



Climate Change: 'Finance key to successful outcome in Copenhagen'

Bangkok, Thailand (PANA) - A United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) top official has said the Copenhagen climate change agreement which is expected to be clinched in December needs to come up with a financial architecture that puts governments and parties to the convention in control, as well as decide what will be financed and how.

UNFCCC executive secretary Yvo de Boer said it was also critical that the Copenhagen conference in Denmark also comes away with an architecture that clearly responds to nationally-defined needs and priorities, as opposed to priorities at national institutions.

"If we don't get these two components, then basically we don't have a workable response to the architecture that people are presently dissatisfied with," de Boer told reporters Thursday at the Bangkok climate change talks taking place in the Thai capital.

The two-week long meeting ending Friday is discussing the draft text ahead of the UN climate change conference in Copenhagen in December, at which an ambitious and effective international climate change deal is expected to be clinched to prevent catastrophic climate change.

"If we can get a clear indication in Copenhagen at least by many industrialised countries on the reduction of their emissions by 2020 and if we can see a serious commitment to provide financial support to developing countries in line with their priorities, then I think we have the essential ingredients for success," de Boer said at the press conference.

He however warned that if there was no real advances on industrialised countries emission reduction targets that takes into the range that science has been pointing to, and also if there is no clarity on the financial support that is essential to the developing countries engagement on both mitigation and adaptation, then it would be difficult to advance the process in a constructive manner.

"Unless we see an advance on these key political issues, unless we see an advance on ambitious industrialised countries' targets and significant finance on the table, it is very difficult for negotiators in this process to continue their work in good faith," de Boer added.

According to de Boer, developing countries by and large are dissatisfied with the current financial architecture managed by institutions which have been accused of not responding properly to the guidance provided by the parties to the convention of the Kyoto Protocol and not adequately responding to priorities at national level.

He also mentioned the argument by developing countries, that they had been engaging constructively in order to enhance and advance the Kyoto Protocol without seeing an advance on key political issues.

The Bangkok meeting is part of a series of five major negotiating sessions under the UNFCCC leading up to the UN climate change conference in Copenhagen in December.

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