

## Doha Climate Change Conference: A gateway for decisions

The UNFCCC COP18/CMP8 concluded on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2012 in Doha, Qatar with significant decisions being taken for global action on climate change.

Here are some of the highlights from the UNFCCC website.

### 1. Amendment of the Kyoto Protocol

Countries have successfully launched a new commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, agreed a firm timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 and agreed a path to raise necessary ambition to respond to climate change.

### 2. Time table for the 2015 global climate change agreement and increasing ambition before 2020

Governments have agreed to speedily work toward a universal climate change agreement covering all countries from 2020, to be adopted by 2015, and to find ways to scale up efforts before 2020 beyond the existing



(Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/UNclimatechange?fref=ts>)

pledges to curb emissions so that the world can stay below the agreed maximum 2 degrees Celsius temperature rise.

### 3. Completion of new infrastructure

In Doha, governments significantly advanced the completion of new infrastructure to channel technology and finance to developing nations and move toward the full implementation of this infrastructure and support.

### 4. Long-term climate finance

Developed countries have endorsed the completion of new institutions

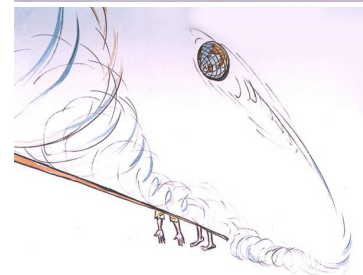
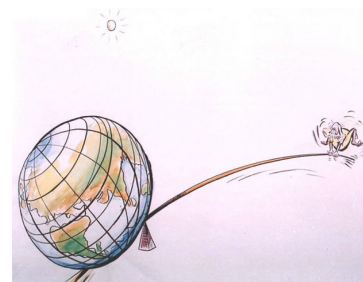
and agreed ways and means to deliver scaled-up climate finance and technology to developing countries

Governments have launched a robust process to review the long-term temperature goal. This will start in 2013 and conclude by 2015, and is a reality check on the advance of the climate change threat and the possible need to mobilize further action.

For details on these decisions and more information visit

[http://unfccc.int/meetings/doha\\_nov\\_2012/meeting/6815/php/view/decisions.php](http://unfccc.int/meetings/doha_nov_2012/meeting/6815/php/view/decisions.php)

### Guest Column



Mangesh Tendulkar is a renowned cartoonist has been reaching out to people through his art for more than 55 years. His cartoons have been seen in leading dailies and magazines. The subjects taken up by him range from political, social to simple routine.

In his own unique way, he contributed the above cartoon, which is very apt, this issue of NewsleTERRE.

### TERRE Event Calendar

- Chairman, TERRE Policy Centre interviewed on FranceTV 24, a news channel based in France, to talk about the Doha Climate Change Conference.
- President, TERRE facilitated and addressed the meeting for starting an Environmental School in Rahimatpur, Maharashtra, India
- Rajendra Shende (Chairman, TERRE) invited on the panel of speakers for Webinar organized by UN OzonAction on 19th December. The Webinar is to reflect on the progress of the Montreal Protocol in the past year. (To register for the event, click on this link <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/117285510>)

## From the Chairman's Desk



### Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol

Risk of continuing Failure?  
Doing More of the Same?

It was not cherry blossom time in Japan when I was there in 1997, in the city of Kyoto. Kyoto's huge conference center was, however, in festive mood when the UN climate conference ended. The heated arguments on North-South responsibilities on climate change got dissolved when the Japanese President of the conference brought down his gravel. The Kyoto Protocol to UNFCCC was born. The people of Kyoto were very proud that the UN Protocol that was to tackle the most formidable challenge of 21<sup>st</sup> century had their city's name attached to it.

During the following 10 years, the world slowly woke up to the stark reality that the Kyoto Protocol is poised to fail. It just cannot achieve its objective of reducing the emissions of the GHGs in more than 40 industrialized by 5% by year 2012, as compared to the emissions in 1990. Since then Japan, who so self-importantly promoted the Kyoto Protocol for nearly a decade, staunchly opposed to its continuation. It was the consequence of the collective failure of the nations. Majority of the countries, particularly the developing countries who had not taken any legally binding emissions reduction obligations, however wanted to nurture the

adolescent Protocol further, mainly to challenge the industrialized countries to take on the unfinished job.

The decision adopted in UN Conference in Doha last week, to extend the Kyoto Protocol to its second commitment period, pleased more than 140 developing countries. The second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol will now begin on 1 January 2013 and end on 31 December 2020, when the next generation Protocol would hopefully come into force. The decision also appealed to all those industrialized countries to raise their ambition and undertake the emissions cuts to limit the global temperature rise to 2 degree centigrade or even 1.5 degree centigrade.

