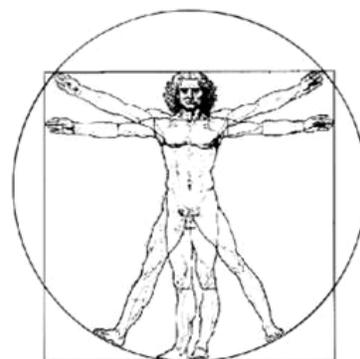

european capacity building initiative (ecbi)

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



THE OXFORD FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

1. Introduction & Summary

The Oxford Fellowship Programme primarily pursues the general ECBI aim of enhancing international climate change negotiating capacity through trust building activities – as key to successful negotiations – both between Europe and the developing world (‘South-North trust-building’), and between the participating developing countries (‘South-South trust-building’).

The North-South element of this trust-building effort is carried out through *Country Visits* to some of the participating European Partner agencies and an *Oxford Seminar* at the home of the Fellowships. Both activities bring together the developing country Fellows with their European counterparts in a structured framework that helps to establish working relationships outside the often guarded context of the official negotiations. They enable the Fellows to find out how climate change issues are managed by European governments, and provide an opportunity to exchange views in an informal and non-confrontational setting. They also enable the European partners to discover and better understand the situation of their developing country colleagues – one of the reasons why the ECBI is not just a capacity building initiative *by* Europeans, but also *for* Europeans.

South-South relations and trust building – often of at least equal importance in supporting the international negotiations – is carried out during the *Fellowship Colloquium* at Oxford, where the Fellows have the chance to exchange views and experiences in ‘closed session’ between themselves. In light of the considerable existing negotiating capacities of the participating regional developing country leaders (Brazil, China, India, South Africa), they are primarily involved in trust-building activities of the Oxford Fellowship Programme.

To maintain the momentum of these trust-building activities, the Fellowship Programme, funding permitting, also envisages to hold an annual one-day *Bonn Seminar* during the intersessional Subsidiary Bodies meetings in Bonn/Germany.

Concerning logistical support, the Fellowship Programme aims to create a certain number of *Senior Bursaries* to help Fellows and (potential) Fellowship candidates to attend UNFCCC Sessions (COP and, particularly SB).

The activities of the Fellowship Programme also include the maintenance of the ECBI website (www.EuroCapacity.org), with a special ‘members only’ electronic network (*ECBI-net*) to assure the sustained long-term nature of the relations established both with their European counterparts and between the Fellows themselves. As a practical extension of this networking activity, the ECBI has taken the step to make available a number of *mobile phones* during the UNFCCC Sessions for some of its participating members, particularly from the Group of LDCs.

Following the ECBI as a whole, the ECBI Oxford Fellowships are focused on developing countries from Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia (including the regional leaders South Africa and India), the Group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), as well as Brazil, China, and OECD non-Annex B ‘Advanced Developing Countries’, such as Mexico and Turkey.

2. South-South Trust-building: The Fellowship Colloquia

Key to ECBI trust-building efforts are Oxford-based Fellowship Colloquia, which give Fellows of the same ‘batch’ the opportunity to meet, exchange views

and experiences; and establish personal relations and trust with one-another ('South-South trust-building').

Country Briefs. Given the limited available time, the selected candidates will be asked to prepare a *country brief* prior to taking up their Fellowships, explaining the climate change policy-making situation – procedures, positive experiences, capacity shortfalls and other short comings etc. – of their home countries, with particular consideration of their own work.

The Fellows' country briefs are part of an annual *Fellowship Report*, disseminated to the ECBI Partner Network and the ECBI membership. This report provides the main feed-back from the Fellows not only to their European hosts, but to alumni of the Programme as well as the (non-governmental) members of the ECBI. Depending on the views of the Steering Committee, these Fellowship Reports might, at least in part, be published, possibly as part of the ECBI Annual Report.

3. The North-South Trust-building Project: Country Visits & Seminars

A key element in the North-South trust-building project, are visits by the Fellows to European Partner agencies. These visits are primarily meant to facilitate an exchange of views – indeed to foster a better understanding of country positions and where the others 'are coming from' – which is not always possible in the context of the negotiations themselves.

The content and structure of these visits depend, among other things, on the background of the Fellows and the possibilities and limitations of the host-agencies. The Fellows will be asked to draw up short summary reports on their country visits, which, together with the feed-back from the host Partners, will also be included in the Fellowship Report.

However, because of the inevitable time-constraints regarding the duration of the Fellowships, it is not possible – and would indeed not be efficient – to visit all the participating European Partners. However, as the Fellowships are to encourage the widest possible contact with these Partners, they are invited to join the Fellows in their base at Oxford for informal seminar exchanges ('Oxford Seminars').

4. Selection Procedure and Criteria

In May 2005, the Steering Committee with the Director adopted the following procedures and criteria for the selection of the Fellows.

Procedure. Candidates for the Fellowships are selected by a Selection Board, comprising the ECBI Steering Committee and Director.

- ✦ The Director requests Developing Country Coordinators to seek nominations for the Fellowships.
- ✦ Candidates must be nominated by the authority empowered to grant them leave to attend.
- ✦ Nominations with any supporting material deemed relevant (see Selection Criteria, below) should reach the Director by end of June.
- ✦ It is envisaged for invitations to be issued by the Selection Board in mid-July.

Selection Criteria. While capacity-building in a broad sense is a major purpose of the ECBI, the Fellowships are mainly aimed at *building trust and exchanging procedural and institutional knowledge* among the Fellows and between them and their European colleagues. To achieve this aim, the Fellowship Programme thus needs to attract as expert and as high-level Fellows as possible. *Candidates must be government officials/civil servants ('decision makers') directly involved in the UNFCCC process in their country and internationally, and the overarching criterion is their seniority in that process.*

To guide the selection process, including the nominations of candidates, the Selection Board has decided on a number of parameters they will be taking into consideration in their deliberations, namely:

- ✦ Recognition of the candidates within the UNFCCC process: How well-known are the candidate in the process? What role have they played, say in terms of chairing meetings, groups, etc.? Have they worked on climate change relevant papers?
- ✦ The number of years the candidate has been actively engaged in the UNFCCC process in his country and internationally.
- ✦ Whether the candidate is or has been UNFCCC Focal point
- ✦ The frequency of attending UNFCCC sessions, workshops, seminars or special meetings?
- ✦ Are they members of any national or international group in any relevant climate change issue (e.g. IPCC, Expert groups)?
- ✦ Candidates should have good reason to expect to retain a climate change portfolio for at least the year following the Fellowship period they are applying for.

For further information on ECBI activities visit

www.EuroCapacity.org,

or contact

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