

## The Jeers, Tears and Cheers of the Bali Roadmap

By Mahalath Halperin

After two weeks of negotiating, deliberating, listening, lobbying and arguing, the final scheduled day of the UN Convention on Climate Change in Bali was nearing its end, only to be adjourned at 2 am on the last night to reconvene for an additional day the following morning at eight.

It all came to a head that day, with jeers from the hall as the US delegation was booed down for refusing to budge, as China raised a point of order which resulted in tears from the UNFCCC Executive Secretary, and cheers all round when consensus was conceded, agreement reached, and we could all finally go home and get on with it. Both the UN Secretary-General and the Indonesian President made unscheduled speeches that day, reminding delegates that the world was watching and waiting with high expectations, and refusing the convention back to the main issues.

And so after two weeks of intense negotiations, and the emotional roller coaster of the closing day, ultimately three key documents were approved. In addition, while the Dialogue which sets forth the initial commitment of determining what will be in the Bali Roadmap may not have the ultimate wish list in it currently, other documents do.

The Bali Roadmap is the beginning of the negotiating process to be concluded by 2009 to develop the post-2012 international agreement on climate change is in place in time. This will ensure there is no gap between the commitment period of the current Kyoto Protocol and the next commitment period which commences in 2012. The diversity of climate-change related issues have now been encompassed as core elements of the road map, including the launch of the Adaptation Fund, and decisions on technology transfer and on reducing emissions from deforestation.

The second document, the AWG (Ad Hoc Working Group) included Australia's involvement, now that we are party to Kyoto. "Strong support" by Australia for the AWG includes endorsement for—

- Recognition that in order to avoid the worst of climate change, developed countries as a group would have to reduce emissions by 25%- 40% below 1990 levels by 2020
- Recognition that in order to avoid the worst of climate change, global emissions must peak in the next 10-15 years, then decline to very low levels, well below half of 2000 emission by 2050.
- Recognition that for small island states, the lowest of the IPCC scenarios on which these targets are founded are not enough, and that new, lower emissions pathways should be developed by the IPCC

While this is not binding, it still provides clear direction as to what we should be doing next.

A major positive that came from Bali was Australia Ratifying Kyoto as the first act of government. This gained major support from (almost) all other countries in attendance, and an opportunity for Australia to 'show leadership' and 'build bridges' that we so urgently needed to do.

Another plus was of course Australia not supporting the US in its oppositional approach, especially on the last day, when the US was completely isolated in its opposition.

Even the Shadow Minister for the Environment publicly supported a draft decision text that included reference to the 25% - 40% range that we were after. Other country delegations were impressed by this and presumably influenced decisions in getting the next win.

But even on its own, this statement is very valuable for Australia domestically. With renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency two key areas in reducing emissions, effective national policy on these issues will guide Australia towards meeting its newly obligated targets. Energy Efficiency is one of the most effective, easily achievable and low cost solutions to mitigate GHG emissions, and a good Australian EE policy will be a win-win on both domestic and international fronts. It is within this arena that ANZSES in particular can play a vital role, and to this end, after several discussions in Bali with the new Minister for Energy Efficiency, Peter Garret, we hope to move forward with further meetings and lobbying for enhanced policy on these issues.

The role of the Australian NGO's was effective in its focus of moving the Australian delegation on one key task – the 2020 targets. Additionally the NGOS worldwide worked together well, and CAN and CANA both worked to coordinate our efforts, sharing information, strategy and communications to ensure we were all heading in the same direction. To be part of that alone, as a representative of

ANZSES, of CANA and as an Australian, was worth the time and effort involved. History was being made, and we were there.

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