Global Citizen Consultation on Climate Policy

On September 26, 2009, World Wide Views on Global Warming (WWViews) will launch the first-ever, globe-encompassing democratic deliberation in world history. WWViews will allow citizens all over the world to define and communicate their positions on issues central to the UN Climate Change negotiations (COP15), which take place in Copenhagen in December 2009. The main objective of WWViews is to give a broad sample of citizens from across the Earth the opportunity to influence global climate policy. An overarching purpose is to set a groundbreaking precedent by demonstrating that political decision-making processes on a global scale benefit when everyday people participate.

Everyone will live with the consequences of climate change and COP15. But no one – including COP15 delegates or the media – has had a way to know the coherently informed and considered views of everyday people worldwide. This information is vital in order for COP15 to be able to adopt timely, appropriate measures to advance the global common good. WWViews will thus generate social knowledge for which there is an urgent demand and no other source of supply. WWViews is highly cost-effective and is one of the most ambitious, innovative and consequential projects that will take place in conjunction with COP15.

The Project

WWViews is structured as a global alliance of individuals and institutions, including government agencies, NGOs and universities. Alliance members that become National Partners will prepare national WWViews deliberations. Other members will do media work, fundraise, communicate results to policy-makers, or serve as project ambassadors. Plans are already in place for 56 deliberations in 46 nations. Among the nations represented are powerful actors in the politics of global warming – such as China, India, Russia, Indonesia, the United States, and the European nations central to the COP15 process – as well as a robust sample of other states from every continent. WWViews has strong momentum and will continue expanding through mid-2009 with the aim of representing at least 50 nations.

During a single day (Sept. 26), two months prior to the COP15 climate summit, WWViews partners will host national deliberations. Each will include roughly 100 ordinary citizens, chosen to represent their region’s demographic diversity, who will gather to engage in a structured dialogue aimed at answering an identical set of questions. Roughly 6,000 or more participating citizens will address questions central to the negotiations at COP15. Participants will vote on questions, and propose and prioritize action recommendations, within three thematic areas: Climate Policy Goals, Burden Sharing, and Climate Policy Mechanisms (quota system, adaptation measures, technology transfer, etc.). WWViews will share and publicize the results from the deliberations around the world immediately via the World Wide Web, building excitement, drama and media interest throughout the day.
The Method

The WWViews method is a hybrid based on several decades of innovation by the Danish Board of Technology (DBT – the Danish Parliament’s Office of Technology Assessment), and by other organizations, in engaging citizens in political decision-making processes. The WWViews citizen deliberations will be informed by well-balanced briefing material. Scientific experts, political decision-makers, a diverse range of other stakeholders, and international citizen focus groups will contribute to formulating the questions and briefing packets, which will be distributed centrally from the DBT and translated into local languages.

The Rationale

More familiar methods of citizen consultation, such as public opinion surveys, provide a snapshot into the views of a relatively uninformed populace. In contrast, WWViews will generate knowledge uniquely valuable to public officials required, as are the COP15 delegates, to decide what is in the public interest. Through deliberation, citizens who do not represent stakeholder groups learn what competing expert and stakeholder groups think, test their ideas against others holding different views, and then reach a considered judgment that integrates all of this new information with their own values, worldview and life experience. Deliberative results provide a crucial reality test against which decision-makers can, for example, compare the views of competing stakeholder groups, each of whom claims to represent the public interest.

WWViews results will reflect the moral and political judgments of a demographically diverse sample of citizens from all over the globe, highlighting their favored solutions for advancing the global common good. We anticipate that these results will function as vitally needed political capital, proving of high and long-enduring value to many different actors in climate change politics, ranging from policy analysts to stakeholder groups, journalists, COP15 delegates, and other political leaders.

Impacts and Societal Value-Added

Experience shows that citizen participation becomes influential when tightly linked to policymaking arenas. Prior citizen consultations performed by the DBT have distinguished themselves in this respect. The DBT has therefore, from the early stages of planning WWViews, prioritized establishing strong links with policymakers involved in planning and executing COP15. We intend to continue developing such relationships throughout 2009. The fact that DBT is an agency established by the Danish Parliament and is based in Copenhagen – where the COP15 summit will convene – is a noteworthy advantage.

