

Doha- Oasis of Agenda

The 2012 UN Climate Change Conference, in Doha, Qatar, started on 26th November. It will continue until 7 December. The Conference includes the 18th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 18) and the 8th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 8).

What is at stake at Doha?

- **Amendments to the Kyoto Protocol for the second commitment period:** Kyoto Protocol entered into force in 2005, where parties under UNFCCC agreed to reduce overall emissions of 6 GHGs by an average of 5% below 1990 levels. The first commitment period

(2008-2012) is now ending and adopting amendments for the second commitment period are on the agenda for COP18.

- **AWG-LCA presents its report:** *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Co-operative Action (AWG-LCA) was set up with a mandate to focus on mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology and a shared vision for long-term co-operative action. It will present its final outcome at COP18.

- **First year's Progress Report by ADP:** The COP will also hear a report from the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Advanced Action (ADP) concerning progress made during the first year of its work. ADP was set up in Durban in 2011 with a mandate to

develop "a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties" by 2015 to enter into force no later than 2020.

- **Finance:** Status of promise by developed countries to raise \$100 bn a year by 2020 starting with \$30bn during 2010-2012 under Green Climate Fund (GCF) founded as result of Copenhagen meeting in 2010 to assist the developing countries in mitigation and adaptation will also be the key issue on the agenda

(Sources: IISD, UNFCCC, COP18, Doha)

Also read article on Second Commitment Period for Kyoto Protocol on Pg2



TERRE congratulates **Dr. Stephen O. Andersen** (Director of Research, IGSD) for being awarded by the government of the Russian Federation "For his eminent individual contribution to co-operation between the USSR/the Russian Federation and the United States of America in the field of protection of the Earth's Ozone Layer." Dr. Andersen played a vital role in negotiating a

successful agreement to launch a U.S. Total Ozone Mapping Spectrometer (TOMS) on a Russian Meteor-3 satellite aboard a Russian Cyclone rocket. It is the first time for such a collaboration between US and Russia. TOMS mapped global ozone distribution as well as the Antarctic "ozone hole", in detail. Dr. Andersen also organized international technology cooperation on eliminating the use of ozone-depleting chemicals in aerospace and fire protection applications.

This is the first time this prestigious award has ever been given to a non-Russian citizen.

Dr. Andersen has played a leading role as Steering Committee Member and Coordinating Lead Author for IPCC/TEAP Special Report on Safeguarding the Ozone Layer and the Global Climate System, released in 2005.

TERRE Event Calendar

- President, TERRE Policy Centre is invited to facilitate sessions on 1st and 2nd December in Save Western Ghats Seminar in Mahabaleshwar
- TERRE participated in the 25th Anniversary of the Montreal Protocol and organized get together of NGO meeting in, GENEVA Switzerland
- Mission Oman: TERRE held discussion with Government of Oman to explore area of cooperation in Energy Management.

Guest Column

'Often, in the heat of negotiations, we forget the 'other fifty' Green House Gases (GHGs) i.e. other than carbon dioxide. Durwood Zaelke, the President of the Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development (IGSD) in Washington, DC, explains the early benefits that can be achieved by taking action on 'Forgotten Fifty'

Fast Climate, Other Benefits From Cutting Short-lived Climate Pollutants



Durwood Zaelke

Simultaneous and immediate emission reductions to CO₂ and short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs), including black carbon, tropospheric ozone, methane, and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are essential components of a comprehensive climate strategy to prevent possible near-term, abrupt climate change and long-term climate destabilization. Reducing black carbon, tropospheric ozone, and methane has the potential to avoid ~0.5°C global average warming by 2050 and 0.84°C in the Arctic by 2070.

Contd. on Pg 3

From the Chairman's Desk Droll Dilemma: Hope in despair?



Due to accelerated warming, the huge cracks in the permafrost and the continental ice sheets in Arctic are widening like never before. So are the positions of the various groups negotiating the climate change issues in Doha.

The hot spots in Arctic, where the water holes are formed due to warming, are venting the hitherto trapped methane gas at unprecedented rate. So are the frustrations of the world community who are watching the hot spots of the UN Negotiations for more than a decade.

Extreme events like hurricane Sandy are devastating the most powerful developed as well as the least developed nations, with huge cost implication. So is the extreme inertia exhibited by the governments that inhibit the progress in achieving any meaningful targets in dealing with epic challenge of climate change.

By focusing on the extension of the commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol-which has not produced any worth while mitigation-as one of the main goals in the negotiations in Doha, the negotiators are trying to solve the problem by using the same process which in the first place brought the world to the present miserable situation. So are the UN's unending warnings to the governments and industries through the perennial reports launched during annual conferences.

We are living in the bizarre world.

