From 6-19 December 2009, I attended the 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen in order to analyse the international policy negotiations taking place there, attending side events relevant to my honours project. During my time in Copenhagen, I attended a number of events including:

- Stronger Southern Voice (Climate Action Network International)
- Kiribati: our road to Copenhagen (Kiribati Government)
- Recognizing and protecting human rights within the Copenhagen agreement (Climate Law and Policy Project)
- Adaptation to climate change – integration to development planning
- Emerging knowledge and practices of CBA from developing countries (Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies)
- Pacific calling for human rights and justice (Climate Action Network Australia)
- REDD and the Amazon’s forest guardians: Indigenous peoples from Ecuador, Colombia and Bolivia engage (COICA)
- Enhancing gross national happiness through climate change adaptation projects in Bhutan (The Kingdom of Bhutan)
- Building climate resilience for the most vulnerable (Tearfund)
- Indigenous Day (Tebtebba)
- Development and Climate Days (IIED)

These side events and exhibitions allowed me to further explore strategies that are currently in use at the international level, and in some cases more locally based, and consult with leading academics and policy developers from around the world.

Outside of these events I also visited a wide range of Government and NGO booths in the main hall, where I made useful contacts with people doing work in my research area of interest from around the world and received copies of some of the most recent publications about climate change adaptation. I also attended some of the NGO press conferences, including the press release of the Copenhagen Diagnosis. This firsthand experience in seeing the manner in which different scientific bodies and NGOs present their information to the international media was also valuable, particularly in light of the media’s interest in ‘climategate’.

This trip was my first experience at a COP, and it was certainly an eye-opening one. I returned home with a wealth of useful contacts, knowledge of resources that I was previously unaware of, and insight into the UNFCCC process, all of which will be of great value to both my current honours project and future studies.