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US-China in two polar on future climate issue

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BANGKOK, Oct 7 (BSS)- The USA and China, two biggest atmospheric polluters in terms of carbon emission, today exposed their wide differences on various climate issues including future of the Kyoto Protocol, raising question whether any consensus between developed and developing groups at all possible within only 60 days to sign a deal in Copenhagen.

Jonathan Pershing, leader of the US delegation and Qingtai YU, special climate change envoy for China (G77/China) were speaking about their country's position before the media fellows of the UNFCCC and Climate Change Media Partnership (CCMP) in session called as 'media clinic' here today.

A panel of six speakers comprising the delegates of both the developed and developing countries joined the session held under the auspices of the CCMP.

Karl Falkenberg, member of European Commission, Quamrul Islam Chowdhury of Bangladesh delegation, David Lesolle of Botswana and Dessima Williams of Grenada were other members of the panel.

Chinese leader Qingtai YU said the USA is blowing whistle just before only two months to set new rules in the negotiation process that is totally unacceptable.

"The process of negotiation began in two years ago when we adopted the Bali Road Map with unanimous consensus of the all parties. We are newly trying to start a new process and wish to have a totally new game," he said.

He said the Kyoto Protocol provided the each and every developed countries with specific national target which to be accomplished between year 2008 and 2012 and their second commitment period is supposed to begin from 2012.

"But in many countries emission has gone up instead of going down," he said adding "if a thing moves ahead and when any one try to taken pull it back you know what will be the result".

US delegation leaders Jonathan Perishing said some developing which total emission is more than developed countries, must bring under the binding commitment in any future climate deal.

"We are not part of the KP, we think our commitment will start as we committed for 20 percent reduction in short term and 80 percent cut by 2050.. We are calling for domestically same level action," he said.

He said a section is overstating about the US position in the negotiation process whereas the Obama administration over the last one year has enhanced our efforts ten folds.

"A year ago there was not significant money for green job and green programme, there was not stimulus package for climate," he said adding everything was put in place now and US congress is moving forward to proceed the climate related legislative system. There is no disagreement in the entire negotiation.... But our argue is that a long term regime can move the climate problem to a successful solution. Not just is five year, not just in ten year, he said.

Jonathan said a legal instrument with every nations' commitment is our the strongest part of our argument. We think this as should be the basis of action, he added.

There are 30 developing countries which have no commitments but have per capital emission higher than the many developed countries. If you look at the emission structure globally you will see where they were in 1990 and where they are today, he said.

Ruling out the Jonathan's statement the Chinese envoy said per capita emission of China, an abode of over 1.3 billion people, is around four tons per person per year. It is roughly about one third of the per capita emission level of developed countries, he said.

He said climate problem has been created by the developed countries for the unstrained and unlimited emission over centuries for their industrialized process and we are the victims.

He said every country needs to make an effort as common responsibility to protect the climate, but that contribution must be based on common but differentiated responsibility.

He said population of developed countries is only 20 percent of the global population who emit over 70 to 80 percent of the total emission. This is the true picture. So need to start negotiation from this point today, he said.

Meanwhile Greenpeace said, China is often perceived as a big irresponsible polluter, but even a simple review reveals that China has set national goals for renewable energy (15% by 2020) but the US has not set renewable energy targets at Federal level.

Instead, 28 states have set renewable portfolio standards with variable levels and target years.

Chinese fuel economy standards are significantly stricter than those of the US. Chinese cars have already reached the level of efficiency the US aims to achieve by 2016, under President Obama's newly established fuel economy standards.