



**ACTION FOR  
A GLOBAL CLIMATE  
COMMUNITY**

# **Action for a Global Climate Community**

## **Annual Report 2008**

**AGCC is...**

***In London***

*Room 203, Southbank House, Black Prince Road, London SE1 7SJ, United Kingdom -  
Tel: +44 203 176 538*

***In Brussels***

*C/o Globe Europe - 131 Rue Stassart, 1050 Brussels, Belgium*

***In Delhi***

*Mark Runacres, TERI, Darbari Seth Block, IHC Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003,  
India - Tel: +91 98 1129 9622*

## **Summary**

Climate change is now widely recognized as the most critical problem facing humanity. Action for a Global Climate Community was formed to promote dialogue and research into policies and institutions needed for an effective and equitable solution to the threat of climate change to human security and well-being. Over the past few years we have focused our limited resources on the potential for enhanced cooperation between the European Union, India and African countries, through high-level seminars, research and dialogue between scientists, policy-makers and civil society organisations.

Action for a Global Climate Community aims to accelerate progress on tackling climate change and promoting sustainable development through enhanced cooperation between developed and developing countries, by means of dialogue, education and research.

The past 12 months has seen substantial growth in all our areas of activity in Europe, India and Africa. The central focus of activity was a high level seminar, organised with the support of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), that took place in Potsdam in May 2008 and brought together leaders from Europe and India to discuss AGCC's proposals. This was the culmination of four years' discussions with key Indian and European politicians, administrators, scientists, business people and civil society organisations, and set the agenda for future activities, beginning with a further meeting in Delhi in 2009 and including the creation of joint EU-India working parties to look at key areas of activity and policy formation.

At the same time, AGCC's work progressed in both East and West Africa at a series of meetings and conferences designed to create a more coordinated approach to the Kyoto process among governments and civil society organisations.

AGCC's work in Europe, India and Africa consists primarily of finding key individuals either within the decision making process or else able to influence that process and facilitating meetings that can lead to clear and defined objectives. AGCC's strength lies in its network, its focused objectives and its advocacy and facilitation skills.

AGCC is based in London and operates with a small Management Board, a full time Chief Executive, two Project Officers - one full time and one part time - a part time Book-keeper and four Associate Consultants, whose skills cover communications, climate policy and Africa. There are also associate consultants based in India and Africa. This light structure enables AGCC to work from small offices with tight and personal communication between Board members, Associates and staff.

Whenever possible, AGCC works closely with other organisations in the same or similar fields including The Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Environment 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation (E3G), The European Environment Agency (EEA), The Heinrich Boell Foundation, Climate Network Africa (CNA), Caisse des dépôts (France), The European Commission and other relevant organisations and individuals.

## Activities

### India

AGCC's core proposition is the creation of a global climate community led by countries from both the global north and south, developed and developing, who see the need to work together, further and faster than the Kyoto process, to tackle the climate challenge equitably while maintaining the momentum of sustainable development beyond the carbon age.

The first four years of AGCC's work indicated that the prime focus for activity in 2008 should be India, where the idea had met with a sympathetic reception by high-level members of the administration, business and civil society. Over that time, seminars and round table discussions had been arranged at the Confederation of Indian Industries, with the Indian scientific community, with members of Lok Sabha and at the annual Delhi Sustainable Development Summit.

With the support of The Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and, most particularly, Professor John Schellnhuber, formerly Chief Scientific Advisor to the German Chancellor during Germany's Presidency of the G8 and European Union and Advisor to the Commission of the European Union, and Dr Rajendra Pachauri, Nobel Prize winning director of TERI, it was decided that the most important next step would be a seminar to which Indian and European leaders would be able to hold a private discussion on issues raised by AGCC. Fortuitously, the timing of the event proved convenient for President Barroso and his Climate Advisory Committee, who agreed to participate as did members of the climate advisory committee to premier Manmohan Singh.

One of the prime purposes of the seminar was to create an atmosphere of confidence and trust that would enable a free flowing discussion, under Chatham House rules, that would enable participants to understand better the key objectives and problems outside the framework imposed by official negotiations. In this regard, the seminar proved extremely effective and enabled a much greater understanding of many of the underlying factors governing the public positions of both the EU and India.

