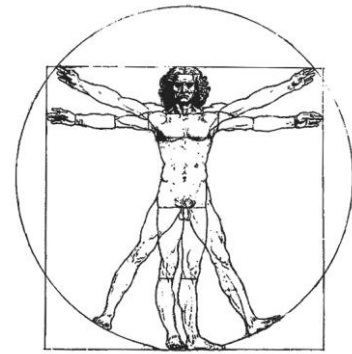


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report

# Accomplishments

## Testimonials by ecbi participants on Phase I & II Outcomes and Impacts

January 2011

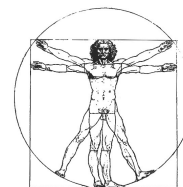
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**Acknowledgments:**

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The European Capacity Building Initiative (ecbi) has completed two phases (2005-2007, and 2008-2010). During this time, over 60 events have been organised in 20 countries, reaching out to well over 1100 negotiators and policy makers from developing countries and Europe.

Described as “important dates in the negotiations’ diary” for many developing country negotiators in a recent external evaluation, the level and extent of participation in these events is testimony to their effectiveness. For instance, the most recent Fellowship session in Oxford (September 2010) was attended by, among others, the Chair of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action, Chair of the Africa Group, Chair of the Adaptation Fund Board, and representatives from LDCs, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, and South Africa (the host of the climate conference in 2011).

There is also clear evidence that these events have had positive effects on the international negotiations, the negotiating capacity of countries and regions, and the capacity of individual negotiators. They have contributed tangibly to trust and better understanding between and among negotiators from developing countries and Europe. They have also contributed towards a better understanding of climate change issues at the national level, beyond the ‘traditional’ climate change communities.

Some of the impacts of ecbi’s works are described in this section. Two independent evaluations of ecbi’s work have also been carried out by Helios International, and can be obtained from ecbi.

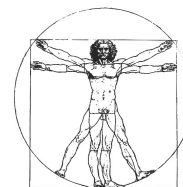
## Impact on the UNFCCC negotiations

The following examples demonstrate the effectiveness of ecbi’s approach in contributing to progress in the UNFCCC negotiations. The sequence of events described in these examples are backed-up by web links to Fellowship and Seminar reports, and official negotiating positions.

### Breaking the impasse on Adaptation Fund governance

In the months preceding the second ecbi Fellowship and Seminar in 2006, the governance arrangements for the Adaptation Fund was proving to be particularly thorny issue in the UNFCCC negotiations. The discussions on how to implement and organise the Adaptation Fund was rife with acrimonious exchanges and a great deal of distrust between developed and developing countries. One of the main points of contention was whether the Washington--based Global Environment Facility (GEF) should be managing the Fund or not.

The European Union, Japan and other industrialised countries, saw GEF management as self-evident. Many developing countries, however, were unhappy with the way the GEF had been managing climate change funding in general, and adaptation funding in particular. As a result, the negotiations were in an apparently insurmountable stalemate between the pro-GEF faction led by the EU, and the developing country Group of 77 and China, who rejected the idea of giving the management of the Adaptation Fund to the GEF. Unsurprisingly, therefore, the governance of the Adaptation Fund was one of the key issues raised by the developing countries in the 2006 Fellowships held in Oxford. (For a report of the discussion, please see <http://www.eurocapacity.org/downloads/2006FellowshipFlyer.pdf>).



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During this discussion at the Fellowship, developing countries decided that the GEF/no-GEF argument led to a dead end. Instead of debating the merits and de-merits of specific institutions (a path which had already resulted in stalemate), they would put forward the necessary characteristics for such an operating entity, based on two principles:

- A decision-making processes that is balanced, flexible, transparent and uncomplicated. It should reflect the needs of the developing country Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.
- Funding should be reliable and adequate, and on a full adaptation cost basis.

The Fellows put together a presentation for their European colleagues during the Seminar that followed. Following a discussion, both sides decided that instead of trying to rush operationalisation of the Adaptation Fund by forcing a choice between a number existing agencies, it was more important to decide on a mutually satisfactory governance structure for this fund, which institutions would have to satisfy to become an operational entity of the Adaptation Fund. Three of the Fellows (from LDCs – the Maldives, the Gambia and Bangladesh) wrote an opinion piece on the Fellows’ proposal (see <http://www.eurocapacity.org/downloads/110611IED.pdf>).

