

CLIMATE ADAPTATION FINANCE

The gap that can save millions

RIZA BERNABE

The world must not miss a step in Morocco. CoP 22 must move us closer to a world where farmers, and vulnerable communities, are resilient and no longer at the mercy of the rapidly changing climate; where greenhouse gas emissions are in check and development

THE entry into force of the Paris Agreement on November 4 marks an important milestone in the long journey to address the climate crisis. Ninety four (94) countries, accounting for at least 55 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, ratified the agreement barely a year before it was adopted in Paris in 2015. This is indicative of the growing pressure on all parties, especially on governments, to find a solution to this global challenge. However, while this is a positive and welcome development, it is only a first step. The real challenge lies in ensuring that Paris agreement is able to avert catastrophic climate change and enhance climate resilience, especially among the poor and most vulnerable.

The agreement's entry into force comes a few days before the climate meeting - the 22nd Conference of Parties (CoP 22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - in Marrakech, Morocco. CoP 22 is being pitched as a "conference of action and implementation" as its main task is to set the rules on how to implement and chart progress on what had been agreed in Paris.

Though the coming conference in Morocco is decidedly low key compared to last year's high profile meeting in Paris, its outcome is important as it lays down the ground for countries' action to reduce greenhouse gas emission and limit temperature rise to 1.5 percent. It is also a significant moment to push developed countries to keep their pledge to allocate resources that will help vulnerable people in developing countries - those who have the least contribution to climate change but are most affected by it - to adapt and build their climate resilience. UNFCCC President Patricia Espinosa noted that in Morocco "many issues need to be progressed", including creating "confidence among developing countries that the USD 100 billion pledged to them by developed countries is truly building."

The need for concrete actions to cut greenhouse emissions and provide climate finance to support climate adaptation in developing countries is



SOURCE: ENVIRONMENTAL-WATCH

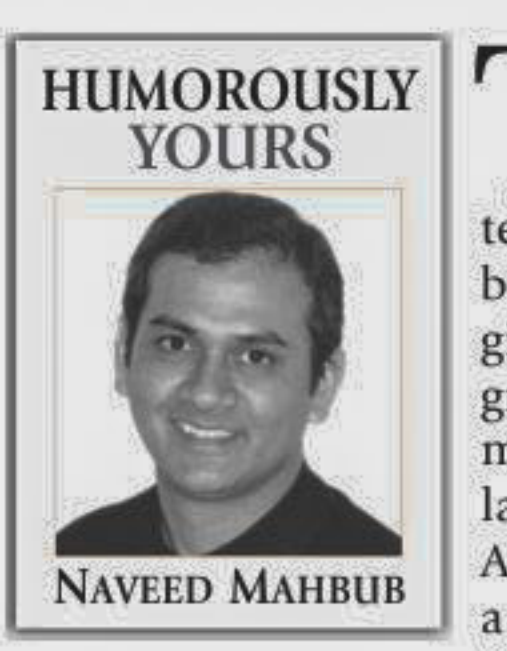
very important and urgent for small farmers in Asia where the agricultural sector is heavily affected by climate change. Climate change impacts in the form of increasing water stress, rising temperature and higher frequency and intensity of extreme weather events have resulted to a decline in crop yields, especially for food staples like rice, wheat and maize. According to Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC (AR5) Vietnam, one of the world's largest producers and exporters of rice, is in danger of having 7 percent of its agricultural lands submerged as a result of rising sea levels. Saltwater intrusion is also threatening rice production in Myanmar. In some parts of Southeast Asia, rain has consistently been below average since 2009, spurring droughts in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Myanmar and Vietnam, leading to decreased yields and increased pest and

disease infestation. All these have devastating impacts on the livelihoods of small farmers in the region, and their ability to produce food. It is projected that climate change will put around 49 million more people in the Asia/Pacific region at risk of hunger by 2020. Women, who play an important role in producing food and in meeting the food security needs of families, are especially affected by climate change. Unfortunately there are very little resources to help poor people, especially farmers, to adapt to climate change. Only 16 percent of international climate finance goes to adaptation, and of this, only USD4 to USD 6 billion comes from public finance. The gap in available climate finance for adaptation is expected to grow bigger. The UNEP estimates that by 2030, the cost of adaptation can cost developing

countries USD 140 to USD 300 billion per year. In Morocco, climate negotiators from Asia must work together to help protect small scale men and women farmers and food producers from the negative impacts of climate change by pushing developed countries to fill in this adaptation gap. There is a need to ensure that there is a meaningful mechanism to increase adaptation finance so that developing countries do not have to divert much needed resources intended for health, education, support for agriculture, and other social and economic programmes - services that are essential to development, and reducing poverty and inequality - to addressing climate impacts. They must take the lead in ensuring that there is progress in the way developed countries report and count adaptation finance in order to

promote greater transparency and accountability in the latter's commitments. Additionally, they should promote standards and practices to make sure that climate finance goes to projects that truly respond to the adaptation needs of vulnerable people, especially small scale men and women farmers. The world must not miss a step in Morocco. CoP 22 must move us closer to a world where farmers, and vulnerable communities, are resilient and no longer at the mercy of the rapidly changing climate; where greenhouse gas emissions are in check and development is fueled by clean energy; and where the devastating effects, and catastrophic prospects, of worsening climate change are nothing but a distant memory. The writer is the regional policy and research lead at the Asia programme of Oxfam.

