

Scare Watch

by Christopher Monckton

‘GLOBAL WARMING MAY REQUIRE HIGHER DAMS AND HOMES ON STILTS’



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by Christopher Monckton | December 15, 2009

The Scare: In early December 2009, shortly before the Copenhagen climate conference, the Associated Press – long notorious for its one-sidedly credulous presentation of the “global warming” issue – circulated an article saying that the world was “losing the battle against global warming”.

The article asserted that humans would have to “adapt or die” by elevating buildings, making taller and stronger dams and seawalls, rerouting water systems, changing farming practices and ultimately moving people, plants, and animals out of harm's way.

Railroad Engineer Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the UN’s climate science panel, is quoted as saying, "Adaptation is going to be absolutely crucial for some societies."

Jane Lubchenko, a marine biologist, is also quoted: “The rate of change is escalating.”

The article says that “desperately poor Bangladesh is spending more than \$50 million on adaptation. It is trying to fend off the sea with flood control and buildings on stilts.”

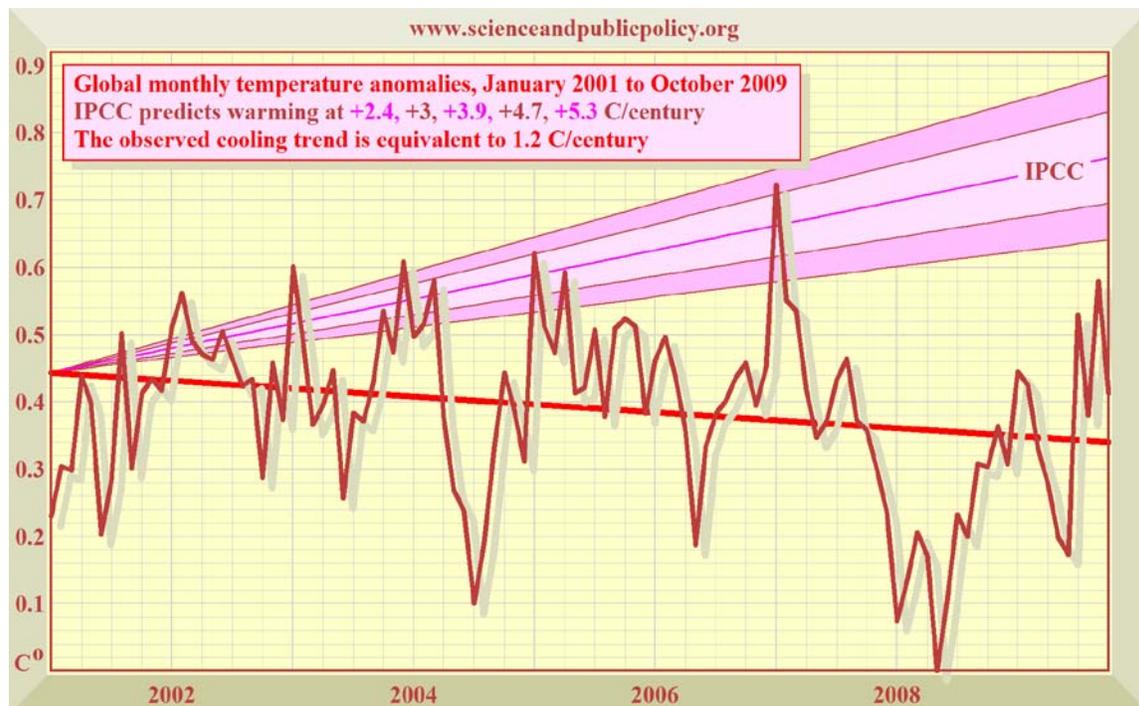
The World Bank, the article drones, estimates that adaptation costs will total \$75-100 billion a year over the next 40 years.

Islands like the Maldives “will not be able to survive rising seas no matter what protections are put in place”.

The Truth: Even by the negligible standards of the Associated Press and other newswires on the “global warming” issue, the latest article displays exceptional ignorance. Let us answer each of its errors.

“Losing the battle against ‘global warming’”: The article parrots a near-universal error among the news media – that “global warming” is happening at an unprecedented rate unforeseen by the UN.

