

2015

A Ripple Effect *“Climate Change”*

APGF NEWS LETTER

Climate Change Stories from different Green Party Member Countries



Asia Pacific green Federation
11/30/2015





APGF News Letter

Context

Topic	Page #
Japan Greens Sharing.....	03
Pakistan Greens Youth Actions.....	04
Climate change: One more Problem for Pakistan.....	05
Pakistan Green Party President Program.....	09
New Zealand Greens (Change the system not the climate).....	10
Green Union Indonesia	12
Domestic Worker and Climate Change.....	14
Green Party Korea.....	17

Greens Japan started COOL EARTH Campaign for COP21

The Greens of Japan have made a special web site for spreading and sharing climate change information¹. With this web site, we are calling others to join the Earth Parade on 28th (in Tokyo) and 29th (in Kyoto) November, and sharing our policy for Climate Change², reports of Street action and proposal for local governments³, and photo of “My COOL EARTH Campaign”. This Campaign is to declare personal actions as participants will try to STOP something to Stop Climate change⁴. “I will try to STOP using my car” or “I will try to STOP The night owl” like this, each people are declaring with photo.



¹ <http://www.gj-climate-change.net/>

² <http://www.gj-climate-change.net/#!/policy/c1x1t>

³ <http://www.gj-climate-change.net/#!/relay/ujnla>

⁴ <http://www.gj-climate-change.net/#!/blank/eq1ww>

Pakistan Green Party

Young Greens in Action

Pakistan Green party volunteers have organized a rally and demonstration on climate change and delivered sessions on climate change covering main topics of climate change, natural disasters and how to protect our communities in emergencies, such as disaster risk reduction in floods.

The youth are running a march from different villages to District Press club as district Government can pay attention on this main problem, local press has given a good response and published this news in 2 different newspapers.



Climate Change One More Problem for Pakistan

By Saima Gul Mirani

The Indus river, originating on the Tibetan Plateau and flowing for nearly 2,000 miles through the disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir and finally down to the province of Sindh and out into the Arabian Sea, is key to life in Pakistan.

The majority of Pakistan's 190 million people are involved in agriculture: the Indus, fed by glaciers high up in the Hindu Kush-Karakoram Himalaya mountain range, provides water for 90 percent of the country's crops. Meanwhile hydro-power facilities based on the Indus generate around 50 percent of Pakistan's total electricity.

Fisherman on the Indus River, South Pakistan



Climate change is now threatening this vital waterway – and the future of millions in Pakistan. In recent weeks it has launched, in collaboration with the [United Nations Development Programme](#) (UNDP), its first ever national policy on climate change.

“Pakistan is among the most vulnerable countries facing climate risks”, says Marc-Andre Franche, the UNDP’s Pakistan director. “Mechanisms need to be devised for greener, more resilient options for growth and sustainable development... the climate change clock is ticking too fast and the time to act is here and now.”

Pakistan’s scientists say that in order for the new policy to be effective a number of steps need to be urgently taken to mitigate the impacts of climate change. These include developing high temperature-tolerant crop strains, comprehensive flood warning systems and more reservoirs on the upper Indus. But there are serious doubts about funding for such schemes.

Ghulam Rasul, chief meteorologist at the [Pakistan Meteorological Department](#), says weather patterns are becoming increasingly erratic. In the 1999 to 2002 period Pakistan was hit by severe droughts as the flow in the Indus and its tributaries fell dramatically. But from 2010 to 2014 a series of unusually intense monsoons caused the Indus to burst its banks, resulting in widespread floods: thousands were killed and millions displaced.

“Pakistan’s climate-sensitive agrarian economy now faces larger risks from variability in monsoon rains, floods and extended droughts”, says Rasul. “I urge the world to assist Pakistan to deal with climate change.”

Economy at Risk

According to data gathered from 56 meteorological stations throughout Pakistan, there has been a marked increase in heat waves and rising temperatures in the vast Indus Delta in recent years.



Flood waters in Pakistan, 2010.

In an article in the [Pakistan Journal of Meteorology](#), Rasul and others say there is a greater incidence of tropical cyclones and of saline intrusion in coastal regions. Already wheat and banana harvests in the Indus Delta are being affected.

Rising temperatures are also causing health problems among the area's population. In many cases farmers in the region – among the poorest people in the world – are abandoning their lands and migrating to already overcrowded cities.

If this trend continues it could have devastating consequences for the wider economy. Sindh and the Indus Delta have become one of the world's premier cotton-producing areas, feeding Pakistan's economically vital textile industry. Falling cotton production in the region would not only hurt Pakistan: it would also trigger a substantial rise in world cotton prices.

Meanwhile in the mountainous far north most glaciers are in retreat, though some in the Karakoram Range are stable or even – for as yet unknown reasons – expanding. Experts say that while melting glaciers

might offset temperature rises and act as a form of insurance against drought in the short term, the long term prognosis is not good.