The Land of Possibilities



NAVEED MAHBUB

HUMOROUSLY YOURS THE ultra sonogram couldn't tell if it would be a boy or a girl. After a grueling 18 months of labour pain, America delivers a golden (haired) boy. Exit the Dragon, Enter the Tiger while Barack prepares to go back to his barracks. That ain't too bad, considering that as part of Trump's demuslimification process, Obama may be sent back to Kenya. Surprising beyonds, Trump grabbed votes just like he grabbed... Meanwhile, it was so quiet at the Clinton headquarters that you could hear an email being deleted. I guess it's too early to have a female US President since it's been 'only' 96 years since America got its suffrage. So, slow down America, Trump is here, as America gets its sufferage. Good thing America didn't listen to Trump's rant in 2012 (one of many) about abolishing the electoral college system, otherwise who would he have thanked this time? Clinton gets the popular votes, resulting in an outcome that could be the worst, but is not the first. America makes the fastest planes,

fastest microprocessors, fastest athletes, fastest cars, fastest bucks, but when it comes to doing away with the electoral college system, it is the slowest. So, in the paragon of democracy, every vote does NOT count as the swingers and the bouncers decide. It is these very voters that Trump focused on that the Clinton camp neglected. America, you still don't get it? The pundits are still scratching their heads - what happened? Hey, start watching Zee TV soap operas which, relatively speaking, probably make more sense. November 9, 2016. A new dawn in America as the reality sinks in - 11/9 is the new 9/11. 9/11 - Never Forget. 11/9 - Always Regret. But the Democrats are wasting no time. With the tears still wet, they have come up with their 2020 campaign slogan: Make America Great Again! Meanwhile, Canadian border patrol is on the lookout for illegal Americans while Europe braces itself for another migrant crisis - from America. Angela Merkel may seriously contemplate building a wall, paid for by America. By the way Mr. Trump, the only type of women you can now deal with are the likes of Angela Merkel, Theresa May, Aung San Suu Kyi... Oh one more thing Mr. Trump, when it comes to the Congress or the Senate, you can't just say "you're fired!"



Many voters are on the streets, protesting the President elect. Hey, how about a new DV (Disenfranchised Voter) immigrant visa programme for these US citizens interested in the Bangladeshi green card (and eventually green passport)? Oh, and airlines are offering special discounted roundtrip airfares to major US cities from around the world - travel must be completed by January 20, 2017. Trump may make George W. Bush seem like Mother Teresa. Speaking of G. W. Bush, it is karma - he will now experience firsthand what it feels like being citizen Bush with a clone (you can read that as 'clown' too) in the White House. Let's look at the brighter side. For the next four years, we comedians are in business. Then again, it could very well be that the world famous Comedy Store on Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood is now on 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC. To be fair, America was faced with choosing between Herpes and Syphilis. The outcome - America used to be the Land of Opportunities but it is now the Land of Possibilities - oh ANYTHING is possible. The writer is an engineer at Ford & Qualcomm USA and CEO of IBM & Nokia Siemens Networks Bangladesh turned comedian (by choice), the host of ABC Radio's Good Morning Bangladesh and the founder of Naveed's Comedy Club. E-mail: naveed@naveedmahbub.com

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QUOTABLE Quote WILLIAM BLAKE If the doors of perception were cleansed everything would appear to man as it is, infinite.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH ACROSS 1 Lama's land 6 Without face value 11 Curacao's neighbor 12 Got up 13 Foundations 14 Arrive 15 Ticks off 17 Delighted 18 Breathe loudly 20 Jacob's twin 22 Hearty quaff 23 Spirit sessions 26 Dogie catcher 28 Ginza setting 29 Gist 31 Grass coater 32 Whip 33 Tops 34 Champagne choice 36 Magnetic metal 38 Slowly, in scores 40 Central 43 Sam, for one 44 Irritate 45 Clear sky 46 Misspoke DOWN 1 Keyboard key 2 Nest egg acct. 3 Meeting with eating 4 Reviewer Roger 5 Gofers work 6 Carp 7 Pizzeria herb 8 Bring-a-dish event 9 Indian's home 10 Tear 16 View 18 Blanched 19 Sighed cry 21 Fill 23 Family members 24 Took in 25 Plants 27 Mariners' home 30 Letter before psi 33 Antisocial one 34 Depressed 35 Tony-winning musical 37 Fully developed 39 Above, poetically 41 Adam's madam 42 Danger signal

BEETLE BAILEY by Mort Walker STOP ARGUING GUYS! HE STARTED IT! NO, YOU DID! YOU'VE BEEN ARGUING SINCE YOU WERE BORN! YOU WERE ARGUING IN THE WOMB! YOUR GRAND-PARENTS... THEY'LL GO ON TO THEIR CAVE MAN ANCESTORS

BABY BLUES by Kirkman & Scott WELL, I GOTTA GO. OKAY, IT WAS NICE TO MEET YOU. I'LL NEVER WASH THIS HAND AGAIN. I'M NOT SURE YOU EVER WASHED IT TO BEGIN WITH.