WWViews will produce impact within two principal domains:

1. Climate

   • Informing and Influencing COP15: WWViews has good access to the COP15 organization because the COP15 host – Danish Minister of Climate, Ms. Connie Hedegaard – has become a formal Ambassador for WWViews. Disseminating project results to their respective national delegates directly and via the media will be the core responsibility of National Partners during the two months prior to COP15. We will deliver a summary of project results to all the COP15 delegations. We will also convey WWViews results by publicizing them visually in the cityscape of Copenhagen. In addition we anticipate that politicians and stakeholder groups will amplify and publicize WWViews project results with which they concur.

   • Expanding Public Awareness: WWViews will implement an ambitious global media strategy. Media coverage – ideally including intense coverage by international television, radio, newspapers, Web and other new media – will increase worldwide decision-maker, stakeholder and popular awareness on climate issues.

   • Mass Citizen-Engagement: We have recently joined forces with Involve, a UK-based NGO that will introduce strong, complementary Web 2.0 follow-on, public-engagement capabilities into the project – such as online learning surveys and voting – enabling us to economically embrace even more countries and layperson participants (we will work toward more than 1 million people worldwide).
2. Democracy

• Modelling Democracy in Global Governance: WWViews is the first-ever, near-simultaneous, global citizen participation exercise. Citizen consultations have been tested and proven extremely valuable at a national level through two decades. During the past five years, citizen deliberations have also been implemented successfully at the European level. WWViews expands the scale of citizen consultation to the global level and attaches the consultation directly to a global policy-making process.

• Expanding Participation: WWViews will demonstrate and establish public participation in the policymaking process in nations around the world, including many in which experience with such participation is limited.

• Capacity Building: WWViews will create an enduring network of institutions and trained project managers able to conduct future WWViews projects on other issues.

• Advancing Internet-Mediated Collaboration: WWViews will represent an important cross-cultural experiment in complex, Internet-mediated cooperative relations between institutions.

Contacts

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National Partners in the WWViews Alliance

67 National Partners in 46 nations have joined the WWViews Alliance as of late March 2009 (list continues to expand).
Current WWViews National Partners include:

**Australia** • Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology, Sydney (Director Dr. Chris Riedy – www.isf.uts.edu.au)

**Austria** • Institute for Technology Assessment (ITA), Austrian Academy of Science (Ms. Ulrike Bechtold – www.oeaw.ac.at)

**Belgium** (Flanders) • Flemish Parliamentary Technology Assessment (Director Mr. Robby Berloznik – http://www.samenlevingentechnocologie.be/ists/index.html)

**Bolivia** • Lidema – Plans two meetings in different parts of the country (Ms. Jenny Gruenberger – www.lidema.org.bo)

**Brazil** • Coalition: Observatório do Clima (www.oc.org.br) + Centro de Estudos em Sustentabilidade (Rachel Biderman Furriela – www.fgv.br/ces)

**Bulgaria** • ARC Fund (Dr. Zoya Damianova – www.arc.online.bg)

**Burkina Faso** • Coalition: Association pour la Recherche et la Formation agroécologique (Mr. Mathieu Savadogo) + Association Faune et Développement au Burkina (Mr. Alexis Kaboré)

**Canada** • Faculty of Communication and Culture, University of Calgary (Ms. Edna Einseidel – www.comcul.ucalgary.ca)

**China** • UNEP Tongji Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development (Professor, Associate Dean Fengting Li – http://ses.tongji.edu.cn)

**Chile** • Centre Shalom (Director Elena Huegel)

**Costa Rica** • FLACSO (Mr. Jorge Mora – www.flacso.or.cr)

**Denmark** • Danish Board of Technology (Director Mr. Lars Klüver – www.teknolo.dk)

**Egypt** • Care Egypt (Mr. Mohamed Nada – www.care.org.eg)

**Finland** • National Consumer Research Centre Finland (Dr. Mikko Rask – www.ncr.fi)

**France** • Cité des Sciences et de l’Industrie (Mr. Roland Schaer – www.cite-sciences.fr)

**Germany** • Institute of Technology Assessment, Research Center Karlsruhe (Dr. Leonhard Hennen – www.itas.fzk.de)

**India** – Two sites:


• **Bangalore**: Centre for Social Markets (Ms. Viva Kermani – www.csmworld.org)

**Indonesia** • Dana Mitra Lingkungan (Irendra Radjawali – www.dml.or.id)

**Italy** • Faculty of Political Science, University of Bologna (Prof. Rodolfo Lewanski – www.dosp.unibo.it)

**Japan** • Centre for the Study of Communication-Design, Osaka University (Prof. Kobayashi Tadashi – www.cscd.osaka-u.ac.jp)

