

# Copenhagen compromise

Text and Photos by GARY BRAASCH



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## Denmark

Gary Braasch, a freelance environmental photojournalist who has been documenting the climate story worldwide for over a decade (see SEJournal, Summer, 2009), covered the Copenhagen Climate Conference last December in both words and photographs. His comments about these pictures were condensed from blog entries posted to his website, [www.worldviewofglobalwarming.org](http://www.worldviewofglobalwarming.org). --ED

Inside Copenhagen's Bella Center, delegates from 192 nations were served by forty-two interpreters (above) who translated the proceedings into Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Using a Braasch photo to make his point — the 1995 Chicago heat wave that killed 730 — U.S. Presidential Science Advisor John Holdren (topcenter) told delegates that climate change is already disrupting normal temperatures, rainfall, tides and ice patterns.

To emphasize the risk of sea level rise, sculptor Jens Galschiot installed evocative bronze figures (bottom left) surrounded by water near the Bella Center.

Prime Minister Apisai Ielemia (below second left) of the Pacific island nation of Tuvalu led a group of smaller nations demanding stronger reductions in emissions by 2020. "It is now or never," he told reporters. "We have the right to exist!"

## ★ Copenhagen

Around Copenhagen, a number of giant inflated balloons (inset above) purported to equal the volume of a tonne (2,205 lbs.) of carbon dioxide.

The U.S. Senate's foremost critic of global warming, Senator James Inhofe (R, OK), told reporters that energy and climate legislation proposed by Senator John Kerry (D, MA) would not pass. (below second right) Kerry also spoke at the conference.

Highlighted by smoke-spewing Statues of Liberty (bottom right), over 30,000 protesters marched through Copenhagen to demand action at the climate talks.

At the eleventh hour of the talks, U.S. and Chinese negotiators reached an unexpected breakthrough, a three-page accord which President Obama and leaders of China, India, South Africa, and Brazil agreed to, but did not sign. Delegates (top right) get their first look at The Accord.

From *The Accord*:

**"We agree that deep cuts in global emissions are required according to science, . . . and take action to meet this objective consistent with science and on the basis of equity."**

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## Germany