

**OMNI CLIMATE CHANGE NEWSLETTER COPENHAGEN  
AND LATER, December 22, 2009, FOR A CULTURE OF  
PEACE**, Compiled by Dick Bennett

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Al Gore, Repower America [info@repoweramerica.org](mailto:info@repoweramerica.org)

Dear Dick,

A truly historic moment has arrived. The United Nations Climate Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark began this week, and the eyes of the world are on the United States, gauging our commitment to a global solution to the greatest challenge facing our planet.

Leaders from across the world, including President Obama, will come together to forge an agreement that will guide international action to reduce greenhouse gas pollution and lay the foundation for a new and prosperous 21st century clean energy economy.

In advance of his trip to Copenhagen, President Obama has already made a commitment to take on the climate crisis here in the U.S. -- now we have to show that the American people are ready to lead too.

Show the world that the American people want bold action on climate and clean energy solutions. Share your message of support on The Wall now.

The United States has a crucial role to play in any international efforts related to

the climate crisis -- including the dialogue that continues in Copenhagen this week.

Our principles and our economic strength have traditionally made us a leader in the world community -- but we are also one of the largest emitters of global warming pollution. For these reasons, the rest of the world expects we will also play a leadership role in developing a climate agreement. Given the urgency of the challenge that is before us, the U.S. can't wait any longer.

Solving the climate crisis begins with action and commitment, right here at home. The best way we can prove our leadership and demonstrate that we are ready to take meaningful action is by passing comprehensive clean energy and climate legislation in Congress.

That legislation has passed the House of Representatives and is now in the Senate. We're not done yet, but we are closer than ever before -- and we are going to keep up the pressure to pass a bill until our leaders have done it.

This is an opportunity for America to regain the mantle of global leadership. We need to tell the world that the American people are ready for bold action on climate change.

The world is watching. Post your message on The Wall today:

<http://www.repoweramerica.org/wallform/>

Thanks for helping to demonstrate American leadership on the climate crisis as we work toward a crucial international agreement at Copenhagen. Al Gore

Bill McKibben and 350 - [350.org](http://350.org) to jbenet

The Copenhagen climate talks have begun, and the [350.org](http://350.org) team is shaking things up on the ground here in Denmark.....

From inside Copenhagen, our crew (which at exactly 350 mostly young souls is reportedly the largest accredited delegation to the talks!) reports the following:

- It's cold and gray and the sun sets at 3:30pm, but exciting to be in a world where everyone is focused on the climate. Sometimes, amongst all the wonderful activists from every corner of the world, you can really sense how the planet might come together.

- As of Wednesday evening, the **350 target** is still in the treaty's "negotiating text." Our movement's lobbying efforts--both in the UN and around the world--might end up bearing fruit. Few negotiators have managed to avoid our briefing

papers on the science of the 350, and many of them are showing their support in style with 350 ties and lapel pins. But the most persuasive lobbying tool has proven to be the photos--your photos--from the **350 events** around the world. Amidst all the compromises and politicking, seeing 350 as a possible element of a global climate treaty is a refreshing acknowledgement of the reality of physics and chemistry--and a crucial reminder of the bottom line for this whole elaborate process.

- More and more countries and leaders are using the **350** figure publicly. Bolivia stepped up to the plate and made the 350 target a main point of their opening statement; then Al Gore gave a remarkable speech saying no matter what happens we have to keep working till we get to 350. Yesterday in the New York Times, Thomas Lovejoy, one of the planet's great biologists, put it bluntly: "**350 ppm**--that is the upper limit for dangerous interference with ecosystems." And it's sinking in. Countries on the front lines of climate change--like small pacific islands and many drought-inflicted African countries--are taking stronger stances and refusing to accept the limp compromises currently on the negotiating table. There is a growing understanding that simply getting a deal in Copenhagen is not the point--that any deal that does not point us towards 350 is, in a very real sense, a failure.

