

"Educate to End Climate Poverty" Copenhagen Summit and Beyond —

Brief Report of the 18th APFEJ World Congress of Environmental Journalists

Colombo - Sri Lanka : October 19 to 21, 2009



JOINTLY ORGANIZED BY
The Asia Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists (APFEJ)
Commonwealth Environmental Journalists Association (CEJA) and
Sri Lanka Environmental Journalists Forum (SLEJF)



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October 19 - 21, 2009

“Educate to End Climate Poverty”

Cinnamon Grand – Colombo 03, Sri Lanka.

The 18th APFEJ World Congress of Environmental Journalists, which was jointly organized by the Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists(APFEJ), Commonwealth Environmental Journalists Association(CEJA) and Sri Lanka Environmental Journalists Forum(SLEJF) officially opened on Monday, 19th October 2009 at the Cinnamon Grand Hotel, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka after confronting the theme “Educate to End Climate Poverty.” APFEJ can be rightly proud of the active participation of the attendees, more than 103 Environmental Journalists, opinion makers from 34 countries. More than 30 papers and keynote addresses were presented by some of the world's leading environmental journalists, environmentalists, climatologists, economists, policy makers, and opinion leaders. This 18th APFEJ Congress of Environmental Journalists had a much focused agenda – preparing for the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference scheduled for December 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The Asia Pacific region is in peril of the global warming and climate change and the western (and industrialised) countries should bailout the developing countries to cope up with the devastation of sea level rise, flood and drought; and sanitation of surface water in those populous countries. These are some of the highlights, which were discussed and resolved unanimously in an 18th APFEJ World Congress of Environmental Journalists held in Colombo –Sri Lanka. The Congress Supported by the Sri Lanka Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Australian Agency for International Development(AusAID), Friends of the Earth(FOE), The British High Commission, Sri Lanka Convention Bureau, Fredskorpsrt, Norway, Several UN and Development Agencies.

The Asia Pacific Region is particularly vulnerable to negative impact of climate changes. At the beginning, the role of media and the potential contributions of journalists and broadcasters to the environmental movement were not well understood. Only in the last few years, faced with continuing widespread public apathy and nonchalance towards environmental issues have international agencies begun to acknowledge the possible crucial contribution of the media in promoting the environmental protection campaign. Media can help raise the critical awareness level to the point where popular pressure and action can be brought to bear on government, policy makers and the private business sector to begin to back their words with action. It is with this goal of raising the

profile of media as a contributor to environmental advocacy that the Congress prepared to meet to discuss climate change.

The inaugural ceremony started with lightening of traditional oil lamp and by singing the National Anthem of Sri Lanka. SLEJF Director Dharman Wickramaratne greeted the participants and profusely thanked the funding institutions and support agencies that made the Congress possible. He also thanked the participants for journeying from distant places in order to attend this meeting. He said without media's active and innovative role across the regional or world to transform the jargons into communicable messages, the information would only be preserved in files and directories. "Copenhagen would be the culmination of a negotiation process that was launched in 2007 in Bali –the year the scientific community sounded the alarm bells and declared that climate change is unequivocal- will have serious impacts and can be tackled at reasonable cost," Wickremaratne explained.

At the inaugural session, APFEJ president, Svetlana Dylevskaya, Kazakhstan cited how there were nearly 50 days to Copenhagen and media coverage had reached the 'tipping point'. The question was whether media was part of the solution – or part of the problem, which the Congress would decide. However, instead of talking at each other, journalists were encouraged to talk to each other. "Today climate change emerges as a challenge to the mankind, where the adaptation practice alone will not work. Mitigation should be accepted as the pragmatic solution to the problem," Dylevskaya insisted.

