deemed better suited. Massive ramp up of finance over and above ODA, new and addition, predictable, easy and direct access of LDCs and SIDS to the funding mechanism.
- For an effective and legally binding response, world economy now urgently requires Climate Bail-out Plan like post-war Marshal Plan for Europe. We have to be more pragmatic, prudent, farsighted like John Maynard Keynes had come out during the 1930's great depression with his Theory of Employment and Public spending
- The answer to global climate crisis lies in neo neo Keynesian economics of climate change
- We have to explore new, additional and predictable finance, direct access, easy access for the most vulnerable countries like LDCs and SIDS at Cancun come November.

Post-Copenhagen Climate Summit: Way Forward for LDCs

Copenhagen Accord

Bali Action Plan in 2007 COP 13 with its 4 elements to complete negotiations by 2009 COP 15 at Copenhagen -Work only halfway through

*A political framework presented in the form of Copenhagen Accord – not decided by COP15— only took note of it

*Provides a new premise for further work and negotiations to complete by November 2010 at Mexico COP 16 in a two track process—AWG LCA and KP- at least five sessions of AWGs this year to complete the task of legally binding agreement/s

Issues under negotiation

1. Developed vs developing on mitigation
 - How much to mitigate
 - Who to mitigate
 - When to mitigate
- Developing vs LDCs/AOSIS on all elements of BAP
2. Four country domination- China, India, Brazil and S. Africa + rise of 4 Latin American countries
3. Time path of emission, Rate of emission cut by whom, mandatory or voluntary , MRV, acceptable temperature rise, acceptable CO2 concentration

LDC view

- 350 ppm CO₂; temp rise no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius; 95% cut by 2050; 45% cut by 2020; peaking by 2015 – LDC position
- Preferential treatment for LDCs /SIDS / African countries under stress
- Massive rampup of Adaptation finance- grant, fast track, direct and easy access
- Tech transfer and capacity building

Copenhagen Accord

- Several countries vehemently opposed including Tuvalu, Sudan, Venezuela, Cuba, Bolivia, Nicaragua



Climate Training for Media

- BASIC-China, India, Brazil, South Africa now support CA, some of the LDCs including Bangladesh, Lesotho, Maldives, Ethiopia associate with CA
- Not a COP decision to be legally binding - only a premise
- Not a perfect document as emission cuts not mentioned in figures, nor time paths – but to examine 1.5 degree case
- But narrows the choices on which to argue for future negotiations
- Preferential treatment accepted for LDCs
- Initial & future adaptation funding
- Yet a seed of discord has been sown

LDC Points in Text

- LDCs exempted from mitigation except when supported
- National Communication accepted as proposed by LDCs as MRV vehicle for voluntary action
- LDCs preferential treatment in adaptation funding and tech transfer
- Completion of NAPAs in all LDCs plus Build on NAPA experience, initiation of a process for mid-to-long term NAPA formulation and implementation in LDCs
- International Centre on Adaptation to be decided in COP 16

Future Course for LDC

- Need to be diplomatically active from now on
- LDCs including Nepal, Bangladesh and others now need to formulate national position for all sessions of AWGs beginning April 9-11, 2010 in Bonn
- More intensive negotiations ahead on
 - Emission cuts
 - Funding level and allocation rules to be in actual text as in Accord
 - Has to remain alert to negotiate for a place in the High Panel on Finance

Way Forward for LDC

- Consolidate and sharpen negotiation position
- For putting in place a workable institutional mechanism for negotiations in general and for funds, in particular- raising negotiation capacity with continuity and support for participation of expert negotiators with proven track record
- For making processes easier and simplified for greater absorption of funds
- Prompt and fast track accessing of UNFCCC kitty's like LDCF, Special Climate Change Fund, KP Adaptation Fund and new UNFCCC funding windows
- Showcasing success stories nationally, regionally and globally
- Preparing community ensuring people's participation, involving private sector, professionals, media

3. Tips for Busy Journalists

By Alex Kirby

Introduction

Although you do not need to be a climate scientist to report on climate change, you do need to know the basics to enable you to write quickly and accurately even when you are up against a deadline. You must also always write *interesting* copy: if you are boring, nobody will read you, and after a time nobody will employ you either. So remember that our real job is to be story-tellers. When you are writing a story, think *all the time* of your reader/listener/viewer. They are the only person who matters.

General Principles

- Climate change is happening: hardly anybody argues about that. The arguments are about whether humans are part of the cause; whether it is going to affect us (and how); what we need to do about it; and how fast we need to do it. That is the basic story, and it is the simple one we have to go on telling our audience.
- It's easy and tempting to blame climate change for almost everything that happens in the natural world, like earthquakes and tsunamis. But it's lazy journalism, and it's often wrong. We have to be quite sure that climate change really is to blame for something, and not natural weather cycles instead, for example, or simple coincidence.
- BUT . . . there are several parts to the environmental crisis we face. The number of people in the world continues to grow, but most of our resources cannot increase. So the world faces problems from growing populations, water shortages (which affect food supplies), pollution, damage to the oceans, the loss of wild places and species, and more. And climate change will make most of these problems harder to solve.
- Tackling climate change will demand new technology, new ways of doing things, massive investment. There are fortunes to be made in going green!
- Many of the actions necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are going to bring other benefits as well. Switching from fossil fuels to cleaner energy will reduce air pollution and so improve health, and developing climate-friendly crops can help to grow more food to feed a growing population.