And a few updates from outside Copenhagen, where people all over the world are getting ready for this weekend's vigils:

- In the Netherlands alone, 447 churches will be ringing their bells 350 times this Sunday (here in Denmark there will be a huge church service at the main cathedral, with the Archbishop of Canterbury in attendance and with the bell tolling 350 times). These are just a portion of the many "sounds of 350" events that people are registering for this weekend.

- We're hearing about really beautiful vigils planned almost everywhere: bicycle caravans converging on the US embassy in Hanoi; concerts in Bolivia and Caracas; a bridge of lights across the river in Portland, Oregon; women and girls gathering in Fiji to make "climate art" from recycled materials. And everywhere people will be shining light and hope into this troubled world: candles and high-efficiency LEDs in Cali and Wellington, Guadalajara and Sydney, on and on. In Hawaii, surfers will paddle out into the ocean with candles on their boards, and the sacred mountains of Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea framed in the background. And here in Copenhagen, we're working with our allies to help coordinate a candlelight vigil with Desmond Tutu and other prominent global leaders. In no uncertain terms--and in visually striking ways--we'll demand a real deal from our leaders. It's going to be beautiful.

Watch the blog, and the Facebook page, and the Twitter stream over the weekend for updates from everywhere. And we'll let you know as events unfold here in Denmark.

Don't get too excited, or too despairing, at any of the news reports coming out from the conference--remember, this is one stop on a long journey towards a just and working planet.

You are the people leading that journey, and we're profoundly grateful for it.

Onwards, **Bill McKibben** for the 350 team, outside and inside Copenhagen

P.S. In addition to our blog and social media updates, we've put together a one-stop-shop to learn about Copenhagen and the role of 350.org--check it out at [www.350.org/copenhagen](http://www.350.org/copenhagen)

**350.org is an international grassroots campaign** that aims to mobilize a global climate movement united by a common call to action. By spreading an understanding of the science and a shared vision for a fair policy, we will ensure that the world creates bold and equitable solutions to the climate crisis. [350.org](http://350.org) is an independent and not-for-profit project.

**What is 350?** 350 is the number that leading scientists say is the safe upper limit for carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. Scientists measure carbon dioxide in "parts per million" (ppm), so 350ppm is the number humanity needs to get below as soon as possible to avoid runaway climate change. To get there, we need a different kind of PPM-a "people powered movement" that is made of of people like you in every corner of the planet.

## MALDIVES PRESIDENT MOHAMED NASHEED

### President Mohamed Nasheed of the Maldives - A Powerful Speech

#### President Nasheed's Powerful Speech

We are vulnerable because climate change threatens to hit us first; and hit us hardest.

And we are vulnerable because we have modest means with which to protect ourselves from the coming disaster.

We are a diverse group of countries.

But we share one common enemy.

For us, climate change is no distant or abstract threat; but a clear and present danger to our survival.

Climate change is melting the glaciers in Nepal.

It is causing flooding in Bangladesh.

It threatens to submerge the Maldives and Kiribati.

And in recent weeks, it has furthered drought in Tanzania, and typhoons in the Philippines.

...

Developing nations did not cause the climate crisis.

We are not responsible for the hundreds of years of carbon emissions, which are cooking the planet.

But the dangers climate change poses to our countries, means that this crisis can no longer be considered somebody else's problem.

Carbon knows no boundaries.

Whether we like it or not, we are all in this fight together.

For all of us gathered here today, inaction is not an option.

So, what can we do about it?

...

As Copenhagen looms, and negotiators frantically search for a solution, it is easy to think that climate change is like any other international issue.

It is easy to assume that it can be solved by a messy political compromise between powerful states.

But the fact of the matter is, we cannot negotiate with the laws of physics.

We cannot cut a deal with Mother Nature.

We have to learn to live within the fixed planetary boundaries that nature has set.

And it is increasingly clear that we are living way beyond those planetary means.

Scientists say that global carbon dioxide levels must be brought back down below 350 parts per million.

And we can see why.

We have already overshot the safe landing space.

