and Malaysia. Many island nations around the world will nearly, if not completely, perish.

Scientists are still working on determining exactly how much the Earth is warming due to human activity and how high the sea will rise, but there's no valid argument against that these are happening. The catastrophic consequences are widely acknowledged.[8]

According to the United Nations: "Over the next decades, it is predicted that billions of people, particularly those in developing countries, face shortages of water and food and greater risks to health and life as a result of climate change."[9]

But it's not just about the future. Climate change is happening right now, victimising millions of people and other species around the world and causing irreversible damages to the environment. For example, more frequent cyclones and sustained droughts are present realities that are consistent with what scientists have been predicting and equating with climate change.

When a cyclone hits Bangladesh or a drought in an African country is reported on television, we see the actual images of a suffering humanity and a devastated Earth. Even though those images last only for a few fleeting moments, the suffering and devastation continue.

This means, every greenhouse gas emitting power plant that goes up -- anywhere in the world -- far more than the supposed benefit it promises for a few, carries with it the decree of death and destruction for many who are disenfranchised, who'll not benefit from it, but become its innocent victims.

The sufferers can no longer be categorised merely as "victims of nature" -- to be to be treated with condescension and charity. Instead, the awareness is stemming from legal and human rights perspectives demanding -- and to deliver through action, not just promises -- compensation; support for mitigation, adaptation and renewable energy technologies; migration rights; and equitable justice. And it's demanding the developed countries to curb their own consumption patterns responsible for climate change. This is inevitable and morally justifiable.

In Bangladesh, one of the world's most densely populated countries -- an estimated 150 million people (2008) with a 3 percent growth rate -- living on a 144,000 sq km area (smaller than Iowa), the land areas not submerged will face an unthinkable explosion of environmental refugee crisis, civil unrest, diseases, and salinity and other contamination of water and cropland. Hydro-electricity contributes 3 percent of the total energy supply in Bangladesh. However, mainly due to inappropriate topology and plant size, the only major hydro-electric power generating facility, the Kaptai project on Karnaphuli River in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) area, has turned into an ecologically damaging and unreliable power source.

Consequently, once touted as an energy and economic solution, it's turning into a long-term economic liability, as well -- outstripping its