**COUNCILLOR YI XIANLIANG**  
Deputy Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

“As a senior climate change negotiator, twice ecbi Fellow and reader of ecbi publications, I believe ecbi is the bridge for communication between negotiators from developing countries and the EU, and the channel to promote a comprehensive understanding of each other. I fully appreciate the outcomes and contribution made by ecbi to promote progress in the hard negotiations.”

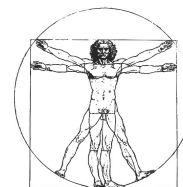
This discussion proved to be a turning point in the Adaptation Fund negotiations, and a key to the stalemate. The proposal discussed during the ecbi Fellowship and Seminar was adopted as a formal position by the Africa Group. At the UNFCCC negotiations that followed in Nairobi in November 2006, discussions were much more constructive as Parties agreed to focus on principles and general modalities, rather than on the ‘GEF/no GEF’ controversy.

The resulting decision on the governance of the Adaptation Fund was seen as a breakthrough by many countries, most notably the LDCs. It was decided that the Adaptation Fund should be under the direct authority of the Kyoto Protocol governing body (the ‘COP/MOP’), compared to mere ‘guidance’ from the climate change process for the other two Convention funds. The second decision related to the voting procedure. The Nairobi decision stipulates that voting concerning the Adaptation Fund will have to be solely on a ‘one-country-one-vote’ basis. The existing Convention funds followed the GEF procedure where (at least in theory – there has never been a vote) a majority of both countries and donations is required to carry a vote, the latter essentially giving veto power to the group of the five largest donor countries.

As one of the Fellows is quoted as saying in the second formal evaluation of the ecbi, the discussions at Oxford “helped develop and move things forward on the creation of the Adaptation Fund Board.”

ecbi continued to play a role in trust building between the developed and developing country members of the Adaptation Fund Board, to ensure that they developed the level of trust that was necessary to undertake the groundbreaking work they were expected to undertake. A tradition of holding a Chair’s Dinner on the evening before the Board met was initiated, where the Board members could get to know each other.

In a letter of appreciation to ecbi, the first Chair of the Adaptation Fund Board says: *This process was far from easy, not least because the Board was completely new, and of extremely diverse expectations and representation, ranging from the poorest*



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*to the richest constituencies. The ecbi dinners for the Board on the first day of the sessions helped the members to get to know each other in a congenial atmosphere and build mutual understanding of the issues at stake in a more relaxed mood, which was helpful in the deliberations that followed. Indeed, these dinners have proven to be so useful that we hope we will be able to continue this tradition. (See [http://www.eurocapacity.org/press-archive/Letter\\_to\\_ecbi.pdf](http://www.eurocapacity.org/press-archive/Letter_to_ecbi.pdf))*

## Standing Committee of climate finance

One of the main issues of contention in the current (2010/2011) negotiations is the governance arrangements for climate change finance. As with the Adaptation Fund, the discussions were headed for a stalemate, with Parties differing on whether a new body is needed to support the COP in overseeing and providing guidance to the financial mechanism.

The issue was discussed in the Fellows Colloquia during the 2010 Fellowships. The developing country Fellows came up with a proposal for a Standing Committee on Finance, elaborating its role and function in order to convince their European colleagues of its need during the Seminar. (For the Fellow's Proposal and the discussion that followed with European negotiators, see <http://www.eurocapacity.org/downloads/OxfordSeminarReport2010.pdf>)

Taking on board some of the concerns expressed by the European negotiators, the Proposal formulated at the ecbi Fellowships was presented by one of the Fellows at the High Level Geneva Dialogue on Climate Finance (see [http://www.eurocapacity.org/downloads/Presentation\\_Geneva\\_Dialogue.pdf](http://www.eurocapacity.org/downloads/Presentation_Geneva_Dialogue.pdf)). Subsequently, the proposal was adopted by the G77 and China as their official position the intersessional meeting held in Tianjin, China in October 2010 (see [http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced\\_search/items/3594.php?rec=j&preref=600005985](http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/3594.php?rec=j&preref=600005985)).

### **MANJEEV SINGH PURI**

Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of India to the UN in New York **INDIA**

“The 2010 ecbi annual Fellowship brought together senior negotiators, including some chairing important elements of the UNFCCC processes, from major stakeholders among the G77 and EU.

Borrowing from national and other UN processes, the Fellowship developed a realistic but forward looking approach on institutional arrangements on financing. This was done with a clear view to ensuring acceptability among all stakeholders but without diluting efficacy of functioning.

