

Climate Action News **this week**

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December 16, 2008 Edition

UN Climate Negotiations Wrap-Up in Poznan: The Countdown to Copenhagen Begins!

The Poznan United Nations climate negotiations ended at 4am on Saturday morning. The results were disappointing. The meeting failed to reach agreement on key issues and Canada was one of the key spoilers at the talks.

In many ways, Poznan was the meeting between the meetings. At last year's Bali conference governments launched negotiations on the second phase of the Kyoto Protocol, which is expected to be completed at next year's climate conference in Copenhagen in December 2009. Negotiators now need to make up for their lackluster performance in Poznan if they hope to complete a deal by the end-2009. The Countdown to Copenhagen has begun!

Here are some of the reactions to the outcome of the Poznan conference:

Climate Action Network Canada's news release:
www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2008/cop14-canada-blocker-2008-12-13.html

Globe and Mail Editorial:
www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20081215.EENVIRONMENT15/TPStory/Opinion/editorials

Toronto Star Editorial:
www.thestar.com/comment/article/553212

News Release from the Union of Concerned Scientists:
www.ucsusa.org/news/press_release/little-progress-at-poland-0173.html

UN News Release:
http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/081213_pressrel_cop14.pdf

Or listen to Friday's episode of The Current, where Environment Minister Prentice and the Pembina Institute's Matthew Bramley provided competing perspectives on Canada's role in Poznan:

www.cbc.ca/thecurrent/2008/200812/20081212.html

Canada wins fossil of the year.

During the UN climate negotiations, representatives of the 400 member organizations of Climate Action Network International, including groups from all over the world, hand out "Fossil of the Day" awards to the countries that do the most to **block progress** towards a new global climate deal. During the two-week Poznan conference, Canada won a total of 10 daily Fossil awards, including prizes for blocking progress towards science-based targets and insisting on the removal of a reference to the rights of indigenous peoples. This was enough to earn Canada the prize as the conference's overall Fossil champion, also known as the "Colossal Fossil" or "Fossil of the Year".

See Climate Action Network Canada's news release at:

www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2008/cop14-colossal-fossil-2008-12-12.html

Check out the Fossil of the Day website at:

www.fossil-of-the-day.org/go/

Canadian Press: Canada gets dubious enviro distinction

www.edmontonsun.com/News/Canada/2008/12/13/pf-7738331.html

Ottawa Citizen Editorial: Keeping Bad Company

www.ottawacitizen.com/opinion/editorials/Keeping+company/1064905/story.html

Stuck in the Tar Sands at the UN climate negotiations:

Alberta Environment Minister raised a lot of eyebrows during his visit to the UN climate negotiations. When youth groups put up a photo display of the tar sands under a banner that read "Canada's Dirty Secret", the federal government complained to the United Nations and demanded that it be torn down. See the Canadian Youth Delegation's reaction - *Government orders youth to tear down oil sands display at climate negotiations (December 10)* – at:

www.cydpoznan.org/en/media.html

Also see: *Youth group confronts AB minister at UN climate change meeting in Poland:*

www.inews880.com/Channels/Reg/LocalNews/story.aspx?ID=1045907

And view letter from Climate Action Network Canada and other groups at the negotiations to Alberta's Environment Minister:

www.cydpoznan.org/files/International%20Tar%20Sands%20Statement.pdf

Conservatives "embarrassing Canada": Government scientist

A senior Environment Canada scientist is blasting the federal government for causing "public embarrassment to Canada" by preventing him from organizing a prominent world gathering of experts on global warming. Read the story at:

www.canada.com/topics/news/national/story.html?id=1069276

Nova Scotia Plans to Create New Agency for Energy Efficiency

The Government of Nova Scotia is taking leadership on electric energy efficiency through the creation of a new efficiency administrator. This is a unique and innovative step forward in Canada that positions Nova Scotia to establish a highly effective energy efficiency strategy. To view Ecology Action Centre's press release, see:

www.ecologyaction.ca/content/press-releases-0

Scientists predict seasonal ice-free Arctic by 2015

Ice in the Canadian Arctic is melting at such an alarming pace due to climate change that the North will be seasonally ice free in six years, according to a study released yesterday from a groundbreaking scientific expedition.

Read the Globe and Mail here:

www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20081212.ARCTIC12/TPStory/Environment

Commissioner Releases Review of Ontario's Climate Plan:

The Environmental Commissioner of Ontario released an independent review of the government's recently tabled "*Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan: Creating our Sustainable Future, Annual Report 2007-2008*" (the "*December 2008 Action Plan Report*") last week.

To view the release and report, see:

www.eco.on.ca/eng/index.php/pubs/eco-publications/progress-in-a-climate-of-change/2008-ghg-report-media.php

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