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FOSSIL AWARDS DAY 3 CANADA, CROATIA AND RUSSIA DECLARED PRIZE FOSSILS TUVALU WINS FIRST EVER 'RAY OF THE DAY'

COPENHAGEN, Denmark--On day three of UN climate talks in Copenhagen, NGOs from around the world voted to present their mock "Fossil of the Day Award"--given to the country or countries doing the most to obstruct progress in the global climate talks--to Canada and Croatia, for trying to move the goalposts for measuring carbon emissions.

Shifting base year from the agreed 1990 levels to a "more contemporary" date as Canada proposed today, would be a massive set back in curbing dangerous climate change. Second place went to Russia for fudging announcements on its emissions targets.

In an historic new award, NGOs from around the world united in voting Tuvalu the first ever winner of Ray of the Day -- to be given on rare occasions for actions to substantially advance progress in global climate talks. The tiny Pacific island nation was celebrated today for its bold proposal to discuss a legal outcome from the Copenhagen summit. Along with other small islands Tuvalu will be one of the first victims of rising seas as warmer temperatures melt glaciers and expand oceans.

The Fossil and Ray of the Day Awards are chosen by a daily vote of the Climate Action Network-International, a global coalition of over 450 non-governmental organisations, and presented daily at 6pm at an award ceremony hosted by Ben Wikler of Avaaz.org. For more information, and past winners: www.fossiloftheday.com.

In a satirical game-show style ceremony, Ben Wikler of Avaaz.org said:

RAY OF THE DAY: TUVALU

Tuvalu wins the first-ever Ray of the Day--an historic new award, presented only on rare occasions to countries that substantially advance progress in global climate talks--for its bold proposal to create a contact group to discuss, in an open and transparent forum, the legal outcome of the COP. The Climate Action Network believes that Copenhagen outcomes must be legally binding and enforceable. This means, as well as a second commitment of the Kyoto Protocol, a complementary agreement that covers non-Kyoto parties. For this agreement to be born, the discussion must begin.

FIRST PLACE FOSSIL: CANADA and CROATIA

Canada and Croatia share first for pushing in a Kyoto Protocol contact group against the 1990 base year. Canada in particular has been relentlessly opposed to measuring emissions in relation to the internationally accepted base year of 1990, in favor of--as a senior negotiator put it in a stakeholder meeting--a "more contemporary" base year. Could Canada's desire to erase the past have something to do with fact that tar sands emissions have more than doubled from 1990 to now? Or is it just an effort to make its tiny little 3% target look a bit bigger?

SECOND PLACE FOSSIL: RUSSIA

Russia wins second place Fossil today for proposing, during the Kyoto Protocol plenary discussion, that President Medvedev's announced 20-25% reductions were "an important political statement" -- not an actual submission for the Kyoto Protocol. "We will not be ready to submit those most recent figures announced by the president," said Russia's negotiator, "because they were not intended for the KP." If you're not in the Kyoto discussions to discuss Kyoto, what are you here for?

The Climate Action Network (CAN), a coalition of over 450 NGOs worldwide dedicated to limiting climate change to sustainable levels, regularly judges and presents three 'Fossil of The Day' awards to the countries who perform the worst during the past day's negotiations at UN climate change conferences. The Fossil-of-the-Day awards were first presented at the climate talks in 1999, also in Bonn, initiated by the German NGO Forum.