In Key Note Presentation, British High Commissioner in Sri Lanka HE Dr. Peter Hayes requested the developing nations not commit the same mistake that the developed nations did 100 years ago by ignoring the impact of environment. They should learn a from the bitter bitter lessons the world has experienced. Speaking on the climate change issue, he said, that the United Kingdom is taking a lead role by appointing committees, committing money and resources to help the whole world. "The objective of the summit in Copenhagen will be to formulate a new and striving global agreement on climate change that includes all countries of the world and also the ambitious target for reducing global green house gas emissions," reveling the British High Commissioner

In Inauguration Speech, Hon Patali Champika Ranawaka Minister of Environmental and Natural Resources, Sri Lanka said nearly seven million people in Sri Lanka had been affected severely in the dry zone due to unexpected changes of monsoon, Chief Guest Environment and Natural Resources. The minister said while developing nations addressing the issue of climate change, they also have to demand substantial emission reduction targets from the developed countries considering their historical responsibility for the present crisis. He said, "There should be equity and common, but differentiated, responsibility if we are to keep to the two centigrade threshold. We have

to be mindful about the limited carbon space available for us, developing countries, to improve our economies. Ranawaka said that he was happy to be at the beginning of the world congress on 'Educate to End Climate Poverty', at a critical juncture where the global community has to develop a common position during the forthcoming climate change debates in Copenhagen.

Statement by UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer lauded the role of the media in turning complicated climate jargon into useable information product, making them understandable for local people. "On climate issue, we generate a lot of information and some are very much complicated for common people to understand," said head of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). "So, I am very excited to see that a group of people plays role in turning the information into product so that people can use the information," he said.

Then awards were presented to of Asia-Pacific Best Environmental Journalism Award, International Green Pen Award, and Sri Lanka's best environmental journalists on years 2006 to 2009. The working sessions consisted of presentations by representatives of international agencies, officials of the Sri Lanka government, and environmental NGO advocates. Each offered their assessment of the current situation in their respective fields of expertise or action. All the speakers invited to help the participants navigate the often-complex issues that constitute environmental problems or update them of the latest developments in their respective fields of activism or expertise.

Nihal Mawella who is the Campaigns Policy Officer of SLEJF acts as the congress facilitator. He gave an orientation on how the conference was going to proceed at the beginning of the sessions.

The first session started on October 19 with Director and CEO of TVE Asia Pacific Nalaka Gunawardena as moderator. MARD Jayathilake Secretary of Sri Lanka Ministry Of Environment & Natural Resources & Representative of Asia-Pacific Network For Global Change Research (APN), Japan and Anura Jayathilake, Director of Air Resource Management & International Relations Division, Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources made a presentation on "Education, Training and Public Awareness on Climate Change in the Asia-Pacific Region. In the presentation, APN stressed that one of the greatest challenges facing humanity today is climate change. Even though possible impacts of climate change on the environment and the society have already been well documented, those information has hardly outreached the public. As a result, vulnerability of the society to the climate change remains unchanged despite significant

technological advances. It is important that one has an understanding of what climate change means to different people in different parts of the world. Hence, there is a need for effective communication, public outreach and education to increase support for policy, collection action and behavior change. Many governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (IGOs and NGOs) are already working actively to raise awareness. The scale of changes required, however, and the vast number of people and interests that must be influenced, call for outreach activities of a greater magnitude. In order to address these issues, APN representatives shared to participants some of the APN initiatives. Furthermore, APN representatives emphasised that the APN believes that education, training and awareness generation have to be country-driven; addressing the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and reflecting their national sustainable development goals, priorities and strategies. APN is committed to continuously addressing the challenge and responding to the needs by strengthening appropriate interactions among scientists and policy-makers, and providing scientific input to policy decision-making and scientific knowledge to the public.

Prof Sarath Kotagama, President Field Ornithology Group and Prof. of Environmental Science, Faculty of Science, University of Colombo, gave a presentation on "Climate Change: Education needs for Adaptation". He noted that the present environment crisis is rooted in market, consumption and life styles. He further observed that mankind has created the problems which will pose serious challenges to future generations. Given the scale and nature of these problems, the world needs new approaches and ways of thinking to solve them since scientific knowledge has not been applied appropriately, according to him. The vision should be to give science education that will make scientific literacy for all a reality, he said. Prof. Kotagama stressed the importance of scientific literacy citing many examples. To achieve science literacy it is essential to strengthen science education. A sound grounding in science strengthens many of the skills that people use every day. As he said, learning science is an active process with hands-on activities and minds-on experiences. He concluded by stating that it is the media's responsibility to share scientific findings with the general public.

