

### Local governments made an impact at COP 15, despite dismal international results

**Freiburg, December 22, 2009** – The COP 15 ended in a not-so-unexpected limited ‘accord’ that was noted, not even adopted. Yet, partial success was achieved by at least one group. Local governments and their networks pooled resources to make a major effort during a two year Roadmap process, and during the COP 15 drew attention to their commitment and willingness to engage in local climate action - with the Local Government Climate LOUNGE used as a focal point for outreach.

The Local Government and Local Authorities (LGMA) Constituency is regarded as a non-governmental constituency during the international negotiations. This meant that mayors, local leaders and senior municipal staff had to stand outside in the cold, together with representatives of the eight other constituencies, with access to the Bella Centre severely restricted for these ‘NGOs’ in week two of the COP 15. However, this could not deflate the majority of the LGMA, with access still ‘easy’ (i.e. possible in a very limited way) until the Wednesday, when a great city side event was held.

On Monday, 14 December 2009, the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of COP 15 started with a powerful statement by local governments across the globe. The Copenhagen Climate Catalogue ([www.climate-catalogue.org](http://www.climate-catalogue.org)), containing more than 3,200 commitments to local action, was presented by ICLEI President David Cadman and Copenhagen Mayor for the Environment, Klaus Bondam to the Danish Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Lykke Friis. This Catalogue will be used again during the next COP, with all cities invited to share and update their targets by December 2010.

The most inspiring news local governments gave this week was that action not only possible, but actually being successfully implemented. For example Kyoto has shown that it is more advanced than the national trend. According to Kyoto Mayor Daisaku Kadokawa "in 2007, Japan's greenhouse gas emissions were 7.37 million tons, a 9 % increase over the previous year. Yet, the city of Kyoto reduced its emissions by 4.5 % in 2007 compared with the previous year, and aims for a 10 % reduction overall by 2010." This is a growing global trend picked up among local governments – where real leadership and local climate action can make a global difference. Many European cities can show the same, and should be proud of their achievements – in most cases the result of voluntary actions.

An impressive line-up of speakers, including Lord Nicholas Stern, made the Local Government Climate LOUNGE programme a drawing card for many. The packed LOUNGE even drew media attention, with the New York Times calling it ‘one of the busiest corners of the packed building where the United Nations climate conference in Copenhagen’, and ‘standing-room-only presentations since the beginning of the conference, with mayors including Michael Bloomberg and Marcelo Ebrard of Mexico City presenting their environmental achievements and lobbying for a leading role in any agreement that emerges this week’.

On Wednesday, 16 December, the ICLEI side event, organised in cooperation with the Copenhagen Climate Summit for Mayors, was a huge success. Held in a crowded room, there were several excellent statements from mayors representing cities around the globe. Former Mayor of Bonn, Bärbel Dieckmann, also handed over the chair of the World Mayors Council for Climate Change (WMCCC) to the Mexico City Mayor, an apt choice as the next COP host city is likely to play an important role.

Friday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2009, was time for the wrap-up. Ronan Dantec spoke on behalf of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities, making a statement in the High Level

Segment at COP 15 – practically to an empty room at that stage, with the national negotiators trying to save the international agreement at this late stage.

All-in-all the COP 15 ended with a limited Copenhagen Accord. An analysis will be made on what this means for local governments. In the meantime, please find the **'Statement of ICLEI Mayors and LG on failure of international community to act on climate change'** on the website [www.iclei.org/cop15/lounge](http://www.iclei.org/cop15/lounge)

To end on a more positive note, local governments were at the COP 15 in huge numbers – the largest local government delegation ever! The impact they made, as a joint effort of cities, towns, networks and associations, was certainly felt by many national delegations and recognized in the media. Some highlights have been captured on video, with a number of Europe-specific interviews made available on [www.iclei.org/index.php?id=10561](http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=10561), as well as highlights everyone is likely to enjoy:

- Statement by Minister Hanne Inger Bjurstrøm, Norway's Chief Negotiator
- Statements by French Municipal Leaders at COP15
- **Time for Real Questions** (<http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=10562>):
  - o 17 December: Rajendra Pachauri, Chair, IPCC
  - o 17 December: Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director UN-Habitat
  - o 16 December: Angel Gurría, Secretary General, OECD
  - o 14 December: Marcelo Ebrard, Mayor of Mexico City
  - o 11 December: Photographer and film maker Yann Arthus-Bertrand
  - o 10 December: Kumi Naidoo, Chairman of the tck tck tck Campaign and Executive Director of Greenpeace International
  - o 9 December: Stine Bosse, CEO of Trygvesta
  - o 8 December: Brice Lalonde, French ambassador in charge of international negotiations on climate change
  - o 7 December: Councillor David Cadman, President of ICLEI

The LG Action project will continue in 2010, with an input planned during the COP 16. All local governments in the EU27, also those in Norway, Liechtenstein and Croatia, are invited to link closely, share their views, and help to raise awareness among all local governments in their respective countries and with their city twin partners – local climate action is needed! The sustainable energy transition has started, with cities and towns playing a key role in this phase.

## Contact

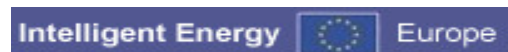
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