

CLIMATE ALERT

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Leaders of Asia and the Pacific Call for Public-Private Partnership to Develop Benign Energy Technologies



Seated front row, L. to R: Hon. S.S. Razi (India), Dr. G.O.P. Obasi (WMO), Hon. S.Y.R. Gilani, (Pakistan), Prime Minister M.C. Korman (Vanuatu), Hon. S. R. Ali (Bangladesh), Sen. Heherson Alvarez (Philippines), Prof. Zou Jingmeng (PRC)

Representatives of 33 nations drafted and signed a Manila Declaration expressing concern over the vulnerabilities of the Asia Pacific Region "to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise on agricultural, biological diversity, peoples and cultures," at an Asian Leaders' conference in the Philippines, February 17 - 20.

The declaration will be submitted to the First Conference of the Parties (COP1) of the Framework Convention on Climate Change in Berlin starting March 28. It calls for:

- The development of an international partnership utilizing both private and public sources of capital to increase the use of greenhouse gas benign energy technologies.
- Implementation of new and innovative funding mechanisms to provide small amounts of credit on a

massive scale for renewable energy and energy efficiency.

- An enhanced commitment by developed countries of energy research spending for renewable energy technology, demand side management and energy efficiency.

- Rapid removal of domestic agricultural subsidies by industrial countries because of their harmful impacts on developing economies, driving the migration of people to fragile land, forest clearing for grazing or planting, growing of inappropriate crops. Some of the freed funds in industrial countries could be plowed back into investment in energy efficiency and renewables in developing countries.

- Encouragement by national governments of local government participation in the formulation of National Climate Action Plans.

- Adoption by the Conference of the Parties of the Draft protocol of the Alliance of Small Island States for

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(Because of the importance of the Manila Conference addresses of Premier Bhutto and President Ramos, we are printing the full texts — Ed.)

ADDRESS OF PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER BENAIZIR BHUTTO

ADDRESS OF PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT FIDEL V. RAMOS

President Ramos, distinguished guests from all over Asia and Pacific, Friends of the Earth.

On behalf of the people and government of the Philippines, I bid you welcome to Manila.

We gather together here in Manila, not just to talk about the past, but to change the future. We gather together, representatives of the Asian-Pacific region, to take charge of our environmental future.

That a developing country is hosting a conference on so complex a subject should surprise no one. Developing and underdeveloped countries are the most vulnerable and least capable of protecting themselves from this global threat.

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Overview

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developed countries to reduce carbon dioxide by 20 percent of 1990 levels by 2000 and to adopt specific targets to limit other greenhouse gases.

Three heads of state addressed sessions of the four-day conference: Philippine President Fidel Ramos, who gave the keynote speech, Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Vanuatu Prime Minister Maxime Carlot Korman.

Prime Minister Bhutto

Citing findings of a recent regional study of climate change implications for Southeast and South Asia, conducted by the Climate Institute under the auspices of the Asian Development Bank, Bhutto urged the developed countries to take a major responsibility to clean up the environment, not only within their own borders but worldwide. (The text of her speech starts on page one of this issue.)

"Clearly the developed world has made the 20th century 100 years of rampage of exploitation, abuse and violation of this planet," she said. Although the poor make up more than half the world's population, she continued, they produce less than a quarter of the Earth's global greenhouse emissions and thus pay a disproportionate price for the excesses of other regions, particularly Europe and the Americas.

She stressed that while the world community is looking for ways to mitigate the effects of global climate change, the strategies should not deter the development of poor countries. She urged developing countries to make their own action plans according to their environmental problems but coordinate with the developed world to succeed. "That is why this Manila conference is so vital," she added.

President Ramos

President Ramos called on the leaders of the Asia Pacific Region and the world to pool their resources in meeting the challenge of climate change because no country is immune to its disastrous effects. (The text of his speech starts on page one of this issue.) "Over the past decade or so, we have discovered how increased human activities are rapidly changing the earth's climate beyond our capacity to adapt to the disastrous effects," he warned.