In consequence the ice caps are melting.

The rainforests are threatened.

And the world's coral reefs are in imminent danger.

Members of the G8 rich countries have pledged to halt temperature rises to two degrees Celsius.

Yet they have refused to commit to the carbon targets, which would deliver even this modest goal.

At two degrees we would lose the coral reefs.

At two degrees we would melt Greenland.

At two degrees my country would not survive.

As a president I cannot accept this.

As a person I cannot accept this.

I refuse to believe that it is too late, and that we cannot do any about it.

Copenhagen is our date with destiny.

Let us go there with a better plan.

...

When we look around the world today, there are few countries showing moral leadership on climate change.

There are plenty of politicians willing to point the finger of blame.

But there are few prepared to help solve a crisis that, left unchecked, will consume us all.

Few countries are willing to discuss the scale of emissions reductions required to save the planet.

...

Some might prefer us to suffer in silence but today we have decided to speak.

And so I make this pledge today: we will not die quietly.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I believe in humanity.

I believe in human ingenuity.

I believe that with the right frame of mind, we can solve this crisis.

...

To my mind, countries that have the foresight to green their economies today, will be the winners of tomorrow.

They will be the winners of this century.

These pioneering countries will free themselves from the unpredictable price of foreign oil.

They will capitalize on the new, green economy of the future.

And they will enhance their moral standing, giving them greater political influence on the world stage.

...

It is not coal we want, but electricity.

It is not oil we want, but transport.

Low-carbon technologies now exist, to deliver all the goods and services we need.  
Let us make the goal of using them.

...

We don't want a global suicide pact.

We are all in this as one.

We stand or fall together.

I hope you will join me in deciding to stand.

Watch this **video**: [www.350.org/vigil-vid](http://www.350.org/vigil-vid)

Today in Copenhagen, President Nasheed of the Maldives gave a great speech. He said "my message to you is to continue the protests...continue despite the odds." He was talking to our collective movement, about your role in it--and he offered his advance thanks for your future leadership.

It's been a wild day here inside the Bella Center--the tension and the drama are ratcheting up almost by the hour. The "350 language" has been in and out of the draft text of the agreement half a dozen times, and our allies are doing their best to keep it in. You should have seen President Nasheed this afternoon making the case in front of an auditorium packed with members of the global media.....

Be sure to check out the video so you can see how this past weekend's efforts were echoed around the globe: <http://www.350.org/vigil-vid>

Onwards, May Boeve, for the entire [350.org](http://www.350.org) Team

## Cassandra Hansen?

James Hansen refused to attend the Copenhagen Climate Conference because he believed cap and trade with offsets would produce planetary disaster. Better the Conference failed than to commit the world to a delusion, he explained.

James Hansen is the author of *Storms of My Grandchildren: The Truth About the Coming Climate Catastrophe and Our Last Chance to Save Humanity*. Amy Goodman interviewed him Dec. 22, 2009 on *Democracy Now*. Amy also presented Paul Krugman, winner of Nobel Prize in economics, and Tim Flannery, Author of *The Weather Makers* and *Now or Never*, both of whom defended cap and trade as a significant beginning.

When you decide to become informed about climate change, you won't be disappointed with the well-written, engrossing science-based books you'll find at your bookstore. For example, George Monbiot's *Heat* covers many subjects; our thoughtless flying will never be quick and easy after reading his chapter on the extraordinary production of CO2 by airplanes. Lynas' *Six Degrees* describes what each degree in temperature rise will mean for the planet. Al Gore's magnificent *Our Choice: A Plan to Solve the Climate Crisis* is similarly thoroughly based in the urgent facts coming from science, but also explores better than other books so far the alternatives to fossil fuels.

Citing the failure of the cap-trade-offsets Kyoto Treaty to reduce emissions (but

allowed them to increase), Hansen advocates an "honest price on carbon" by taxing fossil fuels at their source and distributing the money for innovations and production of alternative energy. Only by making fossil fuels more expensive than alternatives can CO2 increases be reversed and we can return the atmosphere to 350 PPM. "So far, humans have caused carbon dioxide to increase from 280ppm in 1750 to 387 ppm in 2009," and 387 is dangerous. We must "immediately...reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide to at most 350 ppm in order to avoid disasters for coming generations."

