

## **Reaction Paper Jeevan Sahota**

The readings assigned for this week addressed a very important issue concerning the safety of people from potential technological disasters specifically when the impacts are go beyond national boundaries. I found the readings failed to address the issue adequately. The readings it seems were in a series and hence, possibly could not provide a more comprehensive grasp on the issues involved. The readings did not include adequate discussion on role of international law in addressing the issues, e.g. whether existing provision of international law are inadequate or the issues are simply beyond the purview of international laws?

The Border Crossings by Kasperson & Kasperson, however was engaging and helped understanding the socio-cultural and political implications of trans-boundary risks. The discussion of concepts of social amplification (and attenuation) was interesting in mitigating the potential conflict among various actors namely nation states.

The readings by Loftshed Swedish Aid and the Ignalina forced me to ponder over the complicated nature of the issues involved-bilateral political relations, highly technical issues and potential intervention by Russia should Russian workforce is removed from the nuclear facility. I wonder how long Sweden could go on providing techno-financial support to Lithuania.

I strongly think that one needs some understanding of International Environmental Law to fully appreciate the appropriate managerial intervention by the international community and its likely effectiveness. The difficulties in arriving at a consensus during protracted negotiation for Kyoto protocol is an example of how economic growth priorities far exceeds the need for ensuring environmental sustainability. The readings failed to provide a glimpse of possible solutions.