

Climate Change: The Philippines Haiyan Typhoon is not the Result of Global Warming

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Global Research, November 15, 2013
[RT Op-Edge](#)

Region: [Asia](#)
Theme: [Environment](#), [Global Economy](#)

Haiyan (Yolanda), the strongest tropical typhoon ever recorded has occurred in the Philippines with devastating consequences for an entire nation, resulting in more than 10,000 deaths. An estimated [615,000](#) people have been displaced. Up to 4.3 million people have been affected, according to government sources.

The tragedy in the Philippines has become a talking point at the Warsaw international venue on Climate Change under UN auspices. The plight of typhoon Haiyan has casually been assigned without evidence to the impacts of global warming.



While there is no scientific evidence that Super typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) was the consequence of global warming, the opening statements at the Warsaw Summit have hinted in no uncertain terms to a verified causal relationship. U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change Executive director Christiana Figueres, stated (without evidence) that the typhoon was part of the “sobering reality” of global warming. ([quoted in Did Climate Change Cause Supertyphoon Haiyan? | TIME.com](#), November 11, 2013).

In turn, Philippines Representative to the UN Climate Change Venue Mr. Yeb Sano in his

address to the opening session stated:

“Typhoons such as Yolanda (Haiyan) and its impacts represent a sobering reminder to the international community that we cannot afford to procrastinate on climate action. Warsaw must deliver on enhancing ambition and should muster the political will to address climate change.” ([UN News Center](#), November 11, 2013)

In a bitter irony, the tragedy in the Philippines has contributed to reinforcing a consensus which indirectly feeds the pockets of corporations lobbying for a new deal on carbon trade. Cap and Trade is a multibillion dollar bonanza which is supported by the global warming consensus. According to UNFCCC head Figueres:

“We must clarify finance that enables the entire world to move towards low-carbon development,... We must launch the construction of a mechanism that helps vulnerable populations to respond to the unanticipated effects of climate change.”

Known and documented, cap-and-trade markets are manipulated. What is at stake is the trade in carbon derivatives which is controlled by powerful financial institutions including JP Morgan Chase. (See [Copenhagen’s Hidden Agenda: The Multibillion Trade in Carbon Derivatives](#), Global Research, December 8, 2009). In 2008, Simon Linnett, Executive Vice-Chairman of Rothschild’s acknowledged the nature of this multibillion dollar business:

As a banker, I also welcome the fact that the ‘cap-and-trade’ system is becoming the dominant methodology for CO2 control. Unlike taxation, or plain regulation, cap-and-trade offers the greatest scope for private sector involvement and innovation.” ([Telegraph](#), January 31, 2008)

Cap and trade packaged into derivative products feeds on the global warming consensus. Without it, this multibillion dollar trade would fall flat.

The humanitarian crisis in the Philippines bears no relationship to global warming. The social impacts of typhoon Haiyan are aggravated due to the lack of infrastructure and social services, not to mention the absence of a coherent housing policy. Those most affected by the typhoon are living in poverty in make-shift homes.

A reduction of CO2 emissions as suggested Mr. Yeb Sano in his address to the opening session of the Warsaw Climate summit will not resolve the plight of an impoverished population.

In the Philippines, the social impacts of natural disasters are invariably exacerbated by a macro-economic policy framework imposed by Manila’s external creditors.

What is at stake is the deadly thrust of neoliberal economic reforms. For more than 25 years, since the demise of the Marcos dictatorship, the IMF’s “economic medicine” under the helm of the Washington Consensus has prevailed, largely serving the interests of financial institutions and corporations in mining and agribusiness.

The government of Benigno Aquino has embarked upon a renewed wave of austerity

measures which involves sweeping privatization and the curtailment of social programs. In turn, a large chunk of the State budget has been redirected to the Military which is collaborating with the Pentagon under Obama's "Asia Pivot". This program -which serves the interests of Washington at the expense of the Philippines population- also includes a 1.7 billion dollars purchase of advanced weapons systems.

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