David Grey, former senior water advisor at the World Bank and now visiting [Professor of Water Policy at Oxford University](#), says that although there is insufficient data to come to an accurate long term assessment of what will happen to the Indus, there are deep anxieties.

“We all have very nasty fears that the flows of the Indus could be severely, severely affected by glacier melt as a consequence of climate change. Now what does that mean to a population that lives in a desert – without the river, there would be no life? I don’t know the answer to that question”, he says. “But we need to be concerned about that. Deeply, deeply concerned”,

In this scenario Pakistan Green Party members have trained 150 volunteers to spread the awareness regarding protection in climate change disaster, Pakistan is in the zone of high risk in the month of November 2015 here in Pakistan more than 7 times earth quake stroke have brought disaster, so the volunteers are arranging session on Disaster risk management and how to protect in heat stroke, and our members have played a vital role in this local election held in Oct and Nov 2015 they have organized awareness raising camps on the main entrance of road side as many people can get access to the information, here we arrange face to face meetings with peer to discuss on climate change but taking any issue from their locality as they can easily get it. Here few people and started to us sun light batteries to generate electricity, and government has also started this project to set street light on sun light batteries as this picture shows



Climate change is a big issue, government and we all individually have to take it serious to save our present and future as well.

Pakistan Green Party President Mr. Liaquat Ali Shaikh Participated in a TV program and briefly talked about climate change, disasters and challenges which Pakistan is suffering from: The link of Video is attached

<https://www.facebook.com/rajibali.shah/videos/1039882096056974/>



Change the System, not the Climate

By Barry Coates, NZ APGF Councillor

The urgency of climate change is being experienced by vulnerable people around the world as they suffer from increasing unstable and extreme weather. Nature is also unable to cope with the rapid rate of change, and species loss is increasing. We face a growing climate crisis that can only be dealt with by transforming the economic and political systems that have caused it.

The United Nations and global governance institutions have had enough political support to sign vague promises on climate change, dating back to the Convention on Climate Change signed in 1992, but there has not been enough political will to reduce emissions. Now we have run out of time. There is now a fierce urgency to secure deep emissions cuts. This is the backdrop for the forthcoming climate summit in Paris from 30 November – 11 December.

At the national level, the Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand has been at the forefront of climate policy in Parliament and across society. Before the election last year, we undertook a detailed review of our policy and put forward an innovative and far-reaching platform for change – the Climate Protection Plan. It sets a goal to limit global temperature rise to less than 1.5°C, and for New Zealand to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, as well as contributing towards reductions in developing countries through climate finance.

The plan calls for replacement of the discredited Emissions Trading Scheme (a carbon trading scheme that allowed polluters to buy ‘hot air’ carbon credits) with a simple carbon tax that would return the money to taxpayers, mainly through a tax free threshold that would support low income families. The tax is supported by incentives for forest conservation

and re-planting, clean energy and 100% renewable electricity by 2030, public investment in walking, cycling and public transport, establishment of a Green Investment Bank and an independent Climate Commission.

In the run up to Paris the Green Party has been instrumental in forming a coalition of civil society groups for citizen mobilization in the Climate March on 28th November, and has been reaching out to members of the public through events, knocking on doors, telephoning and social media. This has been supported by a campaign that encourages people to take a photo of themselves with a message about the places and people that they say are “Worth Saving”.

The Paris conference will hopefully agree a way forward to a global agreement, but sadly, no more than that. The action is up to us. As New Zealand Greens we look forward to working with our Asia Pacific colleagues to build a stronger and broader movement of citizens that will keep pushing for the transformative changes that we urgently need.

Barry Coates is the recently appointed Councilors for the Asia-Pacific Greens Federation. He is next on the list for Parliament and was previously





Executive Director of Oxfam New Zealand.

SAREKAT HIJAU INDONESIA
www.sarekathijauindonesia.org



STRENGTHENING LOCAL COMMUNITY INITIATIVES TO OPPOSE EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND LOSS OF LOCAL LIVELIHOODS

By: Green Union Indonesia

Indonesia has all the prerequisites to be a rich nation, with extensive natural resources such as minerals, coal, forests, ocean and coastal assets, farm land and plantations which are the lifeblood of local communities and the source of prosperity of its people.

Prior to large scale investment and the opening up of access to Indonesia's natural resources by the Soeharto 'New Order' regime, Indonesia had full sovereignty over its natural resources. Natural resources were extracted and processed by traditional methods using local knowledge and skills. Whilst the scale of this production had no impact on the global economy, this local wisdom ensured the preservation of people's livelihoods and delivered certainty for the future. From the perspective of advanced societies, this situation can be perceived as somewhat backward and not sufficiently profit-oriented, but prudent exploitation of our natural resources using local technologies was the best thing that we could do to ensure the sustainability of our grandchildren's livelihoods in the future.

