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Editorial Note

Special Issue S3: “Global Warming
and Climate Change: Part 2”

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Editorial Note

“We are losing the race on Climate Change” (UN Chief: Antonio Guterres)

I am really very happy and more than satisfied in writing the second editorial on Special Issue on “Global Warming and Climate Change: Part-2” (GWCC: Part-2). This is because of the enormous interest the contributors had shown on this critical issue that the globe has been confronting. Initially, as a Guest Editor, I had planned to publish this Special Issue in one volume only. However, due to a large number of contributions received from across the World, I had to go for Volume II (Part-2). This all speaks out the immense significance of the topic.

There has been a persisting voice and demand to “Save the Earth.” However, the most unfortunate thing is that none of the countries has made any sincere and serious effort and accordingly, they have failed in overcoming the killer of human beings. The withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement is the biggest mistake on the part of the United States. This speaks out volumes on the nonseriousness of the developed countries toward the globe’s biggest, most critical issue. Hence, it is the need of the hour to take decisive actions in this regard, otherwise, we are moving toward unimaginable disastrous outcomes. Keeping in mind the significance of climate change, on December 12, 2017, the world had witnessed the second anniversary of the “Paris Climate Agreement of 2015.” Accordingly, the French President has called upon a meeting known as “One Planet Summit in Paris,” wherein, the political pundits and experts in their own right will gather to take stock of the efforts and situation and thereafter, to explore and decide what to do next in this direction.

The memorable milestone in the history of climate change is the “Kyoto Protocol,” which was initiated and adopted by the countries as far back as 1997. The Kyoto Protocol had binding targets for emissions reduction only for 38 developed economies. The Protocol entered into effect in 2005, but its first commitment time frame for attaining the targets started only in the year 2008 and spilled over till the end of 2012 (2008–2012). After the expiry of the first commitment, the second commitment was extended for 8 years, that is, from 2013 to 2020. The most pertinent fact is that the Paris Agreement of 2015 is more comprehensive and cohesive as compared to the Kyoto Protocol. This is because the agreement has universal applicability to all countries of the World. This comprehensive and cohesive agreement will come into effect from January 1, 2021. There is an opinion that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has to come forward to pursue the developed nations to fulfill their commitments in the pre-2020 period (Mohan, 2017).

Most countries participating in the Paris Agreement of 2015 on Climate Change are of the view that economies are required to agree upon a time framework for early ratification of the second commitment timeline 2013–2020 of the Kyoto Protocol to strengthen the pre-2020 actions and close down the existing emission gap. In November 2017, Conference of Parties (COP 23) was held in Bonn, and the major focus was on emission targets for the developing nations on the one side and on the other side how to bring back the United States to the table for deliberations (Editorial, 2017). As of October 2017, 195 UNFCCC members have signed the agreement. The COP 23 at Bonn was the second initiative taken after the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement.

PARIS GREENTARGETS

According to International Finance Corporation, the governments worldwide are planning to meet the climate targets under the Paris Agreement representing US\$ 3.1 trillion investment opportunities. The sectors wherein the investment would come are renewable energy, green buildings, transport infrastructure, electrical vehicles, and climate-smart agriculture (The Indian Express, 2017). It is clearly evident that such a big problem is not being taken as seriously as it should have been taken, especially by the rich or developed

countries. Their commitments have not transformed into reality and their promises remained as a myth. The most critical issue that has far-reaching effects, impacts, and implications must be tackled on war footing. Every country, irrespective of developed and developing countries, must make concerted efforts to face the challenge of climate change so that humanity and human beings could be protected.

With the increasing challenges, there has been persisting need to investigate the different aspects of global warming and climate change. *There has been a demand for bolder steps from all the governments across the world to arrest catastrophic warming.* The volume in question has discussed the different burning issues in-depth and in an analytical manner. I do hope the readers would enjoy reading and acquiring the knowledge on the most critical issue of the twenty-first century.

Manvi *et al.* have discussed that Asia-Pacific is currently in charge of almost half of worldwide carbon outflows and thus causing harm to the environment. So, to reduce the carbon outflow, it is important to calculate or know the carbon dioxide emissions of Indian students perusing higher education in India and analyze the attitudes of students to reduce carbon footprint levels in the university campuses across the country.

Another paper by Niti and Arora provides a comprehensive overview of India's evolving role in addressing climate change concerns. From the Kyoto Protocol to the Paris Agreement, India has made positive and sincere strides toward the issue of global warming and climate change, embracing a number of policies and measures in its hope for a sustainable tomorrow. The article also highlights the environmental challenges faced by India in its economic development. Finally, it lists out the key recommendations that can be implemented by India for improving its environmental performance.

Nisreen's paper has analyzed that environmental degradation (measured, for example) by CO₂ emissions has an adverse effect on public health, leading to the need for a higher level of healthcare expenditure. The level of per capita income, which has been identified as a major determinant of healthcare expenditure, is associated with environmental degradation as represented by the Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC). The results presented in this study show that when a country, such as Australia, falls on the declining sector of the EKC, healthcare expenditure is negatively related to environmental degradation. Although this proposition sounds counterintuitive, it is justified theoretically and supported empirically.

Mukherjee and Mustafa have opined the importance of a human rights-based approach to climate change. There are two significant developments in the climate change discourse: First, the recognition by scientists of several extreme disasters as climate change events directly violating the human rights of the vulnerable and second, the dilution of the differentiation created between developing and developed nations by the Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) principle in the recent climate change agreements. This paper seeks to establish the efficacy of the human right to development (through tools such as Greenhouse Development Rights) in effectuating the Third World approaches to the issue of climate change in the Global South.

Rabi and Kaur have examined the role of Multi National Enterprises (MNEs) for sustainable development, particularly in developing countries. In that context, the authors tried to explore compatibility and congruence of the business operations of MNEs vis-a-vis sustainable development in the developing part of the world. They investigated how the MNEs are addressing regional requirements of sustainable development where environment, local culture, and institutional mechanism are the key concerns.

In another paper, Swastika *et al.* have examined the significance of greenfield investments in the developmental aspects of the Indian economy. Therefore, with an urgent need to mend up the environmental issues, greenfield investments are being sought as a remedial measure to sustain both the issues of the environment as well as economic and financial feasibility in the form of investments. The authors have also emphasized the role of FDI.

Onour in his paper has highlighted the long-term association between cereal yield and CO₂ emission effect in Sudan's agricultural crops. The Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) results reveal evidence of cointegration between the dependent variable (cereals yield) and two independent variables—CO₂ emission and agricultural GDP. The estimation results of the error correction model indicate that change in carbon dioxide has a positive and significant impact on cereal yield in the long and in the short terms, as a 1% increase in CO₂ leads to cereal yield increase by 3% in the short term and by 0.7% in the long term.

I am of the firm opinion that "GWCC: Part-2" would also prove to be a productive asset to the readers, researchers, and planners. The volume may go a long way in developing understanding and awareness

about the most critical issue. The UN Chief has rightly observed that “there is a political will and governments understand that this is the most important priority of our times.”

I wish a grand success to the Special Issue “Global Warming and Climate Change: Part-2” as well.



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