

## **FOSSIL OF THE DAY AWARDS - Bonn, Germany, 3rd April**

The Climate Action Network (CAN), a coalition of over 450 NGOs worldwide, gives out three 'Fossil of The Day' awards to the countries who perform the worst during the daily negotiations at the UN climate change conference.

As government delegates and observers from the negotiations looked on, vibrant young climate activists announced the winners – who had been chosen by vote of the global Climate Action Network (CAN). Much like the Oscars, the awards are kept secret until a colourful presentation ceremony, adding some life to the otherwise bureaucratic U.N. conference. The winners names are passed to the host in a sealed envelope before being announced before a large crowd of spectators.

**Saudi Arabia was awarded First Place**, for taking up valuable time in the Contact Group on Adaptation this morning, attempting to explain how countries like their own needed technologies such as solar technology, energy efficiency as so on, to help compensate for their vulnerability due to their dependence on fossil fuels, and to help them diversify. This technology support would increase their climate resilience and help them adapt.

While this is all well and good, the intervention came at a very inappropriate time, as many from the SIDS and LDCs were explaining their very real and extreme vulnerability, caused by exposure to climate change as a result of the irresponsible use of fossil fuels.

“Saudi Arabia also seems to be quite confused on the definition of 'adaptation',” said Wael Hmaidan from IndyACT. “They think that compensation for the future loss of their oil trade is worthy of 'adaptation' funding – which should instead be paid to the most climate-vulnerable nations.”

**The Second Prize Fossil went to the EU**, for proposing "The Bar," a method for measuring emissions from the forest sector that could complicate negotiations on national targets and could give industrialized nations carbon credit for forest degradation.

In the contact group discussion yesterday on land use, land-use change and forestry, the EU put forward an idea that amounts to allowing any industrialized nation that chooses, to propose where its baseline will be for measuring changes in emissions from the forest sector. This would be akin to allowing countries to propose their own base year for assessing fossil fuel emission reductions. In a worst case scenario, this could allow countries to put its baseline of forest carbon low, degrade forest carbon stocks, and get carbon credit for it.

A further concern is that if this negotiation of country-specific ‘bars’ does not happen quickly enough, it could also distort the meaning of country-wide emission reduction targets.

**The Third Prize was awarded to Canada**, for their actions in the contact group on emissions trading and the project based mechanisms, where Canada was the only country that objected to the contact group chairs’ suggestion to remove borrowing of emission allowances from future commitment periods.

“Canada suggesting that countries should be allowed to meet their current commitments by borrowing units from the futures conjures up the image of a (carbon-) junkie phoning the bank for a loan to pay for the next fix.” said a CAN representative, “our suggestion: try Carboholics Anonymous instead!”

About the fossils:

The Fossil-of-the-day awards were first presented at the climate talks in 1999, also in Bonn, initiated by the German NGO Forum.

During United Nations climate change negotiations ([www.unfccc.int](http://www.unfccc.int)), members of the Climate Action Network (CAN), a worldwide network of over 450 non-governmental organisations, vote for three countries judged to have done their 'best' to block progress in the negotiations in the last days of talks.

On selected days at 6pm, right as delegates conclude their negotiating sessions, the "Fossil-of-the-day" ceremony is held at the CAN exhibit in the UN conference centre, to bestow these nations with their 'Fossil Awards'. The Fossil-of-the-day ceremony has become an respected and recognized event in the negotiations triggering substantial media coverage, and is hosted by vibrant presenters from the global youth movement on climate change.

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You can become a fan of the Fossils on Facebook, by searching for the 'Fossil of the Day Awards' page.

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