

## How to Fight the Climate Crisis

Governments from most developing countries are usually confronted with one main problem when making policies or decisions. On one end of the scale, weighs the whole entire planet Earth. On the other end of the scale, weighs gold bars. When choosing between environmental protection and economy growth, we've seen examples upon examples where governments choose those gold bars of wealth. The Brazil rainforest is slowly disappearing to make space for logging and plantation of the billion dollar cocoa industry; China's rivers and natural habits are being subdued to factories that fuel another prospering business of processing industries; Animals are being brutally poached for their fins, tusks, horns, paws, skins, fur etc. We're now witnessing the worst form of exploitation known to man – the exploitation of the Earth.

When governments pick those gold bars of economy growth instead of the environment, in the short term, a lot of problems are being solved. Problems that find solutions to not only economical issues, but improves lifestyles for the people. When the employment rate increases, people are more prone to spending more money, thus increasing the money flow in the economy, which eventually will prosper the nation. What governments neglect to consider, is the staggering opportunity cost of such a decision and the long term problem of the Earth dying. Is it worth it?

The fact that people still need to earn money to eat still stands. So economical growth policies can't be neglected. The goal we must all work towards is finding a harmonious balance between both environment and economy without one harming the other. Governments as well as us mere civilians can make a huge difference in our awareness and participation.

Living in modern day Taipei, our lives are very comfortable and we enjoy many luxuries a good economy and a developed society brings. The air conditioning in malls, busses, public buildings, schools, even in our homes are used to our liking. Many people, when equipped with the ability to afford a car, will buy one instead of taking public transport everyday. Everyone has at least one cell phone. Many people have two cell phones. TV's, computers, laptops, all sorts of electrical appliances are commonly seen in every household. We ourselves need to do our part in fighting the climate crisis. I myself try to always follow the golden rule of "Reduce, reuse, and recycle." Reduce electricity usage by simply turning off the lights and AC when we leave the room may sound simple enough to execute, but surprisingly, but quite a lot

of people neglect that.

The severeness of the climate crisis has shown itself through sea levels rising to sink countries, typhoons and hurricanes demolishing cities and killing thousands of people, droughts starving the people, the list goes on. These threats are very real and already happening. Environmental protection is not just something you read about in the TIMES magazine or something you hear about in speeches by important people, it's something that is embedded into each and everyone of our lives. We all need to do our own part.