

## No.21 Kyoto Protocol, coming into effect

This article is a summary of author's thoughts and other resources for references. I will be glad if you readers send us your opinions and impressions. If you do not want to receive this message, simply reply to this address. We will cancel the service soon. The copyright of Eco News belongs to the Bio-Environmental Research Center. You can forward the whole article to anyone. If you let us know your e-mail address, we will directly send it to you for free.

The Kyoto Protocol, an international treaty for the prevention of the global warming phenomena, was adopted when the third session of the Conference of the Parties (COP3) to the "Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC)" was held in Kyoto in 1997. After the 6-year many twists and turns, this protocol came in effect with Russia's ratification (126 countries in total) in February 16, 2005. The "Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC or COP?)" is an epoch-making treaty because the international society worked on the global warming issue for the first time. To make this treaty really effective, it is necessary that each country ratifies the Kyoto Protocol, drafts the domestic policies concretely and puts them into force.

The Kyoto Protocol consists of 28 articles (with Annex A and B), which is summarized as follows;

Targeted gases (greenhouse gases): 6 types (CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, HFCs, PFCs, SF<sub>6</sub>)

Targeted period: 2008 – 2012 (the first commitment period)

Goal of the emission reduction in advanced nations (listed in Annex I): 5% reduction from that of 1990 (Japan: 6%).

Using international trades for the emission right.

Counting the resources of absorption.

Using a clean development mechanism (CDM)

Imposing penalties to the country that does not accomplish goals

Conditions: 1) ratification by more than 55 Nations and 2) the total carbon dioxide emissions for 1990 of advanced countries which have ratified is at least 55 %.

The enforcement of this protocol has been delayed due to the conflict between advanced countries and developing countries in the beginning. Through the accelerated global warming phenomena and the six-year discussion in the Conference of the Parties (COP), however, the situations have been changed.

The COP10 was held in Buenos Aires in December 2004, the time when the protocol came into effect and the historical importance of the COP was discussed. However, the

United States withdrew from the Kyoto Protocol and oil-producing nations are trying to keep the protocol from coming into effect, which makes it difficult to establish the prevention system of the global warming for the future. It is necessary that citizens, including NGOs, keep watching those nations' secret maneuvers.

Especially, the biggest problem is withdrawal of the United States that occupies 36% of the total of the global emission. It becomes obvious in the COP that the Bush Administration is opposed to the world with using the protection of industries of the United States as an excuse. The Bush Administration also tries to delay the negotiation of the protocol coming into effect, taking up the problems of oil-producing nations' resistance.

Dobriansky, Under Secretary of Global Affairs, stated "the best way to take measures against the global warming phenomena is the economic development of poor countries and how to cope with this issue should leave it to each country's decision. There are enough fossil fuels that we can use for a few decades." Her statement has no scientific grounds and was so outdated that NGO gave her a "Fossil Award" as the worst speaker.

As a representative of oil-producing nations, Saudi Arabia made the negotiation complicated by firmly insisting that advanced nations should compensate the economic benefit that oil-producing nations would lose due to the reduction of fossil fuels. However, other nations criticized oil-producing nations would steal the Special Climate Change Fund. This fund has been originally intended for developing nations (G77 and China) to cope with problems, transfer technology transfer to build the capacity related to those techniques. This fund is especially important for Alliance of Small Island States and African nations where serious damages have occurred due to the global warming phenomena. The economic level of oil-producing countries, including Saudi Arabia, is almost the same as that of advanced nations (GDP is \$ 11,000 per person, 1.6 times as high as that of the world average). Therefore, it is obvious that oil-producing countries deliberately insist to delay the treaty negotiation. EU, Japan, and many other developing nations disagree to their insistence (The Special Climate Change Fund was established in 2001 after Morocco's agreement; however it has not been used yet).

After all, it depends on power relationships among nations whether the Kyoto Protocol will come into effect or not. The issue is how each nation will arrange and concede its own benefit to the international one. For example, the energy-saving technology Japan is the most excellent of the world. If Japan spread electric products and cars produced applying that technology to the world, it is possible enough to reduce carbon dioxide

more than 10%.

The managers and technologists in Japan have pressed on outstanding technological renovations since the oil crisis. However, due to the protocol which gives priority to national interests, Japan had to face with the hard facts.

If the Kyoto Protocol comes into effect, Japan may have to obey the following items until 2008 to 2012.

Reduce 14 % of the emission of carbon dioxide from that of 1990 (The emission in Japan has increased by 8% since 1997, after the conference held in Kyoto. Adding 6 %, set in the Kyoto Protocol, Japan has to reduce 14 % of the total emission).

Donate to “the Special Climate Change Fund.”

Open the environment information to the public (no deception of data) to make political decisions clear.

Spread the energy-saving technology to the world.

Despite many difficulties, the Kyoto Protocol became effective in February 16, 2005.

Now the international society took big steps toward the prevention of the global warming. There already have occurred several disasters due to an abnormal climate and people in the whole world began to feel that the influence of the global warming would involve them.

Japan, the country that adopted the Kyoto Protocol, has a responsibility to take the initiative in carrying out this protocol. In other words, Japan should venture to reform the industrial structure towards the post-fossil fuels and the post-massive consumption.

There is no way but to enforce the Kyoto Protocol for the world to survive to the next generation. The enforcement of the Kyoto Protocol provides us with an important opportunity to break the massive-consumption society supported from fossil fuels and to construct a new recyclable society. A society which takes care of the nature will be a society which is kind to both materials and people, but what do you think?

\* The copyright of this article belongs to Creature National Institute for Environmental Studies.