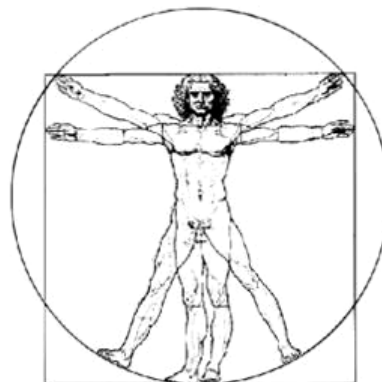

European Capacity Building Initiative (ECBI)

for sustained capacity building in support of the international climate change negotiations



THE 2006 SENIOR BURSARIES

One of the key problems of many developing country delegations, particularly those from Least Developed Countries, is that they often cannot send more than the one person funded by the UNFCCC Secretariat. To remedy this, the ECBI Workshop Programme already has a Junior Bursary scheme which funds not only the participation of typically 6 to 8 junior delegates at the ECBI pre-COP LDC workshops, but also their participation at the subsequent COP. The Fellowship Programme therefore established a

similar scheme for senior delegates relating to the Bonn Seminar and the intersessional UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SBs) meetings in Bonn. As in the case of the Oxford Fellowships, the selection of recipients shall be carried out by the ECBI Director and Steering Committee. In this first year of the scheme, in total five Bursaries were distributed to the recipients from Bhutan, Egypt, Mali, Morocco and Thailand, who each kindly agreed to write a short report, as reproduced below.

Thshering Tashi

National Environment Commission, Bhutan

On behalf of the Royal Government of Bhutan and the National Environment Commission, I would like to express my deep appreciation to Dr. Benito Müller, Director and Head of the Fellowship Program and Ms Izabela Ratajczak, his personal assistant, for inviting me and making it possible for Bhutan to take part in SB 24. I would also like to thank GTZ for providing the financial assistance.

The Bonn Seminar provided a very good opportunity to meet representatives of other countries, including Morocco, Mali, Thailand and Egypt. I am also happy to have met the representative of GTZ, who showed interest in assisting Bhutan in the adaptation program. During the SBI and SABSTA sessions and during some of the side events, I met a number of international organizations and NGOs to exchange views on climate change and its impact on the world, especially countries which are most

vulnerable to impacts such as droughts, floods, landslides and cyclones.

This forum also gave me the opportunity to discuss the impact of climate change on my country. Bhutan is a landlocked country with a largely intact environment, a small population of 0.75 million, and an area of 38,394 sq km. Over 60 per cent of the land is under forest cover, mostly primary forest. The country is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change – of the 562 glacial lakes in Bhutan, 24 are noted to be potentially dangerous. Bhutan experienced glacial lake overflows (GLOF) in 1957, 1960, 1968 and 1994 with varying intensity, causing damage to life and property in the lower valleys.

In view of this, and also as follow up to the eleventh Conference of Parties (COP11) of the UNFCCC, the National Environment Commission of the Royal Government of Bhutan has prepared the NAPA report for 2006. The priority areas selected are:

- Disaster Management Strategy - Planning for food security and emergency medicine to vulnerable communities.
- Artificial lowering of Thorthomi Lake, which is predicted to burst in 6 years.
- Landslide Management and Flood prevention and Management.
- Installation of Early Warning System in the Pho Chu Basin.

The discussion that took place in the SBI and SBSTA and the contact groups on specific issues were interesting and I gained much information and knowledge on the negotiation process under the UNFCCC. However, much time is wasted by having the text in brackets and pushed over for further negotiations in the next Conference of Parties.

Mohamed Ahmed El-Shahawy

Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs, Egypt

I would like to express my gratitude for facilitating the ECBI Senior Bursaries. It was an important occasion to meet a distinguished group of representatives from different countries, and exchange views during meetings and negotiations in contact groups. Since our participation was distributed in parallel formal and informal meetings and side events, it was of much benefit to exchange information. Being together in the same hotel gave us many opportunities to meet during breakfast, and on the way to the metro station and back and exchange frank views.

