

Asia Pacific Conference on **Climate Change,**

**Consolidating the People's Movement on
Change Towards COP 15 and Beyond**

*23-24 March 2009
Suan Dusit Place Hotel
Bangkok, Thailand*

Suranjan Kodithuwakku

Peoples Initiative to Minimize the ill effects of Climate Change,
Green Movement of Sri Lanka

0094-718-749-665

Over the last hundred years, sea levels rose ten times faster than their 2000-year average, but in the next hundred years the rate of sea level rise could increase dramatically. One frighteningly real possibility is the melting of Greenland's ice sheet. According to the IPCC:

"Climate models indicate that the local warming over Greenland is likely to be one to three times the global average. Ice sheet models project that a local warming of larger than 3°C [5.4°F], if sustained for millennia, would lead to virtually a complete melting of the Greenland ice sheet with a resulting sea-level rise of about 7 m [23 ft]."

-- IPCC 3rd Assessment, Synthesis Report, Summary for Policy Makers

The amount of global warming predicted by the IPCC over the next hundred years is 1.4-5.8° Celsius (2.5-10.4°F), and warming around Greenland is likely to be one to three times the global average. The Greenland ice sheet is already shrinking and melting.

Country Positions

Official Government stances on climate Change

SAARC region

- Dhaka Declaration - on climate change:
 - **The draft declaration urged the international community for partnership development in this regard by providing additional financial resources, as already agreed upon.**

The declaration saw it as the moral obligation of the developed countries,” The Bangladesh's Environment Ministry action plan will identify and create opportunities through regional and south-south cooperation in terms of technology and knowledge transfer, Says Raja Devasish Roy, special assistant to the Ministry

The Bangladesh stance in the first-ever SAARC Ministerial meeting on climate change,

“stressed the need for industrialised nations to provide climate adaptation funds for developing countries, the worst victims of climate change, ‘without any conditions” They also called on richer nations to *“transfer better technology so that developing countries could progress toward climate resiliency”*.

South East Asia, The Philippines

“Every citizen needs to be on a **“war footing” against climate change” says The Philippines presidential advisor on CC.**

The Philippines government insists that any resolution by the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum on climate change should adhere to the framework of United Nations resolutions since the UN involves all the countries in the world.

South East Asia, Vietnam

Climate change and the rise in sea levels are inevitable and “we are preparing for the worst”

The Government of Vietnam has mapped out various solutions to address the current economic crisis, stabilize the economy and maintain its growth potential, as well as help the poor people to overcome the difficulties brought about by new economic challenges.

At the same time, the Minister of Planning and Investment has approved the national target program on climate change, and is encouraged by the donor community’s commitment to assist Vietnam’s efforts to tackle challenges raised by climate change.

South East Asia, Indonesia

Recognize "the important role Indonesia plays in global carbon emissions and the overwhelming contribution made by deforestation and land degradation." The government has requested support of the international community through carbon financing mechanisms and transfer of technology to protect the forests and provide income to local communities.

But according to **GREENPEACE** UK the ministry of Agriculture has opened up huge areas of forests and peat lands to the palm oil industry contradicting, *Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, president of Indonesia's plans to cut his country's emissions by half this year.*

Far East and the Pacific

- What does Australia have to say?
 - The Federal Government announced its plan to cut carbon pollution by just 5% (rising to 15% only if other major polluters commit to a global agreement).



says that the Government's 5% target is an utter failure.

The Government has disregarded the advice of the IPCC – which states that developed countries, as a group, must reduce their carbon pollution by 25–40% – and community support for greater action on climate change.

Far East AND Pacific

Kiribati, Tuvalu and Tokelau

"It is not ignoring it, it is trying to prevent it. It is happening. That is why this information from islands considering relocation depresses me so much, because what they are doing is giving up".

The Executive Secretary of UNFCCC, Mr Yvo de Boer,

"Implicating climate change in the identity of people and place can constitute Tuvaluans as .tragic victims. of environmental displacement, marginalizing discourses of adaptation for Tuvaluans and other inhabitants of low-lying islands, and silencing alternative constructions of Tuvaluan identity that could emphasize resilience and resourcefulness."

Carol Farbotko
University of Tasmania,

Prepared by the External affairs unit, GMSL