Another uniqueness of Hansen's book is his method of presenting the science through stories about politics. "My approach in this book is to describe my experiences as a scientist interacting with policy makers over the past eight years, beginning on my sixtieth birthday in 2001, the day I spoke to Vice-President Dick Cheney and the cabinet-level Climate Task Force."

Here are discussions of *Storms of My Grandchildren* from the first page of google (for related subjects google James Hansen and the topic that interests you, see below):

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1. [Storms of my Grandchildren](#) by [James Hansen](#) : Greg Laden's Blog  
Dec 5, 2009 ... *Storms of my Grandchildren* by James Hansen ... In *Storms of My Grandchildren: The Truth About the Coming Climate Catastrophe and Our Last ...*  
[scienceblogs.com/gregladen/.../storms\\_of\\_my\\_grandchildren\\_by.php](http://scienceblogs.com/gregladen/.../storms_of_my_grandchildren_by.php)
2. [Storms of My Grandchildren: The Truth About the Coming Climate ...](#)  
*Storms of My Grandchildren: The Truth About the Coming Climate Catastrophe and Our Last Chance to Save Humanity*, by James Hansen.  
[www.stormsofmygrandchildren.com/](http://www.stormsofmygrandchildren.com/) -
3. Learn about Dr. [James Hansen](#), author of [Storms of My Grandchildren ...](#)  
Dr. James Hansen is best known for his research in the field of climatology, his testimony on climate change to congressional committees that helped raise ...  
[www.stormsofmygrandchildren.com/james\\_hansen.html](http://www.stormsofmygrandchildren.com/james_hansen.html) - [Cached](#) -

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4. Video results for [james hansen storms of my grandchildren](#)  
[Storms Of My Grandchildren](#) by [James Hansen](#)  
3 min 49 sec - Dec 3, 2009

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

A Conversation with Dr. [James Hansen](#)

3 min 49 sec - Dec 3, 2009

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

5. [Amazon.com: \*Storms of My Grandchildren\*: The Truth About the Coming ...](#)  
In *Storms of My Grandchildren*, Dr. James Hansen—the nation's leading scientist on climate issues—speaks out for the first time with the full truth about ...  
[www.amazon.com](#) > ... > [Earth Sciences](#) > [Climatology](#) > [Climate Changes](#) -
6. [Climate Change: The Next Generation: James Hansen: Storms of My ...](#)  
*James Hansen: Storms of My Grandchildren*. Nature Reports Climate Change (published online: 26 November 2009), doi : 10.1038/climate.2009.124 ...  
[climatechangepsychology.blogspot.com/.../james-hansen-storms-of-my-grandchildren.html](#) -
7. [The Great Beyond: An interview with James Hansen](#)  
An interview with James Hansen - November 26, 2009 ... Due out in December, *Storms of My Grandchildren* is the silver lining of Hansen's recent fight with ...  
[blogs.nature.com/news/.../an\\_interview\\_with\\_james\\_hansen\\_1.html](#) - [Cached](#) -
8. [Civic speaker organization dedicated expressly to Democratic ...](#)  
*Storms of My Grandchildren* by Dr. James Hansen - book image Author of: *Storms of My Grandchildren: The Truth About The Coming Climate Catastrophe And Our ...*  
[www.progressiveforumhouston.org/](#) - [Cached](#) -
9. [A Review of James Hansen's Storms of My Grandchildren](#)  
Dec 15, 2009 ... A Review of James Hansen's *Storms of My Grandchildren*. Published last week in the U.S. with the intention that its release coincide with the ...  
[countercurrents.org/sethness151209.htm](#) - [Cached](#) -  
Searches related to *james hansen storms of my grandchildren*  
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### **ART HOBSON**