He proposed four specific actions to mitigate the effects of global change:

- 1) The reduction of fossil fuel combustion, the major source of carbon dioxide build-up. "We must work together to protect and allocate what scientists have called our global common resource, atmospheric carrying capacity," he declared.
- 2) Disconnect economic growth from growth in carbon dioxide emissions through more efficient ways of harnessing power.
- 3) Preserve and rehabilitate the forests and ecosystems in our regions.
- 4) Press for actions to mitigate the effects of rising sea level. "Vulnerable areas and population should be identified and protected so that plans and resources for relocation, infrastructure and other contingencies will be in place."

He added that research on the other possible impacts of global warming should also be accelerated so that vulnerable countries can be better prepared for them.

He described the work of his administration in setting up an International Committee on Climate Change which will formulate policies and response strategies to climate change and establish working groups to monitor and assess local climate change and its impact. The Philippines is also participating with other countries in the Asian Least-Cost Greenhouse Gas Abatement Strategy Project which

is designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the Asian Region. Ramos expressed confidence that with these efforts the Philippine nation will "contribute significantly to regional and global plans of action."

Prime Minister Korman

Prime Minister Korman of Vanuatu, an archipelago of 80 islands in the South Pacific, expressed alarm over rising sea levels. Speaking for the 44-member Alliance of the Small Island States (AOSIS), formed because of their vulnerability to changes in the environment, he said, "Even small rises in sea levels threaten the existence of some small countries." Suggesting that industrialized countries should be lobbied to meet the global problem, he proposed cooperating to draft a code of conduct to stop logging and the depletion of the earth's forests, which are a sink for greenhouse gases.

He urged the Manila Conference to press for adoption of the AOSIS protocol by COP1. (To date, no industrialized nation has agreed to the proposal.)

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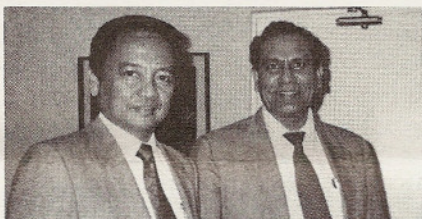
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Technology Paper

A concept paper, presented by John Topping and Dr. Ata Qureshi of the Climate Institute, recommended the fostering of an international public private partnership to accelerate applications of renewable and energy efficiency technologies. The paper was prepared at the request of Senator Heherson Alvarez, chairman of the Philippine Senate Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources and convening chairman of the conference. (He is also a member of the Climate Institute's Board of Advisors.) The paper had input from a number of experts, Dhira Phantumvanit (Thailand Environment Institute), R.K. Pachauri (TERI), Saifur



Senator Heherson Alvarez, Conference Chairman and Ata Qureshi, Conference Coordinator and Vice President of the Climate Institute

Rahman (VPI), Chris Flavin and Nick Lenssen (Worldwatch), Bob Williams (Princeton), Dan Esty (Yale) and Dan Rosen (Institute for International Economics).

Peter Riggs of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund presented a paper discussing ways in which small-scale delivery systems might be developed in the solar photovoltaic area, tapping into marketing networks of consumer product groups and local NGOs such as has been



Al Binger, Rockefeller Foundation; John Topping, Climate Institute; Claudine Schneider, Climate Institute Board

done, for example by Bangladesh's Grameen Bank.

Institute Board member Claudine Schneider drew on her background as a former member of the U.S. Congress to illustrate ways to generate the political will to stimulate change. As chief Congressional sponsor of the Global Warming Prevention Act, she described how six of the twelve provisions, largely related to energy efficiency, were ultimately written into U.S. law.

Convened by the Philippine Senate with support from the Climate Institute and others, besides the three heads of state the conference drew participation of the speakers of the parliaments of Pakistan and Bangladesh and chairs of environment committees of the parliaments of China, India, Russia, South Korea and the Philippines, plus other senior officials including Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization, Dr. G.O.P. Obasi.

