



Stockholm,

Report from second Commission Meeting

The Commission held its second formal meeting over 10-13 May, 2008, in Cambodia to learn of the affects of climate change on a low-lying, riverine country and of how people are adapting.

Commissioners were briefed by Environment Minister Mok Mareth and other officials, who described the government's efforts to produce a National Adaptation Program of Action and the challenges of funding the "no regrets" projects it recommended.

At its deliberative meeting on 13 May, the Commission discussed the complex mechanisms meant to fund adaptation to climate change, based on a paper produced by the secretariat, debating whether new or different mechanisms were needed. The group had a similar conversation about the institutions for providing international development assistance and how these could be better used to fund adaptation by poor countries.

The group also had a lively discussion on the ethics of managing both mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, debating whether such arguments were effective in causing governments to change approaches.

The group travelled to the province of Kampong Chhnang just south of Lake Tonle Sap, a field trip organised by a Cambodian NGO (FACT). During the rainy season the additional water in the Mekong, which joins the Tonle Sap River in Phnom Penh, forces the latter to flow backwards and greatly increase the size of the lake. The majority of the local rural people engage in complex livelihoods mixing rice growing with fishing, both of which depend on the annual replenishment of the lake. Climate change could disrupt this system and bring additional hunger to a nation in which food supplies are already stretched.

The Third World Network had organised a consultation on climate change to coincide with the Commission's meeting, gathering 38 representatives from different civil society organisations in Cambodia. Representatives from the consultation presented the outcome to the Commission on Climate Change and Development