

Kiribati Side Event – UNFCCC COP 15 – Copenhagen, 9 December, 2009

Introductory Remarks by Betarim Rimon, of the Office of The President

Ladies and gentleman, greetings to you all and welcome to Kiribati Side-Event and thank you all for joining us!

Now, you may wonder why are we doing this....why are we traveling this far to have a side-event here in Copenhagen at this COP15?

Well...we are doing this mainly because we have a case to make.....we are doing this because we have stories from Kiribati to tellstories to share with the world....

I now introduce to you our 4 story-tellers and presenters...who will do all the presentations to you this afternoon:

1. Mrs. Tessie Lambourne: Secretary for Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Kiribati;
2. Mr. Michael Foon: Climate Change Officer, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development, Kiribati;
3. Mr. Riibeta Abeta: Climate Change Officer from the same Ministry as Michael Foon, but currently studies at the University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia and
4. Dr. Robert Kay: A private consultant from the Australian-based company, Coastal Zone Management. Dr. Kay has been working with us for more than 3 years now;
5. And then myself....the MC for this event, Betarim Rimon, Secretary for the Office of the President, Kiribati;