

Polluters vs. 1.5

By Vincent Ogal.

One of the biggest contributors to climate change in the last century has been attributed to wide spread industrial revolution that is currently taking place throughout the world. The emission of toxic chemicals into earth's atmosphere which destroys the ozone layer exposing mankind to direct rays which are harmful is just a tip of the iceberg of what danger is awaiting us if the current trend doesn't stop, not to mention thousands of people who have already perished while others developing complicated ailments daily as a result of inhaling this toxic chemicals. It does not even stop at that, the emission of the toxic gas forming a thick blanket in the atmosphere prevents the sun rays that bounces off the earth's surface from reaching the atmosphere leading to accumulation of heat on the surface of the universe resulting into soaring temperatures is another.

Greenhouse gases (GHS) trap heat and make the planet warmer. Human activities are responsible for almost all of the increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere over the last 150 years. The largest source of greenhouse gas emissions from human activities worldwide is from burning fossil fuels for electricity, heat, and transportation.

According to a report released by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Electricity production ranks highest as the largest contributor of GHG in the atmosphere at 29 % followed by transportation at 27% and industries at 21%.

This same report also states that, since 1990, U.S. greenhouse gas emissions have increased by about 4 percent. From year to year, emissions can rise and fall due to changes in the economy, the price of fuel, and other factors. In 2015, U.S. greenhouse gas emissions decreased compared to 2014 levels. This decrease was largely driven by a decrease in emissions from fossil fuel combustion, which was a result of multiple factors including substitution from coal to natural gas consumption in the electric power sector; warmer winter conditions that reduced demand for heating.

The Quest for riches and the desire to make billions by individuals and companies around the world have even grown bigger over riding the ultimate call for interventions to save mankind from the catastrophe that is glaringly looming in the coming future. This has led to conflicts when it comes to budget allocation on and which priority must take precedence over the other in many governments worldwide.

As time goes by, each year is proving to be hotter than never before. According to NASA, The year 2014 ranks as Earth's warmest since 1880, according to two separate analyses by NASA and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) scientists. The 10 warmest years in the instrumental record, with the exception of 1998, have now occurred since 2000. So far the so called big polluters haven't shown total commitment to participate in actions aimed at mitigating climate change.

If the current rate at which climate change is depreciating continues, by 2050, close to a billion people will have been forced out their homesteads because of drought, famine, water shortage characterized by high food prices from all corners of the world.

Activists advocate for ban on big polluters.

The call for the big polluters to be removed from the climate change policies around the world continues to get even louder from several activists group. Demonstrations are held followed by processions with ply cards and banners held aloft to show their dissatisfaction with the manner in which the big polluters have handled the situation. Both the young and the older generation are taking part in this campaign.



Activists carry banners to demonstrate against big polluters

Some of the well known polluters such as the US Chamber of Commerce, the National Mining Association, and the Business Roundtable with the other organizations based in Europe such as the Fuels Europe based in Brussels, the Business Council of Australia, and the international Chamber of Commerce based in Paris all showing little interest in playing a part to mitigate climate change instead choosing to fun round table discussions rather than getting a place on the table.



Industries emitting dangerous toxic in the atmosphere

"Right now hundreds of business trade associations have access to the climate talks, and many of them are funded by some of the world's biggest polluters and climate change deniers," Tamar Lawrence-Samuel, the international policy director of CAI, an organization dedicated to fighting corporate abuse, once said in a press release.

Government aid budgets have pledged the world's poorest developing nations new energy systems at a cost of billions, but it is impolite to question whether it is value for money and what happens if they don't work.

Old measures to assess the relationship between energy costs, productivity and prosperity have been cast aside in favor of a single matrix, carbon intensity.

Former US Secretary of State John Kerry sees it as "the most extraordinary market opportunity in the history of humankind".

He is planning nothing short of “the gradual transformation of the global economy”. For Kerry the climate change story is now economic opportunity. “Everything else is gravy,” he says.

World Resources Institute president and chief executive Andrew Steer says: “This is all about the implementation of revolution in the making.”

“Without addressing climate change properly, immediately we will be in a lot of difficulties implementing the remaining 16 development goals,” Former UN secretary-general Ban Ki Moon once told the Paris conference.

“If we really want to put an end to global poverty, if we really want to make this world healthier and planet Earth environmentally sustainable, we have to first address this climate change issue.”

Climate change is no longer a threat, it is a reality. The one thing that is very clear is: we need a global climate change action, and we need one now.

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