Parallel to the continuation of the Kyoto Protocol with the raised ambition, the process was kicked off to start putting the draft together for the next generation Protocol-probably "Paris Protocol"-which would be open for the signature in the UN conference in Paris, France in 2015.

My year-end reflections travelled the historical path from Kyoto to Doha.

Albert Einstein said that, "We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them." The world certainly needs 'path not taken'! Are we doing more of the same that failed us?

**Rajendra Shende**  
Chairman, TERRE

## It is now 5 minutes to Midnight

The consequences of climate change and threat of a nuclear age, push the Doomsday Clock closer to midnight.

The clock is a symbolic representation of how close the world is to catastrophic destruction.

A board of scientists and experts review the implications of nuclear weapons, climate change and biosecurity to predict the 'Doomsday Clock' timing.

Scientists recommend quick action against climate change to avoid a point of no return.

(Source: <http://thebulletin.org>)



## Top to Bottom or Bottom up? Statements: Doha Conference

At the UN Climate Change Conference in Doha, Qatar, governments seem to have taken the next essential step in the global response to climate change.

Here is what a few key people said at the Conference in Doha, in their statements.

"Doha has opened up a new gateway to bigger ambition and to greater action – the Doha Climate Gateway. Qatar is proud to have been able to bring governments here to achieve this historic task. Now governments must move quickly through the Doha Climate Gateway to push forward with the solutions to climate change."

**Abdullah Al-Attiyah**  
COP President

"I congratulate the Qatar Presidency for managing a complex and challenging conference. Doha is another step in the right direction, but we still have a long road ahead. The door to stay below two

degrees remains barely open. The science shows it, the data proves it. The world has the money and technology to stay below two degrees. After Doha, it is a matter of scale, speed, determination and sticking to the timetable."

**Christiana Figueres**  
Exec. Secretary, UNFCCC

"It's out of touch with science and what's actually happening on the ground. Basically what we have seen is an absence of political will and a desperate state of cognitive dissonance. The message really is that there are no emission targets anywhere near what the science is saying. At best if you want to call it we'll say we've made incremental baby steps forward when what is needed is a transformative step to actually try to reverse the direction we are on."

**Kumi Naidoo**  
Exec. Director, Green Peace

Contd. on Pg 4



## Unnatural influencing the Natural: Is Climate Change related to Natural Disasters

Natural Disasters have shown an increasingly unprecedented behavior during the past century. Climate scientists believe that there is convincing evidence that human influence is causing climate change which is also affecting the intensity of natural disasters.

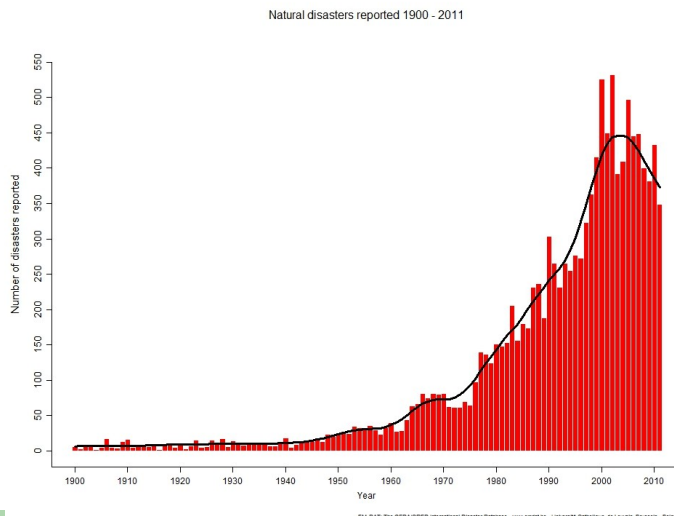
What is even more worrying is that modeling indicates that in future, the increasing concentration of GHG's will drive more climate change and result in more extreme events. (European Parliament, 2006)

Here are a few Graphic representations of the trend of Natural Disasters over the century.

These have been compiled by EM-DAT, The International Disaster Database, Belgium. <<http://www.emdat.be/natural-disasters-trends>>

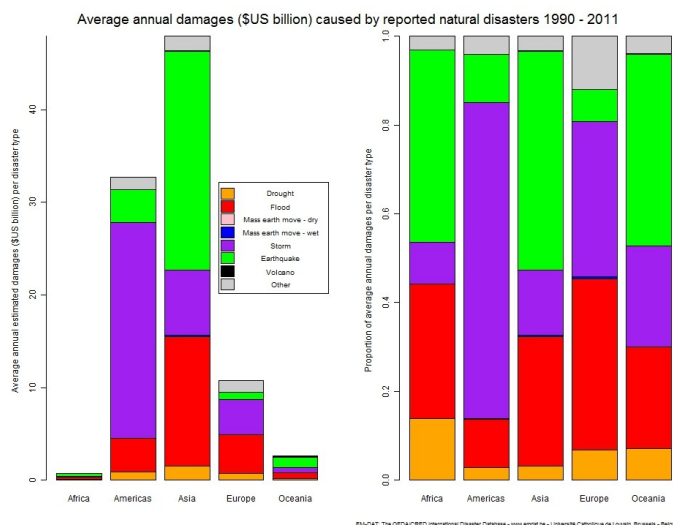
### Graph 1 - Natural Disasters Reported 1900-2011

The graph shows an increasing trend over the century, especially till 2005. Theoretical understanding of influence of climate change suggest that extreme events would be an expected outcome.



