



Citizens Advise Politicians on Climate Change

*A senior citizen from Middelfart, a farming mechanic from Suldrup and a Mærsk-officer from Svendborg are some of the 100 Danish citizens chosen to give political leaders around the world a hint as to what ordinary citizens think of climate change. **This takes place at the WWViews citizen meeting at Festsalen, Copenhagen City Hall on Saturday, September 26, from 9 AM to 7 PM.***

The citizen meeting in *Copenhagen* is one of 46 meetings in 38 countries around the world held the same day under the headline: **World Wide Views on Global Warming**. World Wide Views will be the so far biggest citizen consultation in the world. In countries as different as Canada, China, Uganda, Indonesia, and Chile, citizens with different backgrounds in all ages will meet to discuss how politicians should handle global warming.

Global citizen consultation

The purpose of World Wide Views is to pass on the opinions of ordinary citizens to political decision-makers. Results from World Wide Views will therefore be delivered directly to Connie Hedegaard, host of the UN Climate Conference (COP15), who this December together with political leaders from all over the world will be making decisions with far-reaching consequences for the future of the planet.

World Wide Views is a global network of independent organisations in each of the participating countries, initiated by the Danish Board of Technology and The Danish Cultural Institute. Director of The Danish Board of Technology says: *"We have citizen meetings on a regular basis here in Denmark and are proud to be able to disseminate this democratic tradition to other countries as well. When 4.500 citizens meet across national, ethnical, cultural as well as social barriers to express their views, politicians have to listen. After all, citizens have to live with the consequences of the agreement negotiated at COP15."*

Connie Hedegaard, host of COP15, ambassador for World Wide Views, and Danish Minister of Climate and Energy, supports the initiative: *"World Wide Views creates a unique possibility to involve citizens from all corners of the world in the process up to the climate conference in Copenhagen this December. The project ensures that we politicians get a reality check on how world citizens think the agreement should be put together."*

24 hours live event

On September 26, citizens will be introduced to the same information material in all 38 countries, which presents them with different dilemmas in the climate debate. On the basis of this material and their own experience, citizens will answer the same questions, composed by The Danish Board of Technology. Results from all countries will currently be uploaded on www.wwviews.org. During this 24 hours online event, three international expert panels will comment results as they come in and make live videoconferences, which will be visible to everyone with access to the Internet.

Read more about the project, see the list of participating countries, and follow results on www.wwviews.org.

On our media platform, you can find interviews, photos, the WWViews information videos, and the WWViews information booklet free to use: <http://teknologiraad.surffice.eu/>.

For any further information, contact to participating citizens, and questions, please contact:
Camilla Jensen from Nissen & Co. on e-mail: cje@nissenco.dk or phone: 33 36 30 20 / 6061 7216
Jørgen Madsen from The Danish Board of Technology on e-mail: jm@tekno.dk or phone: 3345 5363 / 2623 8065.

Attached: picture: Malawi; the lack of alternative sources of energy result in deforestation (Credit: British Council, Malawi)



Facts:

World Wide Views on Global Warming is a global citizen consultation initiated by the Danish Board of Technology in consequence of the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen, December 2009. The project will be held during 24 hours in 38 countries, where 4.500 citizens worldwide will be participating, including 100 *Danish* citizens. Participating citizens are randomly selected and have no special qualifications to answer the questions. Citizens are chosen with reference to each national demographic composition regarding age, gender, education, occupation and ethnicity.

The Danish Board of Technology is an independent advisory organisation financed by the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation. The Danish Board of Technology was brought into being in order to disseminate knowledge about technology, its possibilities and effects on people, on society and on the environment. The Danish Board of Technology is experienced within citizen consultations and has held citizen meetings in Denmark concerning subjects such as The Future Health Care systems (2008), Smoking policy (2005) and the establishment of national parks (2005).

The City of Copenhagen and Mayor of the Technical and Environmental Administration Mr. Klaus Bondam will be hosting WWViews in Denmark. The Danish WWViews citizen meeting is held in Festsalen at Copenhagen City Hall and Mr. Klaus Bondam will comment on the Danish results after the meeting.

Programme for the citizen consultation at *Festsalen, Copenhagen City Hall, September 26, 2009*:

9.00 AM – 10.00 AM The 100 citizens arrive at the City Hall and will take their seats.

10.00 AM – 10.15 AM World Wide Views ambassador and COP15 host, Danish Minister of Climate and Energy Ms. Connie Hedegaard is welcomed by Director of The Danish Board of Technology Mr. Lars Klüver. The Minister will speak on climate change as a common global challenge.

10.15 – 10.25 AM The Minister and Lars Klüver will answer a few questions from the press.

10.25 – 10.45 AM World Wide Views project managers Mr. Bjørn Bedstes and Mr. Søren Gram will brief the citizens on the idea behind World Wide Views and the programme for the day.

10.45 AM – 6.00 PM The citizens meetings begin. On appointment the press will have the opportunity to follow the meeting with a possibility of live broadcast.

6.00 – 6.30 PM World Wide Views project managers Mr. Bjørn Bedsted and Mr. Søren Gram will brief the citizens and the press on how the result will be disseminated.

6.30 PM Mayor of the Technical and Environmental Administration in Copenhagen Mr. Klaus Bondam closes the meeting and comment on the World Wide Views results. The Mayor and World Wide Views project managers will be available for questions from the press.

8.00 PM Danish results will be available at www.wwviews.org.

September 27, 5.00 AM Global results will be available at www.wwviews.org.



The content and design of the citizen meetings:

At the beginning of the meeting participating citizens will be divided into smaller groups.

During the day all groups will discuss the following 4 topics:

1. Climate change and its consequences.
2. Long-term goals and the urgent matter of the problem.
3. Handling of CO2 emissions.
4. The economy of technology and technology adaptation.

Each group will be presented for each topic and its problem.

Each group will discuss the topic and the questions.

Citizen will answer individually.

Results will currently be presented on wwwviews.org, as each meeting ends.

The groups will formulate recommendations for the COP15 delegates:

Each group will deliberate on possible recommendations.

Each group choose one recommendation.

Citizens circulate between the groups and read each other's recommendations.

The recommendations from each group are up for voting and the recommendation with most votes will be included in the overall global result.