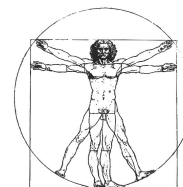
The free and frank discussion in Oxford allowed for a buy-in on the approach on both sides resulting in a seminal impact on the negotiations in Cancun and the favorable results that obtained there.

Two specific areas of this impact, which were critical in bringing about the final outcome in Cancun, were the ideas of a Standing Committee to oversee the financing mechanism and the Transitional Committee to draft the details, which would have an acceptable level of mix from all major stakeholders.

ecbi's role in developing bipartisanship in the climate negotiations was also very visible in Bali in 2007 when the deliberations at the fellowship that year allowed for a consensus on the governing structures for the Adaptation Fund.

There is little doubt that the ecbi Fellowship Programme has played an important role behind the scenes in moving the UNFCCC negotiations forward. The Chatham House rules coupled with excellent leadership of the ecbi team allow for no-holds barred discussions but at the same time draw key stakeholders to moving towards realistic ways forward.

The ecbi Fellowship is a process that should be encouraged as its role and utility in the coming years will only increase be more required for the climate change negotiations.”



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The G77 proposal was adopted at the Cancun Conference in December 2010, where Parties to the UNFCCC decided to *establish a Standing Committee under the Conference of the Parties to assist the Conference of the Parties in exercising its functions with respect to the financial mechanism of the Convention in terms of improving coherence and coordination in the delivery of climate change financing, rationalization of the financial mechanism, mobilization of financial resources and measurement, reporting and verification of support provided to developing country Parties.* (See [http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop\\_16/application/pdf/cop16\\_lca.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop_16/application/pdf/cop16_lca.pdf)).

Another important issue related to climate finance governance that was discussed in the 2010 Fellowships, and caused a major Party to the UNFCCC negotiations to change their position, was that of devolving decisions on the allocation of climate finance to National Funding Entities.

## Transitional Committee

In 2010, ecbi formed a Circle of Experts on Climate Finance and Architecture (ecbi Finance Circle) to provide a platform for informal in-depth discussions among key Parties and experts on the technical aspects of the architecture and governance of climate finance. Senior delegates from most of the key countries contributing to this discussion have signed up to participate in the discussions of this Circle (see <http://www.eurocapacity.org/finance/financehome.shtml>).

The fifth meeting of this Circle took place on 30 November 2010 at the Moon Palace Conference Centre in Cancun, in the office of the EU Presidency (Belgium). The discussion, very open and collegiate, focused on the idea of a Transitional Expert Panel put forward in an ecbi Policy Brief (see *Climate Finance after Tianjin: How to reach a deal at Cancun?* <http://www.eurocapacity.org/downloads/FinanceAfterTianjin.pdf>) and in an article on *How to establish the new climate fund* (see <http://www.oxfordclimatepolicy.org/publications/documents/OUTREACH-02.pdf>). In another meeting of the Circle, held during the following week at the request of Mexican and US participants, one of the ideas discussed was that of having the UNFCCC Executive Secretary convene the design process for the new fund, and of having relevant agencies second staff to the UNFCCC Secretariat to support that process.

Both these proposals, for the Transitional Committee and a role for the UNFCCC Secretariat, were adopted in the Cancun outcome. The decision of the AWGLCA *invites the Executive Secretary of the secretariat, in consultation with the President of the Conference of the Parties, to convene the initial meeting of the Transitional Committee, with members having the necessary experience and skills, notably in the area of finance and climate change; the transitional committee meetings will be open to observers.* (See [http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop\\_16/application/pdf/cop16\\_lca.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop_16/application/pdf/cop16_lca.pdf)).

## The international air travel levy

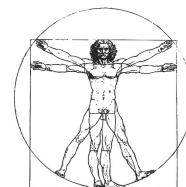
During the 2006 ecbi Fellowship, Cameron Hepburn and Benito Müller presented their idea of an International Air Travel Adaptation Levy (IATAL), a means to raise private sector funds as an international levy on the rich (regardless of their origin) to help the poor adapt to climate change (see Benito Müller and Cameron Hepburn, *An 'International Air Travel Adaptation Levy' (IATAL): Outline Proposal*, Oxford Institute for Energy Studies: October 2006. [www.OxfordEnergy.org](http://www.OxfordEnergy.org)).

### PAUL BODNAR

Lead Negotiator on Finance **USA**

“By convening friendly but serious discussions among finance negotiators in the ecbi Finance Circle at critical junctures during the negotiations, the ecbi Director gave us a forum for trust-building and idea-sharing. He also played a vital role as intellectual catalyst and as synthesiser of emerging ideas.

