



Report on COP25

International Justice Initiative

University of Tasmania Law School
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In December 2019, Nina Hamasaki, Kate Raffety and Rachel Hay attended the 25th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, hosted by Spain in the city of Madrid. Each of us attended the conference each day, working for various parties involved with the negotiations and attending side events. Discussions with IJI convenors and alumni Matthew, Brook, Rebecca and Camilla - as well as many of their international collaborators - helped us to understand the roles and positions of various parties within the UNFCCC. This experience built on our studies by allowing us to see first hand how international law and relations work - or do not work - in practise.

RACHEL HAY

I assisted an NGO, Corporate Accountability, in following the Article 6 negotiations on carbon trading, offsetting and non-market solutions. I attended the negotiations in the first week and took notes on the content of the negotiations. I then summarised what had occurred in the negotiations, so Corporate Accountability could inform their network. In the second week Brook and I wrote a report on the key issues in the negotiations and the implications of these issues for negotiating parties, which was distributed by Corporate Accountability parties. I also assisted Demand Climate Justice, a group of NGOs, in organising media for a protest against lack of action on climate change by parties at the conference. Through this process, I learnt about how carbon markets are inherently flawed and that we need real solutions to reduce global emissions.

NINA HAMASAKI

I had the opportunity to assist and learn about the agricultural sector at the conference under Teresa who works for CAN. I took some notes on the SCF to try and understand what the Africa group wanted and reported back to the Agriculture CAN group. In the second week, I followed Rebecca and Doreen, who were working on the WIM negotiations on Loss and Damage and took some notes during a negotiation. I also did some preliminary research for Rebecca on the CTCN and its functions. I looked into what projects are supported by CTCN for developing countries to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change and how much financial support was allocated to each project. In my free time I also went to side events on a variety of issues and was particularly interested in the topics of just transitions in energy and agriculture.

KATE RAFFETY

I had the opportunity to assist the team advising the least developed countries (LDC) group during the review of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM). I undertook research on the WIM and other mechanisms under the UNFCCC in the lead up to and during the conference. I also helped by comparing versions of the negotiation texts and taking notes in the negotiations in order to track the progress of the negotiations for the LDC negotiators. I am very lucky to have been included in the LDC strategy meetings and the conceptual work in the effort to establish the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage. In the second week the negotiation texts are in the hands of the Ministers so I had more space to explore the other aspects of the conference. During this time I turned my focus to assisting the LDC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Initiative by undertaking administrative work and attending meetings.