**[Art has written forcefully in several publications in support of cap and trade. D]**

### **KELLY MULHOLLAN**

**This is a fascinating discussion. I do wonder about regulation as a**

**primary tool but I have lots of reservations as well. Would this not be an impossible task for coal companies to meet emission reductions? Can we overcome their political power? Could regulations actually result in enough reduction to pull us out of this crisis? I do see how cap and trade might be circumvented by industry but it does seem to have great momentum at the moment. Opposing it is almost like splitting the left and that worries me as well. If the whole world participates in cap and trade, U.S. corporations might find it hard to play their games in foreign markets and may not be able to dictate terms. I really don't know the answers but it's great to see everyone talk about it. Kelly Mulhollan**

**DAVID ORR**

**It's clear that grassroots people like us are being ignored, so we can argue what ought to be done all we like; the reality is that IF a cap-n-trade scheme is created, we MAY see a reduction in carbon emissions. But we WILL see a proliferation of all sorts of harmful unexpected results--e.g. biomass and biofuels -- destroying forests more rapidly than they would be otherwise, and emitting large quantities of toxic air pollutants.**

**With all respect to my good friend Art, I have to say that applying a global cap-n-trade system, overlain on top of national systems, is an undertaking that is orders of magnitude different from the acid rain program begun as a result of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments. The system is not even in place yet and it's already become corrupted and unaccountable. There's no evidence that cap-n-trade can effectively scale up but there's ample evidence that corruption, lack of enforcement, and general lack of accountability are common. A number of major polluting industries favor cap-n-trade. Why? It must not threaten their bottom lines, and their bottom lines depend on polluting! So why should we have any confidence that cap-n-trade will do much more than shuffle the pollution sources around? If cap-n-trade passes, it won't be because enviro groups want it, it will be because polluting industries are satisfied that it won't interfere with their profit-making (and some will vastly increase their profits) while they get some greenwashing cred as they assuage the concerns of wealthy liberals worried whether they should dump BP and other "green" polluting corporations from their stock portfolios.**

**As to the argument that cap-n-trade is the only feasible alternative because a carbon tax won't be politically acceptable, I suggest that we're forgetting how powerful a straight regulatory enforcement framework. Carbon taxes might be effective, at least as far as they don't seem to have the dire unintended consequences that cap-n-trade has, however there's a strong justice/equity argument that carbon taxes would penalize those who can least afford it while letting the fat cats continue**

**their hyperconsumptive lifestyles.**

**I think there's a third way that we need to rally behind, and it's been nearly lost in the Copenhagen media frenzy: yesterday the EPA Administrator announced rule-making for controlling CO2 as an air pollutant under the Clean Air Act. If Obama wants to implement stringent controls on CO2 (I don't think he does) we don't need legislation; we need him to implement this rule and enforce it! Even if Copenhagen produces nothing substance (that's my prediction) the US can take a leadership role just by cracking the whip with this new rule.**

**The problem I see with the way the rule-making is going to play out is that the Admin has let it be known that they're only using the rule as a threat(!) to force balking industries to fall in line behind cap-n-trade, with the understanding that cap-n-trade will be far preferable to the "draconian" (i.e. effective) regulatory approach that has been available in CURRENT LAW since the 1970s. I fear that Lisa Jackson has no intention whatsoever of actually implementing this rule in a way that will actually reduce carbon emissions significantly. I hope I'm wrong. But the way the rule was rolled out--so that the only people who will pay attention to it are the utilities and a few enviros who are paying attention--suggests that the Admin intends to bury it as soon as they feel it's served its purpose.**

**If I were running the global warming campaign out of cushy environmental-group offices in DC, I would drop everything and sound the alarms for people to flood EPA with demands for strong regulatory controls on CO2, and give Obama a chance to practice what he (sometimes) preaches.**

**But I'm in Fayetteville, and I know no one is listening except a small group of my friends, so I guess I'll stop my rant for the night and get ready for bed. ;-)**

**Take care, everyone, and good night!**

**[www.Algae2Omega.com](http://www.Algae2Omega.com)**

**Kelly and all,**

**Here are two websites that spell out the trouble with cap-n-trade, in terms that are clear and non-technical. Much better explanations than I could ever hope to give!**

**<http://science.howstuffworks.com/carbon-trading.htm>**

<http://storyofstuff.com/capandtrade/>

(The Story of Stuff was created and run by Annie Leonard, a friend of mine who I worked with at Greenpeace in the early 90s.)