Large-scale investment in natural resource exploitation has resulted in the destruction of the natural environment and livelihoods of local communities. However this has not caused the government of Indonesia to develop an increased sensitivity about the destruction of its natural resources. Conversely, it has only served to increase the membership of an oligarchy that includes foreign interests. These companies are issued licences that enable them to take by force the natural wealth and resources of local communities. Data from 2014 shows that the area of land devoted to palm oil production has increased to 13.5 million hectares. Production of pulp and paper has reached 12.17 tonnes a year, with this industry dominated by multi-national companies such as PT Sinar Mas and Raja Garuda Mas (Tanoto). The production of coal reached 263 million tonnes in 2015.

The development of palm oil plantations, mining operations, pulp and paper, oil and gas is resulting in conflict, violation of human rights, theft of community land, and shattering of local sustainable livelihoods. This development has also triggered widespread wildfires that are devastating forests, and significantly influencing changes in climate and the health of people. However ongoing demand from the international market for palm oil for human consumption and cosmetics - and now the energy industry - is exacerbating the existing situation, with Indonesia pushing for a rapid and continuing expansion of palm oil plantations right across the archipelago. An average poor farmer only farms around 0.3ha of land, where 2ha is required to make an adequate living. Food security and ensuring a harvest each year in Indonesia is an urgent issue, with access to arable land being made difficult through land grabs for palm oil plantations, the pulp and paper industry and conservation and restoration projects. Indonesia is already dependent on countries such as Thailand, China and Vietnam for food imports and security of its food staples

As traditional stewards of the land we understand best how to work our land, feed our families, confront climate challenges, and we also know how to process and value-add to our natural resources. However the large companies that forcibly destroy our local knowledge and livelihoods also destroy our pride and sense of self-worth as the holders of sovereignty of our own land.

We will struggle for our land, where we can live alongside our grandchildren, for with our land we can send our children to school and ensure an adequate life for us all.

For us, land is sovereignty, and it is because of that that we fight

Indonesia Green Union

www.indonesiagreenunion.org

Domestic Worker and Climate Change

Ade Indriani Zuchri
General Secretary Indonesia Green Union

This is a very interesting topic, not only because Indonesia has become one of the source countries of domestic workers and Indonesia currently embrace the climate change, but also Indonesia and other countries which attend this session strongly realize that the main problems that drag women to become worker in abroad, especially as domestic workers, are limited living space due to massive expansion of big plantation, such as palm, pulp paper, or any other big investment.

In a patriarchy culture (especially in the developing countries, such as Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Papua Nugini, and Philippine –who also attend this session), women have worked for more than 16 hours per day for domestic works and help their husband/parents as a farmer or managing plantation products. Prior to the big plantation/extractive industry has come to the village (including how the big investment has finally reached to the village level) and aggravate the local community condition. In 2014, more than 13,5 million Ha of the community's land has been planted by palm.

Furthermore, natural resources belong to local community which are contributed to their life are damaged. Back then, the local community could cultivate whatever plants on their own land and not dependent to the modernity that not really impacts their economic, some of them think that the used method of local community are too slow and undeveloped. Nevertheless, by sustaining the traditional method and not by taking a massive benefit from the forest, soil, and other natural resources can balance the nature. Unfortunately, since the big investment has been implemented in the village by the permit from the government/state, the local community livelihood has changed.

For the sake of economic growth, local community is imposed to follow the capital owner with the homogeneity of commodity, plant alteration to palm, pesticide use, and implementing modernity life. State embodies a responsibility to this big change. On the other side, the benefits from politic, economic, and culture are not really acquired by the society. We have lost so much in the name of this big investment. We have lost our rights as the sovereignty holder of food, land, water, energy, and other natural resources. We have also lost our rights to provide our children to get a free health service. We have lost to get rights to enjoy public transportation. We have lost our rights for the fulfillment of free public service. We have lost so much, it's like we have killed in our own land.

Regarding the reluctance of the state, women have also experience injustice practices. They are imposed to go out from the village and work abroad in

the unknown country for them. Once more, State also reluctant in giving the access to the better future. Probably, Philippines women workers are luckier than women workers in Indonesia. In spite of their land is seized for the palm plantation, but at least, they experience a very little administration problems in the destination countries. Also, they are provided with skill, introduction of destination countries, and providing the training of language use in the destination countries. Even though, these all are not the way to eliminate the mistakes of the State.

As said by Anne from England, solidarity and support from international society are needed to abolish the massive seized land practice in developing countries. We have to also build solidarity to reject the use of products based on palm plantation, suppress the demand of cosmetic with palm plantation use, and do whatever it is to fight of this injustice.