Participants at the seminar also urged that the initiative should be continued and the joint Chairmen – Nitin Desai and Sir Crispin Tickell – issued the following joint concluding statement:

*"In his address to participants to the High Level India-Europe Seminar in Potsdam May 2008, President Barroso said that this event brought together diverse views seeking to converge on a common position. He referred to the compelling evidence of dangerous climate change, citizens' concerns and the need for a global response to bring about steep and rapid reductions in greenhouse gases: India and Europe had much in common which provided a basis for a constructive dialogue.*

*Our deliberations opened with reminders of the evidence of climate destabilisation as a result of accumulating carbon and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and of the consequences, particularly for the poorest.*

*In response to these challenges, we recognise that the prosperity enjoyed by the industrialised countries, including many within the European Union, was achieved historically*

*by the use of energy derived from fossil fuels, and that it is just that they should bear an appropriate share of the cost of enabling poorer countries to harness energy from clean and renewable sources. We need to identify practical steps that will enable India and Europe to exercise the leadership required to ensure that long term development can be advanced without damage to the planet.*

*We believe that India and the EU are ideal partners for initiating this promising co-operation on the basis of fairness and equality. As a solidly-based democracy, based on the rule of law, India offers a range of skills and capacities which could be developed in partnerships with European enterprises, not only in industry but also in the green-related service economy. For its part, the EU has taken the lead in negotiating the Kyoto Protocol and moving towards the post carbon economy.*

*We believe that recognition of convergence towards equal per capita emissions is central to the process of achieving common agreement;*

*We note that clear principles are needed to achieve a democratic mandate and win political support for the scale of the transformation required.*

*We note that the EU and India are both challenged by climate destabilisation and the impact of possible tipping points, such rapid sea-level rise, sustained drought or black carbon reducing the albedo effect on the cryosphere, especially the Arctic and Himalayan glaciers with potentially dangerous results;*

*We therefore resolve to accelerate progress on ambitious and effective climate mitigation and adaptation through interim flexible solutions and quick wins through Indian – European cooperation. Such new initiatives will support the Bali road map process within the UNFCCC framework and bring new impetus to tackle climate change while maintaining momentum towards sustainable economic development.*

*We agreed that:*

- 1. The substance of these discussions should be communicated to the European Institutions and the Foreign Ministers of the EU and India as a contribution to the EU-India Summit due to take place later this year.*
- 2. An India-Europe Working Group should be set up to explore a joint and equitable approach to the challenges of climate change and development.*
- 3. A further High Level Seminar should be organised in Delhi within eight months to consider proposals, based upon substantive research by the Working Group, into the following areas:*
  - a. Processes and institutional arrangements*
    - alternative time paths for equal per capita emissions by 2050, on the basis of equal per capita entitlements to the global atmosphere;*
    - models to show how such a partnership might work, in both the short and long term, within the principle of equity;*
    - the political and economic institutions required to implement such proposals,*
    - how an India-Europe partnership might in due course be enlarged to embrace other partners;*
    - possible sets of minimum measures for effective action on climate change relevant and appropriate for the EU and India;*

*b. Research and development*

- *the creation of a network of European and Indian research institutes on climate-related issues such as sustainable biomass, energy, black carbon, solar thermal, desalination, monsoon dynamics, health, economic impacts, and other issues;*

*c. Finance and technology*

- *options for financing adaptation and sustainable development, including:*
- *how an India-Europe partnership might promote sustainable investments in ecosystems and the services they provide, including further development of resource accounting and valuation techniques;*
- *the scope for local and sectoral co-operation including technology transfer, eco-innovation and intellectual property rights issues;*
- *information sharing to promote technologies which offer early success, including sustainable biomass, rural energy development, solar thermal and use of information technology;*
- *ways of encouraging joint private sector partnerships to support adaptation and mitigation;*

*d. Emissions trading*

- *the possibilities of linking India with the EU ETS and associated technical issues;*
- *a road map to a global emissions trading system*

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- *alternative time paths for equal per capita emissions by 2050, on the basis of equal per capita entitlements to the global atmosphere;*
- *models to show how such a partnership might work, in both the short and long term, within the principle of equity;*
- *the political and economic institutions required to implement such proposals,*
- *how an India-Europe partnership might in due course be enlarged to embrace other partners;*
- *possible sets of minimum measures for effective action on climate change relevant and appropriate for the EU and India;*

*f. Research and development*

- *the creation of a network of European and Indian research institutes on climate-related issues such as sustainable biomass, energy, black carbon, solar thermal, desalination, monsoon dynamics, health, economic impacts, and other issues;*

