

## 5<sup>TH</sup> CDM MEETING OF THE FAIR CLIMATE NETWORK – KEYNOTE ADDRESS

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Welcome to this 5<sup>th</sup> CDM Meeting of our Network. My colleagues and I from ADATS have met and spoken to each and every one of you, as you arrived. Now I want to welcome all of you as a group. The synergy that is present in this room when we all meet together is quite different from the individual ambitions, concerns and capabilities of each one of us, when we are alone in our respective work milieus.

That is the unique characteristic of this Network which is a meeting of different persons and organisations, each with their own viewpoint. Each one of us have gathered here for a different purpose.

- For some of us it is a straightforward quest for Carbon resources to finance our pro-poor projects.
- Some of us wish to see our activities within a strict Climate Mitigation perspective.
- Some of us want to develop a concerted position on larger politics that govern international policy.
- Some of us have built strong Community Based Organisations with a powerful socio-political presence in the villages and would like to see how this potential can be harnessed to take up project activities of scale.
- Some of us believe that our respective grassroots NGOs have a proven staying capacity and would like to use that potential in a useful manner.
- Some of us merely seek more information and clarity on what appears to be very complex and convoluted to the uninitiated.
- Some of us see a possibility to provide valuable services.
- Some of us are here to sell tested and proven products.
- Some of us are here to explore business opportunities.
- Some of us want to explore opportunities for economic and efficient investments of scale, at a time when it is vital to “get the money out from under the pillows and mattresses” and set investment confidence back on track.
- Some of us are social engineers and compulsive institution builders, in the most positive interpretation of both terms.
- Some of us want to carve a vantage for our service providing organisations.
- Some of us have critical experiences to share and pitfalls to point out so that colleagues need not go through the same tension.
- Some of us are trying to find meaning in the largely bureaucratic work we are currently doing in the CDM Sector.
- Some of us are at a crossroads and wish to explore CDM and Climate Change as a career option.
- Some of us simply don't want to be left out.

Whilst drafting this Keynote Address, I have not tried to arrange the above in any order of priority or importance. They are not listed on any scale of nobility or business sense.

Instead I accept each of these motives as valid, real and ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL. Without such diverse ambitions, concerns and capabilities, we will not be able to pull off what each one of

us has individually come here to achieve. Each person here present has something to offer, that we as a whole need.

This Network is not to hammer out a common Purpose and draw the blueprint for an overarching Programme. I see our getting together as a multilateral gathering that fosters Bilateral Relations.

Programme coalitions should and will grow out of this Network. My only suggestion is that the Network itself should not get institutionalised. People come here to obtain usable information on vital resources – contacts, skills and money. We should not build structures that build barriers to this getting together.

These Bilateral Relations will be in the private domain of parties who meet here and decide that they can mutually benefit – i.e. take their respective agendas forward. This could be in the realm of service provision to a grassroots NGO, selling a product, increasing the management capacity of a CBO, consultancy for PDD writing and seeing a project through Validation, negotiating an ERPA, designing activity processes for CDM implementation, supplying a component, seeking expertise for monitoring, verification and issuance, etc.

I find it difficult to visualise such individual partnerships developing *without* this Network. The very examples that I have just cited, when developed independently and outside the milieu of our Network, become mere over-the-counter business arrangements that are privately struck. Whereas when entered into from this reference point, they transcend from an inane to a certain level of the sublime. When individual strategic partnerships emerge from this gathering, they somehow remain within the larger domain of all of us together. They force a moral answerability amongst stakeholders. In my opinion, this is vital for the development of very long term and new-age business relationships.

In this process (which I see as the prime driver of our getting together) we will inevitably bump into areas where we need to make common stand. I foresee that we will have an unique message to jointly present at Copenhagen CoP15 on post-2012. We will collectively lobby for Model ERPA's and fair/ethical Carbon Revenue Sharing arrangements that are attractive to Carbon Investors SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY ARE IMPLEMENTABLE. We will together develop appropriate Methodologies that cater to our specific needs. We will argue our case to overcome E.B. hurdles. We will present a joint front to the Designated National Authority. We will, in short, develop Standards and Benchmarks that the mainstream will find difficult to ignore or bypass. We will create a body that will not be unilaterally dictated to by Carbon Investors. We will not be defensive in the face of lobbyists who pose as self appointed critics and journalists.

I am not talking about clever posturing or merely using of the strength of the collective. We are not a gathering of common interests. We are all NOT saying the same thing in different ways. I see a danger in that kind of glossing over of differences. We have gathered because we intuitively know that our differing interests can be realised only if they are tackled together, accommodating each other's aspirations.

But the biggest joint venture we will constantly undertake is to bolster each other's confidence. Taking the plunge to invest humongous amounts of money, time and effort to develop pro-poor CDM Projects is not easy. Many here present are struggling to take this

decision. Very many more cold dives need be taken into untested waters during ERPA negotiation, implementation and monitoring.

To my mind, there is no contradiction. Multilateral positioning will not infringe on the sacred privacy of bilateral domains.

In my opinion, this Network will diminish in scope if it institutionalise itself with any membership/admission criterion or binding conditions. Should participants feel that such a loose getting together serves no purpose, they will simply opt out. This hasn't and will not happen. Save a handful of people who couldn't come due to very practical reasons, every single participant who was here on 14 & 15 September 2007 is now present. We held a Mini CDM Meetings on 9 February. On 5 March 2008 we held the 3<sup>rd</sup> CDM Meeting. Yet another meeting was held on 3 December 2008. All of them were well attended. In the meanwhile, our numbers have grown. This vitiates my stand that such a gathering is indeed useful and necessary to take our individual ambitions forward. And we have undisputedly made huge progress these past 18 months.

My Co-Convenor, Gert de Gans, has proposed a plan to appoint a Team of 3 specialists who will assist grassroots NGOs develop CDM Projects. They will be based in Bangalore and work under the guidance of this Fair Climate Network. We will manage a Rolling Fund of € 200,000 (Rs 1.37 crores) to help meet some of the transaction costs in developing these CDM Projects. Funding will be provided by Kerk in Actie, and the Icco Climate Officer, based at their Regional Working Office in New Delhi, will liaise between our Network and other Icco partners. Later today, we can discuss this Draft Plan which is on the exact lines suggested in our 1<sup>st</sup> CDM Meeting held in September 2007. Let us finalise it to become operational from mid 2009.

Personally, I have always been of the opinion that provision of handholding services should be the *condition precedent* of any Carbon Investor who wants to relate to pro-poor CDM Projects developed by grassroots NGOs. I hope to elaborate on this proposed Business Plan in the course of this meeting.

I wish to end with suggesting 4 highly realisable short term targets for our Fair Climate Network:

- Let us develop 20 more pro-poor grassroots CDM Projects and attract a minimum of € 100 million in Carbon resources over the next 2 years.
- Let us finalise on at least one large Methane Avoidance CDM Project that promotes sustainable agriculture and chemical-free cultivation on 100,000 acres of land.
- Let us be instrumental in the setting up of a large Carbon Company by a social entrepreneur who sees the terrific potential in pro-poor CDM Projects run by grassroots NGOs.
- Let us make our voice heard, loud and clear, at Copenhagen in December 2009.

Thank you!