While the USA has newly discovered and now extracting the huge shale gas reserves underneath its prospering East coast, it is unable to unleash the new reserves of rational thinking to solve the global warming conundrum.

While a country like Norway is able to find new cost-effective routes for its gas tankers through melting Arctic sea to reach to China, it is unable to find the new paths to collaborate with emerging China in achieving cost-effective mitigation of GHGs.

While the oil and gas producing countries are heading their fuel-tankers to rising East, think-tanks of the West are wondering if their budget-cliffs are in reality much easier to resolve than climate-cliffs. Such cliff would require not just political agreement within the opposing parties in the countries but the active collectivism between the nations in the East and West of the globe.

While the world leaders cuddle together at the slightest hint of the financial crises-like that in 2008-to bail out with trillions of finances, they are unable to shell out few billions for the poor countries to bail the world out from climate crisis, even after living through life shattering events.

The droll dilemma and catchy contrasts are everywhere to be seen in Doha. I recall the witty Arabic proverb - The problem gets solved when it becomes difficult.

Hope in despair?

Rajendra Shende
Chairman, TERRE

Second Commitment Period: A Pledge for a Pledge



(Source: www.wetlands.org)

The first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol comes to an end on 31st December 2012. As both, developing and developed, countries agree on commitments for the second period, lack of pledges to long-term financing for the developing world is at the focal point of the discussions.

Developing countries like South Africa, India, China and Brazil echo the need for financing by developed countries like US and the EU, to support climate change efforts in this part of the world.

On the other hand, US and EU are of the opinion that the economic conditions in the developing countries have improved, as compared to the first commitment period. So it would not be feasible to pledge more money, unless developing countries like India, having large economies, take up legally binding emission reduction targets. These were not imposed on developing countries in the first commitment period.

US is considering of taking talks away from UNFCCC platform to Major Economies Forum, which is responsible

for 85% of emissions as opposed to 15% under Kyoto Protocol.

EU, too, is willing to talk at Major Economies Forum to be able to engage with US. But this will only be complementary to UNFCCC.

According to Jayanthi Natarajan (Environment Minister, Govt. of India), the voluntary emission reduction pledges by developing countries outweigh those by developed nations.

The group of African countries is ready to increase its pledge, but is of the opinion that the climate change problem has been primarily created by developed world, while the developing countries are merely victims.

Based on article by Sue Blaine, who is visiting Doha COP18 on a UNFCCC scholarship.

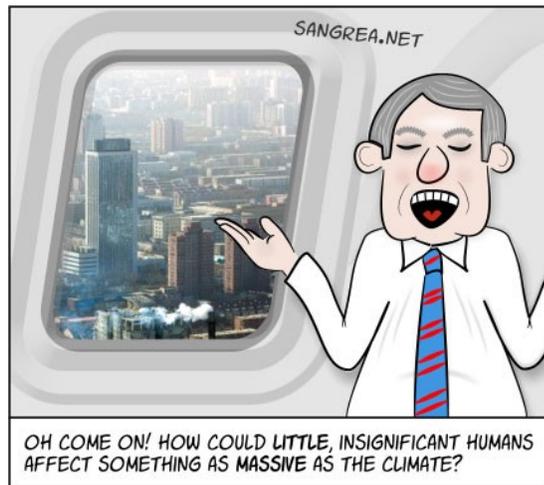
India urges US, EU to pledge more money to climate change efforts

Available at

<<http://www.bdlive.co.za/national/science/2012/11/30/india-urges-us-eu-to-pledge-more-money-to-climate-change-efforts>>



Carbon Price for Climate Change



“Superstorm Sandy is not the first storm, and certainly won't be the last. Still, it is hard for us as individual human beings to connect the dots.” says James E Hansen, in his article in The Guardian.

Taking a retrospective scan on the extreme weather events, especially Hurricane Sandy, he says that Sandy was “a stark illustration of the power that climate change can deliver”.

His team has demonstrated that frequency of climate extremes is already increasing. Evi-

dences can be seen in the rising temperatures and changes in the water cycle. This is leading to more extreme droughts, powerful hurricanes, tornadoes and thunderstorms.

He goes on to suggest a path forward, which he calls an ‘insurance policy for the planet.’

Most of our climate change woes can be attributed to fossil fuels. We need to fix a price on carbon, so that the price of fossil fuels reflects the cost to society, including the devastation caused by extreme events like Sandy.

This will also lead us to finding effective ways to phase-out fossil fuels and move to more sustainable sources. Consumers will try to move to towards alternative sources to reduce their energy costs, which will drive

innovation.

Hansen refers to his concept of “climate dice” differentiate between natural variability and climate-change driven extremes. “The climate dice in the 21st century are now ‘loaded’. It's not just bad luck Sandy pummeled America's coasts, extreme drought devastated its midlands and wildfires scorched its mountains. We loaded the dice. We changed our climate.”

