



Zakri Abdul Hamid

Science Policy Nexus: The Politics of Climate Change

Abstract (250 words)

The year 2020 was a watershed event in the history of climate change politics. It marked the end of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and the beginning of the ambitious Paris Agreement. It was also the year of the pandemic, where the disruption caused severe implications on a global scale. The pandemic also brought before the world the severity and scale of the transboundary challenges in a globally interconnected world. It exposed the weaknesses of the global institutions and governance structures in tackling the complex and imminent threat of climate change.

The 2015 Paris agreement aimed to keep average global temperatures well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. Yet many of the cuts in greenhouse-gas emissions that governments promised in Paris were far too small to meet this target, and little has been achieved since. The pressure to tackle climate change has never been greater and its effects never felt so strongly. During the COP 27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, UN Secretary-General António Guterres concluded that the world was “on a highway to climate hell with our foot on the accelerator.” Yet, in spite of the scientific evidence at hand, climate change remains the toughest, most intractable political issue we, as a society, have ever faced.

Finance is at the heart of all that the world is doing to combat climate change. Mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, climate technology – all of it requires sufficient funds to function properly and to yield the desired results.

Biodata (250 words)

Zakri Abdul Hamid is a distinguished professor at UCSI University, Malaysia and currently holds the distinction of being the fifth holder of the Tun Hussein Onn Chair in International Studies at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia. He is chairman of Atri Advisory, a consulting company advising governments and international organisations on sustainable development and is currently the Pro-Chancellor of two universities in Malaysia, namely Universiti Perguruan Sultan Idris in Tanjung Malim and Multimedia University in Cyberjaya. He is the joint-chairmen of the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT), chairman of the Business Council on Sustainable Development, Malaysia and chairman of the National Biodiversity Roundtable.

He was the Science Adviser to the Prime Minister of Malaysia and former Director of the Institute of Advanced Studies, United Nations University. He is the founding Chair of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and former member of the UN Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board. Zakri is one of the original negotiators of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. He is an emeritus member of the Global Leadership Council of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN); former member of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Scientific Advisory Board and presently a vice-chair of the governing council of the UN Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries. Recent appointments include ambassador and science advisor to the Campaign for Nature and founding fellow, International Science Council. Zakri is a senior fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia. Among the awards he received are: 2019 National Academic Laureate; 2019 UN Malaysia Award; 2018 Midori Biodiversity Prize; 2017 ASEAN Biodiversity Hero, and the 2015 Merdeka Award, and the 2014 Zayed International Prize for the Environment.