Myint Zaw *Editor, JOU Publishing House* of Myanmar commented that all workshops on climate issues are organized for professionals. Then he asked the best way to convey this message to general public. Prof. Kotagama responded by saying that the best way is to make people see the issue by themselves and by setting examples themselves. Eurico Pereira senior producer of *Radio Rakambia, East Timor* wished to know whether it was

not better to depend on fish rather than being vegetarian in terms of land utilization (vegetarians use more agricultural lands, but for fishery only the coastal zones is utilized). Prof. Kotagama answered that by being vegetarian, energy can be conserved in the initial levels of food chains.

Second Session started in the afternoon of the first day. Kusum Athukora Representative of Global Water Partnership (GWP), made a presentation on "Climate Change and Water". In her presentation she emphasized the effects of climate change on water. Climate changes affect the quantitative and qualitative status of water resources, intensity and frequency of floods and droughts, as well as water availability and demand. Acceleration of climate change happens in Sri Lanka due to burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, oil spills, agro-chemicals, garbage and agricultural waste, industrialization and urbanization, she noted.

Atukorala cited many examples of the harmful effects of extreme weather conditions with regard to annual rainfall, floods, droughts, landslides and the human-elephant conflict. She also drew attention to direct and indirect Impact of climate change on human health. She proposed the implementation of better water management strategies beyond adaptations. She stressed the importance of media's duty to be conduit for information, to be informed themselves, and to be a catalyst in promoting the rights and role of communities.

Nishadi Eriyagama, Resources engineer - International Water Management Institute (IWMI) gave a talk on "Environmental Journalists Role in Helping Water Sector to Meet the Coming Challenges of Climate Change". According to her there are two contradictory projections of rain fall from climate models for Sri Lanka. One group of models estimates higher mean annual rainfall, while the other estimates lower mean annual rainfall. Climate is an extremely complex system and predicting future climate based on mathematical equations is a difficult task, she said.

In the face of uncertain changes in our climate, the world faces three main challenges; to change attitudes among water users, to create or promote one central agency to coordinate activities in the water sector, and to conduct a national water resources audit. Eriyagama concluded by saying that it is the responsibility of environmental journalists working closely with scientists, policy makers and water management experts to create awareness and educate people on these challenges

Science writer with the Information and Knowledge Group of the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Terry Clayton commented on “Why responsible writers avoid alarmist rhetoric in reporting science”. As he said ‘alarm’ and ‘alarmism’ are different terms. An alarm is a warning. Some changes taking place in the environment truly do alarm us. This alarm leads to careful scientific investigation of the causes and solutions to the problems. Alarmism however, is the spread of exaggerated warnings with the intention of influencing public opinion through hysteria and this creates unnecessary panic. A rise in such alarmism in discussions of climate change can be observed over the past few years, according to him. The way climate change is being reported in the media today by bombarding people with words and images of devastating effects of global warming tend to add to the anxiety and paranoia of people causing an immobilizing effect on them - thereby preventing them from responding to the issue effectively. Alarmism gives rise to fatalism, where people resign to the fact that the fate of the world is beyond their control and consequently are discouraged from taking positive action. Raising alarm is a means to an end. He concluded stating that the role of an environmental journalist is to inform and educate, not to alarm people. Alarmist writing only damages the writer’s credibility.

Senior writer / Editor - Sri Lanka Environmental Journalists Forum and Participant of UNO-IDfA Int'l Media Consultation, Zaragoza, Spain Dr. Suriya Gunasekara gave a talk on “Water and Climate Change”. He warned that water scarcity threatened all living beings on earth, affecting food crops resulting in starvation. According to him it has been estimated that water scarcity would adversely affect up to two-third of the world’s population over the next several decades. Dr. Gunasekera pointed out that rainfall pattern in Sri Lanka had changed from the in beginning of 21st century. The annual total rainfall is insignificantly less sometimes causing poor farmers to shift towards commercial crops such as tobacco and sugar cane instead of food crops. Within the Kyoto Protocol the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is an instrument to reduce greenhouse gas emission. Kyoto Protocol allows for carbon sequestration offset of emission reduction obligation for the developed countries, through “Carbon Trading”. Dr. Gunasekera too emphasized the role of journalists in building awareness among people on “Water and climate change”. Many questions were asked based on rain water harvesting Mohammed Zahir Hussain of *Haveen Daily, Maldives* asked whether city dwellers could tanks to capture rain water. Dr. Suriya Gunasekara recalled that Sri Lanka had rain water collecting systems since ancient times.

