Climate Politics and the Copenhagen Accord

By Linse N. Anderson
How did we get to Copenhagen?

- 1992 Rio Earth Summit
  - UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

- March 1994
  - UNFCCC enters into force

- 1995 Conference of the Parties 1 (COP1)
  - Berlin Mandate

- 1997 COP3
  - Kyoto Protocol

- 2000-1 COP6 (Germany) and COP7 (Morocco)
  - U.S. declined to participate
  - Marrakesh Accords
The road to Copenhagen

- 16 February 2005
  - Kyoto Protocol went into effect

- 2007 COP13
  - Bali Road Map
  - Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action

- 2008 COP14 Poland
  - Widely seen as a failure to make progress

- 2009 COP15
  - Copenhagen Accord
COP15 in Copenhagen

- Bella Center plus pavilions
- 40,000+ registered participants
  - 21,000 civil society
    - CSU delegation – Michele Betsill, Diana Wall, Stephen Ogle, Bryan Wilson, Tim Reeser, V. “Chandra” Chandrasekar, Eleanor Milne, Linse Anderson
  - 4,500 – 5,000 press
  - Party delegates & UN system participants

- Klimaforum, International Emissions Trading Association, Hopenhagen, side events galore…
U.S. Talks

- Dr. Holdren, Office of Science and Technology Policy
  - All data indicates human causation
  - U.S. proposal consistent with 450ppm stabilization

- Senator Kerry
  - Science demands action
  - Need transparency, emissions targets, and financing

- EPA’s Assistant Administrator McCarthy
  “we are making decisions based on science and the rule of law”

- Leif Hawkstead, EPA
  - Mandatory GHG reporting rule

- Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
  - Carbon offset market
  - U.S. Dairy Industry MOU
The Copenhagen Accord

- U.S., Brazil, India, South Africa and China
  - ~ 22 of 193 countries represented
- Conference of the Parties “took note” but did not “adopt” the Accord
What’s in the Accord?

- Twelve paragraphs
- “enhance our long-term cooperative action to combat climate change”
- Emissions peak “as soon as possible”
- Recognizes scientific evidence for 2°C
- 31 January 2010
  - Annex I submit emissions targets for 2020
  - Non-Annex I submit mitigation actions
- Adaptation and Mitigation Funding
  - USD 30 billion for 2010 – 2012, USD 100 billion by 2020
  - Copenhagen Green Climate Fund
- Technology Mechanism
- Assess implementation of Accord by 2015
What’s *not* in the Accord?

- Two years worth of negotiating text
- Legally-binding emissions reduction commitments
  - Voluntary pledges are insufficient to meet 2°C stabilization
  - Baseline year for reductions is not specified
- A date for the peak of global emissions
- Sources and distribution of financing

Implications

- Environmental policy and democracy – U.N. consensus rules
- U.N. organizational skills
- COP16 in Mexico City, November 2010
- U.S. climate bill
Thank You – Questions?

CLIMATE SUMMIT

WHAT IF IT'S A BIG HOAX AND WE CREATE A BETTER WORLD FOR NOTHING?

• ENERGY INDEPENDENCE
• PRESERVE RAINFORESTS
• SUSTAINABILITY
• GREEN JOBS
• LIVABLE CITIES
• RENEWABLES
• CLEAN WATER, AIR
• HEALTHY CHILDREN
• ETC. ETC.