

# The global Concern

By Shadi Badawood

The global warming phenomenon is one of the most controversial global issues in globalization era, and it has changed the world's agenda, it has made scientists and many others to predict, undertake research and explore facts which might be inconvenient.

Marlo Lewis, a Senior Fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, wrote a critique of "An Inconvenient Truth", which states that Al Gore, former vice president of the United States of America, has exaggerated the need for renewable energy as a solution for global warming by saying that "Al Gore forecasts an increase in U.S. renewable energy production during 1990-2030 more than twice that projected by the U.S. Energy Information Administration" (*Lewis, 2006*). Lewis also claims that Al Gore was wrong when he said that people in some areas would evacuate their homes due to the rising of sea level, especially in Tuvalu. Lewis described the Kyoto Protocol as an unhelpful treaty which would increase problems rather than creating effective solutions for nations around the world and most policies in long term would be a "cure" worse than the alleged disease in the issue of global warming.

Lewis believes that the global integration among nations would not make that efficient progress to face the global warming, as long as leading countries such as the United States of America have not taken a serious action, and carbon cuts should not be our top priority. But can this pessimistic point of view solve the problem or lead the world to look for further solutions? However, the world has become more interdependent in the globalization matter in order to solve the common problems and remove barriers among nations, not only that but also most international organizations, unions and agreements may play a major role in global issues whether in developing or developed countries, moreover individuals should work together in groups to curb the global warming effects and let globalization work as it should be. This article would substantiate how Al Gore and others were correct regarding their perspectives toward the issue of global warming through four main points:

- 1-The evidence and effects of this issue
- 2- The international agenda for global warming.
- 3- Renewable energy as solution for developed as well as developing countries.
- 4- KYOTO protocol as a step forward.

### **Evidence and Effects**

The first point in the argument is the evidence and the effects of climate change, so the first environmental cause of global warming is the emissions of volcanic eruptions which prevent the sunlight and cause for a short time cooling in areas of the earth. When we talk about volcanoes we talk about some Carbon dioxide that emanate from volcanic eruptions and creates greenhouse gas, causing a warming effect. In other words, the deep of the earth contains rocks that are burnt by volcanoes and release CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere, also when we look at the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> which is estimated at over 130 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> each year, it can be said that volcanic eruptions is an important cause in global warming (*Moore, L 2007*).

The second environmental cause of global warming is that the trend of deforestation in order to provide bigger spaces around cities for commercial or residential purposes contributed to the increase of global warming. Thus, the shortage of plants is clear proof that carbon dioxide levels will climb in the atmosphere especially when the earth does not keep enough trees to transform the carbon dioxide into oxygen. Moreover, “the burning of wood and fossil fuels also gives rise to methane gases and carbon dioxide while agricultural and industrial processes produce nitrous oxide” (*Radoslaw, M 2009*).

Lawis claims that “There is no empirical evidence that man-made CO<sub>2</sub> is likely to cause a climate catastrophe”, but it is not so, an important cause of global warming is made by human who probably causes the most impact. "Addiction" of oils and gases for transportation purposes for a long time can affect the environment and make the air unhealthy. In addition, CO<sub>2</sub> comes from burning fossil fuels (*Natural Causes, 2007*). “A change in the global climate is now taking

place, mainly because of the burning by humans, of large amounts of fossil fuels – coal, oil and natural gas”.

Melting glaciers and ice caps are major factors that cause the level of the oceans to rise, moreover water expands when its temperature increase. The evidence for this explanation is that over the past century, sea levels have risen about 8 inches. Therefore, what Al Gore was warning is somehow correct, because some coastal cities will be evacuated due to the gradual raising of waters and the warming of the earth’s climate. In addition, “sixteen of the largest cities with populations over 10 million are located in coastal regions”, some solutions have been suggested like building dikes, but some of these cities are located in poor countries such as Bangladesh, and they do not have the ability to do so. In other words, this is a serious situation and it needs an international action from different sectors such as government and private organizations to help and provide realistic solutions in face of growing concern (*Seitz, 2008*).

### **International Agenda**

The second point in this argument is the international agenda for global warming. As Lewis believes that global integration among nations would not create an efficient program to face the global warming, despite the fact is that Stiglitz states, in his book *The Economists’ Voice*, that the United States of America is part of the solution but not the whole solution. He proposes an agenda to deal with developed and developing countries regarding the global warming. Supporters of globalization believe that the world has become more interdependent, and nations took an important first step by adapting the “Kyoto” to curb the greenhouse gases that cause the global warming. The current efforts need some enforcement that prevents any country refusing to agree and conduct programs which will ensure emission gas reduction (*Stiglitz, 2008*).

In addition, as a support to what Al Gore says, it is an introductory that most rich nations give priority for global warming issue to discuss and take care of it more than other global issues. In developing countries, however, pollution is the most controversial issue, and it is caused by people who try to work and survive. Agriculture sector suffers from a shortage of public awareness of sustainability due to illegal deforestation, soil erosion and habitat loss for animals and plants (*Lomborg 2009*).

## **Renewable Energy**

Lewis disagrees with Al Gore about the solution of renewable energy to overcome global warming, but the issue is not as much as Lewis thinks. Energy is considered the world's need at this time and in the future. An alternative to oil, gas and coal as well as being a cheaper and "cleaner" methods in order to avoid what nations suffer from, especially the addiction of fuels (*Ferrey. S & Cabraal. A, 2006*).