Senator Alvarez's wife, Cecile, an active member of the environmental group, Earth Savers, introduced ten youthful artists, ranging in age from about 5 to 18. The troupe, with three deaf dancers and two blind singers, performed songs and dances on subjects ranging from climate change to passive smoking to removing lead from gasoline, at the Sunday dinner for delegates when the Manila Declaration was signed.

Bhutto

(Continued from page 1)

We gather together at this historic convocation, to bring together all elements of decision-makers with respect to environmental planning — from heads of government to parliamentarians, to scientists, to academics to try to communicate with each other and reach a common strategy, so that we can engage the rest of the world with a united vision at the International Conference in Berlin next month.

It is significant that Parliamentarians meet in the beautiful city of Manila. For Manila has been in the forefront in the battle for global values. Not long ago, Manila witnessed the triumph of freedom. We, in Pakistan, fought for freedom too, in your courage, our own courage, in your defiance against tyranny, our own defiance. And in your triumph, our own triumph.

Ladies and Gentlemen, for too long we have been content to blame the developed world exclusively for the problems of the developing world. God knows they are not blameless. But frankly neither are we. There has been enough damage, there is enough blame, for us all.

Clearly the developed world has made the 20th century into a 100 year rampage of exploitation, abuse and violation of this planet. Often with the natural resources ripped from their colonial conquests, the developed world has rapidly industrialized without plan or thought of consequence to the environmental impact of their own action. And we have all suffered for their short-sighted abuse.

That is why we are here to day — not necessarily to dwell on how the current crisis came to be, but to analyze what the situation is with respect to climate change and global warming and the greenhouse effect
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Bhutto

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that threatens to choke our futures. We are here to exchange ideas and exchange technologies. We are here, for the first time in history, to draft a regional climate change action plan. We are here to systematically affect the future.

We in the Asian-Pacific Region have a vital, vested interest in implementing a reasonable and rational global plan to address climate change. Although we encompass over half of the world's population, we produce less than a quarter of the earth's global greenhouse emissions. In other words we are paying a disproportionate price for the excesses of other regions, particularly Europe and the Americas.

Our region also is most vulnerable to the changes in weather and temperature patterns which have resulted from the effects of human activities and the destruction of the earth's protective ozone layer. The vast number of deaths from tropical storms over the last decade have been among our people.

Many of our nation island states — including the glorious Philippines — are especially vulnerable to polar cap melt downs and the subsequent rise in ocean levels. Indonesia and Sri Lanka could be tragically impacted.

Our fellow SAARC country of the Maldives sits only three meters above the ocean level. The slightest change would quite literally wipe this archipelago nation away.

Some of the most populous nations, including Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, and India, have exposed populations in coastal and delta areas that have been tragically impacted by coastal flooding and cyclones in the past. Millions have and will be dislocated. These delta populations

are most obviously vulnerable to the impact of polar cap melting and global warming in the future.

Now they are even more vulnerable. But we are here to be their defenders. Resources, technology and determination are our weapons and self-defense. The primary threat to Pakistan is to our agricultural resources, which are at risk because of the expected extraordinary jump in the monsoon floods over the next few decades. Our crops are also vulnerable to heat stress and temperature rise.



Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto

Whether it is our coastline or our agricultural bases, whether it is the power of the cyclone or the terror of the typhoon, whether it is polar meltdown of global warming, the Asian-Pacific region is vulnerable and must come together to take a defensive plan of action to avoid a catastrophe. That is why we are here in Manila today, and will be in Berlin next month. The Earth, at long last, is uniting to save its future.

And for us in Pakistan, this consolidation of interest and action could not come too soon. Rapid population growth, which my government is acting to control, has put maximum pressure on our renewable resources.

And as often is the case, the poor amongst us are the most vulnerable to problems within society — to erratic climatic changes. Those most

dependent on the land and the weather for their way of life.