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  - *information sharing to promote technologies which offer early success, including sustainable biomass, rural energy development, solar thermal and use of information technology;*
  - *ways of encouraging joint private sector partnerships to support adaptation and mitigation;*
- h. Emissions trading*
- *the possibilities of linking India with the EU ETS and associated technical issues;*
  - *a road map to a global emissions trading system”*

It was agreed that a joint India-EU Working Group should be set up to report at a further meeting to be held in Delhi in early 2009. Work is in progress on the next meeting, which will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> February 2009 immediately prior to the annual TERI Delhi Sustainable Development Summit. Many key speakers have already agreed to participate. A side event, at which Titus Alexander and Tom Spencer presented the “Potsdam Process”, was organised during the COP 14 in Poznan in collaboration with Civic Exchange and the National Institute for Environment Studies.

12 research papers were commissioned as background information for the Potsdam seminar. These were written by the New Economics Foundation, The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI), Ecoequity, the Stockholm Environment Institute and four AGCC members (Chris Layton, John Pinder, Robert Whitfield and Estelle Rouhaud). They were distributed to the participants at the beginning of May to provide contextual support for the seminar. Christopher Layton’s introductory pamphlet to the work of AGCC - *A Community of the Willing, how Europe and the South can lead the World’s response to Climate Change and Development* (now in its fifth edition) was also circulated and a final report of the Seminar was written by rapporteurs at the seminar - Nick Mabey, Tom Spencer, Titus Alexander, David Stephen and Robert Whitfield. The final report was sent to all the European embassies in the UK for forwarding to their respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs. AGCC’s website has also been updated in order to give access to all the materials linked to the Potsdam seminar to participants and general public.

## **Africa**

AGCC’s work in Africa has been coordinated by David Stephen, formerly the United Nations Special Representative for Somalia and Guinea Bissau.

Africa is already suffering disproportionately from climate change, compared to other continents, and yet lacks a coherent voice in the current international climate negotiations. AGCC has therefore worked to support those seeking to increase awareness, both in Africa and elsewhere, of Africa’s situation, advocating appropriate changes in international climate governance systems.

AGCC has worked with, and through, coalitions of NGOs in West and East Africa. They in turn have worked to sensitise members of civil society, including (among others) local elected political leaders, members of legislatures and religious leaders, to the issues of global warming and climate change through a variety of approaches including seminars and meetings. The lack of finance has been a huge drawback. Small grants from aid agencies and from diplomatic missions, along with subsidies from AGCC itself, have allowed some useful functions and seminars to take place, but much, much more could be done.

At the same time, AGCC has built up a network of contacts, including civil servants and NGO representatives, both in individual African countries and in the intergovernmental bodies. There is evidence that the work is bearing fruit as African governments and intergovernmental bodies are extending the scope of their work on climate change. The African Union (advised by one of AGCC's close collaborators, Joshua Wairoto, former Deputy Head of the Meteorological Office of Kenya) is now taking climate change seriously. In the sub-regions, the issue is being taken up: for example, in October 2008 the ministerial meeting in Cotonou of ECOWAS (the Economic Community of West African States) devoted an entire session to climate change. AGCC was invited to attend this meeting, at which it was represented by Raphael Hambock Songo of the African Network for a Climate Community (ANCC) which he founded after an AGCC backed conference in Cameroun. AGCC was the only international NGO invited by the Government of Nigeria to address a meeting of climate negotiators from African countries in Abuja last year, held under the auspices of UNEP and UNFCCC. AGCC also attended, as an observer, the UN Climate talks in Accra in August 2008 and worked with its regional collaborators to organise a side meeting on the theme "Climate Policy and Governance towards 2012: African Lawmakers and Civil Society Voices."

AGCC aims to continue to strengthen the NGOs with which it works and, in particular, to assist them in their educational work, for example with legislators, with a view to ensuring that, in the post-Kyoto process, a legitimate voice is given to African countries, drawing on the experience of those already affected by climate change. AGCC is planning, with its African partners, an African Civil Society Consultation on Climate Change. This would bring together political leaders and technical experts from a number of African countries and Europe to discuss the issues, raising in particular the issue of a "voice for victims" of climate change in the emerging new governance system.

AGCC is encouraging countries such as India to take more interest in Africa and possibly even to champion African issues. Eventually, AGCC hopes to see the formation of new groupings of states (including some African states) prepared - as a Community of the Willing - to pioneer new approaches on the international stage. In addition, a great deal of educational work could, were adequate funding available, be undertaken to alert public opinion in Europe to the effects of climate change on African countries.