He can justifiably be proud of having helped the rest of us find our way to solutions on key issues.”



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One of the Fellows present at the Fellowship, Amjad Abdulla (Lead Negotiator for the Maldives), went on to become Chair of the LDC Group. He requested ecbi to provide analytic support for the drafting of an LDC submission to the UNFCCC on the air travel levy. The LDC proposal was submitted in December 2008. ecbi also provided a list of “*Thirteen Questions and Answers*” on the IAPAL (<http://www.oxfordclimatepolicy.org/publications/documents/ecbiBrief-IAPAL13Q&As.pdf>13).

## Impact on negotiating capacity of countries, regions and individuals

ecbi initially focused mainly on building the negotiating capacity of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) through regional workshops, pre-COP workshops, special bursaries designed to allow continuity in delegations, and participation in the Fellowships. In identifying and addressing the special needs of the LDCs, ecbi has collaborated closely with the following Chairs of the LDC Group:

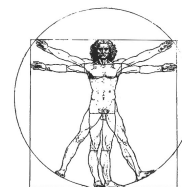
- Mama Konaté, Directeur national de la météorologie, Mali
- Richard S. Muyungi, Acting Director, Division of Environment, Tanzania
- Mohammed Reazuddin, Bangladesh
- Amjad Abdullah, Director of Strategic Policy at the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water, Maldives
- Motsome Limomane, Lesotho Meteorological Services
- Bruno Tseliso Morapeli Sekoli, Director of the Lesotho Meteorological Services

The impact of the capacity building has been remarked upon by several LDC negotiators and others. The Chair of the UNFCCC's LDC Expert Group, Onduri Machulu Fred from Uganda, recently noted that ecbi is perhaps the only Initiative (other than the NAPA Preparation) implementing items of the LDC Work Program under Article 4.9, particularly on strengthening the negotiating skills of LDC Parties.

In August 2010, at the intersessional meeting held in Tianjin, China, the UNFCCC invited ecbi to present its work and achievements in addressing the elements of the LDC work programme, commenting that ecbi has done more than any other organisation/ initiative to support LDCs over the past years.

Members of the LDC group have remarked on the changing dynamic within the LDC group as a result of ecbi's work. Commenting on the importance of ecbi's work in helping new LDC negotiators come up to speed with the complexities of the climate change negotiations (both substance and process), Sumaya Zakeldin, an ecbi Bursary holder from Sudan who now negotiates for G77 on adaptation, says: “The LDCs used to rely on the bigger regional groupings such as the Africa Group to represent their interests, as the LDCs were not very strong. Following the capacity building work done by ecbi, the Group is much more active, with members closely following all the issues of importance to them. Now we are much stronger and more proactive. Nobody can take a decision without the agreement of the LDC Group.”

ecbi has also stepped in to support countries chairing the G77 and China group, by providing Bursaries to members of their delegation. For instance, two of the Bursary holders in 2009 were from Sudan, and one in 2010 was from Yemen (**See box: Individual Testimonies by Bursary Holders**)



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## **INDIVIDUAL TESTIMONIES BY BURSARY HOLDERS**

### **SUMAYA ZAKELDIN SUDAN**

I first attended the pre-COP workshop organised by ecbi in Montreal in 2005. I was not new to climate change – I had worked on climate change impacts and vulnerability before, and contributed to the NAPA process in my country, but I didn't really know much about the international negotiations. The workshop was very useful as it started with the basics and included training on how to negotiate through mock negotiations, with flags and text. We were told how to formulate interventions, how to influence changes in the text. The workshop introduced me to the legal and policy elements of climate change, and was very helpful in understanding both ongoing and emerging issues.

I decided to specialise on adaptation. Sudan was Chairing the Group of 77 and China during the critical period of negotiations before Copenhagen. It was of great help for my delegation to have me participating and contributing not only to the national team, but also to the G77. I was asked by ecbi to write reports after attending meetings, which helped keep others in the regions and Groups informed.

The experience and learning I gained is of great value. I have been able to contribute to building capacity and raising awareness at different levels (academia, research, NGOs, government etc), at the national and regional level. For instance, I made presentations at several national and regional meetings on the status of the negotiations before and after Copenhagen. After Copenhagen, the newly appointed Minister for Environment in Sudan invited the national delegation to a meeting to explain why Sudan should not sign the Copenhagen Accord. We were under lot of pressure to do so. I spoke on the adaptation elements. We convinced the Minister that the process had not been inclusive, and failed to take our concerns on board.