For Pakistan, as for much of the region, we must band together and plan to control the current situation, and defend against the potential future change to our local climate conditions. We must adopt flood control measures to deal with the surge in monsoons. We must change our farming practices to adapt to the changing climate. We must develop heat resistant plants, vegetables, crops. We are mindful of our obligations.

That is why we, in Pakistan, have initiated a programme to respond to such needs at the national level. The centre-piece of the programme is our national conservation strategy, the NCS. The NCS is a unique strategy, already viewed by others as a model for emulation.

In our strategy, we sought to integrate the views of government as well as non-governmental sectors, the mass media, academic institutions, the private sector, judicial institutions, local government institutions, and others. The strategy mobilized key stakeholders into undertaking actions of a supportive nature. Thus the strategy has hundreds of "owners," each one acting individually as well as in concert with others.

But we need to do much more. We must reforest in those areas that have been particularly depleted, a situation aggravated by the ecological impact of the ten-year-long struggle of the Mujahadeen against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, which caused three million Afghan refugees to rush to the sanctity of our soil, further depleting our natural resources, especially our forest areas.

We must protect our population living on the Indian Ocean coast, and effectively plan to prepare for

natural disaster by relocating people and infrastructural investments from the most vulnerable parts of our country.

We must be more judicious in the use of irrigational techniques and pesticides to address the impending environmental crisis. These are our most specific and urgent needs.

But the last 20 years of environmental dislocation has taught us that none of us — not as people and not as nations — exist in isolation. We plan and act in Pakistan, but if we do not do it in concert with our neighbors, we cannot impact long term trends. We can plan and act in Pakistan and all through our region, but if it is not coordinated with the actions of the developed world, and especially those that have most degraded our common environment, we cannot hope to succeed.

That is why Manila is so vital. That is why Berlin is so critical to the survival of man. That is why this conference is so fundamental to the community of nations.

All of us — government leaders, parliamentarians, scientists, environmentalists — must band together to exchange ideas, experiences and technologies. There is much information that we have compiled over the last decade, but there is even more that we do not know. We know that human activities are changing the chemical composition of our atmosphere. We know the buildup of greenhouse gases is changing the radiation balance of the planet. The heat trapping, earth warming properties of those greenhouse gases is indisputable. What we don't know, and what we must learn and prepare for, is the effect of these climatic changes on temperature, on precipitation, on soil moisture and on sea levels. We do not know, but must

learn and anticipate the effect these changes in temperature, precipitation, soil and sea level will have on ecological systems, human health, and the socio-economic sectors of our various economies.

The programs that have been adopted by the developed world over the last decade to deal with the onerous atmosphere impact of their own environmental abuses are now starting to have a real impact on the environmental problem. The technology is working. Now the technology must be applied to the developing world. Now the technology must be expanded through regional cooperation and action, to the undeniable and inevitable impact of ozone depletion and climate change. It will not happen over night. It will not happen without cost.

It would only be fair that those who have primarily polluted the environment take on a major responsibility of cleaning it up, not just in their own countries, but through cost-effective international cooperation. Let the developed world apply their successful technologies to our noxious problems. We inhabit the same planet, and the greenhouse effect cannot be localized. In other words, we are in this together.

But it is critical that the problem of ozone depletion and greenhouse effect not be used as an excuse for arresting the economic and social development of the developing world.

All through our region, major economic expansion is taking place. Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, the Philippines and others are finally taking off on economic development. And with economic development comes social amelioration. All of this within the framework of democracy and human rights. We cannot allow the developed world's century long abuse of our common

environment to be the excuse for another century of economic abuse and social inequity.

Since the onset of the industrial revolution two divergent cultures have uneasily co-existed on our planet: the culture of abundance and the culture of subsistence. The culture of abundance has not felt the driving need of self interest in creating concrete channels of cooperation with the culture of subsistence. But now the future of both cultures is at stake. Environmental degradation threatens both our cultures. It threatens the world. The Berlin Conference offers the possibility of a partnership of lasting value between the North and the South.

