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MAIN HIGHLIGHT

Growing Optimism Marks Cancún Climate Change Talks

The recent UN Climate Change Conference (COP16) in Cancún, Mexico concluded on a generally positive note as growing optimism replaced the disappointment that defined the 2009 talks in Copenhagen.

While there is still no legally binding agreement on carbon emissions reduction targets, Cancún has delivered agreements on the setting up of a Green Climate Fund for developing countries, the protection of tropical forests through Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) programmes and commitments to clean technology transfers. Although the talks were preceded by some criticism of unambitious goals, such humble expectations may have contributed to positive developments as negotiators appeared to have been more open to compromise. There were many laudable outcomes – from achieving agreements that are multilateral, to precipitating the momentum for action in areas such as reducing deforestation. However, negative sentiments still beleague the so-called Cancún Agreement, and the deal has been criticised as too modest to address the pressing challenges of climate change mitigation.

In addition, the future of the Kyoto Protocol (KP) is increasingly in doubt as Japan indicated that it would not sign to a new commitment under the former framework and suggested creating a fresh agreement. The uncertainty surrounding the KP, which is the most significant agreement on emissions regulation in the history of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process, is a major issue as the need for redoubled mitigation efforts is increasingly pressing. The international community now has one year left to realise a legally binding treaty, before the KP expires in 2012. While Cancún has provided a springboard for the 2011 climate talks in Durban, South Africa, the modest global deal must be complemented by robust actions in the future. Cautious optimism has returned to the negotiation process, however, and the prospects for progress in climate mitigation appear to have improved.

Additional Info:

- Morales, Alex and Stuart Biggs, 'Japan Says "No" to Extending Kyoto Emissions Treaty, Wants New Agreement', *Bloomberg*, 1 December 2010.
- 'COP16 from a Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Perspective: Asian Region', *PreventionWeb*, 2 December 2010.
- 'Mexico Hopeful for Cancún Climate Deals', *AFP*, 2 December 2010.
- 'State of Climate Crisis Report Launched in Cancún', *Beijing Review*, 5 December 2010.
- 'UN Climate Change Conference in Cancún Delivers Balanced Package of Decisions, Restores Faith in Multilateral Process', *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat*, 11 December 2010.
- Bond, Patrick, "'Climate Capitalism" Won at Cancún – Everyone Else Loses', *Links – International Journal of Socialist Renewal*, 12 December 2010.
- Vidal, John, 'Does the Cancún Agreement Show Climate Leadership?', *Guardian*, 13 December 2010.
- Carrington, Damian, 'Cancún Deal Leaves Hard Climate Tasks to Durban Summit in 2011', *Guardian*, 14 December 2010.
- Ladislav, Sarah O., 'Cancun Climate Negotiation', *Center for Strategic and International Studies*, 15 December 2010.
- Kunieda, Sumire, 'COP16 Climate Agreement Big on Evasive Words, Small on Taking Action', *The Mainichi Daily News*, 17 December 2010.
- Schwägerl, Christian and Gerald Traufetter, 'Germany Grows Tired of Leading Europe on Climate Change', *Spiegel Online*, 21

December 2010.

- Wang, Ruibin, 'Cancún Compromise', *Beijing Review*, 22 December 2010.

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CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND NATURAL DISASTERS



News & Commentaries

- 'Climate Change Increases Vulnerability of Planet to Persistent Organic Pollutants', *United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*, 7 December 2010.
- 'Climate Change Is about Water, but Missing from Agenda', *Global Water Partnership*, 10 December 2010.
- Phillips, Jen, 'How Children Suffer from Climate Change', *Mother Jones*, 10 December 2010.
- 'Ancient Technology Could Solve Climate Change Problem', *AsiaOne*, 13 December 2010.
- Palmer, Brian, 'Who's More Toxic, China or India?', *The Washington Post*, 14 December 2010.
- Fogarty, David, 'Preserving Forests Pays in a Warming World', *The Star*, 14 December 2010.
- Dorling, Philip and Richard Baker, 'South-east Asia Will Be Hardest Hit by Climate Change, ONA Predicts', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 December 2010.
- 'Bangkok One of Nine Asian Cities to Be Flooded within a Decade', *Pattaya Daily News*, 17 December 2010.
- Laksmana, Evan A., 'Climate Change and Regional Defence Forces: Is There a Connection?', *Eurasia Review*, 20 December 2010.

