



PEW CENTER
ON
Global CLIMATE CHANGE

CLIMATE DIALOGUE AT POCANTICO
ADVANCING THE INTERNATIONAL EFFORT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE
2004-2005
TARRYTOWN, NEW YORK

In 2003, the Pew Center on Global Climate Change engaged more than 100 experts, policymakers, and stakeholders from nearly three dozen countries in a new initiative to advance the international effort against climate change. This initiative continues with the Climate Dialogue at Pocantico, a series of off-line discussions among a select group of senior policymakers and stakeholders exploring options for next steps in the international climate effort.

The dialogue convenes at the Pocantico Conference Center of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund in Tarrytown, New York. It is co-chaired by Eileen Claussen, President of the Pew Center, and Ged Davis, Managing Director at the World Economic Forum. Four sessions are planned: in July and October 2004, and in February and September 2005.

PHASE ONE: BEYOND KYOTO

THINK PIECES – In late 2002, the Pew Center enlisted a team of authors from developed and developing countries to prepare a set of six “think pieces” exploring core issues in designing and negotiating an effective international response to climate change. The six topics are equity, cost, development, trade, commitments, and a long-term climate target. Drafts of the papers underwent extensive peer review, were posted on the Pew Center website for review and comment by others, and were presented for discussion at three international workshops organized by the Pew Center (see below).

The final set of think pieces, including an overview chapter highlighting key themes from the papers and the workshops, was published in December 2003. The 170-page report, *Beyond Kyoto: Advancing the International Effort Against Climate Change*, has been widely distributed and served as the foundation for a high-level forum at COP 9 with ministers and business and NGO leaders.

The Climate Dialogue at Pocantico is supported by the Pew Charitable Trusts, the United Nations Foundation, the Wallace Global Fund, and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

Key themes that emerged from the papers and the workshops include:

- The need for a more flexible international architecture allowing a broader range of approaches to help address national concerns such as development and competitiveness;
- Within a more flexible architecture, the value of casting goals or commitments in terms of “actions” rather than quantified outcomes; and
- The importance of reaching beyond the climate circle to build domestic support for action and to extend the climate effort into non-climate fora such as trade and development.

WORKSHOPS – To obtain input on the think pieces and facilitate dialogue on ways to advance the multilateral climate effort, the Pew Center convened three international workshops in 2003.

The first workshop, held June 7 in Bonn, Germany, was for the benefit of senior climate negotiators. Heads of delegation and other senior negotiators representing 20 countries participated. The second workshop was held July 25-26 in Cocoyoc, Mexico, and the third, in partnership with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, September 19-20 in Beijing, China. These two workshops included 16 officials (both climate negotiators and representatives of other ministries); 9 business representatives; 7 NGO representatives; 6 independent experts; and 4 representatives of intergovernmental bodies. Pew staff and think piece authors participated in all three workshops.

The workshops generated constructive feedback on the think pieces, reflected in the final report; insights into the evolving political context for climate action; and strong expressions of support for continuing the Pew Center initiative as an “outside the process” forum for analysis and discussion.

HIGH-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT – The Pew Center convened two meetings in 2003 with government ministers to brief them on the initiative and invite their feedback. Eight ministers and other senior officials attended a dinner meeting in April in New York and voiced strong interest in the initiative. Eleven ministers and other heads of delegation heard key findings of the *Beyond Kyoto* report at a breakfast meeting in Milan during COP 9. There was a range of views, with some cautioning against appearing to undermine the Kyoto Protocol but most welcoming the work as a positive contribution to the evolving climate effort.

Key themes from the *Beyond Kyoto* report served as the basis for a high-level forum at COP 9 convened by the Pew Center in partnership with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), and l’Institut du Développement Durable et des Relations Internationales (IDDRI). Speakers included Secretary Margaret Beckett (United Kingdom), Ambassador Raúl Estrada (Argentina), Minister David Kemp (Australia), and five business and NGO leaders. The event took place during the Ministerial portion of the COP and drew a standing-room-only audience of more than 150. Following a presentation of themes from the report and questions from the moderator, the participants engaged in open discussion and some put forward specific proposals for advancing the climate effort.