Liberte
Egalite
Faternite

Green Party Korea
<http://kgreens.org/english/>



**The Korean Government Enjoying Hot Bath in the Boiling Pot
Presents 37% Reduction Goal of BAU and Stays in the Developing Country
Status**

COP21, the 21st United Nations Climate Change Conference, is held for two weeks from November 30, 2015. Aiming to keep the average global temperature rise below 1.5°C to 2°C, each country is to decide the global greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets which will be started from 2020. However, INDC reports to UNFCCC that were submitted by the nations all over the world, estimate that it is difficult to achieve the minimum objective of keeping the global temperature below 2°C. According to the analysis by International Energy Agency (IEA), the average global temperature will go up about 2.7°C in 2100 at the present rate of progress. We ask every government around the world to set a bolder goal for the GHG emission reduction. We must save this planet earth, our sweet home.

Korean government, as well, should reset the emission reduction objective to be more active. On June 30, the Korean government submitted the INDC to UN, which included the 37% reduction goal of BAU in 2030. This percentage is highly disappointing, considering that Korea is ranked 7th in the top GHG emission countries, as Korea unyieldingly maintains its status same with the developing countries.

Korea's INDC is not just in the following five aspects.

First, it is wrong to use BAU instead of carbon budget where Korea should cut down about 1000GCO₂t. Korea now became a country which should not set the emission reduction goal by BAU. The government's press release also states that "the advanced countries set their INDC according to the absolute quantity of base year, while countries like Mexico, Gabon, Andorra and Morocco use BAU." Therefore, Korea's INDC submission by BAU means it holds its status as a developing country even in Post 2020.

Second, Korea's GHG emission reduction goal 37% consists of domestic reduction 25.7% and 11.3% through international markets. That is, about 30% of the reduction goal counts on the overseas countries. As the proportion of overseas reduction is carbon offset, the idea of emission trading does not make sense as a solution. There is no substance in the international carbon market mechanism, with its detailed rules still being negotiated. Korean government did not prepare specific action plans on how to decrease the overseas proportion of reduction or what financial sources to utilize.

Third, the government suggests nuclear power as a way to reduce GHG. As of November 2015, Korea has 25 nuclear power plants. In addition, 11 more plants are planned to be built until 2029, making 36 nuclear plants in total. However, as we have learned from the Fukushima disaster, nuclear power cannot be an alternative to climate change, as it has possibilities of radiation accidents.

Fourth, Korean government admits the exception that the emission reduction in industry section may not exceed 12% of BAU. How could someone reach the goal, if the mitigation goal of the industry section which emits the most GHG is limited to 12%? The goal setting process on INDC also seems to be unequally distributed.

Fifth, the report lacks the consensus on INDC. The government published 4 different INDC scenarios on June 11, and held a public hearing on 12. Then, on 30, the final decision was made. The short time span suggests that the government fundamentally did not endeavor to make people participate in the discussions for INDC. Also, the demands that the government should adopt absolute year basis rather than BAU were completely ignored.

As of 2012, Korea ranked 7th in CO₂ emissions (burning of fuel), 16th in GHG cumulative emissions, and 6th in OECD GHG emissions per capita. At the moment, the attitude of Korean government is like a frog who is enjoying hot bath in a boiling pot. We, Green Party Korea, is ashamed of the Korean government's INDC submission.

We have an alternative objective. Although the GDP of Korea increased 3.3% in 2014, the GHG emissions had decreased. This is a global trend. China also attained 7% of economic growth last year, but the GHG emissions decreased about 2%. Consequently, Korea should start to reduce GHG emissions before 2020, and cut it down to minimum -10% or maximum -33.3% of 2005. The minimum percentage is simply an extension of the reduction goal for 2020 (-4% of 2005) which was established in 2009, and the maximum percentage is an aim that Korea as a member of OECD has to choose to contribute to the average global temperature control goal of 2°C and to show its responsibility and capacity to the international society.



In order to accomplish these objectives, we need more radical GHG emission reduction policies. First of all, we need to stop the public investment on coal industry and withdraw the expected constructions of coal-fired power plants. We need to stop making nuclear power plants, as well. Instead, we should move on to the post-nuclear era and achieve the GHG emission reductions at the same time, by means of innovative energy saving and efficiency improvement, and the expansion of renewable energy.

Green Party Korea will join the worldwide 'People's Climate March' on November 29, and as a member of Global Greens, will take part in the COP21 that is to be held in December in Paris, France. We will accomplish the 'average global temperature rise control to 1.5~2°' through international cooperation with the Green Party around the world, will publicize the problems of cunning INDC report by Korean government, and will urge the government to step in real change. The government that is obsessed with the protection of the industrial world will encounter fierce resistance from Global Greens who strive for the future of the earth and the humanity. The Green Party will stand by the earth.

November 12, 2015
Green Party Korea