

THE GLOBAL POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

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Bali, 13/11-8/12/2007

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GLOBAL MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

1. Market system fails to reveal values of global environmental issues, which is considered external to the economic process and create issues, such as depletion of ozone layer, erosion of bio-diversity and climate change;
2. To correct market failures, UN involves member states in conventions & legal binding arrangements on the basis of multilateralism & 1 country 1 vote democracy, which developed countries dislike;
3. In handling climate change, national political interests supersede global environmental needs;

GREEN-HOUSE-GAS EMISSIONS

1. UNFCCC reports: GHG emissions over the last 100 years has increased global temperature by 0.74°C and will rise by 3°C in this century if it follows the “business as usual” path of conventional development;
2. During 1970-2004 GHG emissions under Kyoto Protocol have increased by 70% due to increase in income per capita and population growth that is larger than decreases in energy intensity of production and consumption;
3. CO₂ emissions from fossil-fuel-based-energy use will grow 40-110% by 2030, which raise global temperature;
4. GHG predicted 2012 emissions exceed 2008-2012 annual Kyoto Protocol targets in US, Australia, Japan, Canada, Italy, Spain. Only few countries, like Russia, Poland and Germany are expected able to meet the Kyoto Protocol benchmark;
5. Share of global emissions originating in developing countries to meet social & development needs is expected to grow, but per capita CO₂ emissions will remain substantial lower than those in developed countries;

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

1. Increase in sea surface temperatures of 1-3°C will reduce most corals, raises sea level and coastal erosion, increases flooding and storms hitting megadeltas Asia-Africa and sinking small islands;
2. Increase risk of extinction among 20-30% of plants and animal species if temperature increase exceeds 1.5-2.5°C, and destroying eco-systems;
3. Negative impacts on health of the poor, the very young & the elderly and most developing countries;
4. Increase water availability in high-latitudes (Canada, Siberia) but decrease water in low-latitude (Tropical Asia-Africa). Crop-yield in tropical areas is expected to decrease with a rise of 1-2°C. Increase frequency of drought-floods reduces crop production & agriculture;

OVERVIEW

CO2 CONCENTRATION LEVEL

CO2 concentration In ppm (pre-industry levels at 278 ppm, now at 380 ppm level)	Global Mean temperature in C above pre- industrial level;	Peaking year of CO2;
350-400	2.0-2.4	2000/2015
400-440	2.4-2.8	2000/2020
440-485	2.8-3.2	2010/2030
485-570	3.2-4.0	2020/2060
570-650	4.0-4.9	2050/2080

To limit temperature increases to 2.0-2.4°C above pre-industrial level, requires emissions to peak within 15 years and decline to 50% of current levels by 2050;

REDUCING CO2 EMISSIONS

Countries:	Target Kyoto:	%	2004:	1994:
USA	4.957	36.1	5.912	5.238
Russia Fed.	2.388	17.4	1.685	1.690
Japan	1.173	8.5	1.262	1.088
Germany	1.012	7.4	862	867
UK	584	4.3	580	568
Canada	457	3.3	588	493
Italy	426	3.1	485	400
Poland	414	3.0	288	320
France	366	2.7	406	360
Australia	288	2.1	386	279
Total top-10	12.075 mmtton	87.9	12.454	11.303

CO2 EMISSIONS OF TOP-10 COUNTRIES

1. Total Kyoto Protocol identified CO2 emissions in 1990 of developed countries are 13.728 million metric tons. Top-10 countries that emit 88% of this total have increased its emissions during 1994-2004 except Russia-Germany-Poland.
2. US (36.1%) & Australia (2.1%) of total global CO2 emissions (1990) have not ratified Kyoto Protocol yet;
3. Emissions on tons per person in 2004: US (20.01), Australia (19.36), Canada (18.4), Japan (9.87) compared to China (3.60), Brazil (1.83), Indonesia (1.40), India (1.02), Bangladesh (0.27);

CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

1. Developed countries will take the lead in a) reducing global CO2 emissions, b) by transfer technologies to and c) build capacities in, with d) funding to, e) and promote enabling investment conditions in developing countries to reach sustainable-development goals with co-benefits in reducing GHG emissions;
2. The extent to which developing countries will effectively implement their commitments will depend on the effective implementation by developed countries of their commitments related to financial resources and transfer of technology with economic, social development and poverty eradication as the overriding priorities of the developing countries;

COMMON BUT DIFFERENTIATED RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Developing countries face the challenges of poverty eradication, mitigating and adapting to climate change whose main causes are not under their control but harms their development;
2. Developed countries have not met Kyoto benchmark but are demanding developing countries also to reduce GHG emissions without technology transfer and funding;
3. The crux of debate is in the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities” between the two with legally binding commitments for developed countries through UN multilateral agreements;

DEMOCRATIC MULTILATERALISM

1. Gaps in income level, financial resources, trade, technology, control and voting rights in World Bank, IMF, WTO and lack of adherence to multilateralism building democracy between nation states are inhibiting global cooperation to meet global challenges like climate change;
2. The current trends of global CO₂ emissions will definitely change climate within 25-50 years;
3. The future catastrophe of climate change must act as integrating factor for global cooperation through democratic multilateralism between nation states to reach for sustainable Asia & World;

COURSE OF ACTION

1. Asia will become the engine of global growth in 21st Century with different growth pattern with emphasis on ec-sos-ecol sustainability;
2. Focus is on Millennium Dev.Goals with co-benefits in reducing CO2e emissions in inter-sector development in the Asia Region;
3. Crucial is transfer of technology from developed to developing countries through cooperative efforts supported by financial transfer and capacity building to enable developing countries to grow with low carbon;