Session three started soon after the tea break. Pakistan Secretary General of Pakistan Press Foundation Owais Aslam Ali -was Moderator. Uchitha de Zoysa made the first presentation of the session on “Right to Sustainable Development in a Climate Change Agenda”. De Zoysa is a thinker, writer, speaker and a frontline leader in shaping policy

for the global sustainability movement. He started his presentation by pointing out that human-driven emission of greenhouse gases is the main cause for the rapid earth warming. Recent observations show that societies are highly vulnerable to even modest levels of climate change, with poor nations and communities particularly at risk. He mentioned the impact of climate change on food, water, eco systems, and coasts and on health. According to surveys, Global GHG emissions due to human activities have grown since pre-industrial times, with an increase of 70% between 1970 and 2004. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the most important anthropogenic GHG.

According to facts he presented, over consumption and related lifestyles in developed countries adversely affected the struggle to improve the quality of consumers' lives in developing countries. Development is more than freedom from poverty. It is about sustainable human development. The Greenhouse Development Rights framework (GDRs) is designed to protect the right to sustainable human development.

Damcho Wangchuk, Producer of Bhutan Broadcasting Services, delivered a short speech on the topic "Climate Poverty alleviation and the role of Media". At the very beginning he mentioned that media inform general public about climate issues in particular. According to him the role of Bhutan's media is to inform of all the general public on what government is doing to improve the society of people. He gave examples on how Bhutan has experienced the enormous threat of climate change during this year which is too much for such a small country like Bhutan. He said that the government and the people are working hand in hand to help those affected by climate change that has contributed to poverty in that country.

Pham Tuan Anh, Vietnam Managing Editor of DTInews.com - Dan Tri Media Group Vietnam gave a brief speech on his country's current situation with regard to economic development and the environment. Among the major challenges facing Vietnam as a developing country, he noted, is balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability. Economic growth used to be the government's top priority and the public's main concern in the past. Today both the public and the government have come to realize that for long term economic and social development, more focus needs to be put on environmental protection and efficient use of natural resources in the context of Vietnam having a very long coastal line, which means rising sea levels may cause severe damage. After questions and answers, the working sessions of the first day came to the end.

On Tuesday, October 20 the conference started with session four. Rebecca Henschke, China, Editor of Asia Calling was the session's moderator. One of the leading Independent environmental consultants in biodiversity and representative of World Conservation Union (IUCN- CEC) Dr.Jini Dela, made her presentation on the topic "Implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and impacts of climate change". She briefly mentioned the objectives and commitments of CBD and explained some of the articles in the CBD particularly article 8 and 9. According to the presentation Climatic conditions shifted dramatically in Pleistocene and CC fuelled major changes in the Earth's biota. Projected magnitude of present climate change is much greater than that of Pleistocene. That may cause large scale extinctions and replacement of present biotic communities with those that are very different. She talked about coral reefs and impacts of CC on the corals. She also drew attention to the impact on forests, agricultural lands, and eco systems and on species. According to her mass media has to play a vital role in Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness(CEPA). CEPA Toolkit Provides tools that can be used to manage change to address Climate Change impacts on BD

Founding Director of Adlib Consulting Libby Southwell, made her presentation on "Responsible Tourism, the Aviation Industry & Climate Change". She started her presentation by a clear explanation on 'what is responsible tourism' and the relationship between the climatic change and tourism. She clarified the difference between responsible tourism irresponsible Tourism drawing attention to responsible tourism in Sri Lanka promoted by a few organizations and individuals and large companies.Libby pointed out the connection between responsible tourism and the climate and the opportunities offered by such tourism. She was stressed the need for environmentally sustainable tourism to avoid pollution caused by the industry. She noted that consumption of water and energy had its effects on flora and fauna. Expressing concern over government and taxes affecting Climate Change she emphasized the need for carbon offsetting and emission trading and the challenge of a global tax on the airline industry.Moonthala Thalangsy, *Editor of Laos National Radio Station* asked Thalangsy whether he does not think that tourism itself is causing climate change. In response she agreed that tourism does much harm than good in many cases. He said that the industry should communicate well with the community and also the tourists should change their behavior. Chulawansha Sirilal

General Secretary of Free Media Movement(FMM) from Sri Lanka suggested that hotels had to be environmentally friendly. Laurent BOLA of Congo asked how climate change affected by tourism in Asia Pacific. The answer was that lack of funds prevented the use of more environmental friendly methods in the Asia Pacific region.

