

1. *'Climate and Health'* by Paul R. Epstein

The paper again highlights the inter-connectivity of various development challenges through economic, social and environmental threads. The paper clearly articulates the linkages between extreme weather events and outbreak of diseases and its severe impact on economy especially in developing countries. While the technology and know-how is available to predict epidemics such as cholera as much as five months advance using climate data and remote sensing as the paper has suggested, my take on this is that most of the time it may not be possible for developing countries to afford this. I would argue that most of developing countries are still struggling to provide the basic amenities-safe drinking water and improved sanitation, which results in out-break of diseases which are otherwise fully controllable. The paper certainly has added another dimension-health, in the ongoing debate on global climate change which requires a global concerted effort. This in turn brings the importance of striking a balance between economic development and environmental conservation and it is hoped that countries that have signed and ratifies the Kyoto Protocol will do their best to arrest the trend and orient their programs and policies for sustainable development.

2. *Assessing Climate Stability* by Paul R. Epstein and James J. McCarthy

The paper has carefully collated the evidence of likely impact of global climate change on ecosystems and consequently affecting sustainability of development. Since, World Conference on Environment and Development, 1972, the body of knowledge in this regard has grown. What struck while reading the paper and reflecting it is that even today despite evidence, somehow governments are unwilling to take decisive actions to contribute to global efforts. I think least and less developed countries may end up not being able to reap the benefits of modernization under pressure from major international players who might force them to forgo their ambitions of industrialization and conserve their natural resources. I strongly think that international community needs to compensate these countries and also people in industrialized countries need to change their life-styles and habits and adopt policies and technologies to reduce the emission of green house gases and lead the world in this venture.

3. *Smoke and mirrors: deficiencies in disaster funding*

I really liked this paper well argued with numbers, which, I think is often not known to people that all aid which is pledged is not usually delivered, who might in turn blame the government for doing enough. I have personally witnessed this even at national level in India during Latur earthquake (1993) and Bhuj earthquake (2001). Another, point which has not been covered in the paper is the role of media, which I would blame for creating hysteria in the immediate aftermath of a disaster and then simply stop reporting as to what is happening on the rehabilitation front. I have observed that many companies in fact promise aid for rehabilitation under media pressure and also utilize the opportunity to their advantage by communicating how serious they are about social and community responsibility. Many of them in fact flee from the scene as soon as the media lime light is over.