## **Europe**

A number of individual and group meetings were held during the year with officials, parliamentarians and others from the European Commission and EU Member States. Regular contact was maintained with the office of the President of the European Commission and with the Environment, External Relations, Energy and Research Directorates-General. Contacts were also maintained with a number of European

parliamentarians, most specifically, Satu Hassi MEP, Jo Leinen MEP, Anders Wijkman MEP and Caroline Lucas MEP so that the European parliament was kept abreast of AGCC's activities.

Links were forged with European NGOs and high-level meetings were held in Paris, during the French Presidency of the EU, with Brice Lalonde (French Government Climate Ambassador), Paul Watkinson (International Coordinator, Interministerial Task Force on Climate Change), H el ene Pelosse (Directeur Adjoint, Cabinet Borloo), Christian Masset (Directeur G en eral of Economic and Financial Affairs, Quai d'Orsay), the French Ministry of Ecology (MEEDDAT) with the participation of the Agence de l'Environnement et de la Ma trise de l'Energie (ADEME) and the Agence Fran aise de D veloppement (AFD).

It is clear that the coming year must include visits to Sweden, during the planning of the Swedish Presidency of the EU and, regular contact with the EU Institutions must be maintained.

## **Fundraising**

AGCC has achieved a remarkable amount with a small budget. Core funding has come primarily from two UK based foundations – The James Madison Charitable Trust and the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and a committed private donor. Generous funding support for the Potsdam seminar was received from The Heinrich Boell Foundation. A wider donor base is being sought to build on recent achievements, with a target of  300,000 for 2009-10.

To facilitate fundraising, AGCC has applied for charitable status, which it believes it will receive in the current financial year.

## **Challenges for 2009**

The main challenge AGCC will have to face next year is to maintain the momentum that arose from the Potsdam seminar and to build and develop further its work in Africa and elsewhere. Additionally, AGCC is developing a communications strategy that will make its ideas and programmes more widely known to the media and civil society. The organisation's main strength is its ability to facilitate discussions between decision makers throughout the world, most especially India, Africa and Europe. Forthcoming elections in both India and the EU will require renewed purpose in order that new administrations are briefed about what has been done and what is planned for the future.

AGCC is planning to organise in June a round-table focusing on the creation of EU-India institutions. The aim will be to influence further the outcomes of the next EU-India Summit to be held in Delhi in autumn 2009.

**Peter Luff**

**Chief Executive Officer, December 2008**

## Staffing and Management

Board of Directors: Christopher Layton (Chairman); Directors: John Pinder OBE, Tom Spencer, Titus Alexander, Ritu Kumar

Associates: Mark Runacres\*, David Stephen, Robert Whitfield

Honorary Consultant Andrew Dlugolewski

CEO: Peter Luff; Programme Manager & Research Assistant: Estelle Rouhaud; Programme & Research Assistant: Becky Luff; Book-keeper: Viv Collett; Intern: Akshay Gujral (Bristol University)

Patrons:

**Grace Akumu**, Chair of Climate Network Africa; **Ambassador Chandrashekhhar Dasgupta**, former Indian Ambassador to China and the EU and presently a Distinguished Fellow at TERI; **Ambassador Raul Estrada**, Chairman of the First Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; **Fabio Feldman**, former Brazilian Member of Parliament, an environmentalist, consultant, and Executive Secretary on the Paulista Forum on Climate Change and Biodiversity; **Sir John Houghton**, former Chairman of the Scientific Assessment Working Group of the International panel on Climate Change; **Professor Margaret Kamar**, Vice Chancellor University of Nairobi and former Chair of the East African Legislative Assembly Environment Committee; **Suresh Prabhu MP**, former Indian Environment and Energy Minister; **Professor John Schellnhuber CBE**, Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research; and **Sir Crispin Tickell**, former ambassador and Director of the Policy Foresight Programme at the James Martin Institute for Science and Civilization.

Full accounts have been drawn up and submitted to Companies House by Hatch Chartered Accountants, Stratford-upon-Avon.

*\* Work in India had benefited enormously from the support of Dr Tushar Moulik, formerly Chairman of the Environment Resources Management Institute (ERM) who sadly died in 2008 and will be greatly missed. AGCC was subsequently very fortunate to be joined by Mark Runacres, the former Deputy UK High Commissioner in India, who has taken a major consultancy role.*