Session five started soon after the tea break. *Secretary of the Environmental Communication Society of India* Ram Ajaya Kumaran was the moderator of the session. Chairman-/Media Resource Service of SLAAS and Professor of Forestry and Environment Science, University of Sri Jayewardenepura Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe made her presentation on "Climate Change & the need for Sustainable Energy". Prof. Ranasinghe started her presentation by describing about green house effect and about Implications of Climate Change. Also she mentioned about options for combating Climate Change. According to her fossil fuel burning has dominant influence on the atmospheric concentration of CO₂. Power sector and transport sector contribute much to GHG emission. Actions have been taken such as policy formation towards propagating sustainable energy. Development / Promotion of Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation are some suggested actions towards sustainable energy. She emphasized the idea of going green in order to reduce energy consumption and designing buildings that minimize the use of energy. Rain water harvesting, energy plantations, use of biodiesel, and cleaner production are some of the ideas she talked. She ended up her presentation highlighting challenges / constraints towards sustainable energy and social issues.

Sri Lanka representative of Friends of the Earth, International, Hemantha Withanage made a presentation on Climate Justice. He started his presentation with relating emission of green house gases with global warming and its impacts. He moved his attention to the Asian scenario. Small islands are particularly vulnerable as there is less space to move people and crops. According to him climate crisis is a result of overuse of the environmental space by Northern countries. This has deprived Southern countries of their development rights. Therefore poor communities in these lands suffer more. Climate justice is a vision to dissolve and alleviate the unequal burdens created by climate change and it treats all people fairly. Withanage also referred to climate refugees and said that climate debt must be paid not only in terms of financial means and proposed some measures to pay climate debt. Chamali Liyanage, Environmental Officer of Centre for Environmental Justice, gave a presentation on Public Perceptions on Climate Change and Adaptation drawing attention to climate change issues and the importance in communication for adaptation measures.

Senior Lecturer in Dept. of Mechanical Engineering of University of Moratuwa and Vice President - CleanAir Sri Lanka Dr. Thusitha Sugathapala made a presentation on "air pollution and climate change". Dr. started the presentation talking about Energy and Development and about ever-increasing fossil fuel consumption both in local and global scale. The combustion of fossil fuels for energy generation is the dominant factor behind

the emission of most pollutants and thus their impacts on the environment. Energy usage is imbedded in environmental cycles, notably over the carbon cycle. He mentioned about types of air pollutants and effects of them particularly about global warming and global dimming. Changes in regional and seasonal weather patterns, rising sea levels and melting of glaciers and icecaps occur due to global warming. Due to global dimming, variable cooling and heating of surface temperatures, absorbing solar radiation and heating the atmosphere occur. Also it effects the hydrological cycle of the planet. Dr. Sugathapala proposed to change life styles, improve energy efficiency and to use cleaner fuels as solutions for climate change which occur due to air pollution.

Regional Communication Officer for Asia of Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Indonesia, Yani Saloh made a presentation on “Forests and Climate Change.” She presented the purpose and vision of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). The headquarters is at Bogor, Indonesia. It conducts research based on, Illegal logging, forest fires, pulp and paper finance, decentralization, forests and health. She mentioned the importance of forests and their strategic research agenda in conserving the forests. Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) gives benefits including poverty alleviation, biodiversity protection and improved forest governance. She mentioned the communication activities used in building REDD literacy in Indonesia. Chulie De Silva, *Senior Communication Officer of The World Bank* asked whether it is possible to control things that cause climate change and how long it would take. Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe answered that the current situation is not well understand and researches are still going on.