How To Do It

- Think of your reader or listener or viewer and *of nobody else*
- Your story will say only one big thing – at least, your audience will probably remember only one point. So do not try to tell them more
- You want to write, but nobody is forced to read what you have written. The only way to make sure they do is to make your copy unmissably interesting
- Think of the ideal headline for your story – in no more than six words. Then think of the ideal first sentence to match the headline. Then get the main facts into the ideal first paragraph. Then the rest of the story will almost write itself
- Try telling stories through a narrow focus. Start with one person, one family, one village as a way of illustrating the big point you want to make
- Go and look for stories. If you wait for them to come to you you will get press releases, which are not journalism – they are about someone getting their message out. Spend as much time as you can away from the office with people living the reality you report

Some Simple Tips

Climate Training for Media

- Less is more! If we try to tell people everything about climate change we shall probably just confuse them. Journalism means judging what our audience really needs to know
- But remember to provide the context people need if they are to understand us
- Our journalism matters a lot. But we don't matter. What we tell our audience is important, but we must never allow ourselves to become self-important
- Write to length and to time. An editor who asks you for 500 words does not want 800. If the story is for the next bulletin, it will probably be out of date if it misses the deadline
- Never use jargon – filter it out of your copy and use words your audience will understand
- Keep an open mind. You may start out with an idea of what the issues are, but you must respect the evidence you find. Your job is to present the evidence, not to reach a verdict
- Many climate and environment stories are complex, but they are often also photogenic, or can be illustrated with engaging human stories. Use all the resources you have to bring the story to life - headlines, photos, graphs, maps, sidebars
- Remember the three questions many readers will ask themselves as they start reading your article: "Will this news make me richer? Will it make me healthier? Will it mean a better world for my children?"
- Before you interview a scientist (or anyone else), prepare yourself. The more you know about your interviewee and your subject, the better the interview will be - a conversation of equals, not an attempt by you to keep up with what you're hearing for the first time
- Be assertive. We represent our audience – they rely on us, and they matter. We are there to ask the questions that they, ordinary people like us, would ask if they could. They pay the scientists and elect the politicians: they have a right to know, and we have a duty to find out for them. So don't hesitate to ask very direct questions, and don't let anyone browbeat you. Remember the interviewer who asked a politician the same question *thirteen times* live on air to get him to answer
- Be inquisitive. Try to get behind what you're told: the speaker may be giving you an apparently plausible and satisfactory answer in the hope that you'll stop asking questions.
- Always be sceptical of everyone you meet and everything you're told – but never cynical. Don't refuse to believe what somebody tells you, but ask them for evidence to back up what they say
- The Internet is a marvellous tool - but don't believe everything you find there
- When you have finished writing, read through your copy, and ask a colleague to read it as well. Only when you have both done that should you give it to the newsdesk

These May be Useful

SciDev.net <http://www.scidev.net/en/science-communication/science-journalism/>
UNEP GRID-Arendal <http://www.grida.no/>
The Net for Journalists http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=21010&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Other Places to Find Help

Tiempo Climate Newswatch <http://www.tiempocyberclimate.org/newswatch/>
Panos London – Topic Guides <http://www.panos.org.uk/?lid=28398>
Media Helping Media <http://www.mediahelpingmedia.org/>

4. *Researching and Writing Climate Stories*

By Alex Kirby

Introduction

Covering climate change requires the same skills as you need for any other news story. But it can be difficult to find the information you need, for two reasons. It is a complex story: the science, diplomacy, negotiations, finance and policy all need careful understanding and explanation, even though you do not need to be an expert. And it is a story where many people have made their minds up already on one side or the other and are unwilling to recognise the complexities and uncertainties. So you must be able to find research you can trust, and you must also be able to write it in a way your audience will trust.

General Principles

Basics for all subjects, which you know already, but are here just as polite reminders!

- The editor matters – if you want to keep your job. So write to length and to time
- Think of the one thing you are going to tell your reader, think of a short and snappy headline which fits the story, then write to it
- Write short sentences – they are much easier to understand
- Write stories which tell the reader as much as they need to know to understand you, but no more. **Less is often more in journalism**
- Remember the newsroom rule: tell the reader WHAT has happened, WHERE, WHEN, HOW and WHY. Tell them WHO made it happen, to WHOM it happened – and, if you can, HOW MUCH it will all cost. And tell them in an understandable sequence
- **Please resist any temptation to cut-and-paste** more than a few words from another source. Even then, you should turn the material into your own words. Journalism is about writing, not about stealing someone else's work. Remember *copyright* as well

A bit less basic

- Find a good intro. If you don't, you're wasting a chance to attract readers
- Remember that you control your material, not the other way round. You do not have to include everything you have learnt, and you should not. But sometimes you can and should *add* to your material, to help the reader to understand the story properly. You can add *facts*, but your reader is unlikely to want to read your *opinions*
- So provide context. Give the reader the extra facts needed to understand the story