The reality proves that the need of renewable energy is a huge demand. For instance the world's largest renewable source of electricity is hydroelectric power plants which convert the kinetic energy contained in falling water into electricity, and it is considered 6% percent of worldwide energy supply. Besides, 5000 large dams have been built across the world, by the center of the 20th century, most of them in industrialized countries which are responsible of 75%, there were more than 45000 large dams by the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in more than 140 countries. Also, more than 90% of total national electric central supply in 24 countries is supplied by Hydropower and more than half of centralized electric supply in 63 countries" (*Ferrey. S & Cabraal. A, 2006*).

Since the electricity and transportation sectors are responsible for near on the use of renewable energy and the need for a green future. So," Goals for renewable are often stated in terms of a percentage of national energy" (Kutscher, 2007).

Now, what it should be considered is that politicians in governments and international organizations need to regulate strict rules that enforce the global treaty such as "Kyoto" for addressing global warming. Due to global warming can be described as catastrophe will affect the world and people; it is very hard to wait the action of reducing carbon emissions. This would encourage the deployment of renewable technologies and power among nations which can be conducted by environmental unions and organizations across the world (Kutscher, 2007).

Lewis claims that "Gore never considers the obvious moral objection to his agenda", has negative impacts on the world's poor. It is not easy to stabilize atmospheric carbon dioxide levels as long as developing countries do not limit their use of carbon-based energy. He also said that

“The Kyoto Protocol's advocates view the treaty as just a "first step" in a long march toward a de-carbonized future. But the global economy is moving in exactly the opposite direction. Demand for fossil energy is growing, especially in developing countries” (Lewis, 2007). However, there is a high demand and need of implementing renewable energy as solution for global warming not only in developed countries, but also in developing countries such as Thailand, it one of five developing nations has implemented renewable electric energy programs in order to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases. As a response to climate change risk and global treaties, small power producer programs have been developed to develop renewable energy in Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia and Vietnam. Moreover, as result of these circumstances, now, Asian developing countries contain roughly 60% of new power generation capacity financed ((Ferrey. S & Cabraal. A, 2006), *P67*).

### **The real Kyoto**

Another point of this argument that should be considered is the Kyoto protocol as step forward which has opponents and supporters. Actually, many American economists disagree with the Kyoto protocol which is supported by the United Nations, although it has been ratified by 160 countries. Those, who disagree with the treaty, describe it as excessively costly and environmentally ineffective, also most interested in this issue wanted the Kyoto to be more modified in its next commitment period in order to be consistent with economic goals and international politics (*Stiglitz, 2008*).

Al Gore also refers to that more than two thousand scientists have participated through “well organized scientific collaboration in the history of humankind” to warn the world of what may happen as well as the disasters that could cost nations a lot and more that what they expect.

In addition, everywhere in the world, the danger of climate change as global phenomenon is increasing day by day; and the debate over whether or not global warming is a real. It is over, also It is a catastrophe which is caused to some extent by human (*Obama, 2008*).

The integration among nations to face this crisis is required; and it has been obvious for a long time the warning about global warming. Moreover, it is time to enforce the regulations that curb

the effects of this disaster through the engagement with international protocols. The Kyoto treaty has not affect the economy of developing or developed countries directly, but it has given them the opportunities to choice the right future for the next generations by encouraging the alternative choices (*Gore, 2007*).

Globalization may increase the problems that affect nations around the world if countries have not dealt with it positively, so that needs a co-operation among governments and organizations to reduce the danger of these harms as well as overharvesting of natural resources, rather than contributing in causing global warming(*Ostrom, 2008*).

Globalization tries to fill gap among people or nations to address such global issue dilemmas. At this stage, globalization provides two concepts that may lead to a positive results, one is that it “prompts reactionary movements that reinforce parochial distinctions among people”. The second concept is that globalization in the issue climate change can enforce international attitudes by ignoring the relevance of ethnicity, locality, or nationhood as sources of identification. Therefore, the climate change issue will be solved in a global co-operation between developed and developing countries, especially, in the second commitment period of “Kyoto” (*Ostrom, 2008*).

Due to the interconnectedness of people worldwide, people in Africa or most developing countries will not challenge the climate change alone, this issue would be shared not only on agreement papers but in the realty as well (*Ostrom, 2008*).

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the causes of global warming and climate change in atmosphere do not simply result from human activity, they also occur naturally. Furthermore, there is doubt that nations in both developed and developing world are responsible for to some extent of this crisis that threatens the earth, people and ecosystem; and opportunities as well as choices are available to every single person in realty to take action toward the reduction of fuel consumption.

As has been mentioned in the argument above that the world has become more interdependent in the globalization matter in order to solve the common problems and remove barriers among nations, not only, but it is time for most international organizations, unions and agreements to influence the issue of whether in developing or developed countries, without harming their economies and interests.

For these reasons all governments should take into account the reduction of damage of global warming and provide new environmental solutions, as well as they should encourage the use of renewable energy which is considered the largest source on the earth and it can offer to humanity thousands and thousands of our daily needs in the real life.

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