The seventh session started soon after the lunch break. Nalaka Gunawardena, Director - Television for Education, Asia – Pacific (TVEap) made a presentation on “Changing climate & moving images”. He started his presentation pointing out the Challenges and constraints in covering climate issues in moving images, How broadcast television & online video cover climate change issues (where has it already had impact?, what kind of gaps still exist?, why story telling works?) and TVEAP experiences of communicating climate issues through TV/video film. Then he explained about how to Personalising climate, how to people deal with Weather/climate in their day to day life and how media, films and presentations play role in control of climate change. Finally Gunawardena explained about the, their challenges and their role in his presentation. NM Ameen, Editor Navamini, Tamil Daily and Chairman of Sri Lanka Muslim Media Forum, Sri Lanka commented on a statement made by Nalaka Gunawardena. In his speech Gunawardena had stated that every environmental journalist should be a

good journalist. Ameen asked what he thinks about vice versa. Gunawardena answered that it is fulfilled by the ABC of journalism.

Session 08 Environmental Journalism around the world - Country Reports Summaries

- (Media Coverage of environmental issues and climate change in around the globe- Media attitudes to reporting Climate change: Case study- Community-level Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) activities related to climate change, highlighting the role of local knowledge, practices and coping strategies)

-Climate Change Reporting In Nepal: presented by Dhruva Raj Sapkota

-Environmental Journalism In Indonesia: presented by Masduki, M.Si, Ma

-Environmental Education, Training and Public Awareness In Nigeria:

Presented by E.Osita Aniemeka

-Environmental Journalism in Laos: presented by Moonthala Thalangsy

-Environmental Journalism In Kenya: presented by Basett A. Buyukah

-Environmental Journalism in Kenya: presented by Rosalia Emily Omungo

-Environmental Journalism in Pakistan: presented by Mahadev Amar Guriro

-Environmental Journalism In Sri Lanka: presented by Dharman Wickremaretna

-Environmental Journalism in Zambia: presented by Alvin Chiinga

-Environmental Awareness, Training and Education in Trinidad and Tobago –

Presented by Hema Singh

-Climate Change and Vulnerable Communities in India: presented by Ashwin Mahendra Aghor

-A Study on Public Perception of Climate Change in India –

Presented by Himansu Sekhar Fatesingh

-Climate Change and Vulnerable Communities in Bhutan: presented by Damcho Wangchuk

-Climate Change and Vulnerable Communities in India: presented by Kumkum Dasgupta

- Climate change, vulnerability and community resilience: A focus on community-based adaptation to climate change in the poor countries: Presented by Prof Sheikh Md.

Monzurul Huq , Bangladesh

- Media coverage of environmental issues and climate change in around the globe:

Presented by Dileep Chandan -Editor, Asam Bani –India

On the third and final day, October 21st the ninth working session started. Media Monitor of SAFMA and Cashmere Value Chain Specialist Ellaha Sadath of Afghanistan was moderator of the session. Uchita de Zoysa, Chairman - Global Sustainability Solutions made a presentation on “Sustainable Consumption and Production to Face the Climate Change”. In his presentation he emphasized about the Limits to Growth, Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), Historical Evolution of the UN SCP Process. Then he pointed out the Asian review on sustainable consumption and

participating countries and their objectives, and a model to achieve sustainable consumption in Asia. Also he explained about poverty and economic growth, inequity in consumption, growth and consumerism – shifting global balance, development dreams and ecological footprint. Finally he pointed out the paths to sustainable lifestyles, an agenda for better life on earth.

Siri Dammulla, Training Coordinator of Sri Lanka Environmental Journalists Forum made a presentation on Green Voluntarism in Developing Countries An introduction to South - South & north -South Dialog of Fredskorpset(FK), Norway. Siri Dammulla opened proceedings by giving an explanation of what the south-south and north-south exchange programs are all about – the aims and objectives – and how far they had come in putting the plan into action. The aim of the initiative is to share the knowledge and experience of young professionals so that they may contribute effectively to the permanent improvement of the lives of people on their respective countries. By experiencing life in another culture first-hand, the journalists will have a better understanding of those cultures, thereby improving the objectivity and sensitivity of the reports they produce. Siri Dammulla stated that the journalists have an important role to play in formulating environmental policy that will have a bearing at local, regional and international levels. They can bring issues to public attention and make a collective effort to protect the environment, simultaneously having a direct impact on promoting peace, understanding and harmonious relations between countries. The south-south exchange program will be put into practice first, followed by the north-south program. Palitha Gurusinghe, Eco tourism Foundation also contribute a his FK partnership experience.

