Climate Change & Environmental Management Symposium

29 - 30 November 2010  MEXICO CITY

The role of Universities in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Action, and Sustainable Environmental Protection responses.

OUTCOMES
From Dr. Bastaman

- Support the principle of developed countries assisting developing countries in terms of equity

- Build capacity of government agencies, NGOs and universities to work with communities to implement local solutions.

- Increase data to benchmark sea-level rise to address decision making for communities in low level areas.

- Improve the funding mechanisms for research and projects for developing countries.

- REDD SCHEME – Continue to support this BALI-Road Map outcome at the COP 16 in Cancun.
End of tackling – start doing!!

- Develop a National Association that focuses on promoting Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation to political regions and states. Members would need to commit to regular meetings and planning workshops and events in order to promote greater participation by parties who can influence change in Mexico. Do we have one?
- In Mexico: SEMARNAT AND INE – but is it enough? Local gvt the best approach? Or via NGO channel?
- Need to use the school infrastructures that already exist as they are the linkage to communities. Especially with basic school education.
- As part of Climate Change Program, UNAM is using scientific and social science in research. Education is only one side. Civil society is also important. Academics need to push public policies as a start, then by community. We are not finding solutions yet…civil society need to be included.

- Develop an International binding commitment for all nations to implement national measurement and reporting system.
- Need to focus on the obvious, cheap and easy steps that can be taken to cut carbon emission. It easier and cheaper than we expect.

- Need for international harmonized indicator measurement systems
- Funding for local environment reporting systems and monitoring
- Need for local monitoring and reporting systems: environment, social, economic
- Improve communication and collaboration between universities not only internationally but also **nationally**. There is a lot of local information but it is isolated. **Develop a Global Environmental Network of universities and agencies (GEN).** Collaboration exists but is limited. Information is distributed throughout the country but no focal point or central information depository.

- Would it be an option to include an org such as IPH as a model network? Not just universities and NGOs but more scientific organizations (agencies).

- **Involve the public in planning and decision making processes** – **improve community participation strategies.**

- Public policies by consensus are a good starting point to reduce the climatic vulnerability and strengthens adaptation capacity.

- **Create focal points to link information.**
How to ensure the diffusion of knowledge, research findings and shared experiences at this symposium? Will public citizens have access to a user-friendly version of outcomes and will they be able to be involved? (Decision makers)

- Maybe with a website link. If all these presentations can be posted in a link via UNAM and GU as key websites.
- Profiling in UNAM’s Gazette and online news.
- Colombia: Media is key medium for dissemination. It is important to use them wisely. Social Media is key to diffuse to young people.
- Symposium group FACEBOOK site – Colombian and Mexican students can action.

Consider designated urban and ecological areas, education to the community and leaders

- To promote the ecological territory laws in rural areas and new cities in order to prevent pollution. This can also promote the economic development of these areas and stop population migration to big cities and avoid urban expansion.
- Education for citizens via mass media communication – bigger and deeper than is currently applied. It is particularly important to show the negative effects.
• Increase ecosystem resilience and connectivity

• Develop payment systems ecosystem services: a priority for research area. Email CONABIO participant. Giorgia …

• Hard to put a dollar value to many of these projects. If we want to see eco technologies incorporated in our urban design there needs to be a recognition that equates to dollars – more recreational value, bio diversity etc.

• In Mexico a citizen is financially rewarded for environmental protection activities. Eg. Farmers rewarded if they apply env. Friendly practices.

• In Colombia the focus in charging companies/industry for any harm they may have done through their activities. Or expecting them to fund env friendly activities.

• A big challenge is to change the production model for food to one that is more environmentally friendly and does not waste so much energy in a way that the common contradiction” He who pays more eats better” does not take place.

• How could the government support its citizens in order to develop sustainable family-run food crops?

• How to protect vulnerable (low income, with no access to health, education, etc.) population from climate change effects. The strategy must be comprehensive involving all aspects that climate change affects?
The energy management could be a solution to solve some industry and home issues, in order to stop the increasing amounts of energy spent.

Future energy systems will have to use clean technologies in order to be sustainable.

Nuclear Fission is not a clean energy technology and should not be promoted as a climate change mitigation option.

Insufficient data/discussion on nuclear fission to warrant inclusion in these notes. There are solid arguments for nuclear energy. Many argue it is CLEAN technology. This needs deeper discussion. Positive and negative impacts of renewable energy and nuclear energy need to be researched further.

Renewable energies do effectively mitigate GHG emissions and its research and development should receive subsidies comparable to those received by oil & nuclear industries, that should be eliminated. Further R&D needed. Need to investigate more generous subsidies for this research.
Summary

- We need to set up groups within an association in Mexico and plan activities in each sector.

1. **EDUCATION** (creating awareness): develop curriculum that teaches environmental protection and technologies

2. **APPLIED TECHNOLOGIES** (bring businesses into the picture): promote and apply green technologies with investors and industry, create green supply chains, green products, lower the carbon footprint of logistics.

   Renewable Energies must be fostered in Mexico through subsidies, more research (Renewable Energy Institute), governmental energy policy (RE Ministry) and local industry development (Solar Thermal Concentrators)

1. **MEASUREMENT INDICATORS**: Develop measurement methodologies to assist government departments (to measure the impact and carbon footprint of the different activities of a process, this can include industries and cities) and publish the results (statistics) during future events.

2. **POLICY and GOVERNMENT**: Develop laws, norms, and possible incentives to promote education, industry, measurement systems (include an educational process for government decision makers).

3. **RESEARCH**: Carry out local research related to vulnerability, adaptation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.

4. **FOOD SECURITY**: Problems due to climate change may make food production and distribution more difficult. Awareness may cause changes in market preferences.