Based on article by James E Hansen, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

His article, ‘Climate change is happening now - a carbon price must follow’ is available at the link

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/nov/29/climate-change-carbon-price>>

Fast Climate, Other Benefits From Cutting Short-lived Climate Pollutants

Contd. from Pg 1

Preventing growth in the other SLCP, HFCs, can avoid additional future warming of at least another 20% (0.1°C) by 2050 and much more in the following decades, through a phase-down of HFCs production and consumption under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Reductions in these SLCPs can be achieved

quickly, and in most cases by using existing technologies and existing laws and institutions. Reducing SLCPs may offer the best near-term protection for the countries that are most vulnerable to climate change impacts, including island nations, countries with low-lying coastal areas, and agriculture-dependent countries in Asia and Africa already suffering droughts, floods, and shifting rainfall. Taking fast

actions to cut SLCPs as a complement to substantial CO₂ mitigation provides the greatest chance of keeping global temperatures below 1.5°C for the next 30 to 40 years and below 2°C through 2100. The Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) to Reduce Short-lived Climate Pollutants, comprised of developing and developed countries, along with UNEP, the European Commission, and the

World Bank, was recently launched to pursue these reductions and the substantial additional benefits for health, crops, and sustainable development.

Durwood Zaelke is founder and President of the Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development (IGSD).

(References for this write-up are available with TERRE.)

Quick Question

Climate change may have an impact on the following::

- Agriculture, natural terrestrial ecosystems, and water resources
- Air quality, oceans, and coastal zones
- Energy and human health
- All of these

Send in your entry to us at terrepolicycentre@gmail.com before 13th December 2012



Last Issue's Answer:

Green Plants are Producers

Quick Answers

Ravindra Gadgil

(SW-Artha, UK)

Aditi Hastak

(Azim Premji University, Bangalore)



Let's Talk Numbers

390 X 10⁶

is the estimated amount of global HFC emissions in Tonnes CO₂ Eq. per year.

(Source: 2008 estimates, WMO 2011)

Reader's Speak

"I salute the relentless efforts put in by TERRE for their contribution in the field of sustainable environment & climate change. These would go long way to preserve mother earth from disasters & its deadly consequences.

I was struck by the global reach of TERRE with focus on local issues & the selflessness of the people behind the scenes. As can be seen from NewsleTERRE, the organization is making impact on world stage to local pollution control measures. 'All Inclusive' approach would go long way to change the environment for better. The efforts put in to spread the awareness across the cross section of the society are really commendable.

I would be happy to contribute in any way I can to achieve their goals."

Ravindra Gadgil
Director
SW-Artha Limited, UK

Born from Climate Change: Hurricane Sandy

Hurricane Sandy, one of the worst experiences for the East-coast of USA, has revved up climate change talks.

According to experts, Hurricane Sandy was not a direct result of climate change, but climate change definitely created the conditions for it to gain its mammoth proportions.

Here are some facts that link Hurricane Sandy and climate change.

1. The temperature of the oceans has risen by more than a degree Celsius warmer than a century ago, and is rising. As a result, the atmosphere is holding 5 -7 percent more water vapor.
2. Warm water, atleast 2-3 degrees Celsius warmer than normal, were observed off the East Coast of North America for a few

months before Hurricane Sandy struck.

3. Water level is estimated to be more than 18 inches higher, as compared to 60 years ago, in areas like Delaware and Virginia, due to sinking coastlines and rising sea-level.

This means that if a Hurricane Sandy was to occur in the early 1900s, it would have been less wet and has a lower storm surge.

4. Arctic ice also contributed to Hurricane Sandy. A huge, rare late October high pressure area over Greenland caused Sandy to take a hard left turn towards the coast. Sandy's path was rare, especially for that time of the year.

Experts say that the Greenland high pressure block could very well be connected to the record melt of Arctic sea



SATELLITE IMAGE: HURRICANE SANDY

(Source: www.nasa.gov)

ice this year. Melting of Arctic ice, due to rise in temperature, causes a temperature difference between waters from the equator to the poles. This forces the jet streams to slow down and get stuck in big looping meanders, which is what happened in the case of Hurricane Sandy.

Based on analysis by Larry O'Hanlon available at <<http://news.discovery.com/earth/sandy-and-the-record-arctic-sea-ice-melt-121102.html>>

What can we do?

Turn off the engine. Switch-off your car or bike engine at traffic signals. It will reduce emissions and your fuel consumption.

Drive less, Walk more. Try to avoid use of cars and bikes wherever possible. Take or walk or ride your bicycle for short distances and reduce emissions due to fossil fuel .

"In the end, the question is not, how do we use nature to serve our interests? It's how can we use humans to serve nature's interest?"

- William McDonough

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