

Climate Chance Agadir

Betsan Martin with Adrian Macey Pinky Cupino, Isis de Palma

The Second Climate Chance Summit was held in Agadir, Morocco, 11-13th September 2017. It was jointly hosted by the Souss Massa Region and Climate Chance.

The second Climate Chance Summit took place in a rapidly changing landscape of climate action. The September summit was a large gathering - reported as up to 5000 participants, held in Agadir, Morocco, was the second summit of non-state actors mobilizing for action on climate change. Sixty percent of participants were from Morocco, and the orientation of the summit was significantly francophone.

Two presentations from Alliance-Respons were given at Climate Chance 2017, one by Pinky Cupino, Philippines, and Isis de Palma Brazil, on Education and Climate Responsibility; and the other on the Interface between Water and Climate Change *by Betsan Martin and Adrian Macey from New Zealand.

In the Education workshop Pinky highlighted some of the principles of responsibility as a framing for climate education, from the articles in the Declaration of Responsibility and Interdependence. She referred to the severe disasters in the Philippines as an impetus to the education programme in there. Similarly Isis is involved in developing a programme on climate education in Paraty Brazil, involving training of teachers in a way that includes students. Isis showed part of the film 'Lima to Paris and Beyond'. Co-panelists in this workshop included academicians and researchers from Rabat including Dr. Maroufi Abdelghani, Professeur Ftouhi Mohamed. Université Med V Suissi- Agdal-Rabat, and Mr. Faaras Abdelaziz.

Adrian and Betsan were part of a panel on 'Water and Climate Change - Rights and Responsibilities'. They spoke about innovations in law which emphasise the public good interests of water, especially for the health of waterways, using the examples of Public Trust and Legal Personhood of a River and of a Forest in New Zealand. The use of Public Trust doctrine, attribution of legal personality to a river and a forest have been led by indigenous peoples in Hawaii and New Zealand, and have taken up in India, Colombia and Ecuador.

Adrian drew on his leadership as Chair of the Kyoto negotiations (2011) and as New Zealand's Climate Change Ambassador and representative to the UNFCCC (2006-2010) to highlight how responsibility has emerged with new impetus through the Paris Agreement. This is a significant new orientation which is both universal and with the appeal of voluntary commitment for climate action.

Other pannelists included Ms. Sanaa Moussalim, Executive Director of the Foundation Driss Benzakri For Human Rights And Democracy, and Jamail Benabbi, President Of The Association Eau et Energie pour tous Tamaynut. There were many presentations on indigenous interests at the summit at Agadir, including this one on water for all Tamaynut peoples.

Although the COPs continue to be negotiated by States, COP22 in Marrakesh gave impetus to the role of non-state actors, with heightened provision for States to engage with non-state stakeholders. Significantly, Patricia Espinosa, Secretary General of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) spoke at the opening Plenary as did Fiji's Climate Ambassador, Deo Saran, representing the Presidency of COP23. While some countries such as the UK and France and Costa Rica have put in place leading law and policy for climate change, in reality, much of the leadership to mitigate Greenhouse gases and transition to renewable energy comes from business and industry. For this and enabling environment of law and policy is pivotal to transitions to net zero carbon emissions by 2050

At Agadir, the energy company Schneider demonstrated its leadership in carbon mitigation through technology innovation, and through an interactive web-tool for reporting and monitoring the reduction of carbon emissions. Energy transition from non-renewable energy to renewable energy is the premium focus for climate mitigation.

Schneider is a multinational French electric and electronics company who are the biggest player around the world, including in New Zealand where they bought out PDL, an electrical and electronics manufacturing company. They have a Foundation too, and were a sponsor of Climate Chance. Schneider has developed a new sustainability reporting system, a 'planetary and societal barometer'. Interestingly, it was investors in the company who were drivers. Their interest was reducing risk and exposure to the costs of climate impacts.

Another company, [Paleo-energetic.org](http://paleo-energetic.org) is a fascinating open source project to rediscover past inventions that can be applied and updated for new recharging of alkaline batteries (Paleo-energetic is in a trial stage - see <http://regenbox.org>)

Citizens for Energy Transition (C4ET) is EU funded. Lots of usable educational material (easy to use individually, and for education both in the classroom and beyond, in the arena of non-formal education. Although still in trial development it is already available. A huge effort has gone into this . It includes for example game-type approaches which are jargon-free!
www.citizensforenergytransition.org.

