

Environmental Ethics

A Need of Human Concern

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Preface

Global warming is much talked about word these days. Over few decades anthropogenic activities carried out in the developed and developing countries and economies in transmission have contributed towards the increase in the concentration of Green House Gas (GHG) in the atmosphere that causes the Global Warming leading to climate change. The developed and developing economies are responsible for about 75% of total global stock of GHG's emissions thus the responsibilities of mitigating GHG emission for stabilizing atmospheric concentration of GHG's primarily lies on these countries.

In this context the Kyoto Protocol. 1998, was adopted by the parties to the UNFCCC. With the objective of achieving quantified emission limitations through specific policies and measures to minimize the adverse effect of climate change.

The Protocol provides for Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) that enables countries or operators in developed countries to acquire greenhouse gas reduction credits. For meeting the emission reduction targets while the developing country would receive the capital investment and clean technology or beneficial change in land use. Climate Change conference held at Cancun, Mexico in 2010 also calls on rich countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions as pledged in the Copenhagen Accord and for developing countries to plan to reduce their emissions. The agreement includes a "Green Climate Fund" Proposed to be worth \$100 billion a year by 2020 to assist poorer countries in financing emission reduction.

No doubt CO₂, emission resulting from human-induced activities and industrialization is the main cause behind global warming and subsequently global climate change which is the major threat facing by mankind. To become carbon neutral (i.e. reducing the emission of CO₂ along with other GHG's) several initiatives have already been undertaken at many levels, both national and international. The most prominent amongst which is the Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement setting targets on the companies and Governments to reduce emission levels. Among the three mechanisms offered by the Kyoto Protocol, CDM looks to be the most prominent and suitable mechanism for developing countries like India. CDM projects give Indian companies the opportunity of going green by reducing its carbon footprint and earning carbon credits altogether.

New Zealand accepted the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol at the 18th conference of the parties (COP 18) under the UNFCCC held in Doha, Qatar during the second commitment period (2013-20).

The delegates agreed to create a new comprehensive legally binding climate treaty for limiting and reducing emissions of the greenhouse gases by contributors of emission presently not abiding by the Kyoto Protocol including China/India/United States to be implemented from 2020 after the end of second commitment period of Kyoto Protocol. As of now, as many as 192 countries have ratified the protocol.

Certified Emission Reductions (CER) is often referred to as carbon credits. The concept of carbon credit is that of incentivizing the industrial units which pollute less, and disincentivizing those that pollute more. A central authority

fixes a limit to the amount of a pollutant that can be emitted into the environment. This permit or credit or allowances gives licenses to emit a fixed amount of pollutant into the environment.

Thus “clean money for dirty air” that’s the premise of an emerging trade in carbon credits. The rich countries who have emission reduction targets to achieve, find it cheaper to buy ‘off setting’ certificates rather than do a cleanup in their own backyard. There are currently four major exchanges trading in carbon allowances:

1. Chicago Climate Exchange
2. European Climate Exchange
3. Nord Pool Exchange
4. Power Next

India is a developing economy the emission growth with increased energy demand is on the rise along with the rise in population and economic growth. Energy supply in India is highly dependent on coal – a major contributor to GHG emission. Therefore Indian industries play a very significant role in meeting the challenges of reducing GHG emission to achieve sustain clean environment whereby they can achieve higher productivity, greater access to global market and enhancement in its international competitiveness at the same time.

The present Book entitled “Environmental Ethics - A Need of Human Concern” is the outcome of research papers contributed by intellectuals on burning issue of Global Warming and thankful to them for their valuable contribution & concrete suggestions which have made the book resourceful and meaningful.

I am highly indebted to secretary ,Managing Committee Shri Himanshu Pradhan ji for being a source of inspirations to all faculty members of the college for achieving academic excellence this book is also result of his encouragement and inspiration.

I would specially like to thank my Principal Dr Shalini Misra ji for taking keen interest in this project and for giving me some important tips.

I would like to thank my guiding torches, well wishers, contributors and friends whose intuition gave me the courage to bring this book. I would like to thank my colleagues and members of my Department for their immense moral support and valuable suggestions in completing this book.

My personal gratitude goes to my family members who always encourage me a lot for my academic activities.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to my publisher M/s Social Research Foundation for bringing out my book so expeditiously.

Finally I thank all those who have helped me directly & indirectly in completing this book.

Reader's suggestions and advices are always welcome.

Dr Poonam Vij

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