

Towards an Effective Post-2012 Climate Regime

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The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (1992)

- ✿ Adopted in 1992, went into effect in 1994, and ratified by 192 Parties
- ✿ Obligates its Parties to take actions to protect the climate system on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, with the developed Parties to take the lead,
- ✿ The (developed country) Parties included in Annex I to stabilize their GHG emissions at their 1990 levels
- ✿ The (developed country) Parties included in Annex II to provide financial assistance and technology transfer to the developing countries.

The Kyoto Protocol to UNFCCC (1997)

- ✿ Adopted at COP 3 in 1997, ratified by 187 countries, excluding the United States.
- ✿ Annex A lists six GHGs
- ✿ Annex B lists reduction commitments for 38 Parties to FCCC Annex I (except Turkey and Belarus) for the first commitment period (2008~12), -5.2% relative to the 1990 levels on the average.
- ✿ Defines 3 flexibility mechanisms: IET, CDM and JI.
- ✿ Provides for deliberation on the commitment of the Annex I Parties beyond the first commitment period to begin 7 years before the expiration of this period (i.e., in 2006).

Bali Road Map (2007)

- ✿ Adopted at COP13/MOP3 in 2007, charts the course for a new negotiating process designed to tackle climate change for completion by 2009 in Copenhagen
- ✿ Includes the **Bali Action Plan** adopted by COP13, launching the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action for implementation of the Convention up to, and beyond, 2012:
 - A shared vision, including a LT global goal for emission reductions (by 2050)
 - Enhanced action on mitigation of climate change, including nationally appropriate mitigation commitments by all developed countries, and nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) by developing countries [in the context of sustainable development supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity building in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner]
- ✿ Agreed to establish and conduct the process, the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) (**Kyoto Protocol Track**). 5

The Bali Action Plan: Significance

- ✿ Bali Action Plan addresses two problems of the Kyoto Protocol [*Trevor Houser*].
 - Requires mitigation commitments from both developed and developing countries, subject to meaningful financial assistance to help poor countries reduce emissions and adapt to climate change.
- ✿ Kyoto Protocol applies legally binding emission reductions only to the developed countries. [*exemption of all developing countries from mandatory targets*] These countries accounted for 60 % of emissions in 1992 but will account for only 3% of the global growth in emissions going forward.
- ✿ United States, the largest emitter, is not a party to the Kyoto Protocol [*non-ratification by US*].

The COP 15 in Copenhagen (2009)

- ✿ Failed to conclude the negotiation on the post-2012 regime, extending the deadline to COP 16 to be held in Cancun in Dec. 2010
- ✿ 'Friends of the Chair' group of 28 countries(+EU) drafted a 'Copenhagen Accord' and sought its acceptance as a COP decision by all 192 Parties.
- ✿ Blocked by 6 countries (Bolivia, Cuba, Venezuela, Sudan, Nicaragua, Tuvalu), the final plenary just took note of it.
- ✿ The secretariat asked those countries wishing to be 'associated' with the accord notify their intention by January 31, 2010. Thus far, 138 countries, including the 27-member EU, are likely to or have engaged with the accord, representing 86.76% of global emissions while 8 countries representing 2.09% of global emissions will not.
[USCAN]

The Copenhagen Accord [Wikipedia]

- ✿ Recognizes "the scientific view that the increase in global temperature should be below 2 degrees Celsius", requiring deep cuts in emissions, in a context of sustainable development.
- ✿ States that "enhanced action and international cooperation on adaptation is urgently required to... reduce vulnerability and build.. resilience in developing countries"
- ✿ Agrees that developed countries (Annex I Parties) would "commit to economy-wide emissions targets for 2020" to be submitted by 31 January 2010, to be listed in Appendix I of the accord, and agrees that these Parties to the Kyoto Protocol would strengthen their existing targets
- ✿ Agrees that developing nations (non-Annex I Parties) would "implement mitigation actions"(NAMAs) to slow growth in their carbon emissions, submitting these to be listed in Appendix II of the accord, by 31 January 2010
- ✿ Agrees that developing countries would report those actions once every two years via the UN climate change secretariat, subjected to their domestic MRV, with NAMAs seeking international support to be subject to international MRV ('NAMA registry')

The Copenhagen Accord (continued)

- ✿ On assistance to the developing countries:
 - Agrees that developed countries would raise funds of \$30 billion from 2010-2012 of new and additional resources for developing countries ('fast track financing')
 - Agrees a "goal" for the world to raise \$100 billion per year by 2020, from "a wide variety of sources", to help developing countries cut carbon emissions (mitigation)
 - Establishes a Copenhagen Green Climate Fund, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism, "to support projects, program, policies and other activities in developing countries related to mitigation", and to creates a High Level Panel to this end
 - Establishes a Technology Mechanism "to accelerate technology development and transfer...guided by a country-driven approach"
- ✿ Calls for "an assessment of the implementation of this Accord to be completed by 2015... This would include consideration of strengthening the long-term goal", for example to limit temperature rises to 1.5 degrees.