On the formal education front we heard a consistent message that there is a gap in the curriculum and in the books on climate change around the world. This was demonstrated research on the Moroccan educational system.

There was a consistent theme at Agadir on the need to include indigenous knowledge in combatting climate change. Indigenous peoples have customary law which can be important for climate-related legal development, especially because of the integrated and non-dualistic worldview of indigenous peoples.

Agriculture is central in adaptation to climate change, substantiated by the FAO based in Rome. Some concepts include organic agriculture, agriculture informed by new technology like satellites, and the importance of farming households as majority of agriculture is still family-based. It is mostly industrialized multinational agricultural practices, with heavy inputs of chemical fertilizers, use of Genetic Modification, and

monocultural farming methods with an emphasis on forcing high productivity that have brought an upsweep in emissions from agricultural production.

Beyond these particular sectors of Energy, Education, Law and Agriculture there is a need for urban planning and resilience as in ensuring air quality, and taking cognizance of strategic importance of air quality in relation to increasing quality of health of people. We see clearly the human need for resources and the earth's provision are linked, and one effects the other - a matter of interdependencies between people and resources. Climate affects all dimensions of life, and calls for integrated approaches to law and policy.

Climate Justice was brought into focus in the closing plenary with a clear emphasis on the inclusion of women and youth through direct participation in decision making and implementation of programs.

The hosting in Morocco was in keeping with the intention to hold the Climate Chance summit in the country of the Presidency of the COP - in this case, COP22. Then it was announced a likely Climate Chance hosted by California, USA. in 2018. The Fiji Climate Ambassador spoke at Agadir, emphasising the urgency of accelerated action for the Pacific.

Members of the Alliance-Response team have advocated for a Climate Chance Summit in Fiji in 2018, but it will depend on funding, and Fiji's interest in such an event, given they already held the first Marrakesh Partnership for Climate Change Action in May 2017. We had a very good discussion with Romain Crouzet, who is the main organizer of Climate Chance summit, and with whom we can continue to liaise. We also met briefly with French Senator Ronan Dantec, who delivered at the end, the [Agadir Climate Chance Summit Declaration](#)

True to its intentions, the Agadir summit showed the capacity to convene stakeholders with strong interests in energy transition, and to work in tandem with local government - in this case, the Souss Massa Regional Council led by Brahim Hafidi, President of the Régional Council.

In the climate of rapid change we may well see different renditions of climate forums. They are proliferating with the impetus of Marrakesh COP22, and a more diversified strategy of regional and local government engagement will allow for a more dispersed and inclusive process.

We had a little time at the end to venture into the mountains beyond the tourist sea-side town of Agadir. There mountainous region of pink dry earth continue to host ancient small settlements of people living from land and crops on steep terrain with occasional springs of water offering oasis of green trees and flowing water. Rain falls one day per year in December for a few hours. Everywhere we heard of changing climate patterns and the pressures of drought. For example, honey production at family-run beehives continue to use ancient, indigenous methods, have reduced production because, despite the surrounding flowering almond, carob, argan trees and cactus, in seasonal sequence, the reduced water from the springs is affecting flowering and thus reduced bee production and harvesting.

In Agadir we glimpsed the contrast between the life of the mountain people juxtaposed with the city apartment style living and tourism industries. The Berber mountain people of Souss Massa region continue with subsistence forms of land cultivation, living in cool houses with ancient building architecture, and with adaptations made possible by modern technology and digital communications as part of evolving traditional economies and lifestyles allowed by the mountainous dry land in which trees and crops and freshwater springs make human life and creativity possible there.

[Déclaration d'Agadir](#), [The Delaration of Agadir](#) – Non-State actors call for intensified action and ambition.

French: <http://climatechance-2017.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Agadir-Declaration-12-sept-FR.pdf>

English <http://dev.climate-chance.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Agadir-Declaration-of-climate-actors.pdf>