We can't and will not be forced to choose between development, democracy and environmental order. All three interact. All three are universal rights.

As we gather together here in Manila, let us think about all of these factors, and primarily of our responsibility to our people, not just now but in the future.

Our constituency transcends those who are in this room. Our constituency transcends those who sit in our Parliaments. Our constituency even transcends those currently living in our countries.

We have been granted the awesome responsibility to save a future for a generation yet unborn. We must not shrink from that responsibility. We must welcome it. We must seize it. We must act upon it. Remembering always, the ancient adage:

"We have not inherited the earth from our fathers. We have merely borrowed it from our children."

Thank you, and may the blessings of Allah be upon you and your work.

Ramos

(Continued from page 1)

If the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 achieved anything unanimously, surely it is the fact that it made all of earth's leaders conscious and fearful of what is happening to our natural environment. This is not to say that all our countries — developed and developing — see environmental problems in the same way. Our national priorities vary according to our circumstances.

In our developing societies, we give our greatest attention to environmental damage that harms human health and the productive potential of our people. And that may be different from those [damages] which grab the attention of people in advanced countries. But there are some environmental issues where differences of perspective do not matter at all — where the challenge is indivisible and the dangers are common to all.

Such is the challenge of climate change. And this is why scientists, parliamentarians and policymakers from all over the Asia Pacific are gathered here today.

Climate change

I will leave to the scientific experts here the task of describing the nature of this contemporary threat to mankind. I will simply try to describe how this issue appears to a policy-maker like me.

For much of the postwar era, we have been under dire warning that scientific invention may be advancing beyond our control — primarily because of the nuclear peril to the extent even of ending human life on earth. Part of that worry has eased somewhat with the end of the superpower rivalry. And the progress in current efforts to contain nuclear proliferation.

But we have only been partially relieved of one anxiety to be confronted by another. Over the past decade or so, we have discovered how increased human activities are

rapidly changing the earth's climate beyond our capacity to adapt to disastrous effects.

So far as a layman can comprehend the problem, the greenhouse



President Fidel V. Ramos

effect, which has made our earth habitable, is now becoming a bane to mankind. Because of increased emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, the planet is getting warmer. In the past 120 years, scientists calculate that the global mean temperature has increased by one half degree centigrade. In the next 25 years, if the emission of greenhouse gases continues at the present pace, the temperature could rise by three degrees centigrade.

I will not go through the familiar litany of what would ensue from intensified global warming, beyond stressing that nearly all agree that the environmental, economic and social costs of climate change will be massive. And it will be especially costly to developing countries, because we stand at the lower slope of the development in the world today. If there is one cheering note to all this, it is the fact that our nations have begun to pull together before the nightmare is fully upon us.

An international problem

By the very nature of the global warming problem, solutions and actions addressing climate change will definitely have to be on a global scale. No country can claim to be immune. The effects will be felt regardless of region, although in varying ways. Solutions will, thus,

have to be founded on international cooperation and national concern.

The Framework Convention on Climate Change, to which the Philippines is a signatory, is a beacon of hope for all of us. This is why the First Conference of the Parties — scheduled in Berlin from March 28-April 7 this year — is so important. It will seek to resolve many of the highly complex and politically charged issues — such as adequacy of commitments of developed countries, joint implementation, and financial mechanisms. We are all hopeful that resolution of these issues will pave the way for the achievement of the convention's ultimate objective — which is the stabilization of greenhouse gas emissions at a level that would pose no danger to the climatic system.

The Asia Pacific Conference on climate change affords us the opportunity to come up with a regional action plan in preparation for the Berlin Conference. This is one more vivid demonstration of cooperation within our region.

It is heartening to see prominent policymakers, scientists and political leaders responding to the call for discussions — especially her Excellency Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan. We also welcome the message of concern on behalf of all small island-states by his Excellency Maxime Carlot Korman, the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, under whose initiative the United Nation's General Assembly approved the conference of small island-states after the Rio Summit.

