

# eco



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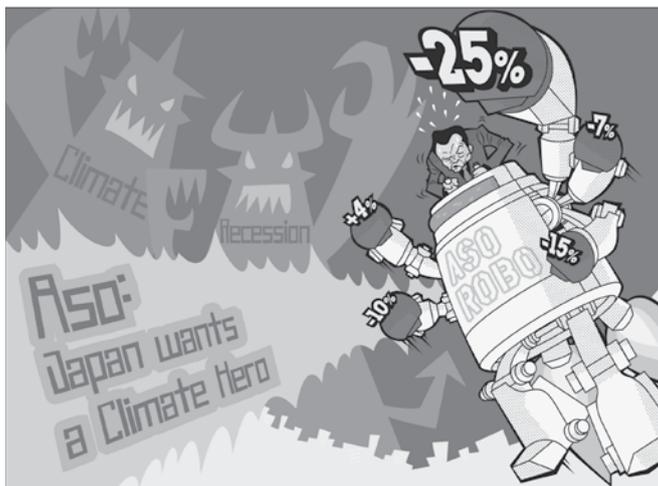
## PM Aso, Be a Hero!

An ad in today's Nikkei – Japan's biggest business newspaper – depicts Prime Minister Aso as a robot, fighting off the twin monsters of climate change and recession. The ad calls on Mr Aso to use his best available weapon – a 25% cut in emissions– to fend off the monsters. As Mr Aso is renowned for his love of manga (Japanese strip cartoons) the ad was designed in manga style to make sure he didn't miss it.

The ad also highlights the fact that a new poll has revealed that Japanese voters favor a 25% or higher 2020 emissions reduction target. The survey, conducted by internationally renowned polling firm Greenberg Quinlan

Rosner, found that more than 63% of Japanese favor a 2020 emissions reduction target of 25% or more on 1990 levels, 62% think that the Aso government isn't doing enough to combat climate change, and 61% believe that an ambitious 2020 target would help the economy.

However, Prime Minister Aso, a member of the ruling political party, the LDP, is considering six possible 2020 emissions reduction targets, which range from an extraordinary 4% increase – as called for by the main industry association, the Keidanren – to a 25% decrease on 1990 levels, which is supported by the main opposition party, the DPJ.



### The People Call for 25% Target

Two great enemies, climate change and the recession, are menacing the people of Japan – and all of planet Earth. Aso, the leader of Japan, has called on the Japanese people to advise him.

A new poll shows that 63% of the Japanese people want Aso to attack the two enemies with his strongest weapon: a 25% or greater cut in carbon emissions by 2020, the target that scientists say is necessary to prevent a global climate catastrophe. And a majority of Japanese believe that such a cut will help fight both climate change and the recession at the same time by spurring innovation, efficiency and creating millions of new green jobs.

But polluting villains tell Aso he is not strong enough to defeat both the enemies – that he should run away. In the guise of "industry", these villains have gained the ear of Aso's advisors and have been allowed to dominate Aso's supposedly open public consultation process. If these villains have their way, Japan will fall behind other countries in global leadership on energy efficiency and climate action and will be defeated by the twin enemies of recession and climate change.

Aso has just a few days left to make his decision. The people want Japan to lead, the world needs Japan to lead... But will he?

Let us not forget that the IPCC has said that in order to avoid catastrophic climate change – warming of more than 2°C – developed countries such as Japan need to cut emissions by 25-40% on 1990 levels by 2020, and that more recent science suggests that even 40% may not be enough. So if Aso were to choose the weak target, it would be only in order to please his industrial lobby, and he would be abandoning people's lives all around the world. He is expected to announce the target in early June. If Prime Minister Aso ever dreamed of being a comic book hero in a manga comic, he had better start by setting a 2020 target at 25% or higher, or he can forget about it altogether.

The ads can be viewed at [www.avaaz.org/japan\\_climate\\_poll](http://www.avaaz.org/japan_climate_poll).

## Where is the Biodiversity?

Delegates may have noticed the absence of biodiversity in the Maritim. Apart from a scary Tyrannosaur and a nice mix of people from all over the world, there's not much to see in the gardens or even in the chair's LCA text. Biodiversity appears only once under REDD, as a "co-benefit". Co-benefit? Something like getting fit because you left your car at home to ride a bike? Biodiversity is a core benefit of REDD and people are not even aware of it.

Unless REDD is designed with biodiversity in mind, we risk losing our beautiful natural forests to tedious monoculture plantations. But, what's wrong with tedious monoculture plantations? Well: forests contain more carbon than plantations and are more resilient to climate change; what's more, they also have a far greater biodiversity value.

So what was that again? Biodiversity is not only about a red tulip in a pot. Being a selfish biped primate, we humans constantly underestimate how much we depend on biodiversity. Biodiversity is not simply "nice-to-have", it is essential for mankind's continued existence on the planet. It makes up ecosystems and ecosystems provide services than we depend on, for example, clean water and breathable air (we don't need to explain why these are important – or do we?). Ecosystem services are not only local, but global, as they also control weather patterns. For example, rainfall in the US Midwest is affected by the Amazon forest: lose the Amazon, either to climate change or deforestation, and you will feel severe impacts in other parts of the planet. Talking on negotiators' language, one recent study estimated that we lose biodiversity each year that would have produced ecosystem services worth around 50 billion Euros per year.

