

Dear Secretary of Senate Select Committee,

Water, Air and Forests have been nature's treasures that we have used and misused over the centuries. The misuse started with industrialisation and has never stopped since then. Europe and the United States have been the largest beneficiaries from the rewards of industrialisation that have made them the so-called G7 and have further progressed to the G20 countries.

Countries like India and China that had been the leading countries of the world in terms of GDP almost 200 years ago actually lost their ranking until a few decades ago, due to industrialisation. Now the so-called G7 want underdeveloped countries including Africa and South America to share the same burden that they have largely created even though the benefit was shared by a select few.

I think globally, we should have a consumption tax that is calculated based on air polluted, water used and waste created based on a % of inhabited land mass as these are globally nature's gifts to be shared and enjoyed, not monopolised by the so-called superpowers. This tax could be traded on the exchange so that underdeveloped countries could actually have an advantage in competing with developed nations.

In the end, as you sow, you shall reap and to every action has an equal and opposite reaction.

On a separate note, the government's encouraging energy efficiency using Compact Fluorescent lamps. In a decade there will be approximately 40 million x 10 years x 2mg mercury per lamp = 800 million mg of Mercury in our environment that cannot be effectively recycled on top of the 1 billion fluorescent tubes that will be used with 2 billion mg of mercury left to recycle. Yes, we save energy but damage the earth with mercury imported from China and other production countries. Who is really thinking of the future generations that will inhabit this land?

Yours sincerely,
Neil Fonseca