### Graph 2 - Average Annual Damages caused by natural disasters during 1900-2011

The economic losses due to natural disasters have increased over the years. (EM-DAT, 2011). The graph depicts average region-wise damages caused for 1900-2011. It is evident that Flood, Storms and Earthquakes have caused the most economic damage. Out of this, floods and storms are strongly believed to be related to climate change.



"If we take all these actions and if it turns out not to be true, we have reduced pollution and have better ways to live, the downside is very small. The other way around, and we don't act, and it turns out to be true, then we have betrayed future generations and we don't have the right to do that."

— Tony Blair

### Quick Question

What type of energy is being harnessed in the given picture?

- Solar Energy
- Wind Energy
- Chemical Energy
- Electrical Energy

Send in your entry to us at [terrepolicycentre@gmail.com](mailto:terrepolicycentre@gmail.com) before 28th December 2012

### Last Issue's Answer:

All of these

Quick Answers  
Mohit Mehendale  
(JCI, U.S.A)  
Anagha Joshi  
(Ernst & Young, Pune)





## Let's Talk Numbers

# 3.11 mm

is the average sea level rise per year, as per satellite data.

(Source:  
NASA, 1993-2012 data)

## Reader's Speak

"NewsleTERRE is an excellent piece of information about one of the most important issues for mankind.

It is indeed extremely important to spread knowledge about our environment. It will surely help increase the awareness among people. That will in turn lead to their support and active participation to the efforts of organizations like TERRE all over the world to save nature and improve the quality of life for the generations to come."

**Neelesh Modak**  
Statistical Analyst,  
Bangalore

"I liked the contents in NewsleTERRE. I think its high time people really start thinking about the Environment and related issues. Please keep it up."

**Prakash Tuljapurkar**  
Financial Professional,  
Hyderabad

## Top to Bottom or Bottom up? Statements: Doha Conference

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"What developing countries are asking for today, when they say they want a Kyoto Protocol extension, is that they want the principle of equity, differentiation and target-based approach to continue in the future as well. That's why Kyoto Protocol matters."

**Sunita Narain**

Center for Science & Environment

"One of the things that we stress is that there is overwhelming convergence around the science of man-made climate change. This wasn't always true, but now some 97 percent of climate scientists agree that man-made climate change is a reality. As the citizens begin to understand the impact of carbon emissions on their everyday lives, I think that the cry to do something will get louder and louder. And I'm just suggesting that countries and companies should get out in front of it."

**Jim Yong Kim**  
President, World Bank

We also asked a few common people what they thought about all the hullabaloo and here is what we learnt.

"I am not aware about the conference. But agreements from such conferences will not run unless the people of the developing as well as developed countries know the depth of the situation. Thus the people must be educated about their responsibilities to bring the change."

**Mrs. Shilpa Patankar**  
Home-maker, Hyderabad

"I am positive about this conference, however I wonder how much will it be practiced? Steps need to be taken at grass-root level, and mostly youth must be educated about the environment and the change taking place, atleast once a week, so that their small steps would heal bigger wounds and protect the environment for their better future. Also, there should be a long term commitment by one and all to avoid climate change."

**Mr. P.B. Kulkarni**  
Ex-Chairman,  
Bank of Maharashtra, Pune

"There is a lack of awareness in the public, about environmental issues as well as what are the steps required to avoid the climate change. Thus the people must be made aware and given knowledge before taking any steps and putting in finance to get a massive support from all the citizens. Then this programme will channelize positively and developing countries can benefit from them."

**Mrs. Kshitijaa Apte-Kale**  
Corporate communications, Pune

"I am not aware of such a conference so cannot comment on it, because I don't know how much will it work out in reality."

**Mr. Arun Mane**  
Educationist, Rehmatpur

(Sources: [www.unfccc.int](http://www.unfccc.int),  
[www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org), [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com))

With inputs from Mrunmayi Apte,  
Team Member, TERRE)

## What can we do?

**Keep your appliances in good shape.** Don't ignore that noisy food processor or the refrigerator that needs repair. Appliances that are well maintained, consume less energy.

**More stars, less energy consumption.** Most appliances these days have 'star ratings'. More the number of stars, higher is the energy efficiency, lesser is your electricity bill.

## TERRE Policy Centre

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