Some of us are now involved in training new negotiators. I have been involved in ecbi events as a capacity builder – co-authoring two joint papers, and presenting and facilitating at pre-COP and regional workshops.

At the regional level, my colleagues from ecbi and I contribute to both the LDC and Africa Groups. We each focus on different issues like finance, technology, REDD, adaptation etc and coordinate as a Group. Earlier, the LDCs did not really have much of a say and negotiators from LDCs in Africa would try to get their concerns reflected through the bigger Africa Group. Now, nobody can take any decision without the agreement of the LDCs. LDCs are doing a lot better as a result.

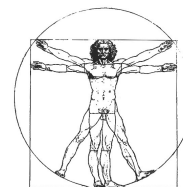
The future negotiations under the UNFCCC will shape the fate of the most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. It will be exceptionally important for us to be there to play our assigned roles, and finish what we started.

### **FAHMI ABDULHADI BINSHBRAK REPUBLIC OF YEMEN**

As the child needs his parents' help, care, support, and trust to be able to start walking and develop his skills, the negotiator needs help, support, capacity building, and guidance to go ahead on the negotiation arena. Before COP11 in Montréal, I participated in an ecbi training workshop for LDC negotiators in Nairobi. That was the first regional event for me, whether on climate change or any other issue. So I was very scared of this new experience, especially as I was the only participant of my country, and in addition my English language that was not very good.

After this first workshop, I participated in a few climate change negotiations as a member of the Yemeni team, supported financially by the UNFCCC Secretariat. The team consists of two to three persons, so we have to follow all the negotiation issues at the same time, and you did not know if you will participate in the next meeting or somebody else will replace you. Then I got this great chance to be one of the ecbi Climate Change Junior Negotiators. ecbi gave me the guarantee to participate in all the main meetings. They advised me to chose a negotiation issue, and that gave me huge space to discover its status and process in detail. I also learned a lot through writing reports during and after each meeting.





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## **INDIVIDUAL TESTIMONIES (CONTD.)**

### **GEBRU JEMBER ETHIOPIA**

I first participated in an ecbi event three years ago, at the regional workshop in Gabarrone. I worked in the national climate change unit then, but had very little idea of the international negotiations. That meeting was an eye-opener for me. I was then invited to COP-14 in Poznan. Even though it was my first COP, the pre-COP ecbi workshop made it easy for me, and it wasn't confusing.

Governments usually allow 2-3 participants to attend, but the decisions on who should attend are based on many factors – and often there is no continuity. ecbi has a much more sustainable approach, allowing us to consistently follow the negotiations. I can now specialise and focus on one area – I decided to follow the Kyoto Protocol negotiations. I am the only one following the KP negotiations in my country. After the COP, I have been very active – I hosted a workshop in Addis Ababa. We are asked (by ecbi) to write reports after we attend meetings, and these are very useful to update the general public and others in the country and region.

ecbi also helps us work better as a group. For instance, in Cancun, we were introduced to the new LDC Chair from Gambia, so he is aware of which part of the negotiations we specialise in. Many of the negotiators who have been following the climate negotiations for years in Africa are now retiring. ecbi can play an important role in ensuring that a new batch of younger negotiators are ready to fill this gap.

### **ABDALLA GAAFAR SUDAN**

I used to work on national forestry issues in Sudan. After I attended an ecbi event last year, I decided to focus on REDD. I now lead the REDD negotiations for Sudan, and I have established a Climate Change Desk in the Forest Department. I have organised more than five workshops for forest officers on REDD and climate change issues in Sudan. As a result, at least 15 young officers know about REDD issues. We have succeeded in raising more resources for capacity building on REDD in our country.

I have been responsible for the formulation of text related to REDD, as part of the common African position, and was one of five Africans made facilitator to formulate common African positions for the Africa group in Cancun. I also contribute actively to the G77 and LDC group discussions on REDD+ and LULUCF.

### **KALI LITSABAKO LESOTHO**

My first exposure to the international climate negotiations was in March 2009, in Bonn. The ecbi team dealt with me simply, and gave me the confidence to throw out the fear resulting from my first participation and the weakness of my English. I was new to the issues, but ecbi offered me capacity building and exposure. At that workshop, I got information, confidence, a chance to form the basic stand I use during my negotiation journey, and a strong boost to move forward in the negotiation process. We were asked to follow one issue, and I chose to follow the legal form of the outcome. I have been following the negotiations since then, and find them challenging but interesting. This has helped in me also in my own country – I have been 'upgraded' in the delegation.

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