Selected Publications

- Asian Development Bank (ADB), 2010, *ADB Climate Change Programs: Facilitating Integrated Solutions in Asia and the Pacific*, Manila.

In assisting Asia and the Pacific to deal with climate change, the ADB's approach is to serve as a catalyst. This paper outlines the ADB's ongoing and emerging climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes developed in partnership with its member countries.

- Bodansky, Daniel and Elliot Diringer, 2010, *The Evolution of Multilateral Regimes: Implications for Climate Change*, Arlington: Pew Center on Global Climate Change.

This paper examines arrangements which are part of the international climate architecture and related issues, and explores the evolution of climate change regimes over the years. It concludes that an evolutionary process in multilateral regime-building is politically the most promising way forward.

- Zhuang, Juzhong, Suphachol Suphachalasai and Jindra Nuella Samson, 2010, *The Economics of Climate Change in Southeast Asia*, Asia Security Initiative Policy Series Working Paper No. 9, Singapore: RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies.

This paper presents an economic analysis of the impacts of climate change in Southeast Asia. It examines policy implications given the goals of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and underlines a few priorities for adaptation and mitigation actions.

Events and Announcements

- 'WATERCON 2011 – International Conference on Community Based Water Resource Management in Northeast India: Lessons from a Global Context', 28–30 January 2011, Assam, India.
- 'New Delhi International Conference on Cities and Climate Change', 21–22 February 2011, New Delhi, India.

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News & Commentaries

- Webb, Tim, 'Global Investment in Renewables to Total \$1.7 Trillion by 2020', *Guardian*, 8 December 2010.
- Jett, Jennifer, 'Indonesia Could Be Major Regional Player in Nuclear Power: IAEA Official', *Jakarta Globe*, 10 December 2010.
- Roberts, David, 'US Set for Wave of Coal Plant Closures, Report Says', *Guardian*, 14 December 2010.
- 'Manila to Explore Nuclear Energy', *The Straits Times*, 16 December 2010.
- Noyes, Thomas, 'What the Lawsuit against BP Can Achieve', *Guardian*, 16 December 2010.
- 'Huge Hydro Plant Starts Operation in Vietnam', *AFP*, 20 December 2010.
- 'Deadly Blast on Oil Pipeline in Mexico's Puebla State', *BBC News*, 20 December 2010.
- 'Over Half of New Buildings in North China Fail to Meet Energy-saving Standards: Report', *Xinhua*, 20 December 2010.
- Karim, Fariha, 'WikiLeaks Cables: US Pushed for Reopening of Bangladesh Coal Mine', *Guardian*, 21 December 2010.
- Paton, James, 'Australia Clean Energy Project Growth Slows on Fund Constraints', *Bloomberg*, 21 December 2010.
- 'Coal Shortage Causes Power Cuts in China', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 21 December 2010.

Selected Publications

- International Resources Group (IRG), 2010, *Power Factor: Policy Implications for the Scale-up of CFL Programs*, Bangkok: United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

This report equips policymakers with information on the potential benefits, costs and risks of using high power factor (HPF) compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). It also identifies issues that need to be factored in during policy consideration. One of its conclusions is that HPF CFL does not deliver additional value in most cases. Therefore, policymakers need to clarify and prioritise policy goals, and evaluate local infrastructure and market conditions when making decisions on regulations or procurement related to CFL power factor.

- Kempener, Ruud, Laura D. Anadon and Jose Condor, 2010, *Governmental Energy Innovation Investments, Policies, and Institutions in the Major Emerging Economies: Brazil, Russia, India, Mexico, China, and South Africa*, Energy Technology Innovation Policy Discussion Paper No. 2010-16, Cambridge: Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University.

This paper studies the implications of the rise of six emerging economies – Brazil, Russia, India, Mexico, China and South Africa – for energy technology innovation (ETI) at both the national and international levels. It also provides data and relevant information on ETI and energy research, development and demonstration (RD&D) investments. It concludes by identifying areas for future cooperation and coordination among the six economies.

- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), 2010, *Assessment Report on Energy Efficiency Institutional Arrangements in Asia*, ESCAP Policy Discussion Paper, Bangkok.

This report argues that energy efficiency is crucial in ensuring sustainable development in Asia. It identifies the challenges in and opportunities for promoting energy efficiency. It also looks at some of the regional institutional arrangements concerned with energy efficiency such as the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and the Energy Centre of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Events and Announcements

- 'World Future Energy Summit', 17–20 January 2011, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
- 'Nuclear Power Asia 2011', 18–19 January 2011, Hanoi, Vietnam.
- 'Global Biofuels Summit 2011', 26–27 January 2011, Barcelona, Spain.



