

To Higher Education Officials:

In the past year, an organization based in Vietnam calling itself the World Climate Change Challenge has been emailing universities in the US and Canada, Europe and Australia & New Zealand inviting them to join a scholarship fund for climate change education. This organization is not legitimate and there are no scholarship funds. Many universities have been duped into paying a \$750 participation fee to access the scholarships, and these universities' logos have been placed on the WCCC website (wccc-corp.com) lending a sense of legitimacy to what is a scam operation.

Paul Lyndon Phillips, an Australian citizen living in Vietnam, calls himself the international director of the WCCC. Mr. Phillips has a registered commercial consultancy company in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and according to registries of his company in Vietnam (title: *Công Ty TNHH Thách Thức Biến Đổi Khí Hậu Thế Giới*), it is a limited liability company, founded in 2011, with registered with permission to sell households goods only (<http://masocongtv.vn/company/736136/cong-ty-tnhh-thach-thuc-bien-doi-khi-hau-the-gioi.html>). It is not a registered charity or educational foundation in Vietnam. His son, Scott Phillips, is occasionally listed in emails as a "Director of Project Implementation". Both Phillips' have attended higher education fairs in Vietnam promoting their organization.

Since forming in around 2015, when the first emails to US universities began, the WCCC has changed stories numerous times about how many universities will be asked to participate in WCCC and what each university will get in scholarship money. There are no standards associated with the group, as they have taken participation fees from any education institution who willingly signs up at the website, including a yoga institute and a college of pharmacy in their list of affiliated schools, despite claiming to focus on climate change education initiatives. There is no advisory board for the so-called scholarships and no involvement of officials in the US, Europe or Vietnam in higher education with the WCCC.

The WCCC also has no scholarship money to give out. The WCCC has misrepresented to universities that they are affiliated with or will be affiliated with the UN's Green Climate Fund (GCF) which would be the source of millions in so-called scholarships. The WCCC is not an accredited organization with GCF (<http://www.greenclimate.fund/partners/accredited-entities/ae-directory>) and there are direct confirmations from GCF officials that they do not have any relationship with WCCC and these scholarships do not exist (see attachments). Despite not having scholarships, the WCCC has been encouraging students already to apply for the so-called scholarships since Jan 2016 through their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wcccscholarship/>

Two newspaper articles were published in the spring in a major newspaper in Vietnam (Thanh Nien) in Vietnam raising questions about WCCC. The reporters confirmed that Mr. Phillips is not registered with the Ministry of Education, he does not have any scholarship money to give out, and he's already soliciting applications from students

despite having no standards for language or grades for the scholarships.

<http://thanhvien.vn/giao-duc/nghe-van-ve-hoc-bong-khong-lo-673418.html> (Vietnamese)

https://translate.google.com/translate?sl=vi&tl=en&js=y&prev=_t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&u=http%3A%2F%2Fthanhvien.vn%2Fgiao-duc%2Fnghe-van-ve-hoc-bong-khong-lo-673418.html&edit-text=&act=url (English via Google Translate)

<http://thanhvien.vn/giao-duc/ve-hoc-bong-khong-lo-loi-dung-va-lua-gat-673848.html> (Vietnamese)

<https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=vi&tl=en&u=http%3A%2F%2Fthanhvien.vn%2Fgiao-duc%2Fve-hoc-bong-khong-lo-loi-dung-va-lua-gat-673848.html> (English via Google Translate)

The WCCC group has recently (as of September 2016) also launched a mass email appeal to renewable energy companies asking for the exact same participation fee (\$750) to join a geothermal energy project in Vietnam. They have also as of October 2016 started a new part of their website called “Climate Change Research Directory” which also asks academics and scholars to register research projects in a directory for a fee.

Attachments:

- Email from Rutger de Witt Wijnen, Green Climate Fund general counsel, dated Jan 25, 2016 to Pamela McElwee, Rutgers University.
- Email from Albert Graves, Green Climate Fund Outreach Officer, dated May 6, 2016, to Trina Innes, U. of Alberta

From: Rutger de Witt Wijnen <rdewittwijnen@gcfund.org>

Subject: World Climate Change Challenge (WCCC)

Date: January 25, 2016 at 9:33:12 PM EST

To: "pdmcelwee@gmail.com" <pdmcelwee@gmail.com>

Cc: Green Climate Fund - ACCREDITATION <accreditation@gcfund.org>, "Green Climate Fund - FUNDING PROPOSAL" <fundingproposal@gcfund.org>

Dear Madam,

Many thanks for your email on the above issue. We were aware of this initiative and have asked the proponent to clarify in any further communications that the programme is currently not supported by the Green Climate Fund in any way.

Of course, anyone may develop proposals fitting within the relevant policies of the GCF and submit these, through an entity accredited by the GCF, for funding by the GCF. WCCC has informed us that this is the intent of this initiative. Should you have further information on the alleged fraudulent nature of the WCCC, please let us know.

Kind regards,



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From: **Albert Graves** <agraves@gcfund.org> Date: Fri, May 6, 2016 at 12:22 AM Subject: Re: Urgent Inquiry: World Climate Change Challenge Network and WCCC Scholarship To: Trina Innes <trina.innes@ualberta.ca>

Dear Trina,

Thank you for your inquiry on this issue, to which we have already been alerted.

Please be aware that there is no association between the Green Climate Fund and any “World Climate Change Collaborative Network” and that we are in no way involved in – nor recognize or endorse – any of its programmes.

In case you require any clarification on our activities beyond what is publicly available on our site, do let us know and we will be happy to assist.

Regards,

Albert Graves (안지성)

Outreach Officer

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From: Trina Innes <trina.innes@ualberta.ca>

Date: Monday, 2 May 2016 at 01:36

To: Albert Graves <communications@gcfund.org>, Green Climate Fund <info@gcfund.org>, UNFCCC Secretariat <secretariat@unfccc.int>

Subject: Urgent Inquiry: World Climate Change Challenge Network and WCCC Scholarship

I am seeking information about The Green Climate Fund's relationship to the World Climate Change Collaborative Network and the World Climate Change Challenge Scholarship program.

This group is identifying an affiliation with international UN initiatives and the GCF. They are collecting funding from universities and students around the world. They are also implying a relationship with the UNFCC in association with the upcoming conference this November. Images and URLs are provided below.

Questions are being raised about the legitimacy of these efforts. Would you be able to provide any information verifying a formal relationship that would be able to assure organizations about their credibility?