Abdoulaye Bayoko

CNRST-Bamako, Mali

First, let me thank all of the team of ECBI for giving me the opportunity to participate in this important meeting. My impression is that the ECBI is the ideal organization that can help developing countries. If the ECBI was not existent, it would be essential to create it. So, as it already exists, it is essential to strengthen it. The two meetings in Bonn were excellent and I encourage ECBI to continue with the

Let me congratulate you for hosting the 2006 Bonn Seminar on 21st May with the objective of building up trust and facilitating an informal exchange of views between developing country and European representatives. The discussion held during the informal meeting was very educative in understanding the problems and situations of some of the developing countries with regard to the implementation of CDM and NAPA projects, considering the lack of technical and financial constraints.

At the seminar, it was also mentioned that most vulnerable countries affected by the impact of Climate Change are the LDCs, which need support. The Adaptation Fund under the Kyoto Protocol, which was dormant, was revived in the COP 11 in Montreal, Canada. The GEF counsel decided to raise the amount for medium sized projects US\$1 million to US\$2 million, and small grants projects under NAPAs to US\$ 300,000. However, the LDCs would like this amount raised to US\$ 500,000.

Discussions with Dr. Müller were always useful and we benefit from his company and learn much from him. The workshop chaired by Dr. Bo Kjellen was highly organized and gave fruitful outputs from the considerable number of the participants that allowed for wide spreads scope of views. The reports presented by Dr. Müller, Dr. Saleemul Huq and Dr. Thomas E. Downing during the workshop were very useful and the dialog and discussions among the participants were friendly and touched the most important topics of the SB meetings. I acknowledge with thanks to the ECBI steering committee my nomination for a 2006 ECBI senior bursary to attend SB24 in Bonn.

methodology used during the first meeting. It is practical and pragmatic.

I would like to ask donors to continue to support ECBI by increasing their contributions in order to let it to continue to support developing countries. As ECBI is so practical in its methodologies, I suggest that the ECBI team should try to implement some practical pilot project in rural areas. The outcomes

of these experiences will contribute to reinforce the capacity of local populations and stakeholders.

I am asking donors to continue to support and increase their contributions to the ECBI as all the

Naima Oumoussa

Ministry of Territorial Planning, Water and Environment, Morocco

First of all, I would like to express my thanks to the ECBI for enabling me to participate for the first time in a SB session. I would like also to thank everyone who supported and participated in this initiative. In particular, I am extending my special thanks to GTZ for their generous support. Without them this participation could not be possible.

My participation has consolidated the Moroccan presence by the involvement of another Moroccan colleague. We both selected and structured our presence after having chosen the issues the are relevant to our areas of interest such as CDM, National Communications of non-Annex I countries, financial mechanism and AWG.

On the other hand this participation was an opportunity for us to get in touch with other negotiators from both developing and developed countries. And, through participating in some

participants requested during the ECBI second meeting in Bonn with the donors. It will be my pleasure to participate in upcoming meetings of the ECBI.

chosen side events, it enabled a better understanding of the areas of interest to Morocco and of some technical issues such as CFC and the HCFC projects. Many contacts were also made with many colleagues from several developed countries interested in partnership with Moroccan developers of CDM projects.

One further thing I would like to underscore is the importance of the informal exchange we made with other colleagues, especially from developed countries. This exchange seems to be the best way to build new relations that may contribute to bridge the gap between the different positions during the future sessions of the negotiations. As I felt honoured that my country has been involved in the ECBI initiative during this SB session. I am expressing my deep wishes that ECBI will develop more relations with my direction in the future.

Pongtip Puvacheroen

Office of Natural Resources and Environment Policy and Planning, Thailand

SB24 was a good session to attend despite the fact that not many conclusions were made. There were long hours of negotiations which lead to a good ground for networking. The issues that I have been following didn't conclude but it was good to learn about the future directions of the negotiations for preparation for SB25 and the future sessions. My country would have been able to send one officer if it was not for ECBI and GTZ assistance, so two of

us were able to participate and more topics were covered.

The Bonn Seminar was a good place to have an open floor to exchange of views without "the country hat". The seminar was structured in a way to suite all participants need for the discussion.

The logistical arrangement was excellent and the accommodation was beyond expectation.