The Copenhagen Accord: Significance

[Robert Falkner, Hannes Sephan & John Vogler]

- ✿ Accepted the need to hold mean temperature increases below 2 degrees C.
- ✿ Endorsed the dual-track climate negotiations under the UNFCCC.
- ✿ Contains in its Annexes the first (non-binding) pledges by all major economies to rein in emissions, including non-Annex I countries.
- ✿ Establishes the principles for a system of international MRV and paves the way for an increase in future funding for developing countries.
- ✿ Trevor Houser (PIIE) evaluated the environmental impact of the listed national actions and concluded that if countries follow through on their pledges and follow on with more aggressive actions, it could be possible to keep global temperature increases below 2 degrees C.
 - If the promised financing is realized, global emission will be reduced further and the most vulnerable countries will be better equipped to adapt to climate change.

From Copenhagen to Cancun: Challenges

- ✿ The Copenhagen Accord is not legally binding and not clear in foreseeing the conclusion of a legally binding agreement. It is not very committing. It failed to give a clear message to industry [FT]:
 - Companies feel that the future is not clear enough for them to invest in green production.
 - The system of carbon emissions trading system has been dealt a blow.
- ✿ Negotiators have been continuing *unsuccessfully* on:
 - Who, between the developed and the developing, should first strengthen their emission reduction commitments, and how they would each do so; and,
 - How to implement the financial assistance to the developing countries as well as administer the MRV of their NAMAs.
- ✿ And there are even more fundamental difficulties to be overcome:
 - US, etc., vs. BASIC countries on 'whether all countries should be legally bound'
 - Even if the major players can reach agreement, can this secure the consensus of all 192 parties?
- ✿ These difficulties are unlikely to be overcome any time soon. The negotiating process is likely to continue beyond Cancun.

Way Forward to Cancun and Beyond

- ✿ Todd Stern, the U.S. Special Envoy for Climate Change (May 18, 2010)
 - For all its shortcomings, the UN FCCC should remain the central forum for climate action because it has history, credibility and inclusiveness on its side.
 - Should we face an enduring deadlock in the UNFCCC, however, that institution will inevitably begin to lose its credibility. We should all do everything in our power to make it work.
- ✿ So, we may support the UN process by setting up and mobilizing *ad hoc* groupings to create “coalition of the willing” to provide political leadership on mitigation, which could have a spillover effect on the UN negotiating process. [Thierry Soret/UNDP]
 - G20 Energy Ministers Meeting & Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate Change
 - APEC ELM, APEC Energy Ministers Meeting & East Asia Summit (=ASEAN+8)

‘Green Growth Economies Alliance’ as the Ultimate Solution

- ✻ The ultimate obstacle in reaching international agreement on climate change is lack of sufficient political support at home in major emitter countries for the necessary international commitments.
- ✻ The domestic support for those commitments may be created launching the green growth strategy at home.
 - Green growth seeks to create new growth engine out of aggressive measures to transform the energy system and invest in adaptation to climate change.
 - This would create support for proactive measures to reduce emissions at home and to create a global carbon market.
- ✻ The group of like-minded green growth economies may form alliance to help one another in this regard as well as lead the others by setting examples, also sharing their experiences and best practices with them.

Korea's Green Growth Aspirations and International Contribution

- ✿ Korea has adopted 'low carbon green growth' as its new long-term development strategy in this spirit, launching a comprehensive 5-year plan for its effective implementation.
- ✿ Korea has launched an 'East Asia Climate Partnership' initiative in order to help Asian emerging countries undertake green growth projects as part of its ODA programs.
- ✿ Korea launched a Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) in June this year as an international think tank as well as an advisory institution to help emerging countries around the world undertake green growth policies and projects.
- ✿ Korea is also partnering with Denmark to create an alliance of green growth economies.
- ✿ Korea is bidding to host UNFCCC COP 18 in 2012



THANK YOU!