Specific actions needed

Specific actions are needed to prevent, as well as confront, the impending consequences of global warming.

First among these is the reduction of fossil fuel combustion, since this is the major source of carbon dioxide buildup. We hope that industrialized countries which contribute the bulk of these emissions could come to

terms with the developing economies on the implementation of a cut-back mechanism of greenhouse gas emissions. We must work together to protect and allocate what scientists have called our global common resource: atmospheric carrying capacity.

The issues leading to such an agreement are plain. Countries all over the world are responsible for different amounts of greenhouse gas emissions. The richer countries have been emitting large amounts for many years, as a consequence of their industrial growth and capacity.

On the other hand, emissions from the low-income countries have been low, but now these are rising more rapidly as they bid for development. Any agreement to stabilize emissions must clearly recognize where each country is coming from. It would be a terrible irony if the resulting agreement would freeze the third world in a state of underdevelopment.

Second, as an integral part of our long-term strategy against global warming, we must now start discon-

necting economic growth from growth in carbon dioxide emissions.

One way is to reduce the amount of energy used per unit of GDP. More efficient means of harnessing power should be pursued and shared.

The other is to gradually shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy. New energy systems which have less drastic consequences should be used and made available, particularly to the developing countries, which are fast catching up; global cooperation should facilitate more research into new and clean technologies.

Third, the consequences of global climate change add another reason to protect tropical forests from destruction, particularly from burning, which not only releases more carbon into the atmosphere but also reduces the number of trees that absorb carbon dioxide. Let us use this conference as a platform to issue a plea for the preservation and rehabilitation of the forest ecosystems in our region.

Finally, let us press for action to mitigate the effects of rising sea

level as a matter of policy. Vulnerable areas and population should be identified and protected so that plans and resources for relocation, infrastructure and other contingencies will be put in place. Research on the other possible impacts of global warming should also be accelerated so that vulnerable countries such as the Philippines, other archipelagic states, and the small island-nations can be better prepared for them.

Philippine plan of action

In its World Development Report on the Environment in 1992, the World Bank observed that the range of possible policy responses in global warming can be reduced to three:

First, do nothing at least until the extent and implications become clearer.

Second, take out an insurance policy. Which means adopt precautionary measures that are modest costs now.

And third, take immediate action. Which means action to reduce output of greenhouse gases.

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Ramos

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From the balance of the evidence, doing nothing would clearly be the height of foolhardiness and irresponsibility. The wisest course is to balance modest immediate reduction of greenhouse gases with investments in information and research to know more about the problem.

In the Philippines, we have constituted an inter-agency body to respond to the challenges of climate change — The International Committee on Climate Change (IACC). It is jointly chaired by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Science and Technology.

The Committee is primarily tasked to:

- A1 Formulate policies and response strategies to climate change;
- B1 Establish working groups to monitor and assess local climate change and its impact;

CI to liaise with the relevant international organizations on climate change issues.

Beside making an inventory of our greenhouse gas emissions, particularly carbon dioxide, we are participating — together with Pakistan, Bangladesh, The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam — in the Asian Least-Cost Greenhouse Gas Abatement Strategy (ALGAS) project. This is designed to help reduce the emission of greenhouse gases from the Asian region.

We are now completing a country action program on climate change, under the umbrella of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

These efforts here at home will enable us to contribute significantly to regional and global plans of action.

A community of interests

Ladies and gentlemen, I believe there is a community of interests throughout Asia-Pacific region for a focused effort to respond to the challenge of climate change. And if we press this effort with other regions, we will discover a community of interests on this issue among all nations. There may be no way to leap into a global agreement all at once since there are too many thorny issue to resolve. But if giant strides cannot be taken, shorter steps — taken steadily — can get us just as well where we want to go.

Let us heed Benjamin Franklin's words of wisdom. Old Ben said, "we must band together or assuredly we will hang separately."

We will all benefit from your deliberations. I wish your meeting every success.

Thank you and good day.

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