

Mitigation of climate change

Response to global warming requires immediate curtailment in the level of future climate change through reduction in the greenhouse gases (CHG) into the atmosphere. All countries, including rich and poor, have been planning to use less polluting, cleaner technologies in order to bring down greenhouse effects. Further, countries have been aiming for adaption to climate change through federal, state and local governments as well as with the help of non-governmental organisations and local community groups. However, the ability to adapt to global warming and climate change is linked with the social and economic development of the individual country.

Scientists have suggested three most efficient solutions for solving global warming.

- Monitoring on deforestation
- Universal carbon tax
- International cooperation

Besides, the following measures also would go a long way in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

- Compact florescent lights are great energy savers and should be popularised all over the world.

- Green building solutions to reduce energy consumption.

- Use of geothermal energy for producing electric power, heating and cooling should be promoted. Currently, geothermal power accounts for just for 0.3 percent of world energy production. It is interesting to note that in USA, geothermal hot bed situated north of San Francisco, California State produces 60percent of the energy used in the area. However, when water flow diminishes in the geyser area, it would lead to smaller amounts of steam and energy. Therefore, it has to be kept in mind that like wind and solar power, geothermal energy is not endless in supply.

- Advancement in solar energy technology: Scientists have pointed out that the earth's atmosphere absorbs enough heat from the sun in one hour to provide power for the entire world for one year. In open spaces, solar power from photovoltaic cell can produce five times as much as wind ener-

gy, contributing to the overall sustainability of earth. Every place in earth has its significance and special opportunities for green energy production. If the place is cloudy, then wind power could be used beneficially. In places where there is no cloud or wind, there will be bright sun light paving the way for solar energy power. In the context of increasing cost of hydropower and carbon fuel, solar and wind power are more profitable in the long run. Besides, they also create carbon credit.

5. Energy generation using wind farming technology: Green house gases from wind energy are minuscule. Cost of wind power per watt is estimated at five dollars, solar power between three and seven dollars and nuclear power costs a whopping 11 dollars per watt. Large wind farm would result in

veloped countries have advised the developing countries to opt for afforestation and less industrialisation which will put back poor economies in an unending traditional backward society. The Kyoto Protocol, which came into force in 2005, ensures legally binding emission limitations for the developed countries and the same will not apply to developing countries. The major drawback encountered is that the superpower USA under the presidency of George W. Bush has not ratified the treaty so far, citing the exemption given to poor countries in Kyoto Protocol.

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lower cost of electricity. In view of the clean emissions standard of wind power, it seems to be a feasible solution for green energy sources. The USA is having world's biggest wind farm on 47,000 acres of land in Texas, by the name Horse Hollow Wind Energy Centre.

Almost all countries of the world have signed the Kyoto Protocol of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to stabilise the emission of greenhouse gases at a level which will ensure (a) adequate food production, (b) natural adaptation of ecosystem to climate change and (c) sustainable development. However, developing countries are in a dilemma whether to opt for faster economic development for reducing their poverty or adapt to the climate mitigation policy as per the 15th UNFCCC Conference, Copenhagen Accord held in 2009. It is estimated that per capita CHG emissions in the rich countries are as much as 10 times the average in developing countries. However, de-

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