



Global Warming. Global Action. Global Future.



## **I - Significance of 24 October International Day of Climate Action**

The photographs you see in this pack represent the participation of your country in the most widespread day of political action ever. On October 24 over 5,200 events took place worldwide, in more than 181 countries. Your country took part, and the photos here encapsulate their participation in the day of action. Your fellow citizens are now part of the growing civil society call to action for 350 ppm CO<sub>2</sub>.

From farmers in Cameroon, to students in China, to mountain climbers in Nepal, thousands of people have taken up the 350 call, and support those countries who have also adopted this goal. They know that an international agreement with 350 as its goal is imperative in order to safeguard a future safe from further climate catastrophe.

Climate impacts in the last month have been severe--massive flooding is impacting swathes of Southeast Asia, while a severe drought continues to threaten many people throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. People throughout the world look to you to continue to take your responsibility seriously, and to rise to historic leadership.

## **II - What to know about 350 ppm CO<sub>2</sub>:**

Here are a few helpful facts about the 350 ppm target and the 350.org campaign.

-Dr. James Hansen, leading climatologist, identified 350 ppm as the upper safe level for Carbon in the atmosphere in his landmark paper, "Target Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>: Where Should Humanity Aim?"

-An atmospheric greenhouse gas stabilization target of 450 part per million (ppm) CO<sub>2</sub> was historically viewed as a target sufficient to avoid dangerous climate change, however, this is no longer the accepted scientific consensus.

-Greenhouse gas concentrations of 450 CO<sub>2</sub> provide only a 50/50 chance of limiting warming to 2°C (3.6° F) – at best, a flip of a coin for the wellbeing of future generations. Scientific projections are now clear about the impacts that are likely at 2 degrees Celsius:

-Multiple climactic “tipping points” will be triggered, such as complete loss of summer Arctic sea ice and the irreversible melting of the Greenland ice sheet.

-Several developing nations will be permanently and completely under water, while many others stand to lose significant portions of their land mass.

-The UNFCCC and others have predicted serious escalation of hunger, new disease threats and child mortality in certain regions of the developing world.

-Ecosystems will be irreversibly lost. A UN project to quantify the financial costs of climate change on nature concluded that current climate targets will not be enough to save the world's coral reefs, which entire communities depend upon.

-The UN's top climate scientist, Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, personally endorsed a 350 ppm target, as did Lord Nicholas Stern, noted climate change economist.

-Twenty top climate scientists recently issued an open letter to President Obama and the United States Congress stating their view that objectives of 450ppm CO<sub>2</sub>, “are inadequate to sustain the integrity of global climate and to hold the risk of ruinous climatic change to an acceptably low level.”

-The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has found that the emissions of the United States and other developed (Annex I) countries should be reduced by 25 to 40% below 1990 levels by 2020 to reach a 450 ppm CO<sub>2</sub>eq stabilization level (corresponding to 400 ppm CO<sub>2</sub>). Thus, to reach 350 ppm CO<sub>2</sub>, the U.S. must exceed the upper end of this range. To put the world on a path to reach a level of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> of 350 ppm, greenhouse gas emissions from Annex 1 countries should be reduced by at least 40-45% below 1990 levels by 2020.

### **About 350.org**

-350.org is an international campaign dedicated to creating an equitable global climate treaty that lowers carbon dioxide below 350 parts per million.

-The 350.org team works with a network of field organizers in 13 countries and six continents. The majority of staff members are part of the growing international youth climate movement.

-The 350.org campaign partners with hundreds of organizations worldwide to form a truly global network calling for 350 ppm and taking grassroots action during the International Day of Climate Action this past October 24.