News & Commentaries

- Goldberg, Suzanne, 'Climate Change Could Push Staple Food Prices Up 130% – Study', *Guardian*, 1 December 2010.
- Thien, Rachel, 'Agriculture, Fisheries Development Key to Food Security', *BruDirect.com*, 2 December 2010.
- Doyle, Alister, 'Ocean Acidification Threat to Food Security – UN', *AlertNet*, 2 December 2010.
- 'UNGA Adopts Resolutions on Oceans and Sustainable Fisheries', *Climate Change Policy & Practice*, 7 December 2010.
- 'Nepal: Land Tenure Reforms "Urgently Needed"', *IRIN*, 8 December 2010.
- Atehortúa, Lucia, 'Urban Biofarming: Answer to the World's Food Insecurity?', *OneWorld South Asia*, 11 December 2010.
- 'Climate-smart Agriculture to Eradicate World Hunger: FAO', *The Hindu*, 13 December 2010.
- 'Indonesia Seeks to Wean Citizens Off All-rice Diet', *Taipei Times*, 13 December 2010.
- 'Global Effort Launched to Save Wild Food Sources Threatened by Climate Change', *EIN News*, 14 December 2010.
- 'Experts Say Food Insecurity a "Growing Threat" to Pakistan', *Daily Times*, 15 December 2010.
- 'Rice Yields Better with Adaptation to Drought', *Charles Sturt University News*, 15 December 2010.
- Jadhav, Radheshyam, 'Urban Sprawl on Farmland is Not Healthy', *The Times of India*, 16 December 2010.
- 'Mutants Crop Could Help Address World Food Security', *The Financial Express*, 17 December 2010.
- 'China to Invest 100b Yuan for Food Security', *China Daily*, 18 December 2010.
- Nakata, Hiroko, 'Fears Growing over Land Grabs', *The Japan Times*, 18 December 2010.
- Swaminathan, M. S., 'Managing the Anticipated Food Crisis', *The Hindu*, 19 December 2010.
- 'Climate Change Spurs Seeds Demand', *Bangkok Post*, 20 December 2010.
- Zahid, Shamsul Huq, 'Meeting the Challenges of Future Food Security', *The Financial Express*, 20 December 2010.
- 'Indonesia: Lots of Food – and Malnutrition – in the East', *IRIN*, 20 December 2010.

Selected Publications

- World Growth, 2010, *Palm Oil and Food Security: The Impediment of Land Supply, How Environmentalists and 'No Conversion' Are Inflating Land Prices*, Arlington.

This report argues that proposals to reduce the amount of land converted for agriculture under schemes such as Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Plus (REDD+) will have a detrimental impact on global food prices and hunger levels. It examines the debate over the environmental impact of palm oil, looking at how 'no conversion' proposals directly harm people living in poverty in developing nations.

- Lerner, Amy M. and Hallie Eakin, 2010, 'An Obsolete Dichotomy? Rethinking the Rural–urban Interface in Terms of Food Security and Production in the Global South', *The Geographical Journal*, December.

This paper explores the link between rural and urban environments and focuses on the emerging geographical spaces comprising of both of those worlds. It examines how such peri-urban spaces could affect livelihoods and food security. The authors propose a modified livelihood framework to evaluate the contexts in which food production may be maintained despite the existence of factors typically associated with its demise.

- Naylor, Rosamond L. and Walter P. Falcon, 2010, 'Food Security in an Era of Economic Volatility', *Population and Development Review*, Vol. 36, No. 4, pp. 693–723.

This article analyses the price fluctuations of international commodities, assesses food policies in response to those fluctuations and explores the food security implications of variable prices on low-income groups. It argues that price spikes frequently result in self-sufficiency policies that create even more price volatility. Attempts by governments to stabilise prices also often lead to greater food insecurity among poor households.