Joint Secretary for Clean Air, Sri Lanka, Bimalka Sajeevi Perera gave a presentation on “Reducing Air Pollution and protecting Clean Air.” She gave an account of her 10 months FK network activities at Polytechnic University, Hong Kong. In her presentation she mentioned about activities which was done by this project, tasks of the exchange programme, working with Vehicle Emission Testing Research Team, Vehicle Emission Testing Centres & Remote Sensing Site, Visiting Transport Department and Vehicle Examination Testing Centres, Official visit to China, Guangdong Province, and Experiencing Conference in Hong Kong, Research work and presentations at Polytechnic University. Uditha Gunaratne, SL Interactive Media Group also brief of his FK north south exchange experience. An interesting discussion was took place on volunteerism said Tika Ram Rai, Nepal, *Convener of Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists(NEFEJ)*. It was discussed that in many institutes, it's like partial employment. Siri Dammulla Fredskorpset(FK) former fellow stated that right action can be considered as volunteerism.

The session tenth started immediately after the tea break. Jayanthi Liyanage of Daily News was the moderator for this session. Yani Saloh made a presentation about The Climate Project (TCP). In her presentation, Saloh explained about what is The Climate Project (TCP), its vision, mission, participations and how they work. She mentioned about The Climate Project Asia Pacific Summit in Melbourne on July 2009.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has influenced global actions. Yani then referred to the Copenhagen conference, political essentials, latest negotiating status, possible agreed outcomes for Copenhagen and the essentials in Copenhagen. Saloh commented that it is time for us to act to prevent climate change. Terry Clayton commented on the video clip presented by Saloh and said he was frustrated. And also he said the whole issue is very complex in present.

Project Leader-Turtle Conservation Project (TCP) and Marine Turtle Specialist – IUCN/SSC-MTSG Thushan Kapurusinghe gave a presentation on How Climate Change impacts on Sea Turtles and A Community Based Ecosystem Conservation Approach to mitigate the negative impacts on Sea Turtles. He said that out of the seven in the world, five species of sea turtles are found in Sri Lanka; Loggerhead turtle, Green turtle, Leatherback turtle, Olive ridley turtle, Hawksbill turtle. He cited the threats posed to sea turtles by poachers, predators, reef destruction, habitat loss, etc.. Explaining the role of the Turtle Conservation Project, their Vision and Mission Kapurusinghe pointed out the sea turtle as an indicator species of climate change. Finally he pointed out the seven main components of Community Based Ecosystem Conservation Approaches.

The Session Eleven, the last session of the congress started soon after the lunch break. Svetlana Dylevskaya, editor of Analytical Environmental Agency from Kazakhstan and APFEJ president was the key speaker of this session. Svetlana Dylevskaya made a presentation on “Media coverage of climate change around the world” and started on her presentation with various definitions on Climate change. She mentioned the role of Media coverage on climate change and problems. According to her, TV channels and news papers play a major role in publishing news to the community. But they have some problems with these activities, such as lack of knowledge on current situation on climate change and others. Dylevskaya explained the current situation with using the Survey data of editors

of the largest U.S. newspapers. According to that data, only 10 percent of editors surveyed consider science and technology reporting as "very essential" to the quality of

their news product. According to her, climate change is not just a science or environment story, it is a political story, a financial story, it is a story about money and power, and ultimately about justice and equity.

She spoke on reporting climate change and explained that national and international climate-related agencies, journalism schools in developing countries, research institutes and working journalists help for improving media coverage.

Cautioning that climate change would be worse in the coming days, Dharman Wickremaratne, of SLEJF proposed for the climate bail out actions like that of economic bailout arrangement during the time of recession. He also appealed the media to continue its effort in exposing the impact of climate change on the food and livelihood security and finally on the entire society. The congress last session was addressed by Syed Muhammad Raza, *Chief Editor of Communication and Advance Linguistic Links(CALL)*, Pakistan to share his experiences with the participants. Muhammad Raza described his own experiences on climate change. He referred past and present environmental conditions in his home town and pointed out that the impacts of climate change are obvious. Wasantha Ramanayaka Daily news from Sri Lanka asked from Dylevskaya the media's role in her own country and central Asia towards environmental issues. She answered that journalists are trained on these issues and also contests are held to motivate them although these measures were not sufficient.

Svetlana Dylevskaya, president of APFEJ, promised that the members of both the organisations would leave no stone unturned to mainstream the water, climate change and other relevant issues in the international media and extend all out support to the global campaign to stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources and mitigate the emission of greenhouse gases.