Moreover, especially during a time of rapid climate change, a well-functioning ecosystem can protect us from some of the impacts, such as flooding. And let's not forget

*–continued on back page, col. 1*

**JAPAN'S EMISSIONS OVER TIME**

**MORE INFORMATION**

- Although Japan is a world leader in energy efficiency, it has continued to increase climate emissions since 1990, breaking its Kyoto commitment.
- The Stern Review estimated the global costs of cutting emissions by 25-40% at an average of 1% of GDP. Failing to act would have much, much higher costs: 5-9% GDP.
- The Ministry of the Environment estimated that the effect of "Japanese Green New Deal" will increase environmental market and employment from 70 billion JPY to 100 billion JPY and from 1.4 million to 2.8 million respectively by 2020.
- Europe has set a renewable target of 20% by 2020; the US wind energy target is 20% by 2020. What about Japan? RPS sets a target of only 1.5% by 2014. Does Japan want to fall behind in the shift to low carbon society?

**AVAAZ.ORG**  
Avatar print for Japan just and globalist with a human face

**tck tck tck**  
time for climate justice

backlink to an international campaign for climate change

Key points related to mitigation which are currently missing in the LCA negotiating text.

- Since it has now been proposed that developing countries submit low carbon action plans, developed countries should also have to submit their plans—zero carbon plans that map their trajectory towards decarbonisation by 2050 and the policies and measures that will get them there.
- Developed countries should also have to submit a detailed plan for providing measurable, reportable, and verifiable support to developing countries in the form of finance, capacity building and technology. The compliance mechanism needs to be strong enough to make sure this happens.
- Double counting emission reductions should be avoided. Developed countries have a dual mitigation obligation, to reduce emissions domestically (with the help of a limited number of high quality offsets) AND to finance developing countries' nationally appropriate mitigation actions. Let's not mix these two up.
- Finally, we need a scientific review in 2014, a schedule that matches the IPCC's scheduled AR5 and early enough in the second commitment period to adjust plans going forward.

The objectives, scope and guiding principles of the AWGLCA text on Finance do not adequately address the following issues

- Key guiding principles like adequacy, inclusivity, and subsidiarity are ignored.
- Does not adequately address the issue that a new governance paradigm must be established for a new and comprehensive financial structure under the convention.
- Does not fully address the issue of direct access.
- Does not recognize that the new financial structure must be demand and recipient country driven and must have stake-holder participation at all levels of decision making.
- Does not build in adequate environmental and social safeguards.
- No mention made of prioritising investments towards marginalised and vulnerable groups including women and indigenous people.
- Not clear enough on how to achieve the required scale of financing.
- Does not adequately emphasise that the new financial structure must be controlled and operated by the COP and does not adequately flesh out its various components and entities.
- Compliance issues are not adequately addressed.

## GEF? Green Equitable Fund ?

Day1 at Bonn II, the GEF CEO had her second NGO dialogue since Poznan and here is, inter alia, what we have learned:

Back in 1994, US\$ 2 billion was pledged into GEF, the operating entity of the financial mechanism embedded in the Convention. So what has been changed since then? Luckily, the number has "increased" to US\$ 3.13 billion at GEF 4 (2006 to 2010), despite the current infatuation of US dollars and, believe it or not, NOT all this pledged money has reached GEF. Even scarier, this generous financial contribution from developed countries is split into six focal areas within GEF on various environmental issues. Climate change being only one of the six and with an uneven focus on mitigation. Such an 'impressive' financial resource is meant to assist 140 developing countries to cope with debilitating climate change impacts and its enormous consequences. On the other hand, as noted by the

*—Biodiversity, from front page* that land-based ecosystems have absorbed an estimated 30% of mankind's atmospheric carbon emissions. Degrade ecosystems and you degrade their ability to protect and insulate us from climate change. Or would you like to see these carbon sinks develop into carbon sources?

Unless REDD distinguishes between nat-

ural forests and plantations, and includes targets of gross zero deforestation, we will continue with the "business-as-usual" slashing of natural forests, while allowing some countries to get credits for tedious biodiversity-poor plantations. Crazy huh? Instead, REDD plus mechanism could benefit biodiversity by encouraging ecological restoration of degraded and lost forests. It's just so easy!

The GEF is an inadequate mechanism because of its bureaucratic procedures, donor driven governance and a lack of acceptability and trust by the developing countries. Furthermore, the scale of financial support available simply fails to meet developing country expectations so far.

What is increasingly clear is that the GEF must not be the model for a post 2012 financial architecture which must explicitly be geared towards meeting the needs of the most vulnerable countries and communities. Above all, the new financial architecture must just not be another GEF.

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## 550.org

*550.org is a new NGO formed to support the many Parties that wish to ignore or repeal Article II of the UNFCCC.*

*550.org believes that avoiding dangerous climate change is too difficult and that concerns for ecosystems, food supplies and sustainable development should not stand in the way of reaching a weak and ineffective agreement at København.*

*550.org has the support of scientists and governments who reject policies based only on untested hypotheses and computer models. The only way to find out the true value for climate sensitivity to doubled CO<sub>2</sub> is to double the CO<sub>2</sub> content of the atmosphere - and to do so quickly enough to inform negotiations at COP56 in 2050.*

*550.org supports climate change of at least 3°C this century as a modest, but feasible, target and rejects both the 1.5°C and 2.0°C targets as needlessly weak. Emission trajectories consistent with such targets pose unjustifiable threats to the development of fossil fuel resources, the economies that depend on them and the donors who support 550.org.*

*550.org proposes a comprehensive København Agreement that encourages Parties to make common but differentiated contributions to enhanced climate change, provides flexibility mechanisms for Parties wishing to assist others to increase their greenhouse gas emissions, and ensures that the most vulnerable countries have the freedom to respond autonomously to the consequences of increased climate variability and rapid climate change.*

*More information on the views of 550.org may be found in the formal interventions of the many Parties that wish to ignore or repeal Article II of the UNFCCC.*