

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE 5TH CDM MEETING
HELD AT BAGEPALLI ON 27 & 28 MARCH 2009**

29 March 2009

The 5th CDM Meeting of the Fair Climate Network went off very well. 41 persons attended the 2 days meeting. Some arrived on the afternoon of 26 March, and most left on Saturday evening at 7 pm. Though we did not stick to an inflexible agenda, we did justice to all the points that we put up for discussion:

First Day - 27 March

1. *Keynote Address*

Set the tone and tenor for the meeting. After receiving your email at 3:30 am on 26 March, I had to quickly change the last part of my Keynote Address to state, "My co-Convenor, Gert de Gans, has pulled off a miracle...."

2. *Quick round of self introduction*

Each participant elaborated her/his reason for coming and expectation from the meeting; 5 minutes each.

3. *Nature of the Fair Climate Network*

In depth discussion on the Keynote Address. Everyone decided to keep the Network open, welcoming, transparent and unstructured. The need for a multilateral body to foster useful bilateral relations was fully appreciated

4. *A very short presentation on ADATS' CDM experiences*

5. *Brief discussion on Carbon Investors, ERPA and Carbon Revenue Sharing Arrangements*

6. *Discussion on Gert's Draft Project Proposal to set up an Expert Team and Rolling Fund*

This was an intense and emotionally charged session on perceived ghosts, dangers, hidden agenda, control versus trust issues, threat to the independent status of the Network, etc. Most concerns were with regard to the status of non-Icco partners, role of the Icco RWO, Delhi, and what would happen if the RWO were to unilaterally yank the rug from under our feet when we were half way in the development of CDM Projects. We wisely decided to sleep over the matter and discuss it all over again the next day

Second Day - 28 March

7. *Operationalising Gert's Project Proposal*

I started by giving my personal assurance, on behalf of our Triumvirate, that we need not look for non-existent ghosts. The arrangement would completely be under our control provided we acted efficiently and responsibly.

Senior and experienced participants insisted that we needed to structure the Network even while retaining the non-institutionalised nature of it. There was a need for a core group of permanent members and also a secretariat. The meeting decided to set up a

Core Group of 7 persons, with ADATS being the Secretariat. The Core Group of the Fair Climate Network now comprises of:

1. Ram Esteves
2. Gert de Hans
3. Elske van Gorkum
4. Bablu Ganguly
5. Nafisa D'Souza
6. Sailesh Chakravarthy
7. Mahesh Jain

The last 2 names were added to emphasise that it was not an "Icco Partners' Network" and to recognise the fact that we were not only grassroots NGOs in the Network, respectively.

This Core Group would take executive decisions, albeit in an open and transparent manner, carrying all the Network members. These would include appointing the Team Leader, Office Manager, setting up the office in Bangalore, guiding the Technical Team, overseeing their work, deciding on Transaction Costs to be paid from the rolling fund, holding FCN Meetings, etc. Some changes were suggested to the Project Proposal. I will work on them tomorrow.

8. *What do the Carbon Investors look for?*

An extremely sobering 1½ hour long session led by Mahesh Jain (CEO of Integra Microsystems, a largish IT company in Bangalore) and Dr. V. Rangan (a former finance wizard of Infosys, the software giant). They were requested to give a blunt and unsparing answer to the question:

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"If you were Carbon Investors, would you invest in our pro-poor CDM Projects. If not, why not? If yes, why?"

To put it rather mildly, Mahesh and Rangan did not spare us! The importance of logging data, IT and monitoring came out very clearly in this session. We also realised that we need to project our "social engineering" capacity to potential carbon investors.

9. *Methane Avoidance & Sustainable Agriculture CDM*

Sudha Padmanabha made a detailed Power Point presentation on CDM development. Though this took longer than expected, everyone was happy with such a structured and informative compilation of the entire process. It was definitely time well spent. Sudha then went on to explain the 5 existing Methodologies under Agriculture. We realised that none of them, save perhaps one, could be used to support our work in sustainable agriculture. We decided to list the actual practices of the participants as "Wild Ideas" and share them with Sudha in the next 2 weeks. This could give us a clue on new CDM Methodologies that needed to be developed. Finally, she made a quick scan of Energy CDM Projects that could be taken up.

10. *Copenhagen CoP15*

Copenhagen CoP15 Walter and Nafisa steered this post lunch session where we all struggled with 2 issues – how to stay awake after a heavy lunch, and what was the sharp message we wanted to deliver, as a Network, in December 2009. After much discussion on the concerted pressure being brought upon the major developing countries like

India, China, Brazil etc. to undertake responsibilities similar to Annexe 1 Emissions Caps in the post Kyoto regime; and the double standards that Indian policy makers are following in opposing disparities in emissions at the international level, but abetting internal injustices within India, we finally decided on 2 messages for CoP15:

That India (and China) should not accept being categorised as an Annex I country; and that the current global financial crisis/recession should not be used as an excuse by Annex I countries to commit to anything less than a 35% emission reduction, post 2012.

11. *Matching NGO Requirements with Services*

This was achieved through very good bilateral relations that were established in the "Side Events" - i.e. during the coffee/tea breaks between each session! We decided that the needs of those who were shy or diffident were also duly noted by the meeting. It will be my personal responsibility to make sure that their need for support services would not be ignored.

12. *Commitments*

The final 2 hour long session was when each Participant categorically stated what she or he learnt/received, and what they would do immediately after this meeting. Some made commitments to take pipeline CDM Projects to fruition. Others agreed to take concrete measures that would initiate the process. Yet others wanted assistance to make pre-CDM Assessments. Many wanted to train their own Staff on CDM. Most wanted to train their primary stakeholders. Some agreed to use their resources to develop training curriculum on CDM. I will try to list these out in more detail in the coming days.