**From an ideological perspective, the pushback against cap-n-trade is not splitting the left, it's defining the difference between neoliberal, anti-regulatory, market-based approaches to pollution reduction on the one hand, and those who support a more traditional regulatory framework that requires polluters to pay for the damage they cause, and gives them clear deadlines to stop polluting, with severe penalties for violations. Neoliberals assume, as do most conservatives, that regulatory approaches always fail and, therefore, must be replaced by market mechanisms that create incentives for businesses to "do good." Replace the stick with a carrot! But this assumes that polluters have a property right to pollute even though it's firmly established in US law and common law that pollution is a threat to public health, safety and welfare. Regulations are no more than an exercise of police power and law enforcement. If you harm others, you must face consequences (fines + jail terms--I wish!) providing a strong disincentive to continuing doing more harm.**

## **TWO TALKS PRESENTED AT DECEMBER 11, 2009, VIGIL ON CLIMATE INSTABILITY**

### **VIVEK NEMANE**

#### **Time to act globally: Concerns of Climate change and agricultural development** by Vivek Nemane

First, I would like to thank Joanna, who gave me an opportunity to share views on this occasion of meaningful candlelight vigil. Being an LL.M student specializing in Food and agricultural law and considering the focus of today's event i.e. the effects of Climate Change, I would like to reflect on excerpts from UN Food and Agricultural Organization's profile for climate change which depicts the relationship between Climate change and the important sector of food and agriculture.

FAO Profile for Climate Change outlines its priorities and future work on climate change. According to the profile, Climate change is one of the foremost challenges to the world food system, a system that is supposed to feed everybody while ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources. The challenge is to dramatically increase agricultural production to meet increased demands and secure global food security, while maintaining the natural resource base and responding to the challenge of climate change through adaptation and mitigation measures. FAO prescribes to address the issue of climate change as an integral part of the overall development agenda as climate change threatens to undermine development and slows progress towards the achievement of the Millennium

Development Goals (MDGs), especially those dealing with hunger and poverty reduction and ensuring environmental sustainability. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors are central in this regard because they are not only affected by climate change and contribute to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions but also offer opportunities for cost-effective mitigation options with additional benefits for development and food security. Hence, with appropriate planning, climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives can be integrated into sustainable development initiatives resulting in mutually beneficial outcomes. FAO gives major emphasis on adaptation and mitigation initiatives which I will talk about further in detail.

Climate change negatively affects the basic elements of food production, such as soil, water and biodiversity. Broadly it affects all four dimensions of food security: food availability, food accessibility, the stability of the food supply and the ability of consumers to utilize food including food safety and nutritional value. The world's poor and food insecure are the most vulnerable to the potential impacts of climate change and have the least capacity to adapt. They are often highly exposed to natural hazards, greatly dependent on climate-sensitive resources and have limited economic and technological resources. The ability of individuals to cope with climate change impacts depends on economic development and institutional support as well as cultural and socio-economic factors, such as gender, household composition and distribution of household assets. This points out towards the importance of climate change measures especially in developing countries. But slowly the negative effects are also seen by the developed world and hence you will see recent discussions and concerns of world leaders (like Obama in his recent speech) surrounding the climate change debate.

Going back to my emphasis on Food and Agriculture sector, I would like to state the FAO statistics which says that, Agriculture accounts for 13.5 percent of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions mainly in the form of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) from fertilized soils, enteric fermentation, biomass burning, rice production, as well as manure and fertilizer production and forestry represent 17.4 percent of total GHG emissions.