**Kenya** • Social Development Network (Prof. Edward Dyugi – www.nacetem.org)

**Korea** • Coalition: Center for Democracy in Science & Technology, Kookmin University + Korean Natl. Commission for UNESCO + Korea Green Foundation (Prof. Hwan-Suk Kim – www.greenfund.org)

**Malawi** • Coalition between British Council Malawi (Patience Mahalela – www.britishcouncil.org/africa-mw-contact-us.htm) and Care Malawi (Paul Msoma – www.careinternational.org.uk/11044/malawi/care-in-malawi-.html)

**Maldives** • Strength of Society (Hamza Khaleel – http://strengthofsociety.blogspot.com)

**Mali** • Centre Djoliba (Jean de Dieu Dakouo – www.agha-abdelkader – www.lasdel.net)

**Mozambique** • Coalition: Impacto (Carlota Quilambo – www.impacto.cm) + Fundação para o Desenvolvimento da Comunidade (www.fdc.org.mz)

**Netherlands** • The Rathenau Institute (Dr. Jurgen Ganzevles – www.rathenau.nl)

**New Zealand** • Sustainable Aotearoa New Zealand (Exec. Dir. Wendy Reid – www.phase2.org)

**Niger** • Laboratoire d'Etudes et de Recherche sur les Dynamiques Sociales et le Développement Local (Aghali Abdelkader – www.lasdel.net)

**Nigeria** • National Centre for Technology Management (Ayobami Oyewale – www.nacetem.org)

**Norway** • Norwegian Board of Technology (Director Mr. Tore Tønnes – www.teknologiradet.no)
Philippines • World Agroforestry Center ICRAF – Philippines (Rodel D. Lasco – www.worldagroforestrycentre.org/af1)
Russia • Friends of the Baltic (Olga Senova – www.baltfriends.ru)
Senegal • Innovations, Environnement et Développement en Afrique (Directeur Bara Gueye – www.iedafrique.org)
South Africa – Two sites:
  • Institute for Economic Research on Innovation (Chief Dir. Mr. Rasigan Maharajh – www.ieri.org.za)
  • Ikhwezi Community College of Education (Dr. Busisiwe Peggie Msimango – www.icce.org.za)
Sweden • Nordregio (Director Mr. Richard Langlais – www.nordregio.se)
Switzerland • TA-Swiss – Center for Technology Assessment (Director Dr. Sergio Bellucci – www.ta-swiss.ch)
Chinese Taipei • Coalition: Taiwan Institute for Sustainable Energy (www.tise.org.tw) + College of Social Sciences, National Taiwan University (Prof. Tze-Luen Alan Lin – www.coss.ntu.edu.tw)
Tanzania – Two sites:
  • Dar es-Salam: The Foundation for Civil Society - Tanzania (Dr. Edward Anderson – www.thefoundation-tz.org)
  • Arusha: Tanzania Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (Ngunga Tepani – www.tango.or.tz)
Uganda • Food Rights Alliance Uganda (Penninah Kyarimpa)
United Kingdom • Involve (Dr. Edward Andersson – www.involve.org.uk)
Uruguay • Simurg (Ms. Isabel Bortagaray – www.simurg.org.uy)
USA – Seven sites:
  • Arizona: CSPO at Arizona State University (Prof. Nalini Chhetri – www.cspo.org)
  • California: Coalition (Prof. Mr. Richard Worthington) The Loka Institute (www.loka.org)
    and Pomona College (www.pomona.edu)
  • Colorado: Colorado School of Mines (Prof. Sandy Woodson, Humanities Program Director – www.mines.edu)
  • Georgia: Georgia Institute of Technology (Prof. Susan Cozzens, Associate Dean for Research Ivan Allen College – www.gatech.edu)
  • Massachusetts: Coalition: Boston Museum of Science (David Sittenfeld – www.mos.org)
    and Boston University (Prof. Madeleine Scammell) and The Brookfield Institute, Boston University – Dept. of Environmental Health (Beverly Prestwood-Taylor and Karen Nell Smith – www.brookfieldinstitute.org)
  • North Carolina: North Carolina State University (Prof. Patrick Hamlett – www.ncsu.edu)
  • Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin-Madison Madison (Prof. Daniel Kleinman, Chair, Dept. of Rural Sociology – www.wisc.edu)
Vietnam • Urban-Rural Solutions JSC (Le Thi Huong)
Zambia • Talent Africa (Sampa Joseph Kalungu – www.talentafrique.co.zm)