Climate Training for Media

- Don't leave out facts just because they are inconvenient. Within your word count you must make sure you are *accurate, impartial* and *fair*.
- Your job is to tell your reader a *story*, not just a jumble of unconnected facts. SciDev.Net describes the process: "A well-written story is not simply a list of facts – it should follow a clear thread, making it obvious to the reader why one paragraph follows the next"
- Write in plain language, and write about people who can illustrate your story. Paint pictures with words. Use your powers of description to tell the reader about people, places and incidents – what the newsroom calls "colour" – to bring the story to life
- **Check your facts.** If you say something is a fact, you had better be sure it really is. If you are not sure, leave it out.
- Make sure you get your main points near the top of the story. The subs will cut from the bottom. If you are writing for a website, remember you are writing for a worldwide readership, so be careful not to write about things they will know nothing about

Writing about climate change

- Climate change involves unimaginable risks, but some people say the risks are very remote and unlikely. So be careful when describing risk. Try to give the reader an idea of the *likelihood* that something will happen, as well as the *possibility* that it could. Don't let editors talk you into horror headlines if the facts don't justify them
- You cannot always be balanced, and sometimes you should not even try to be. It isn't our job to try to provide balance where none exists. But we should always try to be fair.
- Writers about climate change tread a narrow line. We have to explain that solutions exist, so the world may be able to solve the problem – but also that the situation is urgent, so only really radical change can provide an answer. One British scientist, Sir David King, said of reducing greenhouse gas emissions: "**It is do-able. But we are going to have to bust a gut to do it.**" A scientist in Africa said: "**A crisis is a terrible thing to waste. Here in Africa, it's too late to be pessimistic.**"

How To Do It

- Be curious about everything. The incurious reporter is in the wrong job
- Read as much as you can, meet as many people as you can, browse relevant websites as often as you can. These are the best ways of finding out what is available
- Every time you see a reference to someone or something interesting you have not heard of, make a note and follow it up as soon as you can (so **never** be without a pen and paper)
- Build up your own contacts list, and contact your contacts every few weeks
- Help your memory. Keep a list of future developments (report launches, experiments, speeches and everything else) and check them out as they approach



Climate Training for Media

- Be organised: have a good filing system. You can sometimes write most of a story from your files
- Read, watch and listen to other journalists' work. That helps you to see what sources they trust and how they use the material they find. Examples (with an example of their work) are:

Navin Singh Khadka, BBC: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/8178463.stm>
Naresh Newar, Panos: <http://himalmag.com/blogs/blog/2009/12/19/lost-opportunity/>
Rina Saeed Khan, freelance: <http://www.panos.org.uk/?lid=30410>
Joydeep Gupta: <http://www.chinadialogue.net/article/show/single/en/3304>
Andrew Revkin, *NY Times*: <http://andyrevkin.gather.com/>
John Vidal, *The Guardian*: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/feb/17/tajikistan-water-shortages-climate-change>

Richard Black, BBC:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/thereporters/richardblack/2010/02/unknowns_behind_climate_chiefs.html

Roger Harrabin. BBC: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/8516905.stm>

- Remember that comment is free but facts are sacred. Treat facts with the utmost respect and report them straightforwardly. But let your imagination run riot when it comes to presenting the facts – use every journalistic device possible to make your story interesting

Some Simple Tips

- Covering climate change means absorbing a lot of information, and remembering where you put it, so that you can find it when you need it.
- There are good news stories as well as stories of approaching doom. Find the good news and report it, because readers will respond to it and also because it is part of the big picture.
- Doing something about climate change often brings other benefits as well.
- Newspapers and stations which build up a reputation for good coverage of the environment can often also attract worthwhile amounts of advertising income. Editors like that!
- Join national, regional and other journalists' networks: all of us can do more together than we can do by ourselves.
- There is nothing wrong in asking colleagues for help. It is often a good way of improving your own journalism, and most colleagues are willing to provide help.
- You may find that scientists, NGOs – and possibly politicians – are keen to work with you, because you are essential for getting their messages out. Remember that if we are going to be independent, we need to keep our distance from everyone.
- One of your most important tools is your own determination and resolve to get the story. Don't be happy just to get enough material to write as many words as the editor wants. Stay with the story until you are convinced you have found out all there is to know. And remember – the most interesting part of the story may not emerge until the very end.



Climate Training for Media

These May Be Useful

UN Development Programme <http://www.undp.org/climatechange/>
UN Environment Programme <http://www.unep.org/climatechange/>
Chinadialogue <http://www.chinadialogue.net/>

Other Places to Find Help

World Resources Institute <http://www.wri.org/>
Earth Policy Institute <http://www.earth-policy.org/>
Worldwatch Institute <http://www.worldwatch.org/>
Society of Environmental Journalists <http://www.sej.org/initiatives/climate-change/overview>
A guide to climate change information and disinformation
AP Exchange <http://www.ap.org/apexchange/>