

CLIMATE CHANGE JOURNALISM BEYOND COP 15: UNDERSTANDING THE PRESENT, IMAGINING THE FUTURE



2 - 13 august, 2010
Copenhagen, Denmark

Danida Fellowship Centre
- sustaining development through training



danicom.net
Communications & Development

NORDECO
Nordic Agency for
Development and Ecology



Danida Fellowship Centre's course for journalists from developing countries 'Climate change journalism beyond COP15: understanding the present, imagining the future' is to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, August 2nd to 13th, 2010.

Why this course?

Given the seriousness of the challenges presented by climate change, it is widely recognised that ignorance and inadequate political responses threaten human survival. Journalists have a vital function in raising global awareness and helping ensure that scientific, technological and political developments are effectively broadcast.

This course builds on the success of our first DFC climate journalism course to cover the United Nation framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) 2009 Copenhagen Climate Summit (COP 15).

The world is looking to build on the Copenhagen Accord to agree on an ambitious, legally-binding global agreement to come into effect at the end of the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012.

Yet journalists face a 'climate fatigued' public, as well as a surge in proclamations from 'climate skeptics'. Furthermore, understanding the science, the turbulent political process and the increasingly technical frameworks for addressing climate change is a daunting task.

This course aims to inspire, elucidate and provide the needed skills for taking on this important challenge, actively engaging participants in the process.



Participants will learn

- Skills for producing climate related stories (print, audio-visual, internet)
- The status and outlook of the political process leading to a post-2012 agreement
- Up to date scientific understanding of climate change
- Mitigation and adaptation strategies, including the development opportunities allowed by the associated financing
- Networking among journalists from both industrialised and developing countries

Approach

The learning process will engage participants through class activities (lectures, exercises, and excursions) and individual assignments.



A collaborative atmosphere will be cultivated, drawing as much as possible on the diversity and synergies of the group. Contacts with Danish journalists addressing climate change will be supplemented by field visits to Danish mitigation and adaptation initiatives.

Content

To the extent possible, course content will be tailored to the participants selected for the course. Each participant will develop an article or radio/TV item and if possible present topics from his or her home country. The development of individual assignments will be in parallel to the course programme, drawing on insights gained.

The Copenhagen Accord and progress towards a legally-binding global agreement will be considered from the perspective of media's role in holding political leaders accountable for honouring and making the most of these commitments. Implications for developing countries will be highlighted.

Week 1

Status and outlook

- Introductions: Participant profiles
- Science: latest developments, key messages
- Politics: latest developments, outlook
- Individual assignments: developing story lines, mapping topics, opportunities and the role of journalists

Week 2

Developing stories

- Skills: Interviews, drafting, editing, etc.
- Tools: Equipment and information sources; networks
- Individual assignments: Developing pieces

The course will encourage participants to build and strengthen professional networks amongst themselves, nationally and internationally. Opportunities for engaging with strategic partners in Denmark and internationally will be sought, recognizing that local influence is enhanced when media pieces are carried in the international media.

Target group / selection criteria:

Journalists from mainstream media in Danida partner countries as well as from the dominant greenhouse gas emitting developing countries are invited (e.g., China, India, Brazil, and South Africa). Influence on the local public agenda should be a key factor in the selection process. Journalists from the 2009 DFC course are not eligible. The course will be in English hence a good working knowledge of English is required.



Application procedure

Application procedures are stipulated in 'Guidelines for Danida Fellowships' which with the Fellowship Form are available at the local Danish Embassy or can be downloaded from: www.dfcentre.com. The Application Form is to be filled in by the applicant and endorsed by the Danida programme/project and the Embassy Desk Officer in order to ensure that the training is within the framework of national sector plans for capacity development. The Embassy will forward the application forms to DFC. The deadline for submitting the forms to a Danish Embassy is 10 May 2010. DFC staff will be supported by the Course Manager in selecting participants.

Certification

A course certificate will be issued upon successful completion of the course.

Course Fee

The course is co-funded by the Danida Fellowship Programme. Programmes/projects will be charged DKK 2,500 per participant per study week, hence DKK 5,000 per participant for the entire course. This will cover all expenses, namely study fees, return air-ticket, accommodation, personal allowances, insurances, etc. For applicants from the private sector, a funding scheme is available through DFC's Private Sector Initiative. More information is available at DFC's website, www.dfcentre.dk.

Further Information about the course

For questions regarding the course content and implementation please contact Mr. Philip Mellen: pme@nordeco.dk

Course Facilitators

Per Østerlund is an experienced journalist, media trainer and project manager with more than 20 years in Print, Radio / TV and Public Information, specialising in humanitarian issues and political reporting, ranging from local politics to international affairs. As a foreign correspondent and media consultant he has worked in more than 60 different countries.

Leonie Joubert (MPhil. Journalism) is an experienced journalist and has published a variety of articles primarily focusing on climate, environment and development issues. She has lectured extensively and provided science journalism training for scientists and journalists.

Philip Mellen (M.Sc. Environmental Engineering) has 20 years of broad international consulting experience in environmental and water resources management, with extensive experience in capacity building.

Steffen Johnsen (PhD Applied Systems Analysis) is a senior consultant in Nordeco with 20 years of experience in natural resources and environmental management with a particular focus on sustainable agriculture, climate change and food security.

Danida Fellowship Centre, Nordeco and Danicom in brief

Danida Fellowship Centre has contracted Nordeco and Danicom to jointly develop and manage the course.

The Danida Fellowship Centre

DFC manages and implements the Danida supported Fellowship Programme, which supplies training in support of capacity development in Danida's programmes. DFC is responsible for the educational, administrative and practical aspects of the training in Denmark. Additional information can be found at: www.dfcentre.dk

Nordeco and Danicom are Danish consulting companies. See www.nordeco.dk and www.danicom.net for additional information.

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