



Earth in crisis: environmental policy in an international context

Who is to Blame?

Mohammed Reazuddin

I must first make this point very clear, that the people of Bangladesh are not responsible for all these atrocities they are faced with. So naturally the obligation lies to who caused this problem and this is IPCC, inter governmental panel on climate change, they have clarified it, that these are scientifically, we should not wait for any other scientific evidences to make it attribute to climate change, all these are manifestations of climate change. So the obligation lies first with industrialist countries, those are rich, they have made plenty of money out of polluting the atmosphere which caused this problem. So, it is their fundamental obligation to clean it, to clean their mess.

Atiq Rahman

Western countries, the rich countries, have been extremely good at giving words, extremely bad in opening their purses, so no money literally has really flowed into the country under those guises.

Commentary

The financial, social and environmental costs of adapting to climate change will be substantial. Rising sea levels in the south and increased drought in the north are likely to displace millions of people by the end of the century.

Mohammed Reazuddin

We are living in an unequal world. And for Bangladesh these are big issues. In some situations adaptation cannot reach. In some situations we cannot adapt. For example, when the sea coast will travel upwards in fact will make around 30-40 million people homeless. And how can those people adapt to those extreme situations? I'm not talking that this will happen tomorrow. This will happen if we all not try together to halt the emissions, to decrease the emissions.

Shaymol Dhali (subtitled)

If the area becomes submerged it's going to be a big problem for us because we don't have any alternative. There's nothing else apart from the cyclone shelter. We need houses to live in and if the houses can be built well and they can be raised on stilts that's how we'll have to solve the problem. And if the government say we can't stay here then we will have to move somewhere else, to a safe and higher place to save ourselves.

Atiq Rahman

In the coastal areas, people will have to move. Now where will they move? Bangladesh is pretty saturated with population. So that threat is there.

Shaymol Dhali (subtitled)

This is my birthplace so it will be very painful for me and for all of us to move out from this place. It's impossible to express how much pain we would all feel.

Jobair

In my opinion by the year 2030 retreat from the coastline will probably start and by the year 2050 this will be highly visible. That means the number of refugees retreating from the coastal area will be highly visible.

Ferdazur Rahman

The feeling of losing the land, of my homeland where I grew up and I spend my childhood is a mixture of anger, solitariness and feeling blank at the back of your mind. I've no words to explain it properly but I feel that the people who are responsible for this situation should be punished and they should pay for this. They should atone for what they have done.