Announcement of APFEJ elected new chair and team for next 3 years

During the closing session, president of APFEJ announced the newly elected 19-member administrative Council who will serve for the term 2009 -2012.

The administrative Council is formed by the core administrative group:

Chair: Green Women Environmental Media Agency, Kazakhstan

Vice Chair: Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists, Nepal

Secretary /Chief Executive- Sri Lanka Environmental Journalists Forum, Sri Lanka

Members of the APFEJ administrative Council are follows;

01).President - Ms.Svetlana Dylevskaya, Kazakhstan

(Network Editor of the Green Women Environmental Media Agency*
and Central Asian Network for Ecological Journalists - CANEJ)

02).Deputy President - Mr.Tika Ram Rai, Nepal
(Convener of the Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists -NEFEJ)*

Regional Directors(5)

03).Central Asia Director- Ms.Jamila Sujud, Tajikistan
(Coordinator of the Central Asian Journalistic Network on Environment and Health)**

04).North East Asia Director - Mr.Yasuyoshi Tanaka, Japan
(President of the Japanese Forum of Environmental Journalists -JFEJ)*

05).South Asian Director - Mr.Aftab Zahoor, Pakistan
(Head of the Pakistan Forum for Environmental Journalists -PFEJ)*

06).South East Asia Director: Mr.Quoc Dzung, Vietnam
(Executive Vice President of the Vietnam Forum of Environmental Journalists- VFEJ)*

07).South Pacific Director - Ms.Nina Ratulele, Fiji
(News correspondent of the Islands Business Magazine and Media consultant) ***

08).Secretary /Chief Executive - Mr.Dharman Wickremaratne, Sri Lanka
(Editor of the Sri Lanka Environmental Journalists Forum-SLEJF) *

09).Deputy secretary General - Mr. Yang Ming-sen, China
(Secretary General of the China Forum of Environmental Journalists -CFEJ) *

Executive Members (8)

10).Ms.Souparno Banerjee, India
(Coordinator of the Media Resource Centre, - Centre for Science and Environment -CSE,
Mumbai - India)*

11).Mr.Matai Akauola, Fiji
(Manager & Training Coordinator of the Pacific Island News Association -PINA)*

12).Mr.Owais Aslam Ali, Pakistan
(Secretary General of the Pakistan Press Foundation -PPF)*

13).Ms.Elizabeth Roxas, Philippines

(Executive Director of the Environmental Broadcast Circle, EBC)*

14).Mr. Iya Gridneff, Australia***

(Papua New Guinea Correspondent of Australian Associated Press- APP)

15).Mr.Joseph Joh, South Korea***

(Managing Editor - The Seoul Times, South Korea)

16).Mr.Eurico Pereira, East Timor ***

(Senior producer of Radio Rakambia- East Timor)

17).Ms.Ellaha Sadat, Afghanistan**

(Media Monitor/ Environmental Analyst of IFES/ ASA)

Auditors (2)

18).Mr.EK Visarakhun, Cambodia

(President of the Cambodia Media Forum on Environment, (CMFE)*)

19).Ms.Silafaga Lalua, Tuvalu

(Publication Coordinator of the Tuvalu Media Department)**

* Full Member organisation Representatives - 12 (Minimum 10)

** Associate member organisation Representatives -03 (Maximum 05)

*** Individual member Representatives - 04 (Maximum 04)

Once the announcements had been made, Nadaraja Pilli, President of Sri Lanka Environmental Journalists Forum expressed her pleasure at the outcome and congratulated the newly-elected members of the administrative Council. He then thanked many APFEJ for their enormous contribution of 'bringing the network together over the past six months and captaining the organisation so well. Wickremaratne deserved a vote of thanks for all he has done for the organisation and recognised the contribution everyone has made, particularly the founding fathers of the APFEJ.

Svetlana Dylevskaya president of APFEJ also said APFEJ selected Pakistan to be the host country for 2010, followed by Kazakhstan in 2011 and Nepal in 2012.

October 18th and 22nd nearly 30 journalists travelled to Balapitiya and Galle Education tour for Practical information on the effects of Climate change /rising sea levels and Kandy UNESCO world heritage site.(ends)