NEXT STEP: THE CLIMATE DIALOGUE AT POCANTICO

The Pew Center's aim in convening the Climate Dialogue at Pocantico is to provide an off-line opportunity for a small group of senior policymakers and stakeholders from key countries to explore options for next steps in the international climate effort.

Participants are invited in their personal capacities. The dialogue is off-the-record (Chatham House rules) and open-ended, with all options open for discussion. Some materials generated as input to the dialogue are being made publicly available. It is hoped that the group will be in a position at the dialogue's close to report its conclusions to the larger community, and thereby contribute to efforts to strengthen international climate action. However, any report of the dialogue and its outcome will be made only with the participants' approval.

PARTICIPANTS – The dialogue has 25 participants, including the two co-chairs. The group includes senior policymakers (from ministries responsible both for climate negotiations and for implementation of climate/energy policy) and business and NGO representatives from a broad array of developed and developing countries. Participants have committed to a minimum of two meetings.

FORMAT – The dialogue will convene four times: in July and October 2004, and February and September 2005. Participants have agreed on a broad framework for the dialogue:

Session 1 – Identifying and Framing Issues for Discussion

Presentation of: key themes from the *Beyond Kyoto* think pieces; a survey of post-2012 approaches (see below); and insights from the World Resources Institute's Climate Analysis Indicators Tool (see below). Discussion to establish broad aims and parameters, identify issues for further analysis, and guide development of specific options for review.

Session 2 – Reviewing the Options

Presentation and discussion of an initial set of “strawman elements” (see below). Selection of elements for further elaboration and evaluation.

Session 3 – Reviewing the Options (cont.)

Presentation and discussion of revised “strawman elements” and detailed assessments.

Session 4 – Final Review of Options / Next Steps

Discussion of dialogue outcome.

ANALYSIS – The *Beyond Kyoto* think pieces serve as a partial foundation for the dialogue. Additional materials developed specifically as inputs to the dialogue include:

- *International Climate Efforts Beyond 2012: A Survey of Approaches*. A systematic review and synthesis of proposals by governments, experts, and stakeholders for future international climate efforts.

- *Climate Data: Insights and Observations.* A set of policy-relevant insights and observations drawn from WRI's Climate Analysis Indicators Tool (CAIT), a comprehensive database allowing analysis of global emissions, energy, economic, and socioeconomic data.
- *Strawman Proposals.* An initial set of conceptual elements for alternative approaches to future climate efforts, for discussion at Session 2. A narrower set of elements, more fully developed and evaluated, for discussion at Session 3.
- *Modeling.* Modeling of the potential economic and emissions impact of selected strawman proposals.
- *Adaptation to Climate Change: International Policy Options.* An analysis of options for strengthening climate change adaptation efforts at the international level.

INPUT – To help facilitate broader discussion of issues before the dialogue, and to elicit additional input, participants have agreed to disseminate dialogue-related materials on a limited basis outside the dialogue. These materials are being shared by the Pew Center with select individuals in the policy community, and by individual participants at their discretion.

CO-CHAIRS – Eileen Claussen is President of the Pew Center on Global Climate Change. Ged Davis is Managing Director, Head of the Center for Strategic Insight, and Acting Managing Director of Community Management at the World Economic Forum.

Ms. Claussen was formerly U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, and Senior Director for Global Environmental Affairs at the National Security Council. She is a Member of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development and the U.K. Sustainable Energy Policy Advisory Board.

Mr. Davis had a long career with Royal Dutch/Shell Group, which he joined in 1972. He also took on the position of Director of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development's Global Scenarios between 1996-1997. From 1999 until 2003, Mr. Davis was Vice President, Global Business Environment for Shell International Limited as well as Head of the Scenarios Team. He was also Director of the UNAIDS "AIDS in Africa" scenario project from 2002-2003. Currently, he is also a member of the Board of Governors of the International Development Research Centre in Ottawa, Canada.