Here, from SPPI’s influential and authoritative *Monthly CO2 Report*, is the global temperature record for the nine years since the turn of the millennium on 1 January 2001 –



“Adapt or die”: Sea level has risen by at least 400 feet over the 11,400 years since the last Ice Age suddenly came to an end. That is a rate of almost 4 feet per century. In the 20th century, when there was “global warming” of 1.1 F°, sea level rose by – well, just 8 inches. Not much to adapt to there. Even Railroad Engineer Pachauri’s climate panel only forecasts 17 inches for this century, and Professor Niklas Mörner, the world’s foremost expert on the subject, puts it at just 8 inches (possibly as little as 2 inches). In the past four years sea level has scarcely risen at all.

“Adaptation is going to be crucial for some societies”: With all respect to Railroad Engineer Pachauri, few societies are going to find it problematical to adapt to a sea-level rise of 2 inches, or even of 17 inches.

“The rate of change is escalating”: This, at least, is true – but not in the direction that the accident-prone Ms. Lubchenko would like us to imagine. This millennium, global cooling at a rate equivalent to 2.2 F/century has occurred. Since Al Gore shot his sci-fi comedy horror movie in 2005, however, the cooling rate has tripled.

“Desperately poor Bangladesh” is sinking: Not quite. In fact – though the Associated Press has somehow not gotten round to reporting this – the land area of Bangladesh has increased by 70,000 square kilometers in the past 30 years, not exactly the profile of a territory imminently about to disappear beneath the waves. There is only one part of the Bangladesh coastline that is suffering from erosion, and that is Sunderban, where the Bangladeshis have imprudently cleared thousands of acres of mangrove swamps to make way for coastal shrimp farms. Without the mangroves to bind the shoreline, it is being eroded. However, sea level along the Bangladesh coast has not risen. If anything, it has fallen a little, according to Professor Mörner, who has just visited the country. Other sea-level experts who were present on the same visit calibrated their instruments to the nearest

yard, if they calibrated them at all. Professor Moerner was the only one to take the trouble to climb a nearby hill to allow his GPS instrument to calibrate itself to the nearest fraction of an inch – an absolutely necessary requirement for anyone seriously intending to make a true estimate of change in sea level, rather than to make a political point.

“Adaptation costs of \$75-100 billion a year”: It will not cost up to \$100 billion a year to adapt to sea-level rise of less than a tenth of an inch a year.

“Coral atolls like the Maldives are doomed”: It has somehow failed to occur to the reporters of the Associated Press that, by an amazing coincidence after 400 feet of sea-level rise over the past 11,400 years, all of the world’s coral atolls are just a few inches above sea level. How astonishing it is that all of these islands were at exactly the right height to remain above sea level until today! Of course, this is no coincidence. Corals grow to meet the light, like other plants. As sea level rises, the corals merely grow faster: that is what they have evolved to do. Even if sea level were to rise at the UN’s maximum projected rate – i.e. less than 2 feet per century – the corals would merely match that rate of growth, without the slightest difficulty.

The motives of the Associated Press: Now that we have set out a few cold, hard, readily-verifiable facts that the Associated Press could have checked for itself, it is worth asking why its reporters simply did not bother. What was their motive in writing an article that, in every material respect, was inaccurate? The motive, of course, was political. They knew that only one of their catalog of “global-warming” disasters, debacles, catastrophes, cataclysms, Armageddons, and Apocalypses has the power truly to scare their readers, and that is the notion of extreme sea-level rise. They knew that the Copenhagen conference was days away. So they made up the entire story, knowing that no one would bother to check.

Al Gore began this nonsense in 2005 by saying in his movie that sea-level would imminently rise by 20 feet. James Hansen, the court jester of NASA, recently wrote in *The Guardian* that sea level would eventually rise by 246 feet. Let us end, therefore, by quoting Mr. Justice Burton, the High Court Judge who ordered the UK Government to issue 77 pages of corrective guidance to every school in England before showing Gore’s movie to innocent schoolchildren –

“The Armageddon scenario that he depicts is not based on any scientific view.”



Get *Apocalypse? NO!*, the fast-paced, fact-packed, feature-length movie that puts the entire climate scare in perspective, at: <http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/apocalypseno-dvd.html>.

SPPI's *ScareWatch* service provides swift, authoritative, factual, balanced, science-based responses to media scare stories about "global warming." Our bulletins reach news media worldwide. For the truth about a climate scare, visit *ScareWatch* at:

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