

Environmental Damage: Problem & Solution

In today's world, economic development is the main priority for every country in the world. When we talk about economy, we also talk about natural resources as it's one of the most important factors in economic development. So, when a country has natural resources in abundant, it's pretty much sure that that country will emerge as one of world economic power.

Now, come the problem of the so called 'environmental issue'. Many people around the world are now talking about protecting the environment, global warning, etc. Environment protection has become a global issue, many NGO or government of the developed countries try to press the issue. For me such act is considered egoistic. We all know that many people desire a positive economic development, and we all know economic development & environmental protection are two sides of a coin, you have to choose one side & neglect the other side. It's not possible to protect environment while maintaining a good economic development. Those who press the issue are wealthy & developed countries & they press it on developing countries. By doing that way, do they mean that other countries can't enjoy an economic development as theirs? Or maybe those countries forget that they did damage the environment during their respective economic development. So long as there are developing countries, it's not possible for us to protect the environment.

Another issue on environmental protection is the human. We all know human is a selfish & hypocrite being. Human will do anything just to reach their goals, the phrase homo howini lupus perfectly describes it. As I said before, many people talks about environmental issue, my question is: are they consistent? do they really do what they say in their campaign? Most of the time, people only talk, they don't act. Those NATO(Not Action, Talk Only) people are one of the reason why now we're not able to successfully protect the environment.

My sister is an activist for environmental protection campaign. She always talk about carbon emission & air pollution. Once, she asked me to drive her somewhere & I refused her saying that since she campaigned for clean air, she should take public transport instead of using personal car. When she heard what I said, she replied: "Don't be so extreme, our countries will never grow if all people think like you." Her reply showed that she herself was hypocrite. She talked about protecting the environment, but when asked to do what she said, she just refused. If environmental campaigners are like her, how would you expect many people to listen to what they say?

Now, allow me to give some advices on environmental issue. I come from Indonesia, it's a country who currently enjoy a good & rapid economic growth. As a developing country, Indonesia surely faces the environmental problem, so now I'll talk from Indonesian point of view on what Indonesian can do to protect the environment.

First, put the garbage into the bin. Indonesian develop a bad habit of throwing garbage & trash everywhere. If we don't find any garbage bin, we could just throw it on the road. If we Indonesian stop throwing garbage on the road, Indonesia will be cleaner. There are 3 major rivers flow through the city of Jakarta, a look on their waters, you'll find out that on the upper layer is full of trash. Those trash are product of people throwing trash on the river. If people stop throwing garbage to the river (or road), I'm very sure that those 3 rivers can all be converted to something like Kaohsiung's Love River.

Second, stop illegal logging. Indonesia is a tropical country. She has plenty of tropical rain forests, especially in Kalimantan island. Those forests produce the best quality of wood, which means forest can be 'gold mine' for some people. To use the forest, we need to get a license from Indonesian government, but many people don't want to wait for the license. They just simply cut down the trees & start selling it without permission. This is what we called illegal logging. Illegal logging really damage the rain forest because those logger keep cutting down forest without replacing or fixing the damage. Nowadays, if you read Indonesian news, you'll read news about forest fire in Indonesia. Forest fire is one side effect of illegal logging. If people in Indonesia stop logging illegally, the forest fire can be prevented. Of course it will keep Indonesia green.

Last, stop smoking. Indonesians are heavy smokers. 9 out of 10 Indonesian male are smokers. Indonesian cigarettes are strong cigarettes. One cigarette contains 1.8 mg of nicotine & 31 mg tar (compare it to Taiwanese cigarette with 0.7 mg nicotine, 7 mg tar). Because of its heavy contain, cigarette has been a major factor in polluting the air. The pollution of cigarettes is so 'great' that you can even smell the cigarettes around almost everywhere. If Indonesian stop smoking, just imagine how the air quality will change. If 3 out of those 9 smokers quitting smoke, it will surely help solving some problem in air pollution. My father is a smoker & you can smell the aroma of cigarettes in our house. If he stops smoking, after few years time our house will surely be free of cigarettes aroma.

Protecting the environment is a difficult job. It's not impossible, but it's difficult. If we as individual do our part, I believe the environment will be better than what it is now. We do our part the rest of people ill follow us & do like what we do.