Events and Announcements

- 'Asian Pacific Aquaculture 2011', 17–20 January 2011, Kerala, India.
- 'International Conference on Preparing Agriculture for Climate Change 2011', 6–8 February 2011, Ludhiana, India.
- '3rd World Grains Trade Summit', 16–17 February 2011, Singapore.
- 'Modernizing the Asian Rice Industry', 16–17 February 2011, Bangkok, Thailand.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SECURITY



News & Commentaries

- Grosse, Sara, 'Experts: More Funds Needed for the Fight against Pandemic Diseases', *Today*, 30 November 2010.
- Yusufzai, Ashfaq, 'Afghans Receive Free AIDS Treatment in Pakistan', *Central Asia Online*, 30 November 2010.
- Tan, Ee Lyn, 'Bayer Expands Research Work to Fight Cancer in Asia', *Reuters*, 1 December 2010.
- Chan, Rachel, 'Dengue Vaccine to Be Ready in Five Years', *AsiaOne*, 3 December 2010.
- Flynn, Kerry M., 'Haitian Cholera Strain from South Asia', *The Harvard Crimson*, 13 December 2010.
- Joelving, Frederik, '40 Years Later, Nagasaki Bomb Still Causes Disease', *Reuters*, 14 December 2010.
- Kelland, Kate and Ben Hirschler, 'The Cost of a Malaria-free World', *National Post*, 14 December 2010.
- Simmins, Charles, 'Haiti's Cholera Death Toll Climbs', *Associated Content*, 14 December 2010.
- Sinha, Nishant, 'Tie-up for New Kala-azar Drugs', *The Times of India*, 14 December 2010.
- Wang, Shirley S. and Jonathan D. Rockoff, 'Drug Research Gets New Asian Focus', *The Wall Street Journal*, 14 December 2010.
- 'Two More Superbug Cases Confirmed in Korea', *Chosun Ilbo*, 15 December 2010.
- 'Trials to Find Cure for HIV in Final Stage', *AsiaOne*, 15 December 2010.
- 'Asian Life Expectancy Rising but Food Shortages Remain: OECD', *AFP*, 21 December 2010.
- 'India Losing US\$53.18 Billion due to Poor Hygiene: World Bank Report', *Bernama*, 22 December 2010.

Selected Publications

- World Health Organization (WHO), 2010, *World Health Statistics 2010*, Geneva.

This is an annual compilation of health-related data and indicators from the WHO's 193 member states. It includes a summary of progress towards the health-related Millennium Development Goals and targets. Areas covered include: mortality and burden of disease; cause-specific mortality and morbidity; selected infectious diseases; health service coverage; risk factors; workforce, infrastructure and essential medicines; health expenditure; health inequities; and demographic and socioeconomic statistics.

- Bennett, Sara, Sachiko Ozawa and Krishna D. Rao, 2010, 'Which Path to Universal Health Coverage? Perspectives on the World Health Report 2010', *PLoS Medicine*, Vol. 7, No. 11.

This article assesses the key policy recommendations of the World Health Report (WHR) 2010 towards the achievement of universal health coverage. It argues that although the WHR is a breakthrough in that it provides a wealth of empirical evidence to support decision-making on health financing, much more needs to be done to inform the difficult implementation and political choices that governments need to make in order to make universal health coverage a sustainable reality.

- Boerma, J. Ties, Colin Mathers and Carla Abou-Zahr, 2010, 'WHO and Global Health Monitoring: The Way Forward', *PLoS Medicine*, Vol. 7, No. 11.

This article examines the role of the World Health Organization (WHO) in global health monitoring and offers suggestions on how it can take a more proactive stance in the field. It argues that this is important because the WHO is well-positioned to continue to play a lead role in statistical estimation work due to its constitutional mandate, its accountability to member states, its ability to mobilise global expertise, and its unique position to generate productive interactions between global monitoring and country information systems.

Events and Announcements

- '128th WHO Executive Board Session', 17–25 January 2011, Geneva, Switzerland.
- 'The Second Global Forum on Human Resources for Health', 25–29 January 2011, Bangkok, Thailand.

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About the Centre:

The Centre for NTS Studies of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies was inaugurated by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan in May 2008. The Centre maintains research in the fields of Food Security, Climate Change, Energy Security, Health Security as well as Internal and Cross Border Conflict. It produces policy-relevant analyses aimed at furthering awareness and building capacity to address NTS issues and challenges in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. The Centre also provides a platform for scholars and policymakers within and outside Asia to discuss and analyse NTS issues in the region.

In 2009, the Centre was chosen by the MacArthur Foundation as a lead institution for the MacArthur Asia Security Initiative, to develop policy research capacity and recommend policies on the critical security challenges facing the Asia-Pacific.

The Centre is also a founding member and the Secretariat for the Consortium of Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia). More information on the Centre can be found at www.rsis.edu.sg/nts