

Climate debate takes global pulse ahead of Paris summit

June 7 2015, by Catherine Hours



Participants attend a climate debate forum titled "World Wide Views on Climate and Energy" in Manila on June 6, 2015

From the typhoon-ravaged Philippines to the Arizona desert, thousands of people gathered across 79 countries Saturday for what was touted as the world's largest-ever public debate on climate change.

Results of the day-long consultations will be submitted to climate change

negotiators meeting in Bonn, Germany ahead of a year-end United Nations summit in Paris where global leaders will gather to forge a new treaty aimed at curbing [global warming](#).

"I hope that decision-makers will find this initiative an important echo chamber of citizens' concerns, hopes and aspirations for the kind of world they want for themselves and their children," said Christiana Figueres, executive director of the UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change, one of the organisers of the event.

"It is also an important contribution to galvanising public understanding of what can often seem a highly complex topic, but one that goes to the heart of everyone's lives."

From Senegal to China, Madagascar, Brazil and Japan, 100 debates were held in 79 countries. In each nation, 100 people from a cross-section of society participated in each of the day-long discussions.

They were asked how concerned they were about climate change, if climate negotiators should seek an ambitious accord, and if the Paris agreement should be legally binding for all countries.

Every participant was required to vote.

"People have diverse opinions, but they are concerned," said Alain Vauzanges, a retired participant in Paris.

Organisers will present the results to climate change negotiators meeting in Bonn next week, and in other meetings leading up to the Paris summit set for November 30 to December 11.

Citation: Climate debate takes global pulse ahead of Paris summit (2015, June 7) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2015-06-climate-debate-global-pulse-paris.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.