But at the same time, positive side is that- Agriculture, forestry and fisheries are also part of the solution to climate change. The overall challenge for climate policy is to find an efficient mix of mitigation and adaptation solutions that limit climate change and its impacts. In the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors, many mutually re-enforcing synergies and benefits exist among mitigation and adaptation actions and overall development goals. These benefits include increased agricultural production, improved food security, poverty reduction, biodiversity conservation, improved soil and water management and increased production efficiency.

The most important thing according to FAO profile is the need of urgent action since inaction will significantly increase future costs. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) envisioned a target that would limit the increase of global temperatures to 2°C in comparison to pre-industrial times in order to

prevent climate change from having irrevocable consequences and negative impacts on people, ecosystems and food systems. To reach this Goal by 2050 will require emission cuts of at least 50 percent from 1990s levels. Even under the most optimistic scenarios for concerted global efforts to cut emissions, GHG concentrations in the atmosphere may take at least 20 years to stabilize (IPCC, 2007b). Therefore, effective mitigation and adaptation actions must be identified and implemented. The benefits of strong, early actions would considerably outweigh any incurred costs.

I would like to end this short talk with FAO submission to UNFCCC (2009), which is included in the profile for climate change.

‘Perhaps no sectors other than agriculture, forestry and fisheries have the potential to contribute so directly to the provisions of Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): The ultimate objective of the Convention is stabilization of GHG concentrations in the Atmosphere at a level which ‘ensures that food production is not threatened and enables economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.’

My sincere thanks to all of you for coming here despite of severe cold and I am sure small events like this will help to create greater and substantive effects at the higher level.

Thank you!! Vivek V. Neman, Graduate Law Student

JONATHAN GIBBS

“what makes a hurricane?” A Google search yields a very simple answer:

“ocean temperatures of at least 80 degrees Fahrenheit.”

This year's typhoon season is hardly over but 4 Million of Filipino countrymen remain in need of humanitarian aid, 500,000 of those—are under the age of 5.

Less than a fifth of the needed humanitarian aid has been sent.

Before May of this year, petroleum and coal companies had funded \$76 Million on television advertisements to convince you that the heating from air emissions doesn't increase evaporation and storm intensity. That amount is over half of what the UN assessment declares is needed by the Philippines, and enough to purchase over 15 Million watts of solar panels.

I came here today to say “*I'm listening.*” I'm listening to blurry voices speak against the purchase of renewable energy. I'm listening to YouTube video's of mothers screaming. I'm listening to wood cracking under the pressure, and water rushing into homes, burying people alive in mounds of mud.

Since Jan. 1, 2009 these industries have handed out 4.4 million dollars in campaign contributions. (according to the International Press Service). Chevron has given the most campaign cash, followed by Koch Petroleum Group, Valero Industry, Exxon Mobil all tied at a close second

Serious candidates have little choice but to accept the cash, because campaigns

are too expensive for voters alone to sustain. In 2008, the average winning House candidate spent over a million dollars during the campaign, while a Senate seat ran eight times that, according to analyses by the Center for Responsive Politics. Corporate and special interests spent over 2 billion dollars lobbying members of the U.S. Congress during the first nine months of 2009, says the Center for Responsive Politics.

An advisor from the Philippines told reporters: “[These typhoons] caught us by surprise but environmentalists have warned us on catastrophies like these for years,

“The effects of climate change is real and it will haunt us and our children’s children. “I think now is the time to listen.”

The Global Warming Kill Count:

300,000 per year: the 2000 from Katrina did not include the 700 still missing. The amounts in annual damage is more than all world aid funds combined.

Last week 37 Arkansas counties were declared disaster areas from flooding. I'm listening to my conscience, and the three dozen science teachers who said “you guys are going to have to find a way.”

Jonathan Gibbs Dec. 11

END OF OMNI/CCTF CLIMATE CHANGE NEWSLETTER 12-22-09