

D&C 2009 - Film festival report

Event: D&C days at COP 15 Copenhagen

Dates: 11-14 December 2009

Location: Dr Byen, Concert House, Danish Radio

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The Development and Climate Days film festival this year took place from the 11th to the 14th of December, over the weekend at the COP, in parallel with the D&C conference. Here is a short report of the achievements, challenges and suggested next steps.

Achievements

- Showcased 97 short films, 2 feature films from over 50 countries
- Interactive, intimate and lively debates after the screening of most short films
- Networking opportunities for participants
- Wide variety of topics covered by the short films - highly informative sessions
- High attendance of Earth Keepers - Feature film
- Coverage of event in Canadian Media (for Earth Keepers)
- Attendance by Hannah Strong, Ashok Koshla of Development Alternatives, Camilla Hall from IUCN

Challenges

- Low attendance (5 to 25 people per session) due to:
 - o Highly competitive environment at COP-15, many events occurring at once
 - o Not enough publicity because of expected oversubscription (high numbers registered, but fewer than expected effectively attended)
 - o Location off the beaten COP path (D&C Days was the only event happening at the Dr. Byen site)
- Some filmmakers traveled specifically for the film festival, not on IIED's recommendation, and were disappointed by the numbers of participants at the screenings

Next steps:

1. Uploading to IIED video web platform (probably YouTube)

Some of the videos are already online, these could be linked up to the IIED website ("fan" function). The others will need to be ripped and uploaded individually.

2. DVD authoring and distribution

At least 20 different individuals approached IIED to find out how to access the entire database of the films were made during and after the festival. These requests have come largely from the Global South. Even though most of the films are accessible online (70%) on various platforms, but this is not a viable option for people in countries without broadband.

It would be useful to produce a DVD of all the films from 2008 and 2009 and make that available through the IIED publications distribution scheme. This would require ripping the DVDs we have copyright for,

3. COP 16

Should IIED like to repeat the same experience next year, we would need additional assistance during the festival for ripping films of the DVDs on site, making them available on demand on location. It would also be ideal to have a judging panel to select the films.

Note: A budget for these two activities can be developed upon request.

