

Providing people with practical means of combating climate change should be associated with giving them hope for a better future. This can be done worldwide by achieving fundamental human rights and empowering the silent majority – the poor and the vulnerable. Their well-being and rights – and the carrying capacity of our planet – must be given particular attention through a focus on human security, to avoid stalling and reversing the turning wheel of human development. Collective efforts – engaging states, enterprises, civil society groups and individuals – are essential in developing a common global action plan to ensure world stability.

The world's consumers and producers of prosperity are the same people. They are at the receiving end of the effects of historic greenhouse gas emissions, which are hurting the rich a little and the poor a lot! The early developed world – the USA, Canada, Europe and Japan – has an average per capita GNP of \$34,000 a year: in the remaining, later developing world it is \$2,200. Such a prosperity gap is a time bomb, but might provide a way forward. Would it not be a strategy for human security and global developmental justice if the early developed world spent a small fraction of its tremendous income advantage to establish an inexhaustible and sufficient energy source for everyone based on renewables? Just one thousandth of this income advantage, over \$30,000 billion a year, would be more than sufficient to launch the DESERTEC Concept in the most suitable desert regions around the world, within one or two decades – thus overcoming global energy inequity and social injustice and ending the increasing impetus of climate change.

3.6 million

Cost in US\$ for offsetting all the greenhouse gas emissions (estimated at 300,000 tonnes), which will be produced by the Vancouver 2010 Games, including those from airplanes bringing thousands of athletes and spectators to the western Canadian city
– **Vancouver Organizing Committee**

501

Number of UN-backed clean energy projects in China as part of the Clean Development Mechanism, as of 31 March 2009. China has the highest number of such projects, followed by India (with 411) and Brazil (with 156). Globally, the United Nations has approved 1,539 projects around the world – **Reuters**

267

Worth in billions of pounds of the so called eco-barons – tycoons who have made either serious investments in green technology and businesses or hefty financial commitments to environmental causes
– **Business Times Online**

11

Amount in billions of dollars being set aside for “smart grid” investments under President Obama’s stimulus package
– **NY Times, Green Inc.**

8

Percentage by which airlines will reduce their carbon emissions this year. About 6 per cent of the forecast carbon cut will come as a result of carriers flying fewer planes in 2009, and a further 1.8 per cent reflects steps to improve energy efficiency
– **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**

40

Percentage of the world’s electricity that renewable energy technologies such as wind and solar power could supply by 2050
– **Helsinki University of Technology**

51.4

Billions of dollars in worldwide revenue created by wind power in 2008
– **Business Green**

50

Investment in billion of pounds needed to make Saharan thermal solar power an attractive and viable prospect for private investors
– **International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis**

4,000

Number of cities around the world that switched off their lights for Earth Hour – a global call to action on climate change – **WWF**